

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:12:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223507931

Documents (100)

1. In Sri Lanka, Glimmer of Peace After Years of War

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

2. Gandhi's party chooses widow as its leader; Congress seeks to gain from voters' sympathy as mourning and violence follow assassination

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

3. Indian bid to crush coup

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

4. Sri Lanka Governing Party Has Lead

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

5. SRI LANKA: INDIA REJECTS CEASEFIRE APPEAL BY TAMIL GUERRILLAS

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

6. A STATE OF WAR Peace is a dim memory in Sri Lanka - Strife

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

7. Sri Lankan monk dons political robe in quest for peace

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

8. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

9. Muslim civilians killed in Sri Lanka

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

10. SHATTERED BY CIVIL WAR; More than 40,000 Tamils have died in eight years of fighting for a separate

<u>nation in Sri Lanka</u>

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

11. No Headline In Original

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

12. SRI LANKA: WOMEN CANDIDATES PERSIST IN MALE-DOMINATED CULTURE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

13. Soldiers Present at Elections

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

14. A Tamil Guerrilla's Story, Starting at Age 7; A Child Fighter Describes Abduction and Training

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

15. Plenty of blood but no guts

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

16. news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press News

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

17. Sri Lankans are giving peace a chance; If fragile talks fail, countless more will die in a war that has killed at least 30,000 Tamils, writes Tim McGirk in Jaffna

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

18. Srinagar Journal; In Kashmir 's Enchanted Valley, War Breaks Spell

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

19. Ethnic violence claims more than 145

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press News

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

20. Violence Flares From India to Israel

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

21. Peace may have come too late: The vital role of the Sri Lankan army as riots threaten the accord with India

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

22. news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

23. Terror that the Tamils remember

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

24. Violence Flares From India to Israel

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

25. Violence Flares From India to Israel

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

26. Children suffer horrific burns in army's offensive against Tamil guerrillas: Sri Lanka ends fighting to give peace a chance

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

27. <u>TASTE OF THE EXOTIC; IT'S USUALLY A MOMENTARY EPIPHANY, ONE MAGICAL INSTANCE, THAT SUMS UP YOUR ENTIRE EXPERIENCE OF A COUNTRY.</u>

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

28. Asia's terrorism war blurs battle line

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

29. General practice at the end of the world

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

30. A NATION CHALLENGED: THE FINANCING Ancient Secret System Moves Money Globally

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

31. CONFLICT- SRI LANKA: REFUGEES FINALLY GET HOMES OF THEIR OWN

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

32. The Daily Poem: Undying Gardens

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

33. Yo, brother, do us a favour, put an X beside New Labour; Opinion

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

34._YO, BROTHER, DO US A FAVOUR, PUT AN X BESIDE NEW LABOUR

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

35. POLITICS-OUTLOOK: SOUTH ASIA HEADED FOR DEEPENING CHAOS IN 1999

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

36. HAUNTED BY MURDER

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

37. A Mother-Daughter Rivalry Turns Political in Sri Lanka

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

38. Rao bets his all on the Walking Goddess INDIA OBSERVED

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

39. Bells 'n buzzers debate

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

40. Weekly News Calendar Saturday, March 6:

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

41. LEES RECALLS LUCKY BOMB BLAST ESCAPE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

42. LEES RECALLS LUCKY BOMB BLAST ESCAPE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

43. Buddhist Monks In Forefront Of Opposition To Peace Plan

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

44. PM leads bloody Sri Lankan poll

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

45. INDIA PLUNGES INTO CHAOS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

46. MOTHER INDIA GETS A FACELIFT

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News

47. POLITICS- SRI LANKA: TAMILS LOSING FAITH IN KUMARATUNGA

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

48. IN SRI LANKA CITY, A TALE OF ARMY TERROR UNFOLDS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

49. Y SRI LANKA: U.N. REFUGEE AGENCY ALSO HAS GRASSROOTS PROJECTS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

50. SRI LANKA: ARMY PREPARES TO COUNTER MAJOR GUERRILLA ATTACK

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

51. INDIA: ARMED POLICE TO ASSIST PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN SRI LANKA

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

52. AP Photos COI101-102

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

53. SRI LANKA: CAMPAIGN TO STOP ARMS SALES TO WARRING FORCES

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

54. Assassin of Sri Lankan president used liquor, women to penetrate security

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

55. SOUTH ASIA: HUMAN RIGHTS PICTURE UNCHANGED IN 1993, SAYS U.S.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

56. SECURITY TO BE STEPPED UP AFTER MASSACRE SRI LANKA

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

57. TERROR ATTACK

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

58. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Sri Lanka - Rape in custody must be stopped immediately

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

59. Updates with U.S. and other events

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

60. Sri Lanka; vicious circle of raids and repression

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

61. HUMAN RIGHTS- SRI LANKA: PROMISING JUSTICE, GOVT SEEKS IMAGE CHANGE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

62. AP Photos CLX101-103,107

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

63. UNITED NATIONS: CHILDREN AT WAR

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

64. Superstar set to propel anti-Rao combine to power in Indian state

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

65. Media: To bear witness: Marie Colvin was determined to reveal the human tragedy of war. She nearly died doing so. But, as the world remembers more than 50 journalists killed last year, she tells Roy Greenslade why she will be back

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

66. WORLD BRIEFING

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

67. MIDDLE EAST: ATTACK SHOWS NEW FACE IN PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

68. A mother's place is where, exactly?

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

69. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

70. WORLD BRIEFING

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

71. Beauty of Sri Lanka shines through the gloom of civil war

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

72. Sri Lanka 's 12-year-old war reaches a turning point

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by News

73. A return passage to India

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

74. Grasping at two realities: Sri Lanka 's Jaffna Peninsula

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

75. 189 tamil rebels surrender to sri lankan troops

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

76. 9 tamil rebels killed in northern sri lanka

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

77. 9 tamil rebels killed in northern sri lanka

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

78. ASIA '92: SOUTH ASIAN CHILDREN TRAGIC VICTIMS OF ADULT POLITICS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

79. Salvadoran hospitals facing bed shortage in light of alcohol-related deaths

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

80. The women dying for revenge - For Palestine 's young martyrs, suicide seems the only route to freedom

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

81. Tigers declare a ceasefire

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

82. LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

83. Steeped in Jane Austen on a Sri Lankan Mountaintop

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

84. NO-HEADLINE

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

85. Global Impact News Alert

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

86. Canada the in place for outlaws

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

87. Your say

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

88. Sri Lanka orders probe into fake visas for Russia

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

89. Tamil tiger chief masterminds terror

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

90. OLYMPIC GAMES: ATHLETICS - JONES' GOLDEN BEAUTY TRACKED BY THE BEAST

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

91. <u>CHARMING CHAMELEON OR A BELLIGERENT WARMONGER?</u>; SASTHI BRATA PROFILES THE NEW PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, ATAL BIHARI VAJP AYEE.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

92. hke102012 -- sri lanka 's tamil rebels to conscript school children

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

93. Sri Lanka Bomber Kills Self, Others

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

94. ELEPHANTS ORPHANS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

95. Lonely vigil for the loss of innocents; Christian Rees talks to Sri Lankan mothers who are united in the

search for their missing sons

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press News

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

96. LOSING THE DRUGS WAR

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

97. i bc-SRILANKA-REBELS 11-28 0144 Sri Lankan police arrest 16 suspected rebels smuggled into capital

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press News

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

98. three rebel women spies arrested in sri lankan

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

99. PM-World-News-Digest; INDEX: International; EDS: All stories below are also moving as separates. This digest will stand for the PM cycle.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

100. UNITED NATIONS: U.N. CRACKS DOWN ON USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers, Newswires & Press

Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002



In Sri Lanka, Glimmer of Peace After Years of War

The New York Times

April 16, 1995, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section 1; ; Section 1; Page 8; Column 3; Foreign Desk ; Column 3;

Length: 919 words

Byline: By JOHN F. BURNS

By JOHN F. BURNS

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 15

Body

After years of war between the Sri Lankan Government and ethnic Tamil nationalists that have left more than 34,000 people dead and led to the effective secession of a large Tamil-inhabited region around Jaffna, the country's second largest city, this island nation passed a milestone this week on the way to what many hope will be a permanent peace.

For three months, the country has been under a cease-fire, the longest since the war began in 1982.

What's more, there has been a new round of concessions by the Government of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga to the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, the separatist guerrilla group that grew out of widespread grievances against what was seen as routine discrimination against the mainly Hindu Tamils by the ethnic Sinhalese majority, who are mostly Buddhists.

In the eight months since her pledge toward peace helped her win an election victory, Mrs. Kumaratunga, who is 49, has raised widespread hopes in this country of 18 million people. Years of jungle warfare and political assassinations have given way, since January, to a military standstill between Government forces and Tiger units, and the two sides have held several rounds of direct talks in Jaffna, the Tiger stronghold in northern Sri Lanka.

The latest round of talks, held this week, ended with Mrs. Kumaratunga's bowing to two crucial demands put forward by Vellupillai Prabhakaran, the 41-year-old leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Continuing a process she began immediately after the election in August that made her Prime Minister -- she became President in November -- Mrs. Kumaratunga struck another vital commodity, vehicle fuel, from a list of embargoed products that Government forces besieging Jaffna have kept from the Tigers and the 750,000 people living under their control. The embargo list, once several pages long, and including such items as candles and <u>female</u> sanitary pads, is now down to eight items, including weapons, explosives, remote control devices and compasses.

Mrs. Kumaratunga also went most of the way to meeting a Tiger demand for the right to send fishing boats freely into waters surrounding the Jaffna peninsula, although no Tiger boats would be allowed within a sea radius of two miles from Government military installations along the coast.

By meeting a rebel deadline of April 19 for new concessions, the Government appeared to have kept the peace talks alive. Mr. Prabhakaran has repeatedly threatened to end the cease-fire if Mrs. Kumaratunga does not grant a further concession that she again refused this week, the dismantling of the Pooneryn army and navy base, immediately facing the Jaffna waterfront, where 5,000 Government troops form the linchpin of Government deployments in the north.

While the talks seem likely to continue, Mrs. Kumaratunga's supporters are worried that the Government's concessions have not won reciprocal concessions. The Tigers' refusal until now to begin political discussions on what most in Sri Lanka regard as the only viable compromise -- a reshaping of Sri Lanka along federal lines, with a new Tamil-ruled province in areas now under Tiger rule -- has increased concerns that the Tigers may not be seriously interested in any political settlement short of independence.

"We are reaching the point where she'll have to say, 'I'm sorry, I can't go any further, the stability of my Government is at risk,' " said Neelan Tiruchelvam, a Harvard-educated lawyer, himself a Tamil, who is one of a small group of advisers to Mrs. Kumaratunga on the peace talks. Like many in Colombo, the capital, Mr. Tiruchelvam believes Mrs. Kumaratunga must tread carefully if she is to avoid provoking a backlash among nationalists in her own ethnic constituency, the Sinhalese, who account for about 75 per cent of Sri Lanka's population.

The talks have also been dogged by doubts on the Government side about the rebel group's willingness to give up its long-stated political goal, the establishment of a separate state that they have called Tamil Eelam, meaning Tamil nation, for the roughly 3.5 million Sri Lankan Tamils.

Because nothing has occurred to threaten the Tigers' apparently firm control of the Jaffna peninsula and of wide areas of Sri Lanka's northern and north-eastern regions, many Sri Lankans question why the Tigers would drop their demand for independence, as some Tiger spokesmen have suggested they may. Much of the skepticism focuses on the elusive Mr. Prabhakaran, who has left the peace talks in Jaffna -- and all statements about the Tigers' political objectives -- to subordinates, saying nothing himself to suggest that he has given up on a separate Tamil state.

Others believe it is too early to judge Tiger objectives, and too early to assess Mrs. Kumaratunga's success in an objective she declared for the peace talks when they began last October -- changing the siege mentality of the Tiger leadership, and of Tamils under their control, by easing the Jaffna siege and encouraging a return to normal living. Mr. Tiruchelvam, among others, said that Mr. Prabhakaran would be bound to be cautious about renouncing independence at this stage of talks, since the Tiger movement has been based on the idea.

"Independence has been a psychological and emotional commitment for the Tigers -- a religion, if you will," Mr. Tiruchelvam said. "The principle tenet of that religion has been the inevitability of a separate state. If the supreme leader undermines that tenet, the ideological coherence of the religion collapses."

Graphic

Photo: President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka, who addressed in November the nation after taking office, has raised hopes for peace after granting concessions to separatist guerrilla group. (Reuters)

Map of Sri Lanka shows the location of Jaffna.

Load-Date: April 16, 1995

End of Document



Gandhi's party chooses widow as its leader; Congress seeks to gain from voters' sympathy as mourning and violence follow assassination

The Independent (London)

May 23, 1991, Thursday

Copyright 1991 Independent Print Ltd **Section:** TITLE PAGE; Page 1

Length: 854 words

Byline: From TIM MCGIRK in New Delhi

Body

INDIA found itself trapped in a recurring nightmare yesterday, as once again thousands of angry and frustrated mourners thronged outside the gates of Teen Murti house in Delhi to view a fallen Gandhi.

Seven years ago it was Indira Gandhi, murdered by her own bodyguards, who lay in state inside this tall mansion. Now it is her son, Rajiv, they have come to see. The charred remains of Mr Gandhi, who was killed in a bomb explosion on Tuesday night while campaigning for national and state assembly elections, were flown yesterday morning from Madras to Delhi, accompanied by his Italian-born widow, Sonia.

Surprisingly, the Congress (I) party has chosen to continue the family's dynastic rule by choosing Sonia to succeed her husband as party president. She has yet to accept the offer publicly, and protests were raised within the party that Mrs Gandhi, 45, was too "foreign". She adopted Indian citizenship in the late Seventies. The party, scrambling to pull itself together to win the Indian elections - the later stages of which have been postponed to 13 and 15 June to avert further bloodshed - has decided to capitalise on the voters' sympathy for the widow.

Mrs Gandhi and her daughter, Priyanka, are expected to stay beside the corpse while thousands of Indians file by, showering the remains with rose petals, until Mr Gandhi is cremated tomorrow. A Congress spokesman indicated that, although she might serve as president, it was unlikely that she would be the party's choice for prime minister.

Subodh Kant, the Home Minister, said that no arrests had been made so far in connection with Mr Gandhi's assassination. Chandra Sekharan, a forensic science expert, said the Congress party chief and ex-prime minister might have been killed by a member of a suicide squad - possibly an old woman - who hid the bomb inside a garland of flowers draped around Mr Gandhi's neck. His face was blown off but his lower body was fairly intact.

Speculation over who killed Mr Gandhi has focused on Tamil terrorists who have been using the south Indian state to launch attacks on Sri Lanka. Mr Gandhi had put pressure on the Prime Minister, Chandra Shekhar, to crack down on the guerrillas based in Tamil Nadu. However, a London-based spokesman for the leading guerrilla organisation, the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, denied any responsibility. Other theories centre on Sikh extremists, since Indira Gandhi was killed by Sikhs, or on fanatical Hindus who thought that Mr Gandhi was too pro-Muslim.

Nine people, including two children, died in sporadic riots which flared up around India in reaction to Mr Gandhi's assassination. Violence erupted in the cities of Hyderabad, Benares and Calcutta and throughout Haryana state. The army remained on alert in Rajasthan, along the Pakistan border, and a curfew was enforced in five towns in Uttar Pradesh.

Gandhi's party chooses widow as its leader; Congress seeks to gain from voters' sympathy as mourning and violence follow assassination

In Delhi, troops armed with machine-guns were posted at the main intersections and had cordoned off the wide boulevards of the office district. Even so, thousands of angry Congress activists managed to weave their way through the security barriers to await the arrival of Mr Gandhi's body at Teen Murti house.

Embalmers tried their best to patch up Mr Gandhi's corpse for a Hindu burial, in which the face and the soles of the feet are left exposed, but too much had been destroyed by the bomb blast. So his remains were placed inside a coffin draped with the Indian flag and taken by ambulance to Teen Murti house.

Mrs Gandhi and her daughter squeezed inside the ambulance, which was given a police escort. It was only thanks to the presence of a jeep-load of Black Cats, the feared paramilitary elite force, that the procession was able to plough through the frenzied mob, numbering more than 10,000, which had surged towards Teen Murti house. A few youths tried to scale the fence of tall iron spikes but were beaten back by police using clubs and tear gas. Some mourners chanted: "Rajiv, Rajiv. Heaven will find a place for you beside our moon and sun." Others, more menacingly, shouted: "Kill Chandra Shekhar, V P Singh and L K Advani the rival political leaders." Soldiers were posted around the Delhi headquarters of the other parties.

Mrs Gandhi, seated beside the growing heap of flowers piled on her dead husband's body, wept behind her large sunglasses. White is the colour of death for Hindus, and she wore a widow's white sari. The intensity of grief in the room was incandescent. In the long queue to see Mr Gandhi's body, <u>women</u> wailed and swooned. "I have lost my son," cried one old woman. A student, Himendra Kumar, 19, said: "I'm furious. If anyone can be called a national leader in India, it was Gandhi."

Although he had not yet been re-elected prime minister, India is giving Mr Gandhi a state funeral, with seven days of official mourning. The Prince of Wales, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, and the US Vice-President, Dan Quayle, will attend. The funeral pyre for Mr Gandhi, who served as prime minister from 1985 to 1989, will blaze on Friday afternoon at the same spot beside the Yamuna river where his mother was cremated.

End of Document



Indian bid to crush coup

Herald

November 4, 1988 Friday

Copyright 1988 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 972 words

Body

COLOMBO, THURSDAY Some 1600 Indian paratroopers were deployed in the Maldives capital of Male tonight in a bid to crush an attempted coup by an estimated 400 mercenaries.

India also sent three warships to the Indian Ocean island republic where residents said fierce fighting had killed at least 25 people.

First and confused reports from Male put the number of dead as high as 200.

In New Delhi, an Indian official said he understood the paratroops, including units of an elite commando brigade, had already dropped into Male.

The gunmen were reported to be battle-hardened <u>Tamil Tigers</u> from nearby Sri Lanka and hired by former Maldive politicians with the promise of \$US2 million in cash and a safe base from which to wage their secessionist guerrilla campaign in Sri Lanka.

Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who is understood to be in hiding, appealed for military aid from India, Britain and the US after the mercenaries launched their pre-dawn attack in the holiday island archipelago.

The island nation, a former British protectorate, lies about 640 km south-west of Sri Lanka.

Diplomats said the mercenaries stormed the residence of President Gayoom, but he was rescued and whisked to safety by members of the Maldives National Security Service, a 1200-strong force.

There were no reports of foreigners among the casualties - the islands attract 130,000 tourists a year - and Male residents reached by phone said that the shooting had become sporadic by nightfall.

One resident said the mercenaries had begun releasing <u>women</u> hostages. "The <u>women</u> hostages, numbering about seven or eight, were released after some of them fainted and some turned hysterical," the resident, a businessman, said.

Diplomats in Colombo earlier said the mercenaries had threatened to slaughter some 2000 hostages, including MPs, civil servants and police. But resident said the threat to them appeared to ease somewhat as some of the gunmen toured the capital to reassure its 46,000 residents they did not wish to harm civilians.

Diplomats said 200 mercenaries had landed at Male by sea and joined up with 200 inflitrated there earlier.

In New York, the Maldives ambassador to the UN said that government forces had regained full control of their headquarters and the international airport on a nearby island, though the mercenaries still held the radio station.

Indian bid to crush coup

Diplomats and Male residents said the coup was organised by at least four Maldivian opponents of Mr Gayoom's Islamic regime, the third coup attempt in President Gayoom's 10 years in power.

In London, the Foreign Office said it was considering the request for military aid.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal said: "All the Commonwealth will deplore this mercenary incursion on the sovereignty of one of our smallest member countries." In Washington, the State Department said the US was not planning to send military aid because India already was doing so.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the situation "seems to be resolving itself". But a State Department spokesman later said: "The situation is fluid." President Gayoom was re-elected for a third five-year term in September after winning 96.37 per cent of the vote in a referendum in which he was the only candidate.

The bespectacled, scholarly President is credited with opening up the Maldives to tourism, which, with fishing, provides the bulk of the islands' income.

But foreigners are not encouraged to mix freely with the mainly Sunni Moslem Maldivians. While Mr Gayoom welcomes foreign money he has said he does not want the islanders to be tainted by 'unhealthy' foreign influence.

The 55 islands turned into holiday resorts are well away from the islands where most Maldivians live.

The four prominent Maldivians believed to have plotted the coup bid were named by diplomats as Saguru Nasir, suspected to be a pseudonym for former Maldives President Amir Ibrahim Nasir, Ibrahim Maniku, Mohammad Didi and Abdullah Luthfee.

The Press Trust of India said Mr Gandhi ordered the troops in after consulting the Cabinet committee on political affairs, the Government's highest decision-making body.

India, which has developed into the superpower of the region since its intervention to liberate Bangladesh in 1971, showed a striking extension of power following last year's despatch of an Indian peace-keeping force to Sri Lanka.

Capital: Male. Population: 200,000. All Sunni Muslims.

Form of Government: Republic. The Maldives joined the Commonwealth in 1982.

Head of State: President. He also is Chief Executive of State and serves a five-year term. The island's 48 MPs name their president but he must be endorsed by referendum.

Area: 106,000 sq km - located in the Indian Ocean, 640 km south-west of Sri Lanka, the Maldives form an archipelago of 1196 coral islands. Only 220 are inhabited. 55 have been developed as tourist resorts.

Armed forces: The Maldives has no army, navy or air force.

Economy: Tourism and fishing are the republic's biggest earners.100,000 tourists last year netted the country \$US30 million. Chief rural produce includes breadfruit, coconuts, papaya, pineapples, pomegranates and yams. The fishing industry is based on bonito and tuna. Main handicrafts are coir yarn, cowrie shells, lacquer ware and woven mats. Virtually everything is imported and at present the Maldives carries a trade deficit of \$26.5 million. Currency rupee History: From 1656 to 1796 the Dutch ruled the islands. In 1887 the Maldives officially became a British protectorate. In the 1950s a dispute arose between Britain and the Maldives over the use of an air base on Gan Island. The Maldives government crushed a rebellion in 1960. In 1965 the Maldives won independence and in 1968 it became a republic.

END OF STORY

Graphic

PRESIDENT GAYOOM...HIDING IN THE ISLAND CAPITAL

Load-Date: September 20, 2003

End of Document



Associated Press Online
October 11, 2000; Wednesday

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Section: International news

Length: 4628 words

Byline: BETH DUFF-BROWN

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

As Sri Lankans waited for the results of an election that could stop the 17-year civil war, they also grieved Tuesday for Sirimavo Bandaranaike, or "Mrs. B," the matriarch of the nation's politics.

Tens of thousands of people, including <u>women</u> in white saris and hundreds of saffron-robed Buddhist monks, grieved for Bandaranaike, 84, who died after casting her vote Tuesday.

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, the world's first <u>female</u> prime minister and the mother of the current president, cast a pall over the parliamentary elections. The government imposed a curfew in Colombo between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's People's Alliance party took a lead in preliminary results.

The Election Commission said they had counted more than 2 million votes. News reports estimated that about 8 million ballots were cast.

According to early results, the Peoples' Alliance had won in 35 of the 160 electorates among 22 districts. The opposition United National Party of former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesing had won 14 electorates.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

The president, who lost an eye to a suicide bomber on Dec. 18, hopes the new constitution will win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war, which has killed 63,000 people and displaced 1 million.

A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of at Ragama, 19 miles northeast of the capital, police said. One of the wounded was in critical condition. Police blamed the attack on political rivalry between the People's Alliance and the United National Party.

Counting was slow as it is being done manually. The Election Commission said it was delaying counting in four of the country's 22 electoral districts after poll monitors called for vote in some areas to be annulled due to fraud and violence.

While Sri Lankans wait for the election results, they have been requested to fly white flags in honor of their former prime minister, affectionately known as "Mrs. B." She will be buried in a state funeral Saturday. Friday and Saturday have been declared days of mourning.

Bandaranaike was elected prime minister July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India.

She regained the office for a third time in 1994 when her daughter appointed her prime minister, but retired in August to let Kumaratunga appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections.

Bandaranaike was replaced by Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, who believes the rebels should be wiped out and that talks should only be held with moderate Tamils.

Voters at the school where Bandaranaike cast her ballot Tuesday shortly before dying of a heart attack commented on her "good fortune," rather than the ironic timing of her death. Sri Lankans, the majority of whom are believers of astrology, thought the stars had been on her side. Tuesday also marked the widow's 60th wedding anniversary.

"She was a very lucky woman," said 48-year-old T.K.H. Peiris, a polling agent. "She had been sick so long, but it is amazing that she was able to cast her vote before she died."

The race Tuesday was primarily between the two main parties: Kamaratunga's People's Alliance and Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party. A record 5,477 candidates were vying for 225 seats in parliament in the election.

Wickremesinghe has said that if his United National Party comes into power, it would immediately de-escalate the fighting in the northern Jaffna Peninsula and then negotiate with the rebels.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island nation off the southern tip of India, *Tamil Tigers* shelled an administrative center in Jaffna, which has been under siege since 1995.

Just after the polls closed, the two leading parties leveled accusations of vote-rigging.

The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence urged the Elections Commissioner to annul the votes in at least 365 of the country's 9,500 polling centers.

The opening of the vote was preceded by two attacks that left three people dead, including a 6-year-old daughter of a ruling party official, police said.

The fatalities brought the total number of people killed in election violence to 71 since campaigning started five weeks ago.

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: http://www.eelamweb.com

Sri Lankan government: http://www.priu.gov.lk

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's governing party had the lead in parliamentary elections Wednesday, according to partial results, as this island nation digested a tumultuous vote marked by violence, death and bitter accusations.

The streets of the capital were mostly quiet after an overnight curfew ended at 6 a.m. Many people remained at home, monitoring radio and television for results of Tuesday's vote.

According to results at midday, Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance had won in 61 of the 160 electorates in 22 districts. The opposition United National Party had won 20 electorates.

With about half the ballots counted, the ruling party appeared to have a nominal lead with 46 percent of the vote, compared with the opposition's 39 percent.

However, it was much too early for the People's Alliance to claim victory. Sri Lanka's complex electoral system involves a mix of preferential voting and proportional representation. The number of electoral votes won by a party does not directly give them seats in Parliament. Seats are allocated based on the percentage of total votes polled by a party in districts.

The central political issue in Sri Lanka is the bloody civil war between rebels of the Tamil minority and the government, which is dominated by majority Sinhalese. The violence has raged for 17 years, leaving 63,000 people dead and displacing an additional 1 million people.

Kumaratunga who lost vision in one eye in a Tamil Tiger rebel suicide bombing on Dec. 18 has sought to push through a new constitution giving more power to regional governments. It's an effort to placate Tamils and sideline rebels fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east.

Political disputes blocked her attempts to pass the constitution, and she sees the vote as a referendum on the measure.

The Elections Commission had counted more than 3.8 million votes by noon. The commission reported a voter turnout of some 75 percent.

Final results were expected late in the day. The commission said it was delaying counting in four districts after poll monitors asked for an annulment in some areas due to fraud and violence.

At least 71 people were killed during the five-week campaign and on polling day, according to the independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence.

A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended Tuesday, wounding 32 supporters of Kumaratunga's party at Ragama, northeast of the capital, police said.

The monitoring center asked election officials to annul votes in at least 365 of the country's 9,500 polling centers, citing violence and election-related violations.

More than 12 million people were eligible to vote in this South Asian nation of 18.6 million people off India's southern tip. A record 5,477 candidates were running for 225 parliamentary seats.

A pall fell over voting Tuesday due to the heart-attack death of 84-year-old former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who in 1960 became the world's first *female* prime minister, and was Kumaratunga's mother.

A state funeral will be held Saturday for Bandaranaike, who died shortly after casting her vote. The government has requested all national flags to be flown at half-staff, while liquor and meat sales have been banned over the weekend.

The Sinhalese majority make up about 76 percent of the population, and most are Buddhists. Tamils, who make up about 14 percent, are mainly Hindus. The remaining 10 percent are Muslims and other minorities.

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: http://www.eelamweb.com

Sri Lankan government: http://www.priu.gov.lk

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's governing party had the lead in parliamentary elections Wednesday, partial results showed as this island nation digested a tumultuous vote marked by violence, death and bitter accusations.

The streets of the capital were mostly quiet after an overnight curfew ended at 6 a.m. Many people remained at home, monitoring state radio and television for results of Tuesday's election. Soldiers patrolled the capital with AK-47s slung over their shoulders, stopping cars at checkpoints.

According to results at midafternoon, Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance had won in 83 of the 160 electorates in 22 districts. The opposition United National Party had won 29 electorates.

With at least 70 percent of the votes counted, the ruling party appeared to have the lead with 45 percent of the vote, compared with the opposition's 39.5 percent.

Sri Lanka's complex electoral system involves a mix of preferential voting and proportional representation. The number of electoral votes won by a party does not directly give them seats in Parliament. Seats are allocated based on the percentage of total votes polled by a party in districts.

The central political issue here is the bloody civil war between rebels of the Tamil minority and the government, which is dominated by the majority Sinhalese. The violence has raged for 17 years, leaving 63,000 people dead.

Kumaratunga who lost vision in one eye in a Tamil Tiger rebel suicide bombing on Dec. 18 has sought to push through a new constitution giving more power to regional governments. It's an effort to placate Tamils and sideline rebels fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east.

Political disputes blocked her attempts to pass the constitution, and she sees the vote as a referendum on the measure.

The Elections Commission had counted more than 6 million votes by 2 p.m. and reported a voter turnout of some 75 percent.

Final results were expected late in the day. The commission said it was delaying counting in four districts after poll monitors asked for an annulment in some areas due to fraud and violence.

At least 71 people were killed during the five-week campaign and on election day, according to the independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence. A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended Tuesday, wounding 32 supporters of Kumaratunga's party at Ragama, northeast of the capital, police said.

The monitoring center asked election officials to annul votes in at least 365 of the country's 9,500 polling centers, citing violence and election-related violations.

More than 12 million people were eligible to vote in this South Asian nation of 18.6 million people off India's southern tip. A record 5,477 candidates were running for 225 parliamentary seats.

A pall fell over voting Tuesday after former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike died at age 84 of a heart attack. Bandaranaike, who in 1960 became the world's first *female* prime minister, was Kumaratunga's mother.

A state funeral will be held Saturday for Bandaranaike, who died shortly after casting her vote. The government has requested all national flags be flown at half-staff, while liquor and meat sales have been banned over the weekend.

Mourners at the former prime minister's home remembered her with fondness and respect Tuesday. Some wrote poems, others condolence messages and still more cried as they bid farewell to the nation's political matriarch.

"We miss you and grieve for you, may you attain nibbana," a mourner wrote in a condolence book, referring to the highest form of afterlife for Buddhists.

Bandaranaike was elected prime minister on July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India. She regained the office for a third time in 1994 when her daughter appointed her prime minister, but retired in August to let Kumaratunga appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections.

"It (was) during Mrs. B's tenure that any Sri Lankan traveling in any part of the world would be given a nod and a smile of instant recognition by simple virtue of the fact that he or she came from the country that had produced the first woman prime minister," said Sri Lankan political analyst Dayan Jayatillake.

Condolence messages from world leaders spoke of her contributions to international affairs.

"As the first democratically elected woman prime minister in the world, she made history and was an inspiration to the <u>women</u> of the world," said Indian President K.R. Narayanan. "It is appropriate that her last act was to cast her vote in the democratic elections being held in Sri Lanka."

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: http://www.eelamweb.com

Sri Lankan government: http://www.priu.gov.lk

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's governing party had the lead in parliamentary elections Wednesday, partial results showed a day after the vote that Kumaratunga hopes will give her a mandate to try to end Sri Lanka's long civil war.

As the results rolled in, this island nation off India's southern tip digested a tumultuous election marked by violence, death and bitter accusations.

The streets of the capital were mostly quiet after an overnight curfew ended at 6 a.m. Many people remained at home, monitoring state radio and television for results of Tuesday's election. Soldiers patrolled the capital with AK-47s slung over their shoulders, stopping cars at checkpoints.

According to results at midafternoon, Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance had won in 83 of the 160 electorates in 22 districts. The opposition United National Party had won 29 electorates.

With at least 70 percent of the votes counted, the ruling party appeared to have the lead with 45 percent of the vote, compared with the opposition's 39.5 percent.

Sri Lanka's complex electoral system involves a mix of preferential voting and proportional representation. The number of electoral votes won by a party does not directly give them seats in Parliament. Seats are allocated based on the percentage of total votes polled by a party in districts.

The central political issue here is the bloody civil war between rebels of the Tamil minority and the government, which is dominated by the majority Sinhalese. The violence has raged for 17 years, leaving 63,000 people dead.

Kumaratunga who lost vision in one eye in a Tamil Tiger rebel suicide bombing on Dec. 18 has sought to push through a new constitution giving more power to regional governments. It's an effort to placate Tamils and sideline rebels fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east.

Political disputes blocked her attempts to pass the constitution, and she sees the vote as a referendum on the measure.

The Elections Commission had counted more than 6 million votes by 2 p.m. and reported a voter turnout of some 75 percent.

Final results were expected late in the day. The commission said it was delaying counting in four districts after poll monitors asked for an annulment in some areas due to fraud and violence.

At least 71 people were killed during the five-week campaign and on election day, according to the independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence. A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended Tuesday, wounding 32 supporters of Kumaratunga's party at Ragama, northeast of the capital, police said.

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President Chandrika Kumaratunga's governing party appeared poised Wednesday to win a majority of seats in parliamentary elections seen as a test of her proposals for ending Sri Lanka's devastating civil war.

With 80 percent of the vote from Tuesday's elections counted by evening, Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance was leading with 70 seats in 15 districts, or 46 percent of the vote. The opposition United National Party had 58 seats, or 41 percent.

The Peoples' Alliance needs at least 113 of the 225 seats in parliament to form a government. Under Sri Lanka's complex electoral system, seats are allocated based on the percentage of total votes polled by a party in each district.

Tuesday's vote in this island nation off India's southern tip was a tumultuous one, marked by violence, death and bitter accusations. A day later, many people remained at home, monitoring state radio and television for results. Soldiers patrolled the capital with AK-47s slung over their shoulders, stopping cars at checkpoints.

The driving political issue in the election was the bloody civil war between rebels of the Tamil minority and the majority Sinhalese-dominated government. Some 63,000 people have been killed in 17 years of violence.

Seeking to placate Tamils and sideline rebel factions fighting for a separate homeland in the north, Kumaratunga who was blinded in one eye in a Tamil Tiger rebel suicide bombing Dec. 18 has pushed a new constitution that would give regional governments more power.

Political disputes blocked her attempts to pass the constitution, and she sees Tuesday's vote as a referendum on the measure. Opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe has said his party would immediately de-escalate fighting and start talks with the *Tamil Tigers* if it were to take over the government.

Final results, being counted by hand, were expected late Wednesday. The commission said it was delaying counting in four districts after poll monitors reported violence and fraud.

At least 71 people were killed during the five-week campaign and on election day, according to the independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence. A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of Kumaratunga's party at Ragama, northeast of the capital, police said.

Seventy-five percent of the 12 million registered voters in this South Asian island nation of 18.6 million turned out, Elections Commissioner K. Senanayake said.

The death of Kumaratunga's mother, former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, cast a pall over the vote. The 84-year-old Bandaranaike, who in 1960 became the world's first prime minister, died of a heart attack shortly after casting her vote Tuesday.

A state funeral will be held Saturday.

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With 90 percent of the vote from Tuesday's elections counted by evening, Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance was leading with 88 seats, or 48 percent of the vote. The opposition United National Party had 72 seats, or 39 percent. But election officials said the final count would not be complete until Thursday.

Under Sri Lanka's complex electoral system, seats are allocated based on the percentage of total votes polled by a party in each district. The Peoples' Alliance needs at least 113 of the 225 seats in parliament to form a government.

Tuesday's vote in this island nation off India's southern tip was a tumultuous one, marked by violence, death and bitter accusations. A day later with a 10 p.m. curfew imposed, many people remained at home, monitoring state radio and television for results. Soldiers patrolled the capital with AK-47s slung over their shoulders, stopping cars at checkpoints.

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President Chandrika Kumaratunga's ruling party appeared on the verge of winning a majority of Parliament seats Wednesday on a promise to end the country's 17-year civil war.

With more than 90 percent of the vote in the Parliament election tallied, Kumaratunga's People's Alliance had 48 percent of the vote, or 88 seats in the 225-member Parliament. The opposition United National Party was next with 39 percent and 72 seats. Other parties were winning the balance of the seats.

Sri Lanka Governing Party Has Lead

With the votes in one district still to be counted, the elections commissioner announced that the final results would not be made public until Thursday.

Tuesday's vote in this island nation off India's southern tip was tumultuous, marked by violence, death and accusations of vote rigging.

With a 10 p.m. curfew imposed, many people remained at home Wednesday, monitoring state radio and television for results. Soldiers patrolled the capital with AK-47s slung over their shoulders, stopping cars at checkpoints.

The driving election issue was the civil war between rebels of the Tamil minority and the government, which is dominated by majority Sinhalese. The violence has raged for 17 years, leaving 63,000 people dead and displacing an additional 1 million people.

Kumaratunga who lost vision in one eye in a Tamil Tiger rebel suicide bombing on Dec. 18 has sought to push through a new constitution granting more autonomy to the provinces in an effort to placate Tamils and sideline rebels fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east.

With only a one-seat majority in the last Parliament, members of Parliament blocked her attempts to pass the constitution, so Kumaratunga saw Tuesday's vote as a referendum on her plan.

Though Kumaratunga has pledged to bring an end to the war, her government has spent some \$375 million in military hardware and weapons in recent months, Army Brig. Sanath Karunatellike told The Associated Press. The hardware was purchased from China, Pakistan, Ukraine and Czechoslovakia.

"She will keep the military option open, because given the track record of the <u>LTTE</u> (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam), she cannot afford to lower her guard," said Jehan Perera, an analyst with the National Peace Council, an independent think tank.

"If the political efforts fail, she may have no other option but to go flat out after the separatists," he said.

Although the People's Alliance gained the most seats in the 225-member Parliament, it still needs at least 113 seats to form its own government without resorting to a coalition.

Deputy Elections Commissioner K. Senanayake said that 75 percent of the 12 million registered voters cast ballots in the country's 11th parliamentary elections on Tuesday.

At least 71 people were killed during the five-week campaign and on polling day, according to the independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence.

The elections were also marred by the death of former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, 84, who died of a heart attack moments after voting.

A state funeral will be held Saturday for Bandaranaike, the world's first <u>female</u> prime minister and Kumaratunga's mother.

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Load-Date: October 11, 2000



SRI LANKA: INDIA REJECTS CEASEFIRE APPEAL BY TAMIL GUERRILLAS

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Byline: by Kunda Dixit

Dateline: COLOMBO, Oct. 16

Body

India today rejected an appeal for a ceasefire by the Tamil Tiger guerrillas and said it would continue its military campaign against the militants in northern Sri Lanka.

An Indian spokesperson here said that "the question of a ceasefire at the present time does not arise."

The ceasefire call was apparently made by the deputy leader of the Tigers through the Sri Lankan Red Cross in the Tigers' stronghold in Jaffna, 200 miles north of here.

India says it will accept a ceasefire only if the Tigers surrender all their weapons and give their complete support to efforts to find a negotiated solution to the crisis.

Indian troops have been tightening their stranglehold on the town, but are meeting stiff resistance from the Tigers. Eighty-one Indians have been reported killed and 18 captured by the militants since the battle for Jaffna began Oct. 9.

The Tigers have lost about 500 fighters out of their total force of 2,500 in the past week, and military analysts here say their call for a halt to the fighting could be prompted by a serious depletion in their ranks and a shortage of ammunition.

The ceasefire call apparently came in a letter addressed to "whomsoever it may concern." The Indian spokesperson here mocked the appeal, saying, "We cannot take it seriously."

Meanwhile, reports from the southern Indian city of Madras say that the Indians have sealed off the office of the *Tamil Tigers* there and placed two of its top officials in custody.

Reports said the two had been warned they would be deported if they spoke to the press.

The Tiger representatives in Madras earlier handed over an appeal to opposition leaders there asking them to exert pressure on New Delhi to halt the offensive in Jaffna.

Indian officials described the appeal as "propaganda" and an attempt to arouse "hysteria."

Madras is the capital of Tamil Nadu State, which is home to 50 million Indian Tamils who have close linguistic and cultural links with Sri Lanka's five million Tamils.

SRI LANKA: INDIA REJECTS CEASEFIRE APPEAL BY TAMIL GUERRILLAS

The Indian government is concerned about the possibility of a backlash in Tamil Nadu from its offensive against Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka.

Opposition political parties in Tamil Nadu staged a protest yesterday against the offensive, and the ruling party has called for a six-hour strike tomorrow.

But Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Jyotindra Nath Dixit said in an interview today that Indian forces in Jaffna would maintain their anti-Tiger campaign.

"Protests in Tamil Nadu will have no effect on the operation," he was quoted as saying.

India has now over 15,000 troops in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. Reinforcements were rushed yesterday from southern India as the Indian force got more deeply involved in the fighting this week.

The troops were flown to a Sri Lankan air base in Jaffna yesterday in civilian and military transport aircraft, but Indian sources here declined to give the number of extra troops sent.

Indian troops were originally sent to the island to enforce a peace pact signed between India and Sri Lanka aimed at ending four years of communal violence between Tamil militants and the sinhalese-dominated government.

There appears to have been more heavy fighting in Jaffna today, as Indian troops were reported to have captured a Tiger base at Urumpirai, five miles north of Jaffna.

Indian sources say that 111 Tigers were killed in that battle, as compared to the loss of only one of their troops.

Sri Lankan observers here said that the wide casualty margin, if accurate, suggested that the Indians probably moved in with heavy artillery and tanks against the Tiger positions at Urumpirai.

The Indians said 16 other Tigers were killed in action to the east of town, where there are less than a mile from the outskirts.

Most of Jaffna's 200,000 people have fled the battle zone to seek refuge in several temples and two colleges. Thousands of others are streaming out of the peninsula in whatever transport they can muster.

Some of them have started arriving in Colombo and have spoken of the bleak conditions in the refugee shelters.

"Food is the main problem," said one accountant who left Jaffna two days ago. "The temple management is distributing rice and milk, but there are about 20,000 people there."

Many Jaffna residents interviewed here spoke of heavy civilian casualties in the fighting, and told gruesome tales of alleged atrocities by Indian troops.

Most of these were second-hand reports, however, and could not be corroborated by eye witnesses.

The accountant, who did not want to be identified, told IPS that 14 civilians had died Oct. 13 when a mortar shell fired by the Indians exploded near the main Hindu temple outside Jaffna.

Other reports said the hospital in Jaffna had been closed because of a lack of electricity, oxygen, medicines and diesel for generators.

Bandages are also in short supply as hundreds of wounded flocked to the hospital, which is near the old Dutch fort in the heart of Jaffna. Some of the heaviest shelling is supposed to be taking place in the vicinity of the fort.

Indian troops are reportedly blasting Tiger positions with heavy mortar fire from the fort.

The Indians say their progress against Tiger positions in the town center is slow because they want to avoid civilian casualties. They say the Tigers are using "human shields" to stop the Indian advance.

SRI LANKA: INDIA REJECTS CEASEFIRE APPEAL BY TAMIL GUERRILLAS

Travellers from Jaffna said <u>women</u> guerrillas and civilian supporters of the Tigers had been seen hurling gasoline bombs and grenades at advancing Indian troops on Oct. 10, the first day of the fighting.



A STATE OF WAR; Peace is a dim memory in Sri Lanka - Strife

Australian Financial Review
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Section: OBSERVER; Pg. 45

Length: 2156 words **Byline:** Tim Elliott

Body

On top of untold physical damage, the civil war has wreaked havoc on the national psyche, writes Tim Elliott.

If I had to pick an incident that best sums up Sri Lanka, it would be the day that the monks beat up the peaceniks. It was just after midday during the hottest part of the year, and the heat hung in the streets, pungent and dizzying. Colombo's canals, polluted at the best of times, glowed iridescent emerald, and the air danced with clouds of diesel and dust.

The protesters were out in numbers, hundreds of thousands of them joining hands to form a human chain that snaked through the city in a gesture of peace and reconciliation. The initial stage in an ongoing campaign called Sri Lanka First, the action was aimed at encouraging the Government to resume talks with the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, a 10,000-strong rebel army which, for the past 19 years, has been fighting to establish an independent Tamil homeland, called Eelam, in the north-east of the island.

The march went without incident until the end, when part of the Sri Lanka First crowd came face to face with a mob from Sinhala Urumaya (SU), a militant clique of hard-line Buddhists. For the ultra-nationalist SU, any hint of reconciliation with the separatists was a betrayal of everything that a unified Sri Lanka stood for. Sure enough, things soon turned ugly. Egged on by the monks, their heads shaved and brandishing black umbrellas, a group of SU goons charged the protesters, punching and kicking, shrieking abuse as they tore up their placards. In the end, it took a group of riot police to restore order. The peaceniks, however, were cowed, huddled in shopfronts and peering round corners. Nearby, a young monk stood quietly, hands clasped in prayer, his face a picture of serenity and repose.

"An awful incident, just awful," says Renton de Alwis, shaking his head in an uncharacteristically pensive moment. With his 1,000-watt smile and laser beam stare, Alwis is perhaps the most relentlessly positive man I have ever met, which is just as well. As chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourism Board, it is his job to attract visitors to this country, much of which has been comprehensively trashed by almost two decades of war.

"I'm a born optimist," he says, offering me a salver of sweet tea and cakes. "I'm also very much a follower of Chinese philosophy. In Chinese, the characters for Wei Chi mean danger and crisis. But together they also stand for opportunity. Out of this war will come opportunity, the chance to restructure. You will see."

Sri Lanka is going to need a lot more people like de Alwis. Dangling like a teardrop off the southern tip of India, this tiny island has been trapped in a war between the Sinhalese Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

A STATE OF WAR Peace is a dim memory in Sri Lanka - Strife

(aka the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>), a stop-at-nothing guerilla army which has been battling to liberate the mainly Hindu Tamil minority from what they see as the domination of the mostly Buddhist Sinhalese. The war has so far killed 62,000 people and displaced more than a million, wrecking the economy in the process.

Late last year, however, the Tigers managed to wrest a ceasefire from the newly elected Government of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. As a prerequisite to re-establishing dialogue between the warring parties, the truce has raised hopes that a negotiated settlement might finally be in sight.

But the new PM has inherited a land in ruin. It is no longer possible to cross the country by train (the Tigers blew up the tracks years ago), and many of the main roads are in chronic disrepair. Large swathes of countryside are heavily mined, with locals getting injured almost daily as they move in to reclaim land. The capital city, Colombo, is a noisy, smog-choked morass of slums, traffic jams and army road blocks; a city of neglect and corruption where, as one local told me, "you can't even get your rubbish collected unless you bribe the garbage man".

But rebuilding roads and railways will be a pushover compared with repairing the nation's psyche. The war has engendered a legacy of profound bitterness and spite, not to mention acute mental illness. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) recently released a report which showed that thousands of Sri Lankan refugees living in government-run camps, known as welfare centres, were suffering severe mental trauma. Almost everyone in the camps had lost property or a house, and many faced starvation. Eighty-seven per cent of the people said that they still felt threatened. Not surprisingly, the suicide rate in the camps (where one out of every hundred people kill themselves), is three times the national average.

MSF recommended a range of psycho-social assistance programs, such as counselling, but this will only ever address part of the problem, as many of the worst-affected people remain beyond the reach of government, or the NGOs.

"Many of the war veterans, from both sides, live in remote villages," says Dr Garnesha, the sole psychiatrist at the local hospital in Batticaloa, a predominantly Tamil town on the east coast of the island. "Often they can't access treatment, and even when they can, they are reluctant to, because there is a huge stigma attached to being seen as mentally ill."

As the only psychiatrist for 180 km, Garnesha can barely cope with the non-conflict-related illnesses, let alone the torture victims, the displaced, and, of course, the child soldiers. He prefers not to encourage war victims to come in for treatment, claiming he would be "overrun".

The problem of child soldiers is a huge issue in Sri Lanka, and a sticking point in negotiations. The Government has always accused the Tigers of using truces to recruit and regroup, often forcibly conscripting children, some as young as 10. This time is no different. A recent press release from the President, Chandrika Kumaratunga, called on the Tigers to "desist from recruiting child combatants", many of whom the Government claims are trained as Black Tigers, or suicide bombers.

A month before the truce was signed in December, 2001, I travelled into guerilla-held territory, hoping to interview a man called Karikalan (which in Tamil means Black Foot), the Tigers' political number three and head of their eastern division.

Travelling in Tiger territory is quite an experience. The guerillas maintain a parallel administration, complete with their own courts and paramilitary police. (Summary execution of collaborators is not uncommon.) Their clocks even run on Tiger time, 30 minutes behind the rest of Sri Lanka. But years of privation and government embargoes have reduced life here to mere subsistence; a dreary, desiccated existence. There is little running water or electricity, and no economic activity. The only shops I saw were roadside shanties selling dribbles of watered-down petrol from mouldy Coke bottles. Most locals ride bicycles, but the rebels charge around on motorbikes like Valkyrie in camouflage, laden with M16s and cyanide capsules, which they swallow to avoid being taken alive.

Karikalan, however, was decidedly less threatening. A plump, mustachioed man with a jolly, picket-fence smile, he addressed my questions with avuncular ease. "It is true that we are asking people to send at least one young

A STATE OF WAR Peace is a dim memory in Sri Lanka - Strife

person from each household. But they are not children. Our leader has given us a firm ruling that nobody under 16 should be recruited. Besides, our fighters come of their own volition."

Unfortunately, he said, the only thing the Sinhalese understood was violence. As for the suggestion that the Tigers forced fighters to become suicide bombers, he thought the idea laughable. "You cannot force people to blow themselves up." "To become Black Tigers," he explained, "cadre must apply in writing to our leader, Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran. He then goes through the applications, looking at the applicant's particular skills, the kinds of missions he or she has been involved in, their motivations, and their family situation. Are they an only son or daughter? Do they have dependents? All these things are considered, after which the applicant is told whether he can become a Black Tiger."

Asked why he had joined the movement, Karikalan frowned, as if it were something he had not considered for a while. "It was many years ago. I grew up in the country. Right from the start, there were little things which made me aware that we couldn't live with the Sinhalese.

"For example, our Sinhalese neighbours thought they had a right to stop water getting through to our paddy fields. In the end, I had to go at night and open the sluices to let the water reach our fields. I used to get beaten by the Sinhalese for this. But to me, the choice was clear: without water, you die."

The Tigers have carried out 217 suicide attacks since 1983, in the process assassinating two heads of state: Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991, and Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993. Ever inventive, they have always adapted their methods to stay ahead of the security forces.

When male bombers began to get caught, the Tigers trained <u>females</u>, whom, they reasoned, Sri Lankan police would be more reluctant to frisk. When <u>women</u> became subject to suspicion, the Tigers simply concocted better methods of concealment, such as the bikini bomb, a denim pouch, packed with explosives, which folds up and between the legs.

The bombing campaign has had a traumatising effect on both sides of the conflict. "It has caused great uncertainty, fear and terror in the Sinhalese population," says Daya Somasundaram, head of psychiatry at the University of Jaffna, and himself a Tamil. "There is a feeling of vulnerability there. But it has also brutalised the Tamil community, and made them insensitive."

Because the majority of Tiger conscripts are from low-caste backgrounds (wealthier Tamils tend to emigrate, or send their children abroad), Tamil society has effectively been bankrupted.

Overcoming such issues won't be easy. Much will depend on the attitude of the country's small but powerful elite. "Many people, both in and out of uniform, have made lots of money through this war," one military analyst told me. "They have much to lose should the ceasefire hold."

Somasundaram agrees. "Some people feel threatened by peace, particularly those in the military. Their whole lives have been spent in the war."

One of Prime Minister Wickremesinghe's biggest challenges will be to convince such people that they have more to gain from peace than they do from war. For this he will need the co-operation of the President, his long-time political nemesis. Though Kumaratunga has promised to work with the PM in a spirit of "cohabitation", she is still capable of wrecking any deal should she feel the Tigers are getting too much autonomy.

She is hardly one their biggest fans, having nearly been killed by a suicide bomber in 1999 the attack left her blind in one eye but one of the war's more insidious by-products is a thriving culture of rumour and distrust, an undertow of innuendo capable of subverting even the best-intentioned leader.

Stay any length of time in Sri Lanka and you will hear the most outlandish things: that the Tigers use prisoners as living blood banks, holding them in pens hooked up to IV units where they are milked daily like cows; that the President is a drunkard who, at the drop of a hat, absconds on government helicopters to private islands with her

A STATE OF WAR Peace is a dim memory in Sri Lanka - Strife

toy boy and crate loads of Scotch. "If there was a competition to see who could throw the biggest rock at the President," said one guest at a dinner party I went to in Colombo, "I would be the first in line!"

Public opinion polls suggest that more than 80 per cent of people support the peace process, but building a sense of inclusion and shared destiny is another matter altogether.

As my Tamil translator explained, "I don't want to kill Sinhalese. I don't have the stomach for violence. But neither do I feel a part of their country. When the national anthem is played here, I feel nothing. It is meaningless to me."

For some, however, the truce has proved its worth. "Going by the average death toll of the past couple of years, at least 1,500 lives have been saved due to the current ceasefire," says a political analyst, Jehan Perera. "This of itself is an achievement. Though we have entered a period of no war and no formal solution, I do think the peace will hold. It'll be a matter of not letting the nationalists on either side ruin it."

In the meantime, people go about their lives, making the most of the relative calm. On my last night in Colombo I walked along the Galle Face Green, a busy boulevard fronting the Indian Ocean where couples go to meet, and stalls are set up to sell drinks and snacks. The air felt dense with the promise of rain, and there was a warm breeze, blood-thick and salty.

On the horizon an electrical storm raged, filling the sky with the faint rumble of thunder. Yet no-one looked ready to leave. They were too busy enjoying the night.

Graphic

THREE ILLUS: Government troops patrolling Jaffna, a Tamil stronghold in the north, above, and below, a kuppi the cyanide capsule the Tigers use. Photos Tim Elliott. The type of mine the Tigers use in their campaign of terror.

Load-Date: April 4, 2012



Sri Lankan monk dons political robe in quest for peace

The Ottawa Citizen

December 7, 1997, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: CITY; JULIE OLIVER'S OTTAWA; Pg. B3

Length: 1892 words

Byline: JULIE OLIVER; THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Body

The past few days have seen moments of both great happiness and deep shame for Madampagama Assaji Thero. The Buddhist monk from Sri Lanka, an aggressive opponent of land-mines, realized one of his life's goals on Wednesday, when 125 nations signed a treaty banning the use, manufacture and stockpiling of the deadly weapons. But, he says through his translator, his feelings of victory were tinged with sadness; his own country, embroiled in violent struggle with separatists, was not among the treaty's signatories. Mr. Madampagama, 44, travelled to Ottawa nonetheless, both to witness the historic moment and to demonstrate the Sri Lankan people's support for the ban.

Mr. Madampagama lives a very simple, disciplined life of meditation, public service and temple chores. But his gentle demeanour and deep-coloured, flowing robes disguise a canny political mind and force of will. He is equally at home helping the poor in his native village and debating policy in the corridors of power. But the two are not antithetical; from his faith he draws courage, and his activism is rooted in his lifelong quest for peace.

How did you become a monk and what was your childhood like?

My father, when he was living, wanted to send me to the religious life. But before he could see that dream fulfilled, he died. He was a lorry driver and was killed in an accident when I was five years old. In my family, including me, there were four boys and four girls. I was the youngest of the boys. My eldest brother stopped his studies and started working as a storekeeper to support all of us, but it was not enough. So when we came home after school we would help my mother's cottage industry. She worked as a stringmaker, taking the raw material from the coconut husk and making it into string. We then sold it in the markets.

Immediately after my father's death, my mother was taking the three months' alms-givings to the temple in our village. In Sri Lanka, particularly among the Buddhists, when there is a death in the family, after three months they go to the temple to offer some alms for the dead person to obtain nirvana. When I went that day with my mother, the chief monk of the temple made the request once again that I should be chosen for the religious life.

Why did he pick you?

The monk of the temple will always observe the children in the village and look for beauty and spiritual qualities. According to the tradition in Sri Lanka, even a suckling baby can be dedicated to become a monk. We consider being chosen a blessing. And we believe in the rebirth, and our thinking is that we would have been monks in previous births also. This is why I was chosen to be a monk -- because I was a monk before.

Sri Lankan monk dons political robe in quest for peace

Then (until I was 12 years old) I had to go to school and study in the mornings, and in the afternoon I had to go to the temple to study the religious life before I could become a monk.

At five years of age, did you know you wanted to become a monk?

I did not have an understanding of what I was doing, but I was going along the path anyway. I only had the desire. In Sri Lanka there are more than 25,000 monks. I saw them very often growing up. I saw their lifestyle, the way they spent their time. And when I saw that, I was attracted to it. By the age of 12 I was made a monk. Then I had to read the Buddhist scriptures (in two languages, Parlee and Sanskrit) for another two years and memorize the Gatha, which is about 320 recitals from 26 volumes. Then, at the age of 14, I was admitted to the Pirivena (special school) to continue studies of Buddhism. When it comes to this education, there are two different methods. One is the Prachina, the Indian way of education of the monks. The other is the education of any layman. I have followed both of these, taking a degree from university as well. After you finish Prachina you are named Pandit, the highest rank a person can reach. There are three languages that we have to learn to reach that degree: Parlee, Sanskrit and Sinhala. At the age of 20, I was ordained a full monk.

Do you ever regret becoming a monk?

No. When I saw the life pattern of a layperson in the village where I lived, and the difficulties and the struggle that they faced, I thought that I had been released from all this. I am a free person from all these encumbrances. So this is a better life for me. I have a better opportunity to serve the community, and more freedom and more time to dedicate to service than a layperson. An average layperson will get married and settle down with his family. They will then have to support their family, find a place to live, give security to the children. All these burdens are on a layperson, whereas I am relieved of all these.

Does Sri Lanka have land-mines?

Yes, we have many. Between May and December of last year, we had 196 land-mine explosions. Seven children were injured and one died. Eighty-seven adults were injured; 26 died. Fifty-one soldiers were injured. Fifty-seven died. So in seven months, we had 84 dead and 144 injured.

Since 1983, our country has been at war. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam want the separation of the north and the east from the rest of the country. They are known as terrorists, like the Irish Republican Army. The army personnel, they always say that, because of the (*Tamil Tigers*) using land-mines at random, they also have to use them in order to protect themselves.

Do you think this is an acceptable reason for not signing the treaty?

This argument is not acceptable to (the campaign to ban land-mines). On the other hand, we know that the top officers of the army, the air force and the navy are not in favour of signing the treaty. Therefore the government is not willing to sign the treaty. When I saw the signing of the treaty (Wednesday), there were many countries faced with such guerilla threats that still signed the treaty, whereas Sri Lanka did not sign.

Did you feel ashamed that your country didn't sign?

In a sense I feel ashamed of Sri Lanka for not signing the treaty. However, I am very much optimistic that Sri Lanka will sign the treaty one day. I have taken the trouble to come here though the government has not signed the treaty. I want to express solidarity with the International Campaign to Ban Land-mines and the support of the people of Sri Lanka for this worthy cause.

As far as I'm concerned, we have collected one million signatures from the people of Sri Lanka, and we have handed (the petition) over to the United Nations. This was in 1996. Although the government has not signed, the people's power has really signed the treaty, because one million signatures is a very strong voice.

Have you seen the effects of land-mines up close?

Sri Lankan monk dons political robe in quest for peace

A friend of mine, a layperson who helps at the temple, his son was a victim of a land-mine. We have been friends for 15 years. His son lost one of his legs just above the knee. I have also met a number of young people who have been victimized by the land-mines, who had lost their limbs, many of them. And I have visited many of the government-organized rehabilitation centres for the soldiers who are maimed by land-mines. After experiencing these, I feel that this is an unnecessary weapon, because the land-mine does not target the enemy, but it is random -- it can harm anyone and everyone, and does. This is a weapon that should not be used anymore in this world.

I was in Oslo in September, and I saw the amount of effort being put into this campaign by the governments and non-governmental organizations. I thought that from that point onwards I must work as much as possible to push the government of Sri Lanka to come to Ottawa to sign the treaty. I thought that we could bring the government of Sri Lanka to Ottawa to sign the treaty. Many members of Parliament, both in the government and the opposition, were supportive of the ban treaty, so I attempted to get them to raise the issue in Parliament. We have also collected signatures from 1,000 organizations which are committed to peace, the environment and better living conditions, and sent them to the president of Sri Lanka as well as to the leadership of the **Tamil Tigers**.

From that action, the minister of foreign affairs in Sri Lanka has announced that though we do not sign the treaty in Ottawa this year, we are looking forward to signing this in the near future. So the government never spoke a single word about land-mines (until last week). This response came on the 29th of November. Until that day, the government was silent. At that point, it was announced that the government of Sri Lanka would send a few delegates (from the Sri Lankan embassy) to the ban treaty conference.

What do you think of Canada?

I work for the environment, and on this, my first visit to Canada, what I saw was the trees without the leaves, which hurts me a lot. In which month do the leaves come back?

In many cities there are a lot of new structures and buildings, but here in Ottawa, I see the old structures remaining, which are being respected by the people.

I admire and value the peaceful lifestyle of the Canadian people, though they belong to different races and religions, they still live together in peace -- whereas my own country, being such a small country with such a small population, we are unable to live peacefully. The two races (Tamil and Sinhalas) are fighting with each other.

In conclusion, I would like to repeat the words of Lord Buddha, who said there can be different races and colours of people in the world, but we all belong to one humankind. If we can recognize that, that is the ultimate reality.

OFF THE CUFF

Favourite meal? As a Buddhist monk, I'm not supposed to have anything favourite. Whatever is given to me I have to accept.

Who do you most admire? Anybody committed to peace and the protection of the environment. And Lord Buddha.

What was the last book you read? A religious book by another monk.

Favourite movie? When you become a monk you are not supposed to go for any kind of pleasures. We renounce worldly pleasures. But the most popular actor in Sri Lanka, Vijaya Kumara Tunga, was a very close friend of mine. He was the president's husband. He was assassinated in 1989. It was his vision that brought me into the peace movement.

What is your biggest regret? Very recently I was awarded a very honourable title. The ceremony took place in January, and the week after that ceremony my mother passed away. That still makes me sad.

What quality do you most admire in women? Humility.

In men? Patience.

What trait do you most dislike in yourself? I admire everything in me, but others may not.

What is your greatest source of happiness? I witnessed a very historic event, the signing of the ban treaty by the whole world. And I have the pleasure of being the only Buddhist monk out of about 100,000 monks in this world to be here.

What do you fear the most? As a Buddhist priest, I cannot feel fear about anything. Never. The most fearful event I could describe is that I went to meet the Tamil leaders to talk to them. Anybody could say that was crazy, a fearful event, but I did not fear them at all. I asked them to let us live together in peace. They told me they are fighting to get their fundamental rights, which they say they have lost.

Graphic

Color Photo: Julie Oliver, The Ottawa Citizen / Although his country was not one of the treaty signatories, The Venerable Pandit Madampagama Assaji Thero, a Buddhist monk from Sri Lanka, travelled to Ottawa both to witness the historic signing and to demonstrate the Sri Lankan people's support for the ban. He has collected one million signatures on a petition in a bid to encourage his country to add its name to the agreement.

Load-Date: December 8, 1997



No Headline In Original

COURIER-MAIL

November 18, 1995 Saturday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 315 words **Byline:** BUCKLEY D

Body

KEYWORD-HIT Fight for life LONDON: A seven-day-old Siamese twin was continuing his battle for life yesterday. His brother died after an eight-hour operation to separate them. The surgery took place at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital on Wednesday. The twins, from Kuwait, had been joined from the breastbone to the naval and had fused hearts and livers. It was the first time the team, the most expert in the field in Europe, had attempted to separate conjoined twins with fused hearts. Frontline **women** COLOMBO: **Women** guerrillas fighting on the side of the Liberation **Tamil Tigers** of Eelam (**LTTE**) are playing a key role in the battle for control over Jaffna peninsula. The **LTTE** has deployed an unspecified number of **women** to take on the advancing Sri Lankan army in the island's north, military officials said. No bid for coins GENEVA: More than one million Saudi coins, retrieved last year from a sunken United States vessel after half a century under the Arabian sea, failed to attract a bid at auction yesterday, Sotheby's said. Despite active bidding, a deep blue 26.34 carat unmounted diamond, which had been expected to fetch a world record price of \$US12 million (\$A16 million), fell short of its reserve price. Extended stay MOSCOW: Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who has spent three weeks in hospital for heart trouble, would probably have to stay there until the end of this month, the Kremlin said yesterday. A spokesman said the decision was based ""on the opinion of doctors".

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Load-Date: October 1, 2003



Muslim civilians killed in Sri Lanka

United Press International

July 15, 1992, Wednesday, BC cycle

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Section: International

Length: 103 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Eighteen Muslim civilians, including five <u>women</u>, were killed by the separatist <u>Tamil Tigers</u> guerrilla group Wednesday, a senior military official said.

The official said four Tiger guerrillas stopped a state-run bus and sprayed the vehicle with bullets in the village of Cheddipalayan, 188 miles east of Colombo.

Col. Sarath Munasinghe, the Joint Operations Command spokesman, said five other persons were wounded in the attack.

"There was some talk about looting also, but we have no confirmation on it so far," Munasinghe said.

The **Tamil Tigers** are seeking to create a separate state in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.



The Ottawa Citizen

January 19, 1992, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: FORUM; (NEWS); Pg. B6

Length: 2074 words

Byline: RHODA METCALFE; CITIZEN

Dateline: KALMUNAI, Sri Lanka

Body

The young woman timidly pulls up the blue skirt of her school uniform to expose a criss-cross of scars on her knee.

In a few, whispery sentences of Tamil, Mathilda Michael tells her teacher what happened the night her life was blown apart. He translates.

"There was shelling and their house was damaged. They lost two sisters and she got wounded on the leg. Her father's hand was also broken," he says. "It was a direct hit."

Mathilda isn't sure who launched the shell -- the Sri Lankan government forces or the rebel *Tamil Tigers*.

Her family wasn't the target. They just got caught in a crossfire in this town on the east coast of Sri Lanka.

Now, Mathilda and the remaining four members of her family have crowded into a friend's home. Her father can't find work because of his hand. They survive on government food stamps and the hope that Mathilda's six-month secretarial course will lead to a paying job.

They're one of thousands of Tamil families shattered by a civil war that was supposed to set them free.

For eight years, the rebel force called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has been fighting for a separate Tamil nation in Sri Lanka, the lush island off India's southern tip of India.

Their fight has turned Sri Lanka's northeast into a war zone in which more than 40,000 Tamils have died, most of them civilians.

You wouldn't know it on arriving in Colombo, Sri Lanka's capital city on the west coast. Here, coconut trees wave in the breeze and tourists lie on beaches or sip tea in old colonial hotels.

Most of the locals in the southwest are Sinhalese by ancestry and Buddhist by religion -- just like the country's president and most of his cabinet ministers. All is peace and tranquility here.

But just 300 kilometres north in the Jaffna Peninsula, every family has a bunker to run to when they hear government planes overhead. The population is 100-per-cent Tamil and the peninsula is controlled by the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>. In Jaffna City, the Tigers have set up a parallel government.

Sri Lankan forces have small bases around the peninsula and on nearby islands from which to attack. In a major government offensive in late October, an estimated 2,000 people died on both sides.

It's not surprising that tourists have no idea what's happening in the north. The average Sri Lankan doesn't either.

The government releases little information, beyond inflated reports of military victories. The north is strictly off limits to travellers.

The east coast is another matter. In theory, the roads there are open.

But at the Colombo bus station, if you ask which bus travels to the east coast city of Batticaloa, the drivers laugh.

"Batticaloa? There's no bus to Batticaloa. Don't you know there's a war going on there?" says one old man.

It turns out the direct route to Batticaloa is blocked off because it runs through Tiger-controlled countryside. Instead, you must head south, then cut up the coast.

In the east, it's a different war.

Government forces control most major roads. The Tamils live like people under occupation.

The main coastal road is crawling with government soldiers. There are roadblocks every six or seven kilometres. At each, local buses must stop and let passengers out to show their identity passes and have their bags searched. With all the searches, it takes two hours to drive 35 kilometres.

Empty houses litter the coastline. Abandoned by their owners, the houses have been stripped of windows, doors, floor boards, everything.

From a population of close to three million, about 200,000 Tamils have fled Sri Lanka since 1983. Half are now in refugee camps in India; the other half have made it to western countries -- mainly Canada. About 60,000 Tamil refugees have settled in Canada, most in the Toronto area according to World Tamil Movement, a Toronto refugee support agency.

But the majority of Tamils who run for safety cannot run so far.

Close to a half-million people have been displaced within Sri Lanka itself. Most are in camps like St. Mary's camp in Kalmunai, a searing-hot patch of sand crammed with thatched huts, bare-chested old men and children in hand-medowns.

There was just an orphanage here until a year ago, when the entire village of Soriekalmunai -- more than 2,000 people -- arrived on the doorsteps begging for refuge.

The previous day, members of the elite government police force had driven into their village, rounded up 42 young men and taken them away, villagers say. That night, the wives of the men who were taken went to sleep at the village church for protection. A group of unknown men forced their way in, dragged more than 20 <u>women</u> away and raped them.

The next day, the village packed up and came to St. Mary's.

A young teacher, sitting in the shade of the orphanage building, tells her story through an interpreter.

"The males missing that night, her husband was included in them. And never returned. They've informed Red Cross and gone all around and informed about it. But still nothing is known about it. No one was returned back," the translator says.

A police officer came here recently and asked families to return to their village, but they refused. They're afraid that if they go back, the military will take more men away. At least in the camp, they say, aid agencies like the Red Cross will know if anything happens to them.

Forty kilometres up the coast in Batticaloa, in a tiny third-floor office in a turret of St. Michael's College, Father Harry Miller keeps track of all the people who, like the Soreikalmunai men, have "disappeared."

Stored in his computer, the list has more than 2,900 names from the Batticaloa district alone. Throughout the northeast, more than 7,500 people have gone missing. Most are young men, taken in military round-ups over the past two years. Most are presumed dead.

"What's happening here by both sides needs to be told. It's just sheer madness," says the 66-year-old Jesuit priest.

Miller saw this country in peaceful days, when it really seemed like an island paradise. But he also saw the violence brewing long before the Tigers took up arms in 1983.

"Before that, riots were basically Sinhalese on Tamil... Tamils were protesting that they weren't equal citizens and the Sinhalese objected to that. You'd find throughout the country wherever Tamils were, they were being attacked by Sinhalese," Miller said.

When Sri Lanka gained independence from Britain in 1948 -- it was then called Ceylon -- the Tamil and Sinhalese cultures were more or less on equal footing, although the Sinhalese outnumbered the Tamils more than three to one. The working language in schools and government was English, so the Tamil and Sinhala languages never competed.

In the 1950s, a nationalistic Sinhalese Buddhist movement began to gather momentum. Sinhala was declared the official language in 1956. Tamil speakers could still be educated in Tamil, but if they wanted to advance in the government or military they had to speak Sinhala, Miller said.

The Sri Lankan government created a new university policy that placed a quota on Tamil students. It also became virtually impossible for Tamils to gain the highest posts in the military or bureaucracy.

The greatest threat to the Tamils was the colonization scheme. The government began assisting people -- mostly Sinhalese -- to set up villages in the northeast. Sinhalese colonies started popping up along the road to the strategic eastern port city of Trincomalee. Areas that once had Tamil names suddenly had Sinhalese names.

"The Sinhalese had a very clear, overwhelming policy to occupy enough of the east to separate the north from the east so that they could set to rest this call for a Tamil homeland.

"Our present president, when he was earlier not president, I remember very distinctly when he said this: 'There is not one square inch of Sri Lankan territory which is not Sinhalese Buddhist,' " said Miller.

For more than 20 years, Tamils protested in non-violent ways, with letters and speeches and Gandhian-style sit-ins. In the end, the youth lost patience.

"What the young Tamils said was... 'You can use words till you're dead and they're not going to hear you. So what will we do? Bullets. They'll understand bullets.' That's what happened in 1983," says Miller.

As the war drags on, more and more of the bullets are killing the innocent in Sri Lanka.

In the beginning, the Tigers were very discriminating. Targets were military or political. But over time, their hit list began expanding until they were killing their own people -- Tamil leaders and intellectuals who did not doggedly follow the party line.

In the past two years, many Tiger attacks seem almost incomprehensible. The Muslim massacres are one example.

Eight kilometres south of Batticaloa is the large Muslim town of Kattankudy. The Muslims are descendants of Arab traders who settled here as long as 2,000 years ago and now make up one-third of the eastern population. They are Tamil speakers and for centuries, have lived peacefully alongside ethnic Tamils (who are mostly Hindu, with some Christians).

But in August, 1990, gunmen burst into a Kattankudy mosque during prayer and fired into the kneeling crowd, killing 103 Muslims. Shortly after, a similar number were massacred in another Muslim town.

The Tigers have denied responsibility for the massacres, saying they were staged by the government to turn the Muslims against them. Muslims, however, say they are "100-per-cent sure" the attackers were Tigers. They recognized the men.

Since then, attacks against Muslims have continued on a smaller scale. Muslims have now stopped travelling in the east, except on "picketing days" with military convoys and soldiers lining the highway.

After every attack, Muslims search out Tamils to punish -- killing, wounding, vandalizing their homes. In towns like Eravur which once had a Tamil and Muslim area, the Tamil section is boarded up and silent.

And Muslims, who previously walked a neutral line between the Tigers and government forces, now regularly help the military in identifying possible Tiger supporters.

Caught between the Muslims and the military, life for eastern Tamils has gone from bad to desperate.

Out of 110,000 families in the Batticaloa district, 60,000 have no income and survive on government food stamps.

Tamil tradesmen have lost lucrative jobs with Muslim businesses. Ocean fishing is forbidden by the military who fear covert Tiger operations. Even farm production has dropped because Tamils are afraid to stay in rural areas, open to Muslim attacks and military round-ups.

But there is one place that Tamils can breathe easily in the east.

For 50 kilometres parallel to the coastline, a lagoon separates the main coastal road from the rest of the countryside.

Once you cross the lagoon on a tiny fishing boat, you are in Tiger country.

Here, it is peaceful. There are no soldiers, no cars in sight. A few young men with guns slung over their shoulders walk around in flip-flops. They're the local Tiger leaders.

Villagers here are virtually cut off from the rest of the country. They rarely cross to the government-held side for fear of the military.

But between farming and fishing, the people are almost self-sufficient.

"The only problem is petroleum. Diesel, petrol, kerosene, oil, batteries. Very difficult to get. And fertilizers for the paddy land people. The government tries to stop fertilizers (from coming in)," says one man.

He is the only person in this village who speaks English. In fact, he's not from the village. He use to own a machine shop on the other side until 18 months ago when he was accused of supporting the Tigers.

Page 5 of 5

SHATTERED BY CIVIL WAR; More than 40,000 Tamils have died in eight years of fighting for a separate nation in Sri Lanka

A tall, broadly-built man in his 30s, he says he would join the Tigers if it weren't for his family. His wife and two children live in a city on the other side. His wife teaches. He hasn't seen her in more than seven months.

If he joined the Tigers, he's afraid the military would find out and punish his family. There are informers everywhere, he says.

So he passes the days, weeks, months, waiting for his life to start again.

But after everything he has lost, the man says, he will not be content to see peace return to this land. Only if it comes under the banner of Tamil Eelam -- Tamil homeland.

"Peace is important and Eelam is important," he says. "But more is Eelam."

Graphic

Rhoda Metcalfe, Citizen/ A cyclist drives past the scene of a bomb blast that killed eight Muslims in Kattan Kudy this summer in East Sri Lanka

Young Tamil Tiger leaders in Tiger-controlled countryside

(Map locating India and Sri Lanka)

St. Mary's refugee camp in Kalmunai is a haven for civilians

Abandoned and destroyed home dot countryside on Sri Lanka's east coast

Load-Date: January 20, 1992



No Headline In Original

COURIER-MAIL

November 18, 1995 Saturday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 315 words **Byline:** BUCKLEY D

Body

KEYWORD-HIT Fight for life LONDON: A seven-day-old Siamese twin was continuing his battle for life yesterday. His brother died after an eight-hour operation to separate them. The surgery took place at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital on Wednesday. The twins, from Kuwait, had been joined from the breastbone to the naval and had fused hearts and livers. It was the first time the team, the most expert in the field in Europe, had attempted to separate conjoined twins with fused hearts. Frontline **women** COLOMBO: **Women** guerrillas fighting on the side of the Liberation **Tamil Tigers** of Eelam (**LTTE**) are playing a key role in the battle for control over Jaffna peninsula. The **LTTE** has deployed an unspecified number of **women** to take on the advancing Sri Lankan army in the island's north, military officials said. No bid for coins GENEVA: More than one million Saudi coins, retrieved last year from a sunken United States vessel after half a century under the Arabian sea, failed to attract a bid at auction yesterday, Sotheby's said. Despite active bidding, a deep blue 26.34 carat unmounted diamond, which had been expected to fetch a world record price of \$US12 million (\$A16 million), fell short of its reserve price. Extended stay MOSCOW: Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who has spent three weeks in hospital for heart trouble, would probably have to stay there until the end of this month, the Kremlin said yesterday. A spokesman said the decision was based ""on the opinion of doctors".

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Load-Date: October 1, 2003



SRI LANKA: WOMEN CANDIDATES PERSIST IN MALE-DOMINATED CULTURE

IPS-Inter Press Service March 5, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 972 words

Byline: By Feizal Samath

Dateline: COLOMBO, Mar. 5

Body

Prior to hitting the campaign trail for local government elections later this month, Nimalka Fernando got another taste of the sexism that prevails in Sri Lanka's political culture.

When Fernando, the leader of a group of <u>women</u> candidates, asked for a receipt for the cash deposit she had made to contest the elections, officials were stumped: The receipt book only had provisions to accept deposits from men.

"The receipt book had only 'Received with thanks from 'Mr' there was no 'Ms' or 'Mrs' and the clerk was scrambling for a way out of this crisis," Fernando recalled with a laugh.

A helpful superior then quickly asked the clerk to replace the 'Mr' with 'Ms/Mrs' and issue a receipt before the "prickly issue is splashed on television and the media" ahead of the polls, to be staggered over two dates, Mar. 20 and 25, Fernando said.

Cases of discrimination against <u>women</u> are common in Sri Lanka, 51 percent of whose 19 million people are <u>women</u>. "It's nothing new. You find this all over even though we outnumber men in terms of population and contribute much more than them to the economy," Fernando added.

Indeed, discrimination continues to exist although this South Asian island nation has had two <u>women</u> leaders. Sri Lanka produced the world's first woman prime minister in the 1960s, Sirima Bandaranaike. In the 1990s, it also had the first mother and daughter combination to lead a country -- Chandrika Kumaratunga as president and Bandaranaike, her mother, as prime minister.

Sri Lanka has also seen <u>women</u> take an active part at the grassroots level to secure peace in the country's 20-year ethnic conflict between the state and the separatist <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, who are waging a violent campaign to create their own homeland for their minority community.

Some recall how, when the first attempts at all-party negotiations collapsed in 1984, bringing jingoistic calls to war, <u>women</u> took the first steps to call for a negotiated political solution with a petition of 10,000 signatures in the name of "<u>Women</u> for Peace."

But <u>women</u> continue to find obstacles in formal political representation. "<u>Women</u> are also reluctant to get into politics for many reasons, including its often violent culture," said another activist.

SRI LANKA: WOMEN CANDIDATES PERSIST IN MALE-DOMINATED CULTURE

According to latest available figures, the number of <u>female</u> parliamentarians in 2000 was just 4.3 percent versus 5.3 percent in 1994 while the number of <u>women</u> in the cabinet was 8.8 percent versus 13.1 percent in the same years.

Likewise, <u>women</u> lack power in the economic sphere, despite their contribution to national coffers. For instance, they account for close to 600,000 of the near one million Sri Lankan migrant workers in the Middle East -- the country's biggest foreign exchange earner -- and the bulk of tea and rubber plantation workers -- the two main agriculture exports.

Also, <u>women</u> make up some 200,000 or more than 90 percent of the workforce in the garment industry, which is now the biggest export earner.

These are valid reasons why <u>women</u> should receive their share of responsibility in the political, administration, judiciary and media fields, said Fernando. "The judiciary and media don't have enough <u>women</u> in leadership roles."

In the coming polls -- to be held on Mar. 20 across the island except in the north and east, where Tamil Tiger rebels control some areas, and Mar. 25 in the last two regions -- Fernando's group of 59 <u>women</u> will contest seats in the capital Colombo's municipal council. Another <u>women</u>'s group is contesting the polls in the eastern town of Batticaloa.

This, however, is not the first time <u>women</u>'s groups are involved in the country's polls. That happened in 1999, when a <u>women</u>'s group broke new ground in an election in the county's central region, but fared badly.

While the <u>female</u> candidates hope to secure some electoral triumphs this time, they are quick to point out that winning is not the only agenda. "Yes, we would love to win but we also need to keep raising <u>women</u>'s issues over and over again and put pressure on politicians to give us our rights," said Fernando, a lawyer and well-known <u>women</u>'s activist here and abroad.

The Colombo group of <u>women</u> candidates is an eclectic mix that includes lawyers, <u>women</u>'s activists, former migrant workers, housewives, teachers, hired labor, domestic workers, printers, social workers, a cricketer, plantation workers, traders, an engineer, a company director, a trainee accountant and a dress designer. For the first time, probably, a group also has two candidates living in the slums.

Most are entering politics for the first time, have little political background but are keen to raise the independent status of <u>women</u>. "That's one of the problems with <u>women</u> politicians in the past. They are either political widows or came from political families," noted Sharmila Daluwatte, a lawyer and candidate.

Shanti Silva, another lawyer-candidate, said it was unfortunate that <u>women</u> who successfully completed their primary and secondary education had to stay at home and care for the children after marriage.

"All the knowledge we gained in school is worthless if we are forced to stay at home. The government should look at providing effective and safe daycare centers so that we could keep our children in a safe place and go to work," she said.

According to Fernando, their foray into politics is a symbolic gesture to pave the way for more <u>women</u> to enter the fray. "Even if we don't succeed and other parties solve the problems of <u>women</u>, then that's fine. Ultimately we need solutions to <u>women</u>'s issues; it doesn't matter who helps," she said.

Among the issues the Colombo <u>women</u>'s group is campaigning for are voting rights for <u>women</u> workers in the Middle East, opposition to proposed changes in labor laws in free trade zones to increase night work and overtime for **women** without proper facilities, and laws against domestic violence.

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Body

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President Chandrika Kumaratunga hopes her alliance wins enough seats to pass a new constitution that would grant regional autonomy to the north and reduce support for separatist rebels fighting a 17-year war that has killed 62,000 people.

The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence said Monday, however, that "the election is a sham and a fraud" in Tamil areas because about a million people have been displaced by fighting and about 400,000 more live in rebel-controlled areas.

They are unlikely to cross the front line to vote in polling booths set up along the edges of government-held territory. Tamils are a minority in Sri Lanka but a majority in the north.

Elsewhere in Sri Lanka, people fear violence will erupt after results are announced. More than 35,000 police and 10,000 village militiamen are being deployed to guard 9,500 polling booths, including those in the northern peninsula.

In Colombo, activity at polling stations was light after they opened Tuesday morning because many residents, worried about violence, preferred to wait until later.

"I am not going rush and vote. Let me see how things develop," said Justine Guruge, a store owner in Colombo's posh Horton Place residential district.

Security is especially tight in Jaffna, the main city in the battle zone, and many residents are unenthusiastic about the election. Their city has changed hands three times since 1983 and been reduced to a vast field of dilapidated buildings, caved-in roofs and walls pocked with bullet holes.

"I am not sure if I will cast my vote. Will this stop the war?" Bala Murugan, a plumber, asked journalists who had been brought to Jaffna by the government. The city is normally closed to journalists.

The government said air force bombers knocked out a major rebel gun position 10 miles southeast of Jaffna to reduce the risk that rebels would fire artillery into the city on voting day.

In the capital, Colombo, 185 miles south of Jaffna, residents stocked food and fuel Monday, anticipating the usual postelection violence between political factions and the army's subsequent imposition of a curfew.

Just over 12 million Sri Lankans are eligible to cast ballots Tuesday for 5,477 candidates in what the government regards as a referendum on the proposed constitution.

Kumaratunga hopes her seven-party People's Alliance wins at least two-thirds of the 225 seats, enough to pass the constitution without the main opposition United National Party.

The opposition leader, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, refused to support constitutional change in August. Buddhist clergy and Sinhalese nationalists also opposed it.

Kumaratunga hopes moderate Tamils would be satisfied with control of their own regions and would withdraw support from the rebels, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have demanded independence.

Kumaratunga and Wickremesinghe are unlikely to find common ground after a bitter and violent campaign.

The Center for Monitoring Election Violence said Monday there had been 61 election-related deaths in five weeks. It has blamed Kumaratunga's alliance for most of the 1,700 violent incidents during the campaign.

"The trend toward more violence is qualitatively escalating," said the group's Arjuna Parakrama.

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Rebels shelled a government building in the battle-ravaged Jaffna city and officials found a time-activated bomb near a bus station as Sri Lankans voted Tuesday in parliamentary elections which many hope will lead to the end of the 17-year civil war.

Casting a pall of sorrow over voting was the death of Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the world's first <u>female</u> prime minister. She died of a heart attack Tuesday after casting her ballot in her home town of Gampaha, 22 miles east of Colombia.

Bandaranaike, 84, was the mother of President Chandrika Kumaratunga. Bandaranaike was elected head of government in 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became India's first woman prime minister, and enjoyed four decades of political life.

Kumaratunga regards the election as a referendum on a proposed new constitution that would give more power to the regions, including the north and east where separatists are fighting for a homeland for the Tamils. She needs a two-thirds majority of legislative seats to pass it.

Kumaratunga hopes to win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and bring an end to the war that has claimed more than 62,000 lives since 1983. But she also has pursued a tough military campaign against the Tamil Tiger rebels.

The rebels want to create a homeland in Jaffna peninsula and in the east for Sri Lanka's 3.2 million minority Tamils, saying they are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

In Jaffna, the former rebel capital 185 miles north of Colombo, five to 20 shells fell around the administrative center shortly before voting began. Two shells fell just 100 feet from the building. There were no immediate reports of casualties, and police said the action was meant to scare voters.

About 12 million people were eligible to vote in this South Asian nation off the southern tip of India. A record 5,477 candidates were running for 225 seats in Parliament.

The first results were expected around midday Tuesday. Voting was not held in rebel areas, but polling stations were open on their edges.

Army troops were deployed across the country in anticipation of rebel attacks or clashes between the two main parties: Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party.

Many residents have stocked food and fuel, anticipating the usual post-election violence between political factions. The number of people killed in election-related violence hit 64 since official campaigning started five weeks ago.

In Jaffna, the army discovered and defused the bomb set to go off 22 minutes after the polls opened in a deserted house opposite the city's main bus station.

"It could have been a real huge tragedy," military spokesman Brig. Sanath Karunaratne said. "There were more than 100 people at the bus stop."

In other attacks, two ruling party members were dragged out of their vehicles and beaten to death early Tuesday near Kandy, 56 miles east of the capital, police officer Sanath Happugale said.

In the southern village of Elpitiya, a grenade was thrown into the house of the local ruling party official, killing the official's daughter, Upekshika Saushalya.

In the southern town of Matara, unidentified assailants late Monday threw grenades at supporters of a key Kumaratunga ally, Media Minister Mangala Samaraweera. Nine people were injured.

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Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve murders and the untimely death of the matriarch of national politics cast a pall over Sri Lanka's parliamentary elections Tuesday.

Many Sri Lankans went to the polls with peace on their minds, hoping the legislative vote would lead to the end of the country's bloody 17-year civil war.

By the end of the day, however, they were stunned by news that Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who 40 years ago became the world's first *female* prime minister, had died of a heart attack shortly after casting her ballot.

Bandaranaike, 84, was first elected prime minister July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India. She regained the office for a third time in 1994, but retired in August to let her daughter, current President Chandrika Kumaratunga, appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections to help boost the battle against the Tamil separatists, called the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>.

The rebels' quest for an independent homeland has claimed some 63,000 lives and displaced another 1 million Sri Lankans since the war began.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island nation off the southern tip of India, Tamil Tiger rebels shelled an administrative center in Jaffna, a northern city which has been under siege for years.

Reports from Jaffna, the center of the ongoing Tamil war, said 15 to 20 shells fell around the main administrative building before voting started. The army also discovered a time-activated bomb at the city's bus station shortly before polling started. No casualties were reported in either incident.

Kumaratunga regards the election as a referendum on a proposed new constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's regions, including the north and east, where separatists are fighting for a homeland for the minority Tamils. She hopes her seven-party coalition can win the two-thirds majority of legislative seats needed to pass it.

With the constitution, Kumaratunga hopes to win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and bring an end to the war.

The race was primarily between the two main parties: Kamaratunga's People's Alliance and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party. A record 5,477 candidates were vying for 225 seats in parliament in the election.

Reports from around the country indicated widespread problems at polling booths.

"At least 20 of our supporters have been either harassed and assaulted in several parts of the country," said Chinthaka Perera, a People's Freedom Front spokesman. The party emerged as the third-largest vote puller in the December presidential election.

At least six officials of Kumaratunga's People's Alliance in the eastern Ampara area were chased out of polling stations, said party spokesman Ariyasinghe, who uses only one name.

Elsewhere, two members of Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance were dragged out of their vehicles near Kandy after midnight and beaten to death, police officer Sanath Happugale said by telephone. The area is 56 miles east of the capital, Colombo. In a second incident, a grenade was thrown into the house of the People's Alliance vice chairman of a southern village council in Elpitiya, killing his 6-year-old daughter.

The fatalities brought the total number of people killed in election violence to 64 since campaigning started five weeks ago.

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Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of the matriarch of Sri Lankan politics cast a pall over parliamentary elections Tuesday that could determine the course of the nation's 17-year civil war.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority Tamils. She hopes to win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war.

Many Sri Lankans went to the polls with peace on their minds, hoping the election would help stop the killing here.

By the end of the day, however, they were stunned by news that Kumaratunga's mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike who 40 years ago became the world's first *female* prime minister had died of a heart attack shortly after casting her ballot.

Bandaranaike, 84, was first elected prime minister July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India. She regained the office for a third time in 1994, but retired in August to let Kumaratunga appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections to help the battle against the rebels.

Kumaratunga issued no comment on her mother's death.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island nation off the southern tip of India, Tamil Tiger rebels shelled an administrative center in Jaffna, a northern city that has been under siege for years.

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The <u>Tamil Tigers</u>' quest for an independent homeland for the nation's 3.2 million Tamils has claimed about 63,000 lives.

Kumaratunga hopes her seven-party coalition can win the two-thirds majority of legislative seats needed to pass the constitution. The coalition failed to pass the draft constitution in August.

The race Tuesday was primarily between the two main parties: Kamaratunga's People's Alliance and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party. A record 5,477 candidates were vying for 225 seats in parliament in the election.

Just after the polls closed, the two leading parties began leveling accusations of vote-rigging, violence and slayings. The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence urged the Elections Commissioner to annul the votes in at least 210 of the 9,500 polling centers.

"The nature and extent of violations have been so widespread and serious as to render the final outcome in these areas utterly meaningless," the center said in a statement.

Reports from around the country indicated widespread problems at polling booths.

The United National Party accused Kumaratunga's People's Alliance of shooting and killing two party supporters at Anuradhapura and Matale, 100 miles and 60 miles east of Colombo. Police confirmed the death in Anuradhapura. The shooting in Matale could not be immediately verified.

The voting was preceded by two attacks that left three people dead including the 6-year-old daughter of a ruling-party official and nine wounded, police said.

Two members of Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance were dragged out of their vehicles near Kandy after midnight and beaten to death, police officer Sanath Happugale said by telephone. The area is 55 miles east of the capital, Colombo.

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As Sri Lankans waited for the results of an election that could lead to the end of a 17-year civil war, they grieved on Tuesday for Sirimavo Bandaranaike, or "Mrs. B," the matriarch of the nation's politics.

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, 84, the world's first *female* prime minister and mother of the president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, cast a pall over the parliamentary elections.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

The president, who lost an eye to a suicide bomber on Dec. 18, hopes the constitution will win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war, which has killed 63,000 people and displaced 1 million.

While Sri Lankans wait for the election results, they have been requested to fly white flags in honor of their former prime minister, affectionately known as "Mrs. B." She will be buried in a state funeral Saturday. Friday and Saturday have been declared days of mourning.

Bandaranaike was elected prime minister July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India.

She regained the office for a third time in 1994 when her daughter appointed her prime minister, but retired in August to let Kumaratunga appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections.

Bandaranaike was replaced by Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, who believes the rebels should be wiped out and that talks should only be held with moderate Tamils.

Voters at the school where Bandaranaike cast her ballot Tuesday shortly before dying of a heart attack commented on her "good fortune," rather than the ironic timing of her death. Sri Lankans, the majority of whom are believers of astrology, thought the stars had been on her side.

Tuesday also marked the widow's 60th wedding anniversary.

"She was a very lucky woman," said 48-year-old T.K.H. Peiris, a polling agent. "She had been sick so long, but it is amazing that she was able to cast her vote before she died."

The race Tuesday was primarily between the two main parties: Kamaratunga's People's Alliance and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party. A record 5,477 candidates were vying for 225 seats in parliament in the election.

Wickremesinghe has said that if his United National Party comes into power, it would immediately de-escalate the fighting in the northern Jaffna Peninsula and then negotiate with the rebels.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island nation off the southern tip of India, *Tamil Tigers* shelled an administrative center in Jaffna, which has been under siege since 1995.

Just after the polls closed, the two leading parties leveled accusations of vote-rigging.

The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence urged the Elections Commissioner to annul the votes in at least 210 of the country's 9,500 polling centers.

The opening of the vote was preceded by two attacks that left three people dead, including a 6-year-old daughter of a ruling party official, police said.

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A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's party at Ragama, northeast of the capital, police said. Police said the attack was politically motivated.

The government imposed a curfew in Colombo between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., confining residents to their homes.

Earlier, shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, 84, the world's first *female* prime minister and the mother of the current president cast a pall over the parliamentary elections.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

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Tuesday also marked the widow's 60th wedding anniversary.

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The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence urged the Elections Commissioner to annul the votes in at least 210 of the country's 9,500 polling centers.

The opening of the vote was preceded by two attacks that left three people dead, including a 6-year-old daughter of a ruling party official, police said.

The fatalities brought the total number of people killed in election violence to 66 since campaigning started five weeks ago.

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: http://www.eelamweb.com

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As Sri Lankans waited for the results of an election that could stop the 17-year civil war, they also grieved Tuesday for Sirimavo Bandaranaike, or "Mrs. B," the matriarch of the nation's politics.

Tens of thousands of people, including <u>women</u> in white saris and hundreds of saffron-robed Buddhist monks, grieved for Bandaranaike, 84, who died after casting her vote Tuesday.

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, 84, the world's first *female* prime minister and the mother of the current president cast a pall over the parliamentary elections. The government imposed a curfew in Colombo between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's People's Alliance party at Ragama, 19 miles northeast of the capital, police said. One of the wounded was in critical condition.

Police blamed the attack on political rivalry between Kumaratunga's party and that of her chief rival, the United National Party of former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

The president, who lost an eye to a suicide bomber on Dec. 18, hopes the new constitution will win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war, which has killed 63,000 people and displaced 1 million.

Kumaratunga's People's Alliance took an early lead in postal ballots, which come from government or military officials or others posted in areas where they are not registered to vote, the Election Commission said Wednesday.

The commission said it had counted 46,500 postal ballots. People's Alliance got 21,500 votes against 15,907 by the main opposition United National Party.

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President Chandrika Kumaratunga's People's Alliance party took a lead in early counting.

The Election Commission said they had counted 327,123 votes a fraction of the 8 million ballots that news reports estimated were cast.

Of the counted ballots, the People's Alliance received around 47 percent of the votes, followed by former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party with 36 percent.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

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Counting was slow as it is being done manually. The Election Commission said it was delaying counting in four of the country's 22 electoral districts after poll monitors called for vote in some areas to be annulled due to fraud and violence.

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Soldiers Present at Elections

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Load-Date: October 10, 2000



A Tamil Guerrilla's Story, Starting at Age 7; A Child Fighter Describes Abduction and Training

International Herald Tribune (Neuilly-sur-Seine, France)

August 22, 2000, Tuesday

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Section: News; Pg. 1

Length: 918 words

Byline: By Thomas Crampton; International Herald Tribune

Dateline: JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

Body

Shuffling her sandal-clad feet in the dust, 14-year old Arumuyam Malar confesses that she has been a naughty girl: She did not kill herself.

Trained since the age of 7 to fight until victory or death and commit suicide upon capture, she did not have a cyanide capsule or grenade handy when Sri Lankan government troops overran the position she was defending several weeks ago.

"If I had had a grenade or cyanide capsule, I would have done it," she said through a translator. "I thought the army would kill me when I was caught."

The story of Arumuyam Malar, one of the youngest child soldiers captured alive by government forces in their 17-year war against the guerrilla fighters of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, is a sad tale of abduction and lost childhood.

Her story also reveals the methods employed by the rebels to recruit and train young children into their ranks. The Sri Lankan government claims that many Tamil Tiger guerrilla fighters are children, with nearly one third of the 5,000-strong force under the age of 18.

Captured in late July following a battle with government troops that left most of her all-<u>female</u> unit dead, Miss Malar is being held in the military high security compound on the Jaffna Peninsula.

A small group of foreign journalists who interviewed her, the first reporters permitted onto the peninsula since April, were refused access to the compound where she is held. Nothing she said could be independently verified, and she was interviewed under stressful conditions that could easily have appeared to her as an interrogation.

Seated in a plastic chair on a hot and dusty street in front of a bombed out building, she was surrounded by a dozen camouflage-clad and heavily armed government soldiers. The foreign journalists she spoke with asked questions through a military interpreter, just about the only person with whom she could communicate in her native Tamil.

Her answers were often monosyllabic, occasionally contradictory, and her lack of education hampered communication. Almost all large numbers were described as one thousand. She spent much of the interview with

A Tamil Guerrilla's Story, Starting at Age 7; A Child Fighter Describes Abduction and Training

her brow knotted, nervously wringing her hands, twisting a microphone cable and searching for eye contact. She rarely smiled, and she did not laugh once.

Her battle scars spoke volumes. In addition to fresh artillery wounds to her left hip, her right wrist had what an army nurse described as an old bullet wound.

Her transition from infant to child soldier started when at the age of 7, she was home alone. With her father dead and her mother temporarily hospitalized, she was in her uncle's care when a girl called Sylvie dropped by.

"Sylvie said we would go to buy something together at the shop," she said. Instead, she was taken from her village in northern Sri Lanka into the Jaffna Peninsula, the operations center for the Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

"They told me I must fight for the country," Miss Malar said. "I lived as brother and sister with other young people who also wanted to fight." The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> told Miss Malar that her mother had been informed about her joining the guerrilla army, but she never received any letters or direct messages from anyone in her family.

While in the guerrilla camp, she woke up each day at 4:30 a.m., took a bath and put on the Tamil Tiger's uniform: shirt and trousers with light green and yellow camouflage. She usually studied two hours of radio communication before breakfast.

Then, at 8 a.m., the day's training began, with only a short break for a lunch of rice and curry. Exercises included marching, drilling and practicing counterattacks, including the use of hand grenades and the T-56 semiautomatic rifle, a weapon similar to an AK-47.

As the youngest child soldier in her unit, Miss Malar had difficulty keeping her much shorter legs in step when marching. Speaking about her early training with the assurance of a hardened veteran, she almost mocked herself. "I really was not very good at marching drills in the hot sun," she said. "I was frequently punished."

Breaking into a rare grin, she added: "I did many small steps to keep up."

Punishment for the child soldiers frequently consisted of holding a four- kilogram (10-pound) T-56 rifle above their heads and doing what she described as "thousands" of knee-bends.

At 3 p.m., those who did not have sentry duty could play games. Volleyball was popular, but Miss Malar preferred kabadi, a traditional Sri Lankan game similar to tag. She never owned a toy or played with a doll. Each night members of her unit took turns serving one hour of sentry duty.

Her main instructor and mentor was Sylvie, the girl who recruited her, and a more senior cadre known as Anna. All 48 members of her unit were <u>female</u> and five were her age. "Anna said the youngest ones were not supposed to fight unless fighting reached the inner cordon," Miss Malar said.

Her strongest memories are of people dying in battle, such as when Sylvie was killed or when a cadre, Susila, was given cyanide after receiving a head wound from a shell blast. "Her face turned blue 30 minutes after taking a cyanide pill," Miss Malar said. "Her body was delivered to her next of kin."

Now awaiting trial, Miss Malar is held alone in a house in the security compound. She has no playmates, and few people speak her language. A letter sent through the International Committee of the Red Cross to her mother several weeks ago has not yet brought a reply.

How does she feel?

"Lonely."

Load-Date: August 22, 2000



Plenty of blood but no guts

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN August 16, 1997, Saturday

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Section: FULLPAGE, FEATURES; Pg. 33

Length: 944 words

Byline: PHILLIP ADAMS

Body

THE law and order system, through the decades, has been subjected to more scrutiny by TV camera lenses than the subatomic realm by the electron microscope. Every nook and cranny of the judiciary and constabulary has been turned into a series.

We've had thin cops, fat cops, water cops, country cops, crook cops, police rescue cops, motorcycle cops, highway cops, undercover cops, police pathologists, lawyers, magistrates, barristers, not to mention the FBI, the Texas Rangers and the Mounties.

Only a couple of categories have been overlooked. Why, for example, haven't we had a series based on the blokes who stand outside banks; the private security guards who spend the day as motionless as fibreglass labradors designed to attract donations for seeing-eye dog schools? True, there'd be little action. But that could be the point. MATP

A constant build-up of tension where nothing happens. This is the sort of approach that might appeal to Chris Carter, whose Millennium should be retitled Minimalism. It seems to use just one script, week after week, is shot in one colour (murky brown), with one light while focusing on one face with one expression.

More exciting, you could have a series based on Melbourne's Brown Bombers -the traffic wardens who went around chalking tyres and issuing parking tickets. Now there's a part of the judicial system that has been inexplicably neglected. You must get a pretty interesting view of the world when you're bent over a Dunlop radial.

Even as I make these suggestions, the suspicion dawns that somebody, somewhere, is working on them. At Southern Star, at Grundys, at Simpson Le Mesurier, at Crawfords. At this very moment they're toiling over scripts about the Road Traffic Authority or health inspectors.

Now, there's a great idea. A heroic health inspector, smashing his way through the doors of scumbag sausagemakers, shining his torch into vats of malodorous meat, proving that the snags are made from dead wombats and kangas scraped off the Hume highway.

"Darling," breathes an admiring colleague, "you've saved the State from another salmonella outbreak." The pioneer of Oz police dramas was Crawfords, which did it back in wireless days with D-24. Then came Homicide, featuring Leonard Teale and co, the cops who never took their hats off, not even in the bath. Though they spoke their wooden lines woodenly, we wouldn't have missed them for quids.

Now, 100 years later, Crawfords still finds windows of opportunity. Okay, perhaps window isn't the word.

Plenty of blood but no guts

Dimpled louvres of opportunity.

Exhibit X (Crawfords presented exhibits A to W long ago) is State Coroner, featuring that exemplary thespian Wendy Hughes. I haven't seen much of Hughes since we made Lonely Hearts together but she remains a handsome woman who exudes intelligence. So she's spot-on for the role of Kate Ferrari.

DON'T you love the name? It gives the character a vroomvroom quality that she's going to need, given that her appointment as State coroner has been greeted with a wide variety of responses. Well, not all that wide. Ranging from resentment to ridicule. Yep, it's one of those series where a strong, independent woman has to deal with the rampant chauvinism of male colleagues -has to go an extra mile to prove herself. But don't worry, being a Ferrari, she'll do the distance in a flash, going from 0 to 100km/ph in 3.2 seconds.

The series starts with a metaphoric close-up. Hughes putting her foot in it right into a pile of dog poo. It's a more alarming image than that of a petrol tanker clobbering a car full of reckless teenagers or the room full of bureaucrats being blown to smithereens by the bomb in the safe. The poo underlines the whole point of the program: that Hughes is in deep doo-doos.

The production is full of little borrowings -locations are identified at the bottom of the screen, in the fashion of The X Files. The drama is presented with the prettified look of LA Law nice lighting, pretty people. The earthiness promised by that shot of a highheel shoe squelching into a turd is rarely in evidence as the plot unfolds.

Let it be said that the program is made with admirable efficiency. The collision between the tanker and the teenagers is spectacular. The bomb blast is worthy of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>. The script, however, is timid and formulaic -and if the writing takes no risks, the casting is excruciatingly conventional. The corpses look livelier than the rest of the cast.

Okay, first eps are notoriously difficult. Characters have to be introduced, complete with implied pasts and quirks of personality, and the tensions that will drive relationships in the weeks and months ahead must be blocked out.

If I were Michael Harvey, the series'

creator, I'd have roughed things up a bit -given the marmoreal Hughes a foul mouth, for example, or an explosive temper. After all, it has been quite a time since <u>women</u> needed to be apologetic about having power in the professions.

The sort of high-impact performances you get in brief, bit parts in US series still elude local productions. We've been watching them since Hill Street Blues a character appears on-screen and, within a couple of seconds, has combined depth of feeling with the odd idiosyncrasy. This is sadly absent in State Coroner. For example, a woman glimpsed in a corridor is expressing desolation for a daughter who has been killed on her 18th birthday -and she packs the emotional wallop of the talking clock. Flaws in scripting, casting, acting and direction are compounded and communicated in an instant.

What this series on coronal inquiries needs is, frankly, what coronal inquiries have lots of. Guts.

State Coroner, Ten at 8.30pm, Thursday.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002



news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

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MARCH 8, 1995, WEDNESDAY

Length: 733 words

Dateline: hong kong, march 8; ITEM NO: 0308144

Body

following are news items from the asia-pacific desk of xinhua in hong kong today: hke030801 --nz electronic exports increase rapidly hke030802 --major news in australian press hke030803 --major news in philippine press hke030804 --coal production drops in philippines hke030805 --major news in indian press hke030806 --philippine shrimps exports up hke030807 --tamil mps pledge support to pa government hke030808 --major news in pakistani press hke030809 --myanmar, britain form apparel joint venture hke030810 --Itte uses captives as bargaining lever hke030811 --leader of religious group shot dead in pakistan hke030812 --nz produce prices rise hka030813 --98 vietnamese migrants return home hke030814 --women and children council formed in nepal hke030815 --indian women urge un to set up monitoring body hke030816 --nz dollar climbs to 6-year high against greenback hke030817 --russian opposition leader's remarks refuted hke030818 --aussie women gather to mark int'l women's day hke030819 --indian pm indicates to put president's rule in bihar hke030820 --plane giant seeks partnership with indian firms hke030821 --nepali government to check corruption from top: pm hke030822 --nepali pm leaves for copenhagen summit hke030823 --india to set up supervisory system for commercial banks hke030824 --indian digitized satellite tv launched hka030825 --major foreign exchange rates in philippines hke030826 --nc meeting approves new party constitution hke030827 --thai parents jailed for abusing daughter hke030828 --2 us diplomats killed in karachi hka030830 --foreign consuls attend xinhua hk branch's reception hke030831 --escap holds photo show on women in bangkok hke030832 --four held on heroin charge in bangkok hke030833 --india's oil imports rising, says report hke030834 --trading on hong kong stock exchange hke030835 --foreign exchange rates in hong kong hka030836 --transactions at philippine stock exchange hke030837 --thai police watching out for muslim suicidal squad hke030838 --australian stock market down hke030839 --cambodian fm, pm to visit thailand hke030940 --s'pore, pakistan sign investment agreement hke030841 --12th hk intl. jewellery show opens hke030842 --chinese-aussie training course bound for wuhan hka030843 --international women's day marked in macao hke030844 --dollar's plunge hurts thailand's us market hka030945 --air macao given official air carrier status hke030946 --substitution arrangement between pnb, ng confirmed hke030847 --weather information for asianpacific cities hke030848 --aussie dollar staggers as greenback slumps hke030849 --indian industrial captains on budget (1) hke030850 --indian business leaders on budget (2) hke030851 --us responds to killing of its diplomats in karachi hke030852--unhcr office hit by rocket as afghan fighting goes on hke030853 --22m us dollars worth of gems to be sold in myanmar hke030854 --malaysia geared for multi-media system hke030855 --pak govt condemns killing of us consulate members hke030856 --evans asks ghali to help release hostage in somalia hka030857 -foreign exchange rate in india hke030858 --us official on relations with south asia hka030859 --robbers made off with goods worth millions in hk hke030860 --sindh governor condoles on killing of us diplomats hke030861 -solomon islands introduces 1995 budget hka030862 --drug packaging center smashed in hong kong hke030863 -canada to support sri lanka's peace efforts hke030864 --png introduces legislation on bougainville gov't hke030865 --philippine emergency telecom system completed hka030866 --karachi stock exchange index decreases hke030867 --indian pm leaves for copenhagen hke030868 --pak president grieves over killing of us diplomats hke030869 --pakistani pm condoles on killing of us diplomats hke030870 --u.s. firm to invest 5m dlrs in philippines

news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

Load-Date: March 9, 1995



Sri Lankans are giving peace a chance; If fragile talks fail, countless more will die in a war that has killed at least 30,000 Tamils, writes Tim McGirk in Jaffna

The Independent (London)
January 28, 1995, Saturday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL; Page 10

Length: 936 words **Byline:** Tim McGirk

Body

When a Sri Lankan army helicopter clattered down in Jaffna recently to unload peace envoys preparing to negotiate a ceasefire in the government's 12-year ethnic war with Tamil guerrillas, a throng of Tamil onlookers pushed forward to crush the pilot withhugs and kisses.

Such effusive displays of friendship towards the enemy stunned the Tamil Tiger commanders, who expect total discipline from the 800,000 Tamils living in this besieged peninsula on the island's northern tip. In their newspaper, Tigers' Voice, the crowd received a scolding. "Don't forget, a week before, this same helicopter pilot had been shooting at you and your families."

It is not possible for the Tamils to forget such things. More than 30,000 have been killed in the fighting and, until the ceasefire took hold three weeks ago, this city was routinely bombed and strafed by aircraft, while the big guns of naval vessels arched in shells from the sea. Churches, homes, schools and hospitals were blasted, and statues of saints and angels left headless. For Tamils wanting to leave there was only one exit: across a broad, shallow lagoon where small ferries, moving in darkness, frequently ran on to shifting sandbars.

Stranded boats, often crammed with <u>women</u> and children, made perfect targets. A Roman Catholic nun, Sister Annaclette, recalled: "As soon as the bullets started flying, everyone would panic. Some would stand up and get shot, tipping the boat this way and that, while others jumped out and drowned. It's shallow, but there's quicksand." When I travelled with the sister and several other nuns across the lagoon in a speedboat, the truce was on; they felt brave enough to sing Tamil hymns under the starry sky.

For the first time in this vicious war, both the Tamils and the government believe peace stands a chance. But in Colombo and in Jaffna, officials involved in the three rounds of negotiations over the past few months said worriedly that if these talks break down, it could be many more years - and countless deaths - before another opportunity arises. n What gives optimism is that the new Sri Lankan president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, swept to victory on a pledge to end the war. She has partially lifted an economic blockade around the rebel stronghold in the north. The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> went a step further: they agreed to a ceasefire earlier this month and dropped demands for a separate independent state.

Sri Lankans are giving peace a chance; If fragile talks fail, countless more will die in a war that has killed at least 30,000 Tamils, writes Tim McGirk in Jaff....

Anton Balasingham, the Tigers' chief spokesman, who once taught sociology at a London university, said: "For the first time, we're making a clear statement that we want autonomy through federalism. There's no need to change the name of this island from Sri Lanka."

The Tamil rebels are demanding that the government lift its ban on several crucial items, such as fuel and fertiliser. Four years of an intense blockade have turned the Tamils into canny inventors. They run cars on kerosene and vegetable oil, sparking the carburettor with eau de cologne. When the army's spies found out about eau de cologne and banned it as a military weapon, the Tamils found a spray of paint thinner worked as well. Ingenuity is not the only reason why the Tamils have held out for so long against the better-equipped and far larger Sri Lankan army and navy.

Their enigmatic and ruthless leader, Prabakharan, has whipped his boy and girl soldiers - most still in their teens - into a fanatical force ready to die for Tamil liberty. After guerrilla training, all Tigers receive a string necklace with a phial of cyanide which they are expected to take if faced with capture. "You just bite into the glass, that's all," said one youngster with a Kalashnikov, barely old enough to shave.

Every square in Jaffna has large cut-outs of Prabakharan and Tamil martyrs, though the guerrilla leader rarely appears in public. At his secret headquarters, he meets his battle commanders and performs such duties as swearing in three new judges - formerTiger fighters, aged 22, 22 and 25 - who can issue the death penalty.

Prabakharan is also known to share a last supper with his Black Tigers, his suicide commandos, who are accused of blowing up India's former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, the Sri Lankan president, Ranasinghe Premadasa, and many Sri Lankan generals and politicians. "It's not a last supper, like Christ's," said Mr Balasingham. "But yes, he meets them to say good-bye." Such fanaticism is fanned by the various Tamil churches. Father Emmanuel, from the St Francis Xavier Seminary, said: "The church used to deny suicides a Christian burial. But we don't call them suicides. We use terms like 'martyr'. They are soldiers who die for a cause." Electricity has been cut off in Jaffna for four years, yet the Tigers find the means of keeping lit the war cemetery, known as the Martyrs' Resting Place, as though death were nothing more than a happy, neon-lit fairground. n Even though most Tamils are Hindus - as opposed to the majority of Sri Lankans, who are Sinhalese Buddhists - the Tiger chief insists that all Hindu guerrillas be buried, as Father Emmanuel explained, "so that all those who fall in battle become the seeds for the future Tamil homeland". By contrast, the Sri Lankans do not honour their dead so publicly; the generals know the war is unpopular and minimise the national grief.

In Jaffna, I could not find any Tamil who dared to speak openly against the Tiger guerrillas. Treason is punished by execution in a public square.

Although most Tamils may fear Prabakharan and his zealous teenage commandos, they fear the Sri Lankan army even more. "We are grateful for the Tigers' protection," one priest said.

Load-Date: February 1, 1995



<u>Srinagar Journal;</u> In Kashmir's Enchanted Valley, War Breaks Spell

The New York Times

October 5, 1990, Friday, Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Page 4, Column 3; Foreign Desk

Length: 935 words

Byline: By BARBARA CROSSETTE, Special to The New York Times

Dateline: SRINAGAR, Kashmir, Sept. 28

Body

Just before 4 P.M., traffic in the center of this tormented city comes to a standstill for about 20 minutes to let a few buses pass. The buses take Hindu government employees from their sandbagged offices to their safe dormitories, separated from Muslim Kashmir by troops in battle gear.

In the stalled traffic, a visitor has time to take stock of what has happened in less than a year to the valley where, Jawaharlal Nehru once wrote, "loveliness dwells and enchantment steals over the senses."

The gingerbread-trimmed houseboats on Dal Lake lie silent, with no tourists to rent them. The shops of Dalgate in Srinagar that remain open are also empty, except for a few salespeople chatting to each other to pass the time. Banks and schools are closed in support of a state government employees' strike.

A Sullen Standoff

Kashmiris, seeking an independence that many now acknowledge can never be won by force of arms, have sunk into a sullen standoff with New Delhi.

Indian paramilitary troops stand guard on nearly every street corner, rifles pointed chest-high at passers-by venturing out to shop or visit friends. Behind the walls edging narrow lanes, armed guerrillas move with ease, shielded by a largely sympathetic population. Each side accuses the other of terrorizing civilians.

India, often portraying this as an Islamic rebellion - a description Kashmiris angrily reject - has yet to allow any international human rights groups to come here. American Congressional delegations are told the valley is too dangerous to visit.

Where, a lawyer asked, is the world's respect for United Nations resolutions that promised Kashmiris a plebiscite more than 40 years ago? "Only George Bush can help us now," he said.

At his home in a quiet residential neighborhood patrolled by troops in combat uniforms, Mufti Bahauddin Farooqi, a former chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, said "half a generation" had been destroyed by Indian military swoops. Thousands of young people have been detained, hundreds of all ages killed and whole neighborhoods and villages torched by troops, he said. [On Oct. 1, Indian troops burned down 400 houses and shops and killed at least 20 people in the town of Handwara, 46 miles from Srinagar, said Indian reporters at the

Srinagar Journal; In Kashmir 's Enchanted Valley, War Breaks Spell

scene. The troops, from the paramilitary Border Security Force, were said to have been retaliating after a grenade was thrown at one of their patrols. The Government has set up a court of inquiry.] Troops 'Like Vultures'

"They are going around like vultures jumping on the 13-to-30 age group," Mr. Farooqi said, adding that 3,000 habeas corpus petitions were pending in Srinagar alone.

At his office on a hill above Srinagar, the state Governor, Girish Saxena, has photographs of mutilated bodies, victims, he says, "of the cruelty and inhumanity of the militants." He believes that more than 400 Kashmiris have been killed as suspected informers.

Mr. Saxena, former head of the Research and Analysis Wing, India's equivalent of the United States Central Intelligence Agency, runs the state with sweeping powers. Jammu and Kashmir has been declared a "disturbed area."

The Governor, an insurgency expert who was involved in Indian support for regional rebellions from the Mukti Bahini in Bangladesh in 1971 to the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> in Sri Lanka a decade later, is now on the other side of a guerrilla war. He acknowledges that the powers Indian troops possess are sometimes misused, but adds that they operate under severe provocation.

Excessive Force Acknowledged

In an interview, Mr. Saxena said that there had been excessive use of force in some cases and that this was heightening the alienation of Kashmiris. "We have taken very serious notice of these charges," Mr. Saxena said. "We have suspended people and are prosecuting them." Thirty cases are being investigated, including manslaughter, arson and the molestation of **women**, he said.

"Where we find innocent people have suffered, we give them compensation," he added.

Kashmiris acknowledge that in Governor Saxena, who was appointed to the post in May, the militants fighting for independence have a formidable foe, skilled in guerrilla warfare tactics and counterinsurgency. By August, half a dozen important guerrillas had been arrested.

In an interview with two guerrilla commanders in a "safe house" in the city, one ackowledged that the arrests had forced some "changes in organization." But the guerrillas said they had not lost public support and were having little trouble buying arms in Pakistan.

'No Low-Intensity Proxy War'

One of the commanders said that they had paid a bribe of 20,000 rupees, about \$1,120, to troops of the Border Security Force to allow groups of 25 guerrillas to cross into Pakistani territory. But he insisted that they did not go for training by Pakistanis, whose help some guerrillas say has fallen short of expectations.

Governor Saxena, who insists that the insurgency is directed by Pakistanis, contrary to repeated denials from Islamabad, said he was convinced that the rebellion would get worse before "the situation on the ground" was brought under control and the harder job of seeking a political compromise began. "There were 1,500 militants when I took over," he said. "There are now over 3,000, with 5,000 more waiting across the border." He said they had access to a "colossal" stock of weapons.

"We have taken over 40 machine guns, 600 AK-47's, 500 pistols, 150 rockets, 40 rocket launchers, 125,000 rounds of ammunition, 1,000 mines and more than 1.5 tons of explosives," he said. "This is no low-intensity proxy war any more."

Graphic

Photo: Indian troops patrolling a street of gutted buildings in Handwara, in Kashmir state, where 20 people were killed and 400 houses and shops were burned on Monday by members of the Indian Border Security forces. (Agence France-Presse); Map: Srinagar, Kashmir



Ethnic violence claims more than 145

United Press International
October 7, 1987, Wednesday, PM cycle

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Section: International Length: 655 words

Byline: By IQBAL ATHAS

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Hindu Tamil rebels killed more than 145 Sinhalese Buddists and three Sri Lankan soldiers today in the fiercest ethnic violence since the guerrillas broke a fragile cease-fire 24 hours earlier, sources said.

Indian peacekeeping troops and Sri Lankan forces also were under orders to shoot on sight anyone who "resorts to violence" in the island nation at India's southern tip.

The worst incident of ethnic violence occurred at Valachenai when the night mail train crossing from the eastern city of Batticaloa to Colombo was halted by armed guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The guerrillas ordered the Sinhalese passengers to disembark, lined them up and shot them, four Sinhalese passengers who escaped the massacre told police. The guerrillas set fire to 11 train compartments and then threw the bodies of 40 civilians into the fire, police said.

<u>LTTE</u>, the most powerful and hard-line rebel group, Tuesday officially broke a cease-fire agreed to in July under a peace accord orchestrated by Sri Lanka and India.

During the four years of Sri Lanka's civil war, India's southern Tamil Nadu state has become a base for Tamil rebels fighting to create an independent nation in the island nation's north and east. Minority Hindu Tamils claim they have been discriminated against by majority Sinhalese Buddists.

The renewed violence prompted Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene to order Indian and Sri Lankan forces to shoot on sight anyone who "resorts to violence" in the north and east.

In Batticaloa district, Sinhalese residents clutching their belongings in their hands fled their homes in the wake of the renewed ethnic violence and took refuge at police stations.

Police estimated between 1,000 and 1,500 Sinhalese left their homes, following the lead of Sinhalese in other districts who earlier had sought refuge in police stations and near military posts.

Transportation in the district ceased and streets were deserted later in the day, sources said.

In the wake of the increasing violence, the state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. repeatedly announced today that the head of India's southern military command, Lt. Gen. Deprinder Singh had arrived in the northeastern district of Trincomalee to personally take charge of the security in the region.

Ethnic violence claims more than 145

Soviet built AN-32 aircraft began arriving one after the other today in Trincomalee bringing in more troops. At present 8,000 Indian troops are in the region and the government has said one more brigade would be added because of the recent increase in violence, bringing troop strength up to about 12,000.

Police and military sources said guerrillas armed with knives and sticks hacked to death 17 Sinhalese residents in the village of Punaikuday in the eastern Batticaloa district. Another 17 Sinhalese were shot and killed in Batticaloa town and the neighboring village of Jayanthipura.

Sources also said guerrillas stopped a state-run bus on its way from Pottuvil in the east to Moneragala in the country's deep south, singled out 27 Sinhalese passengers and shot them. They later set the bus on fire and threw the passengers' bodies inside, sources said.

In the northeastern Trincomalee district, where ethnic violence has been rising over the past eight days, guerrillas massacred 21 Sinhalese civilians, including 12 children and four <u>women</u>, in two fishing villages and set several Sinhalese-owned houses on fire.

Guerrillas killed more than 10 Sinhalese in the northern Vavuniya district. In the same district, the Tamil rebels also mountained attacks on a police station and an army patrol, seriously wounding three soldiers.

Three Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and 12 injured when a land mine exploded about 1 mile away from the eastern Vakarai military camp. The soldiers were involved in an administrative army convoy. Another land mine, in the Trincomalee district, exploded and injured seven soldiers, sources said.



The Associated Press

February 22, 1987, Sunday, PM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 991 words

Byline: An AP Extra, By ED BLANCHE, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: NICOSIA, Cyprus

Body

The 5,000-mile arc of mountains, jungle and desert stretching from the Indian subcontinent to Israel is one of the bloodiest fought-over regions of the world.

This "fiery crescent" is ravaged by war, rebellion, terrorism, civil strife and sectarian bloodshed on a chilling scale.

In the past decade, more than 2 million men, <u>women</u> and children have been killed or wounded in the area that encompasses Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan.

This slice of the globe, where emperors ruled ancient civilizations while Europe was still a tribal backwater, has been a whirlpool of superpower rivalry, regional jealousies and ethnic hatreds since World War II.

The Soviets have an army in Afghanistan. The seven-year occupation has soured Moscow's relations with the Islamic world, which has been plunged into turbulence by a fundamentalist revival centered on Iran.

The Americans, their Mideast policy tarnished by clandestine arms shipments to Iran, have a naval battle group cruising in the eastern Mediterranean in a show of force over kidnappings in Lebanon.

Caught up in the crossfire are the 26 foreigners, eight of them American, who have been kidnapped in Lebanon, mainly by anti-Western, Iranian-backed Shiite Moslem extremists.

Altogether, 72 foreigners have been kidnapped in Lebanon since 1984. The others have been released or killed by their captors.

The vortex of much of the violence centers on the 6-year-old war between Iran and Iraq, one of the longest and bloodiest conventional conflicts this century.

By Western estimates, at least 1 million people have been killed and wounded. In recent weeks, some 40,000 Iranian and Iraqi soldiers have been killed in fierce battles east of Basra, Iraq's second largest city.

An additional 3,500 civilians have been killed and 8,000 wounded in tit-for-tat air, missile and artillery attacks by both sides on each other's cities since Jan. 9 in a savage extension of a war that is largely stalemated on the ground.

In Afghanistan, Iran's eastern neighbor, Mujahedeen Moslem guerrillas have been fighting Soviet troops and forces of the Marxist Afghan government since 1978.

There are no reliable estimates of casualties. But hundreds of thousands of Afghans have been killed or wounded in this brutal war fought largely in the mountains where the guerrillas have their strongholds.

The Soviets, who invaded in December 1979, have an estimated 115,000 troops in Afghanistan with an arsenal of high-tech firepower, including jet fighter-bombers and radar-guided artillery, against the lightly armed rebels.

Some Western estimates put Soviet losses at 10,000 to 15,000 killed or wounded. But experienced observers believe the toll is probably lower.

In Lebanon, the Christian-Moslem civil war splutters towards its 12th year amid a host of mini-wars between rival Moslem and Christian factions, often financed and influenced by Israel, Iran and Arab countries.

The bloody turmoil, in which an estimated 155,000 people have been killed and 450,000 wounded since 1975, has become a cockpit for the Middle East's feuds involving Syria, Iran, Libya and Iraq.

The Syrian-backed Shiite Moslem Amal militia has besieged Palestinian camps for months in the most serious of the current feuds.

Some 3,000 people have been killed and thousands more wounded since Amal launched its offensive against the Palestinians in May 1985.

Amal moved, at Syria's urging, to block a comeback by Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat in Lebanon three years after he was driven out of his main power base by Israel's invasion.

But Arafat, at odds with Syria, which seeks to wrest control of the Palestinian movement, has forged new alliances with his onetime enemies, the Christians of Lebanon and Iranian-backed militants of Hezbollah, or Party of God.

The refugee camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon, his main strongholds, have held out despite almost daily pounding by tanks, artillery and mortars. The starving inhabitants were forced to eat rats, dogs, cats and wild plants to stay alive.

The Israelis, who still hold a buffer zone in southern Lebanon, regularly launch air strikes against the Palestinian camps or shell them with gunboats.

Hezbollah fighters seeking to create an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon have stepped up their attacks on the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army, a mainly Christian militia, in the buffer zone.

Twenty SLA men have been killed in the past month, keeping the flashpoint zone under constant threat of Israeli retaliation.

In Sri Lanka, more than 5,000 people have been killed in three years of fighting between Hindu Tamil separatists and majority Sinhalese.

A leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, the strongest of the rebel groups, disclosed this month that 200 of his men have committed suicide by swallowing potassium cyanide, which all rebels wear in ampules around their necks, rather than be captured and tortured.

Hundreds of people have been killed in racial and political bloodshed in Pakistan. Hundreds more have been slain in neighboring India, the world's most populous democracy, in a campaign by Sikh separatists. Political leaders have been assassinated in feuds between Moslems and Hindus.

Amid the turmoil, new conflicts threaten. India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since 1947, confronted each other with troop buildups in the Ravi-Chenad border strip earlier this month.

Both sides later agreed to pull their forces back, but hostility and distrust remain.

In the Arab-Israeli conflict, where peace moves have stalled, Syria is driving to achieve strategic parity with Israel, its arch foe.

Since its last defeat by Israel in 1982, Syria has acquired more than \$3 billion worth of Soviet weapons. Informed sources in Damascus say that Syria now produces chemical weapons.

Israel considers that this capability, allied with Syria's acquisition of medium-range missiles, new warplanes and tanks, poses a major threat.



Peace may have come too late: The vital role of the Sri Lankan army as riots threaten the accord with India

The Guardian (London)
July 30, 1987

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Length: 1000 words

Byline: From DEREK BROWN

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

The Sri Lankan army may not have won its nasty little war against the Tamil rebels but it could hold the key to the peace which officially at any rate broke out yesterday.

Already it has been thrust into the front line against the Sinhalese mobs who believe the peace pact signed by President Junius Jayawardene and the Indian Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, is nothing but a sell-out to the Tamils and to India.

The troops who took over riot control duty on the southern approaches to the capital yesterday did the job better, on the face of it, than the police who had fired wildly into a mass of demonstrators trying to invade the city centre. The soldiers were firm but calm; disciplined but friendly. They stopped the progress of the mob but then, while their frustration was worked off in burning and looting state property, they stayed on the sidelines.

The sight of young Sinhalese soldiers having a relaxed chat with young Sinahlses demonstrators, on the fringes of a full-scale riot, raised the inevitable question: how long can

President Jaywardene rely on the military to preserve his latest triumph?

The army has been changed out of all recognition by four years of countering the savage guerrila warfare of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> and other separatist groups in the north and east of the island. It is three times larger and more battle-hardened than the old post-colonial mini-army with its Sandhurst-trained officers. The armed forces now gobble up one third of the national budget, which alone makes them a major factor, if not a driving force, in Sri Lankan politics.

There is now a new breed of officer, Sinhalese to a man, liable to echo to the letter the widespread fear of that community that it is about to be driven into the sea by the Tamils or the Indians or both.

The new elite still says, in impeccable English: we are professionals; we will go where the government wants us to go. But it is also given to lecturing visiting journalists on the unjustified complaints of Tamils, on Indian connivance in their rebellion and on the ability of the military to end their job, iven the political tools.

So long as President Jayawardene was the champion of Sinhalese hegemony and determined to fight for it such men had no objection to his leadership. But an 82-year-old president, rooted in post-colonial attachment to urbane western values, and willing to deal with the twin enemies in the north, looks a quite different thing.

Peace may have come too late: The vital role of the Sri Lankan army as riots threaten the accord with India

There is, as yet, no serious talk here of a coup or a mutiny by an army with little history of political involvement and still imbued with a sense of duty to the elected government. But in informed political circles, there is increasingly speculation of a more subtle power play, involving a change of primary political allegiance. That process is already well under way at street level, with demonstrators of all classes expressing violent hatred and contempt for their former hero, the president.

The virulence of their attacks is astounding. On the edges of yesterday's riots in south Colombo, prosperousseeming business and professional types accused the government of degrading as well as cheating the Sinhalese majority.

'It is the most corrupt government we have ever had,' a businessman said. Another blamed the government for the recent scandalous discovery of so-called baby farms catering for foreign adoption agencies. 'They are selling Sri Lankan babies: they are selling our <u>women</u> as prostitutes. Girls are being auctioned at the airport for the Middle East market. There are thousands of them,' said an onlooker, his voice rising hysterically.

To these bitter critics there is little attraction in the official opposition, still dominated after 10 years by the former prime minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandanaraike. Her reputation was blighted by the appalling food shortage which followed her disastrous attempt to impose socialist planning and distribution in the early 1970s.

She remains a vocal critic of the government and of the new peace accord but her Sri Lanka Freedom Party is rarely mentioned by the rioting and demonstrating classes.

In the absence of an obvious political alternative, and among an electorate long out of practice in making democratic choices - the president was elected in 1977 and confirmed in power by a referendum in 1982 - the men of the moment are actually within the government. They are the prime minister, Ramasinghe Premadasa, and the national-security minister, Lalith Athulathmudali.

Premadasa is a populist, from lowly origins, with a huge following in the Sinhalese rural masses, whom he has assiduously cultivated with various housing and other improvement projects. He also has a powerful bloc of adherents in the parliamentary United National Party.

Athulatehmudali comes form a different mould: rich, and a former president of the Oxford Union. Both men are ardent and ambitious nationalists; the obvious champions respectively of the other ranks and officers of a force which has fought and suffered sorely for a cause which is now - in the rioters' view - shamefully betrayed.

Premadasa is publicly opposed to the peace accord. Athulathmudali's position is, typically, more subtle and equivocal. He has long argued for a political solution, and simultaneously for a strong stand against terrorism. Similarly, he has now chose neither to condemn the peace act outright nor to turn up at the elaborate ceremonies yesterday.

'If the national security minister was not there to support the treaty or whatever it is called, then perhaps the army should not support it either. After all, he is the national security minister,' was the guarded comment yesterday of Mr George Ranatunga, former colonel and influential president of the All-Ceylon Buddhist Congress. He, with the claimed support of 600 affiliated organisations and more than 60 per cent of the entire population, is a vigorous critic of the president and the peace pact. He also happens to be the elder brother of the chief of staff of the army.

Load-Date: June 13, 2000



news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

Copyright 1995 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency FEBRUARY 13, 1995, MONDAY

Length: 739 words

Dateline: hong kong, february 13; ITEM NO: 0213083, 0213206

Body

following are news items from the asia-pacific desk of xinhua in hong kong today: hke021301 --major news in australian press hke021302 --major news in philippine english newspapers hke021303 --major news in pakistani press hke021304 --philippines' balance of payments up in 1994 hke021305 --major news in indian newspapers hke021306 --laotian president to visit thailand hke021307 --eco summit to start in islamabad next month hke021308 --basic wage rates to be fixed in nepal hke021309 --thailand at risk of earthquake: warns expert hka021310 --major foreign exchange rates in philippines hke021311 --2 killed in student clash in bangladesh hke021312 --bangladesh trade fair to be launched in nepal hke021313 --fire causes 4.8m drls damage in thailand hke021314 --thailand cooperates with us, japan in crime fighting hke021315 --1 killed, 250 injured in clashes in bangladesh hke021316 --security tightened in thailand for lao leader's visit hke021317 --indian rupee gains against european currencies hke021318 --lankan govt urged to deal with increased varsity dropouts hke021319 --sri lankan leader worried about corruption in army hke021320 --sri lanka exports record number of products hke021321 --indian inflation rate highest since june 1992 hke021322 --toothache may be sign of heart attack: scientists hke021323 --ford to launch car in india soon

following are news items from the asia-pacific desk of xinhua in hong kong today: hke021325 --indian budget session begins hke021326 --foreign exchange rates in hong kong hke021327 --asia-pacific disarmament meeting held in nepal hke021328 --s'pore institutions post all-time high earnings hke021329 --australian dollar up hke021330 --ramos calls for second green revolution hke021331 --thai muanchon party re-established hke021332 --australian stock market maintains ground hke021333 --5 outstanding young women in rice science honored hke021334 --india willing to settle issues with pak: president hke021335 --thai commerce ministry announces rice import quotas hka021336 --weather information for asian-pacific cities hke021337 --world rice research conference opens in philippines hke021338 --thai board of trade seeks japanese investment hke021339 --second day of labor strike in bangladesh peaceful hke021340 --j.p. morgan regards philippines investment haven hke021341 --thai bank tightens foreign currency loans hka021342 --transactions at philippine stock exchange hke021343 --india to invite oil giants in deep-sea exploration hke021344 --trading on hong kong stock exchange hka021345 --hk takes measures to tackle cancer hke021346 --pak, us sign agreement on power plant hke021347 --indian opposition against yielding to us pressure hke021348 --singapore president to visit philippines hke021349 --pak opposition defends for its arrested member hke021350 --pak cabinet for task force on mineral development hke021351 --Itte denies planning to assassinate lankan president hke021352 --manila okays entry of 10 foreign banks hke021353 -sri lankan ministers to visit jaffna hke021354 --330 philippine former rebels get amnesty hke021355 --s'pore hosts training program for c'wealth countries hke021356 --severe traffic jam in karachi hke021357 --foreign exchange rate in india hke021358 --tough saudi laws on indonesian laborers denounced hke021359 --de klerk holds talks with malaysian leaders hke021360 --indonesian army called to improve professionalism hke021361 --s'pore share prices close higher hke021362 --afghan president urges un to speed up peace process hke021363 --manila to accelerate debt payments hke021364 --indonesia considers incentives in eastern region hke021365 --k.l. stocks end mixed hke021366 --karachi stock exchange index drops hke021367 --self-reliance urged in development in

news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

nepal hke021368 --first pak peacekeeping troops back from somalia hke021369 --enhancement of textile exports urged in indonesia hke021370 --malaysia pays attention to smis hke021371 --asean secretary-general's visit to india hke021372 --afghan power transfer to be realized soon: mestiri hke021373 --indian, us firms sign agreements hke021374 --world food program provides aid to philippines hke021375 --three people killed during bangladesh strike hke021376 --indonesian forestry companies earn profits hke021377 --malaysia to hold forum on palm oil price outlook hke021378 --vietnamese foreign minister on joining asean hka021379 --hk external trade rises in 1994

Load-Date: February 14, 1995



Terror that the Tamils remember

Guardian Weekly March 8, 1987

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Section: Pg. 7

Length: 972 words

Byline: By John Rettie

Body

"THE Sinhalese are so nice and charming, but they're lazy and feckless," my family always used to say. "If it's work you want, you have to go to the Tamils."

Of course, those were colonial times, and nobody thought anything of remarks that nowadays would be denounced as almost racist. But my family weren't the only tea-planters to say that. In fact, almost all the British in Ceylon, whatever they were doing, believed the same. Which of course is why Tamils were brought over from southern India to work on the estates.

As in so many British colonies which we organised for our own ends, this left yet another legacy for the country to deal with once it became independent -- the problem of the plantation Tamils.

And in any case, the Sinhalese had a very different view about pleasing the colonial masters. "Why did you expect us to work on your estates for the pittance you paid the Indian Tamils?" they asked. "After all, we had our own land, and we were quite happy working that."

But why did the British not employ the Ceylon Tamils on the estates? There were plenty of them in the northern and eastern provinces, which are their traditional homeland. First and foremost, because the Ceylon Tamils, particularly in the northern Jaffna peninsula, had quite different ideas about their role under the British. The Jaffna Tamils were hard workers for a very good reason: their land is dry and produces only with the expenditure of much sweat, toil, and tears.

Being an intelligent folk, and quick on the uptake, they saw at once that a much better road to advancement was to learn English and serve the imperial masters as administrators. This they did with consummate efficiency, earning much distinction, too, in law, medicine, and other professions. So, of course, did many Sinhalese, but most preferred the pleasant life on their good earth. So it was the Ceylon Tamils who carved out for themselves a very special place under the British.

It was hardly surprising that after independence, in 1948, the Sinhalese should have wanted to do their own thing, establish their own identity. The Tamils, I think, took too little account of this, and many Sinhalese certainly felt their behaviour smacked of arrogance.

But this and other mistakes they made can hardly justify their treatment since independence. It was, after all, highly provocative of the then Prime Minister, Solomon Bandaranaike, to bring in a "Sinhala only" language policy in 1956.

Terror that the Tamils remember

This began the rot. English ceased to be the common language of instruction, and Sinhalese and Tamil children were separated into different streams. Rather like the Protestant and Catholic children in Northern Ireland, they began to regard each other as aliens.

Every compromise agreement with the Tamils thereafter was either abrogated or left unimplemented by one government after another. Even the leaders of the leftwing Sinhalese insurgency in 1971 rejected offers of help from frustrated and radical young Tamils. And for the record, it should never be forgotten that about as many Sinhalese were killed in the supression of that uprising as Tamils have been killed in the past three years.

Nor should it be supposed that the developed nations, as the world's rich like to call themselves, have been innocent parties in the drama. The unfair economic system they have imposed on the world's poor, plus the island's neocolonial economic structure and its rapid population growth, combined to create widespread social and economic discontent. It was all too convenient for unscrupulous politicians to divert this into resentment against the Tamil scapegoat, rather than against the government -- any government.

Finally, in the mid-Seventies, angry young Tamils took up arms and began to demand a separate state. But it was only after what is known as the anti-Tamil riots in 1983 -- in fact, more of an organised pogrom -- that the militant movements became a serious threat.

No Tamil can think of 1983 without a frisson of fear: could it happen again? It did more to recruit militants than any other single event. In fact, if the government was really serious about reconciliation, some senior politician would publicly express regret in terms that would restore the Tamils' confidence.

Instead, some political concessions have been reluctantly dragged out of the government, while the Tamils in the north and east have been subjected to increasing pressure.

The Batticaloa district of the Eastern Province brings to mind nothing so much as Central America or the Ayacucho province of Peru, where state terrorism more than matches insurgent terrorism. Nobody can see the pathetic groups of <u>women</u> standing all day in the pitless sun at the corners of every military camp, hoping for just a glimpse of their sons or husbands, without recognising the repressive power of counter-insurgency.

In Batticaloa, the Tamils say it is a crime to be a young man -- that is, between 14 and 50. Many have been arrested, "disappeared" or tortured for that alone. And if they escape the net of the security forces, they may come under fierce pressure from the militants to join their ranks.

Whatever happens, their education, their job prospects, their whole lives are at best fatally disrupted. If a young man in the Tamil areas of the north or east decides not to take up arms, the compulsion to leave must be irresistible.

Last month's military offensive caused further civilian casualties and refugees. Only in the Jaffna peninsula are people relatively immune from this violence, but they suffer from isolation the government's economic squeeze -- not to mention the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>' recent accident with explosives that killed 50 civilians. Now there is talk of a government offensive to take back Jaffna. If that happens, the rest of the civil war will look like a tea party.

Graphic

Map, Sri Lanka: Tamil areas



The Associated Press

February 22, 1987, Sunday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 991 words

Byline: An AP Extra, By ED BLANCHE, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: NICOSIA, Cyprus

Body

The 5,000-mile arc of mountains, jungle and desert stretching from the Indian subcontinent to Israel is one of the bloodiest fought-over regions of the world.

This "fiery crescent" is ravaged by war, rebellion, terrorism, civil strife and sectarian bloodshed on a chilling scale.

In the past decade, more than 2 million men, <u>women</u> and children have been killed or wounded in the area that encompasses Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan.

This slice of the globe, where emperors ruled ancient civilizations while Europe was still a tribal backwater, has been a whirlpool of superpower rivalry, regional jealousies and ethnic hatreds since World War II.

The Soviets have an army in Afghanistan. The seven-year occupation has soured Moscow's relations with the Islamic world, which has been plunged into turbulence by a fundamentalist revival centered on Iran.

The Americans, their Mideast policy tarnished by clandestine arms shipments to Iran, have a naval battle group cruising in the eastern Mediterranean in a show of force over kidnappings in Lebanon.

Caught up in the crossfire are the 26 foreigners, eight of them American, who have been kidnapped in Lebanon, mainly by anti-Western, Iranian-backed Shiite Moslem extremists.

Altogether, 72 foreigners have been kidnapped in Lebanon since 1984. The others have been released or killed by their captors.

The vortex of much of the violence centers on the 6-year-old war between Iran and Iraq, one of the longest and bloodiest conventional conflicts this century.

By Western estimates, at least 1 million people have been killed and wounded. In recent weeks, some 40,000 Iranian and Iraqi soldiers have been killed in fierce battles east of Basra, Iraq's second largest city.

An additional 3,500 civilians have been killed and 8,000 wounded in tit-for-tat air, missile and artillery attacks by both sides on each other's cities since Jan. 9 in a savage extension of a war that is largely stalemated on the ground.

In Afghanistan, Iran's eastern neighbor, Mujahedeen Moslem guerrillas have been fighting Soviet troops and forces of the Marxist Afghan government since 1978.

There are no reliable estimates of casualties. But hundreds of thousands of Afghans have been killed or wounded in this brutal war fought largely in the mountains where the guerrillas have their strongholds.

The Soviets, who invaded in December 1979, have an estimated 115,000 troops in Afghanistan with an arsenal of high-tech firepower, including jet fighter-bombers and radar-guided artillery, against the lightly armed rebels.

Some Western estimates put Soviet losses at 10,000 to 15,000 killed or wounded. But experienced observers believe the toll is probably lower.

In Lebanon, the Christian-Moslem civil war splutters towards its 12th year amid a host of mini-wars between rival Moslem and Christian factions, often financed and influenced by Israel, Iran and Arab countries.

The bloody turmoil, in which an estimated 155,000 people have been killed and 450,000 wounded since 1975, has become a cockpit for the Middle East's feuds involving Syria, Iran, Libya and Iraq.

The Syrian-backed Shiite Moslem Amal militia has besieged Palestinian camps for months in the most serious of the current feuds.

Some 3,000 people have been killed and thousands more wounded since Amal launched its offensive against the Palestinians in May 1985.

Amal moved, at Syria's urging, to block a comeback by Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat in Lebanon three years after he was driven out of his main power base by Israel's invasion.

But Arafat, at odds with Syria, which seeks to wrest control of the Palestinian movement, has forged new alliances with his onetime enemies, the Christians of Lebanon and Iranian-backed militants of Hezbollah, or Party of God.

The refugee camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon, his main strongholds, have held out despite almost daily pounding by tanks, artillery and mortars. The starving inhabitants were forced to eat rats, dogs, cats and wild plants to stay alive.

The Israelis, who still hold a buffer zone in southern Lebanon, regularly launch air strikes against the Palestinian camps or shell them with gunboats.

Hezbollah fighters seeking to create an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon have stepped up their attacks on the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army, a mainly Christian militia, in the buffer zone.

Twenty SLA men have been killed in the past month, keeping the flashpoint zone under constant threat of Israeli retaliation.

In Sri Lanka, more than 5,000 people have been killed in three years of fighting between Hindu Tamil separatists and majority Sinhalese.

A leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, the strongest of the rebel groups, disclosed this month that 200 of his men have committed suicide by swallowing potassium cyanide, which all rebels wear in ampules around their necks, rather than be captured and tortured.

Hundreds of people have been killed in racial and political bloodshed in Pakistan. Hundreds more have been slain in neighboring India, the world's most populous democracy, in a campaign by Sikh separatists. Political leaders have been assassinated in feuds between Moslems and Hindus.

Amid the turmoil, new conflicts threaten. India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since 1947, confronted each other with troop buildups in the Ravi-Chenad border strip earlier this month.

Both sides later agreed to pull their forces back, but hostility and distrust remain.

In the Arab-Israeli conflict, where peace moves have stalled, Syria is driving to achieve strategic parity with Israel, its arch foe.

Since its last defeat by Israel in 1982, Syria has acquired more than \$3 billion worth of Soviet weapons. Informed sources in Damascus say that Syria now produces chemical weapons.

Israel considers that this capability, allied with Syria's acquisition of medium-range missiles, new warplanes and tanks, poses a major threat.



The Associated Press February 23, 1987, Monday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 991 words

Byline: An AP Extra, By ED BLANCHE, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: NICOSIA, Cyprus

Body

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<u>Children suffer horrific burns in army's offensive against Tamil guerrillas:</u> Sri Lanka ends fighting to give peace a chance

The Sunday Times (London)
June 14 1987, Sunday

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Section: Issue 8496.
Length: 587 words
Byline: JON SWAIN

Body

PULOLY hospital last week was filled with despair. The wards were full of traumatised people wounded during attacks by government forces on Tamil areas. A large proportion of them were **women** and children.

They had been terribly burned on the first day of the offensive when a Sri Lankan air force plane dropped a primitive incendiary bomb - a barrel of petrol - on a crowd of people. Nobody believed it was an accident.

Lying on a bed was a 20-year-old woman and her two daughters aged three and one. They had third-degree burns and their faces were contorted in spasms. A woman doctor explained that 20 civilians had died in the first four days because the hospital surgeon had emigrated and there was an acute shortage of drugs.

Eventually a surgeon had flown from Colombo to operate for a few days. Now, with more than 700 patients to tend there were only five *women* doctors and six nurses with little clinical experience to run the hospital.

Despite such horrendous scenes, there was evidence last week that the government was determined to give peace a chance. It suspended all military operations and launched a civil action programme of emergency assistance, public works and redevelopment.

Protected by a tough posse of bodyguards, General Cyril Ranatunge, Sri Lanka's top soldier, criss-crossed the Jaffna countryside by helicopter, by car and on foot in a tireless campaign to re-establish law and order int the Jaffna peninsula.

As land mines triggered by Tamil terrorists killed another 31 people in two buses on country roads, Ranatunge, who is head of Sri Lanka's joint operations command, opened a new police station in one battered town. The idea was to symbolise the return of government rule after two years of control by Tamil guerrillas.

Ranatunge is a dedicated soldier, trained at Sandhurst and Camberley, who was brought back from retirement two years ago by President Junius Jayewardene to reorganise the island's illdisciplined 280,000-strong armed forces. Under this straight-forward officer, leadership and training have improved dramatically.

There are still many reports on excesses, but there is no credible evidence of civilians being massacred. In two weeks of fighting, the army drove the guerrillas out of about one-third of the peninsula and secured about two-thirds of the coastline facing India.

Children suffer horrific burns in army's offensive against Tamil guerrillas: Sri Lanka ends fighting to give peace a chance

When Ranatunge annouced that the offensive was over last Wednesday, about 200 Tamil guerrillas had been killed, 400 wounded and Valupillai Prabakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), the main Tamil guerrilla group, had been driven out.

Ranatunge's announcement that he was halting military operations without moving on Jaffna city has demonstrated the limitations of Sri Lanka's military power. It has also been a clear signal to India that Sri Lanka does not intend to attack Jaffna.

India's controversial relief raid over the northern capital, in violation of Lanka sovereignty, continues to cause resentment and anger. The cooler heads in Jayewardene's government, however, realised the danger of giving India reason to seek to intervene again.

In fact, the civic programme Ranatunge launched during his whirlwind tour last week is the greatest challeng now facing Jayewardene's government. The priority now is to win the people's confidence and to convince the 800,000 Tamils in Jaffna that they have a future. Many people are not convinced.

'The fundamental divide between the Tamil and Sinhalese peoples is still as wide as ever,' a moderate Tamil said last week.

Load-Date: September 21, 2000



TASTE OF THE EXOTIC; IT'S USUALLY A MOMENTARY EPIPHANY, ONE MAGICAL INSTANCE, THAT SUMS UP YOUR ENTIRE EXPERIENCE OF A COUNTRY.

Daily Post (North Wales)
May 4, 2002, Saturday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 8

Length: 995 words

Byline: Louise Douglas

Body

They come in many guises, from sipping Margueritas on a tropical beach at sunset, to swimming with dolphins or seeing the breathtaking view from the Empire State Building for the first time. These are the things that make up the memories we take away with us.

But my brain has found it impossible to sum up Sri Lanka in this way. The memories I formed are all too glorious and diverse to be treated in such a simplistic way.

I did have hesitations about travelling to Sri Lanka - the country has seen its fair share of troubles over the years.

More than 60,000 people have lost their lives due to the conflict with the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> since 1983. The problems have been mainly focused on an isolated area in the north and there is a pervading sense of optimism across the island now, since a Norwegian-brokered cease-fire was signed earlier this year with peace talks due to start.

And in truth, I felt safer walking through the streets of its capital than any Western city I have visited.

It was in Colombo my adventure started, a bustling capital filled with skyscrapers, colonial architecture and excellent shopping, set against a backdrop of a magnificent coastline. After one night in the luxurious Hilton hotel, giving me enough time to recuperate from a long flight, I set out on a tour of the island.

Away from the capital, you start to get to grips with the psyche of the people. Driving through villages filled with the heady scent of wild lilies, schoolchildren, men working in the fields and <u>women</u> washing their laundry in the rivers all stop to wave. This is a country whose residents genuinely welcome visitors; they want the world to know what a wonderful place this is. Even the most remote areas are filled with magnificent Buddhist, Hindu, Moslem and even Christian temples, shrines and churches - a host of religious groups living together side by side.

My first destination was Kandalama, in the centre of the island, to stay at the eco-friendly Kandalama Hotel, located at the edge of a primeval rain forest and a first century reservoir. En route we visited a government-run elephant orphanage, where I felt my stresses and strains wash away as I watched these magnificent creatures escape the midday sun by bathing in the river.

At Kandalama the country's passion about the environment is epitomised with the hotel built around the natural rockface - without any excavation for foundations - and almost entirely camouflaged from view by hanging vines

TASTE OF THE EXOTIC; IT'S USUALLY A MOMENTARY EPIPHANY, ONE MAGICAL INSTANCE, THAT SUMS UP YOUR ENTIRE EXPERIENCE OF A COUNTRY.

and trees. Wildlife is encouraged to make the hotel its home. Dozens of birds sweep through its public areas and nest on balconies, while from the hotel pool, set at the edge of a sheer cliff face, you can while away the hours watching monkeys swing from the trees below.

And it was here, I believe, I discovered the secret of the laid-back Sri Lankan temperament, traditional Ayurvedic massage.

From Kandalama, the ancient rock fortress of Sigriya, a World Heritage site, is just a short drive away. Rising 200m from the jungle, the fortress was built in 491AD by King Kashyapa. The base of the rock is ringed by ancient water gardens. Ancient frescoes, 1,000-year-old graffiti and giant lion's feet, which marked the entrance to the king's residence, can all be found on the walk to the summit of the rock. Arthur C. Clarke, a resident of the island, once described Sigriya as the eighth wonder of the world. I would tend to agree.

The 15th century capital Kandy was my next stop, a picturesque city set around a lake. The cultural heart of Sri Lanka, it is home to the Temple of the Tooth Relic (a tooth belonging to Buddha), traditional Kandyian dancing and the Botanical Gardens.

Onwards and upwards, it was time to discover Sri Lanka's most famous export. A winding drive high into the mountains bought my companions and I into the tea plantations. Here, we stayed in the colonial town of Nuwara Eliya, in a 1930s tea factory converted into a luxury hotel 6,800ft above sea level.

It is at this point, I feel, I should mention the hotels of Sri Lanka. Each is architecturally pleasing, with an individual atmosphere and standards of service and dining that can only be described as exceptional.

Leaving behind the lush green plantations, we headed to the beach for a little relaxation at Ahungalla. We dined on lobster, swam in the sea and left feeling utterly refreshed. Ahungalla is home to a turtle hatchery, where 2m turtles have been successfully hatched and released into the Indian Ocean.

A short drive up the coast, and we arrived in the former Governor of Ceylon's residence and Sri Lanka's oldest 5* Hotel, the Mount Lavinia. Located just outside Colombo, the Mount Lavinia was built as a home for Sir Thomas Maitland in 1805 who fell in love with a dancer, Lavinia, from a neighbouring village. Sir Thomas, a married man, created a subterranean network of tunnels from his home to the village so he could meet his love.

Regrets? I left with a few - that I didn't get a chance to visit the historical cities of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Galle - and I also left with the hope that when I return to Sri Lanka to visit these sights, I can also visit the north of the island, which has been cut off to tourists for so long.

facts:

LOUISE Douglas stayed in the Colombo Hilton; Kandalama Hotel, Kandalama; Earl's Regency Hotel, Kandy; Tea Factory Hotel, Nuwara Eliya, Triton Hotel, Ahungalla and the Mount Lavinia Hotel, Mt Lavinia. Scheduled flights to Sri Lanka cost pounds 445 in economy class and pounds 1,525 business class with SriLankan Airlines. Tailor - made tours of Sri Lanka can be organised by Aitken Spence from \$ 75 (pounds 52.40) pppn. Cost includes travel in an air conditioned car with the services of a local guide, half board in 4* and 5* hotels and admission and entrance fees to attractions.

Contact Aitken Spence on 00-94-1-304-716, e-mail <u>fituk@aitkenspence.lk</u> or visit the website <u>www.aitkenspencetravels.com</u>. For flight booking and information contact 0208 5382001.

Graphic

TASTE OF THE EXOTIC; IT'S USUALLY A MOMENTARY EPIPHANY, ONE MAGICAL INSTANCE, THAT SUMS UP YOUR ENTIRE EXPERIENCE OF A COUNTRY.

HERITAGE: The ancient rock fortress of Sigriya

Load-Date: May 6, 2002



Asia's terrorism war blurs battle line

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

November 21, 2001

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Section: Pg. 14

Length: 1096 words

Byline: Peter Kammerer looks at whether some governments are manipulating the global climate of fear to target

separatists

Body

ASIAN GOVERNMENTS were quick to respond when US President George W. Bush declared war on terrorism following the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon.

Some were equally quick to applaud Washington when bombs started raining on Afghanistan - although Muslim-dominated Indonesia and Malaysia soon tempered their comments with warnings that the war should be against the killers of innocent civilians and not a fight against Islam.

But it became clear that terrorism now had a new meaning and the word was being used in Asia in ways Mr Bush did not envisage when he was responding to the carnage in New York and Washington. Some observers are fearful that the fight against terrorism Asian-style will become a way to clamp down on political dissent and separatist groups.

This is the claim being thrown at the Cambodian Government over its rounding up and jailing of alleged members of the Cambodian Freedom Fighters, a US -based group opposed to Prime Minister Hun Sen. In the past few months, 54 people the Government says tried to overthrow it in attacks on official buildings in Phnom Penh last year have been jailed for between three years and life. A further two dozen are in jail awaiting trial for an alleged coup plot six weeks ago. Both acts Mr Hun Sen has referred to as "terrorism" - although human rights groups claim many of those involved are impoverished farmers rather than highly trained killers.

Clive Williams, director of terrorism studies at the Australian National University's Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, is concerned governments may take up the anti-terrorism cry to resolve domestic problems.

"I think there are many places around the world where people will be using this terrorism card to try to get a hard line accepted against their separatist elements."

He said the Philippines was one such case, and Indonesia may also be heading down that route - although it has not yet done so.

Indonesia's long-running conflicts in Aceh, the Malukus and Irian Jaya, and its weak central Government coupled with a lack of control, are a bad sign for stability.

The recent death of Papuan independence leader Theys Eluay - reputedly killed by Indonesian special forces - was an incident which had the potential to stir massive anti-government sentiment. President Megawati Sukarnoputri had to be cautious.

Asia's terrorism war blurs battle line

"There is a degree of support for some of the Muslim extremists in Indonesia and Megawati has to be careful not to alienate some people," Mr Williams said.

Some governments are also reaping financial rewards from the terrorism fight.

"A number of countries are using the terrorism card at the moment to get American support or coalition support for what is a nationalism problem," he said.

Pakistan had received a US assurance of billions of dollars in aid and had economic sanctions dropped for supporting US efforts in Afghanistan - a point surely not missed by governments in the region.

The Philippines was one of the first nations in Asia to give Mr Bush full backing. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has championed his cause and, on numerous occasions, spoken against terrorists. She told an audience at Georgetown University on Monday, prior to a meeting with Mr Bush in Washington, that September 11 demonstrated that a unified global response was needed against terrorism.

"These were not attacks against one country, but on the world community," she said.

Mrs Arroyo is expected to ask Mr Bush for military assistance to help Manila defeat separatist groups in the Muslim-majority south.

The US has already given US\$ 2 million (HK\$ 15.6 million) to the Philippines to train soldiers, and 19 security experts recently visited and issued a report advising the military on how to tackle the separatists.

There are three Muslim groups fighting the Philippines Government and one, the Abu Sayyaf - which is holding three Americans captive - has had links with Osama bin Laden, said by the US to be behind the September 11 attacks.

But it is in the disputed Kashmir Valley on the India-Pakistan border that the word terrorism has been used most loudly and with the gravest implications. India and Pakistan have already fought three wars over Kashmir and an insurgency has claimed 12,000 lives in the past decade. Suicide bombings in the valley are a frequent occurrence.

Shortly after the air raids on Afghanistan began on October 6, Mr Bush weighed in to the Kashmir question, calling the insurgents "terrorists" - and winning New Delhi's instant praise and full support for the war against terrorism. Washington subsequently lifted trade sanctions imposed in the wake of nuclear weapons tests in 1998.

Dr Swaran Singh, associate professor at the School of International Studies at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, said India had seen the Kashmir conflict in terms of terrorism for some time, and the events in Afghanistan had finally put the matter on the international stage.

"Simple, innocent <u>women</u> and children being blown up by suicide bombers," he said on the sidelines of a speech at the University of Hong Kong on Monday. "Now I don't think anyone can relate any political objectives to that, and any violence which has no political objectives other than creating terror, can it be anything else? It's only terrorism."

Dr Singh said insurgencies were of a different nature to what was happening in Kashmir. They had political objectives, such as the conflict between the Sri Lankan Government and the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels.

"Lately, the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> have been avoiding all civilian targets and targeted only the military and government establishments," Dr Singh said. He stressed he was not ratifying the actions of the rebels, merely pointing out that the nature of terrorism had changed.

"Suicide bombing is a completely new phenomenon," he said. "Global networking is a new phenomenon. It's not the terrorism of the old days."

India's response should therefore also change, Dr Singh said. The bottom line of its policy was the belief that Kashmir was a bilateral dispute and no third -party mediation was necessary.

Asia's terrorism war blurs battle line

"Terrorism is now global, so what has to change is that the fight has to be a global effort," he said. "India cannot isolate and insulate itself on Kashmir and say we will do it all by ourselves. We'll primarily do it ourselves - it is our responsibility - but I think India should not be shy of dealing with countries like the US."

Peter Kammerer is the Post's Foreign Editor

Graphic

(Photo: AP, AFP); Armed troops in the Philippines (far left) search for Abu Sayyaf rebels. The separatist Muslim group is holding a US missionary couple and a Filipino hostage. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to ask the US for help to defeat the rebels after her Government backed the bombing of Afghanistan.

Load-Date: November 22, 2001



General practice at the end of the world

The New Zealand Herald June 29, 2002 Saturday

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Section: NEWS; General

Length: 1020 words

Byline: By WARREN GAMBILL

Body

Christchurch doctor Pauline Horrill was in the heart of Taleban-controlled Afghanistan when the world changed on September 11 and the middle of Kabul suddenly became one of the least secure places on Earth.

It was mid-afternoon when the satellite phone rang at the hospital where Horrill and her colleagues from the international aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) were working.

The 34-year-old Christchurch GP had been helping one of the world's most deprived populations, whose average life expectancy for men was 42 and lower for **women**.

The phone call from the aid organisation's French headquarters told them about the terrorist attacks in New York. They tuned in to BBC radio."There was that sort of pause for about half an hour when you don't realise the implications," Horrill says. "Within an hour we were starting to pack."

Horrill was on her sixth mission with Medecins Sans Frontieres and was confident about its strict security and evacuation procedures. An eight-hour journey by truck from Kabul through Taleban checkpoints to the Khyber Pass got the 18 aid workers to the relative safety of Pakistan.

"It was very tense and you never quite knew what would happen along the road."

But unlike her first mission to northern Sri Lanka, where she was introduced to the chilling sound of heavy gunfire, Horrill says she was not afraid.

"If you can justify and believe in what you are doing I think that takes away the fear.

"The most difficult thing was leaving our (Afghan) staff and community in such a desperate situation and knowing that without us, access to medical help would be even harder."

The three bearded and turbaned drivers who took them across the border all had tears in their eyes as they returned to an uncertain future.

But what makes Horrill head into such uncertainty, often heartwrenching, sometimes heartstopping, when she has a perfectly peaceful home to go to?

The ability to make a difference drew her to aid work once she finished her medical training. That, combined with a love of travel and a childhood fascination with the great explorers.

General practice at the end of the world

They came together in postgraduate travels through Africa, where she worked in a Zimbabwean hospital in 1994. At the time the Rwandan genocide had brought many aid agencies to the continent and she was told Medecins Sans Frontieres would be soon opening an office in Sydney.

She returned to work in the South Island as a locum GP, trained further in obstetrics and took correspondence courses in tropical medicine and public health.

In 1998 she was sent on her first Medecins Sans Frontieres mission into areas controlled by <u>Tamil Tigers</u> in Sri Lanka's civil war, helping with mobile health clinics.

She has since been on three- to six-month missions to north Yemen, Sierra Leone and Congo - dealing with the medical crises that follow civil war - and to Ethiopia on a mass vaccination programme.

In a week she will be off again on a year-long posting as an emergency medical co-ordinator for the organisation. It will involve two-month postings in the field, broken by two weeks' rest in Europe.

What keeps her going?

"I guess it's a sense of the injustice of what I see in the world and also the simple things that make a huge difference to ordinary people.

"I try to explain that if it was us who had a mammoth earthquake or devastating floods, leaving half of Christchurch submerged with no electricity or food, you would be glad if someone came from the other side of the world to give you food and blankets.

"Quite often you can't save lives or do enough, but the fact you are there is enormously respected by people."

After leaving Afghanistan on September 13 Horrill and other volunteers were reassigned to swollen, makeshift desert refugee camps on the Iranian border. More than 20,000 refugees had to be cared for in an environment that would be unsurvivable for more than a few months.

Initially the aid workers' presence had to be negotiated with Taleban controllers, who banned American and British aid workers. As a New Zealander Horrill was accepted, fortunately before our military involvement became known.

She returned to Afghanistan last December after the Taleban fled the border province of Nimrouz, where the physical and psychological impact of war was compounded by drought.

For the next few months it was the most basic of frontline aid work to save lives.

Because people were often too sick to walk to hospital, aid workers went to their homes, delivering medicine and high-protein biscuits to badly malnourished children.

For the thousands who had no homes to return to, the aid workers cut up 6m lengths of plastic sheeting, one for each family, to protect from the sun and rain.

Horrill does not want the work painted as heroic. It has its frustrations and unexpected demands, but there are rewards, she says.

Professional development is unfortunately not among them - the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners does not recognise her overseas experience as contributing to her training here.

Medecins Sans Frontieres was founded in 1971 by a group of French doctors who had worked in the Biafran conflict in Nigeria, where an estimated one million died, largely from famine, during that country's civil war.

The doctors said they could no longer accept the power that governments had over aid and so set up their own network.

General practice at the end of the world

There are now 2500 volunteer doctors, nurses and support staff working in more than 85 countries. Seven New Zealanders are in the field, including Auckland nurse Louise Bagley, in Ethiopia on a vaccination campaign against a meningitis outbreak.

The organisation also has engineers, administrators and logistics volunteers. It has a strictly neutral stance, relying on private funding and public donations. Volunteers receive an allowance for their home accommodation, and travel, food and accommodation costs of field work are paid for.

* Medecins Sans Frontieres will hold two recruitment meetings in New Zealand next week. The first is at the Marion Davis Library at Auckland Hospital on Monday at 7pm, the second is at Massey University's Wellington campus at 7pm on Thursday.

Load-Date: December 17, 2002



<u>A NATION CHALLENGED: THE FINANCING; Ancient Secret System Moves</u> Money Globally - Correction Appended

The New York Times
October 3, 2001 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

Correction Appended

Copyright 2001 The New York Times Company

Section: Section B; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 5

Length: 968 words

Byline: By DOUGLAS FRANTZ

Dateline: QUETTA, Pakistan, Oct. 2

Body

With nothing more than a telephone and a fax machine, Tarir Khan transfers money almost anywhere in the world -- no questions asked, no names used and no trail for law enforcement to follow.

Mr. Khan is a small cog in a far-reaching network of informal banking known as hawala, the Arabic word for trust. Although it is illegal in most countries, including here in Pakistan, authorities estimate that billions of dollars flow unseen by regulators through the hawala system worldwide.

A senior government official in Pakistan said law enforcement authorities were certain that Osama bin Laden's network used hawala to transfer money to agents outside Afghanistan, along with conventional means. But the nature of hawala will make tracking those particular exchanges almost impossible.

In the Kandahari bazaar here, many hawala dealers are concentrated in a five-story concrete building that resembles a bunker, its interior dark and its offices lighted by dim bulbs.

Outside, donkey-drawn carts vie for space with Toyota Land Cruisers, and three-wheel motorized rickshaws dodge bangled buses and pedestrians.

The absence of **women**, save a couple of beggars, is striking. In Pakistan and Afghanistan, money business is men's business.

Anyone can walk into a hawala shop in Quetta or a thousand other cities in southern Asia, put down a stack of cash and ask that the sum be transferred to a recipient in another country.

Mr. Khan and his associate, found sitting cross-legged on the floor of their sparse office and sipping tea, keep transactions in a brown notebook on Mr. Khan's desk. When he receives a telephone call or a fax to confirm that money has been picked up elsewhere in the world, the relevant page is torn out of the notebook.

A NATION CHALLENGED: THE FINANCING Ancient Secret System Moves Money Globally

Even the new scrutiny prompted by the terror attacks on Sept. 11 is highly unlikely to disclose all the details of how Mr. bin Laden's money moves through the ancient system. Mr. Khan, for one, refuses to divulge the cities where he has associates, saying he fears the authorities.

"This system is made for transferring enough money to get a pilot's license or make a deposit on an apartment without raising an eyebrow," Prof. Nikos Passas, an expert on transnational crime at Temple University and a consultant to government agencies, said in a telephone interview.

Finance Minister Shaukut Aziz, a former executive vice president of Citibank in New York, said \$2 billion to \$5 billion moved through the hawala system annually in Pakistan, more than the amount of foreign transfers through the country's banking system.

Pakistan is trying to draft laws to regulate the industry. But for now it thrives illegally in places like the Kandahari bazaar.

A United States Treasury Department study identified hawala as the principal means of money laundering from drug trafficking and other crimes in Pakistan. The report said Pakistan, India and Dubai on the Persian Gulf form the "hawala triangle" to move money secretly worldwide.

In hawala, sums large and small are sent halfway around the world on a handshake and a code word. Records of transactions are kept just until the deal is completed. Then they are destroyed.

No cash moves across a border or through an electronic transfer system, the places where authorities are most likely to spot or record the transaction.

The sender does not have to provide his name or identify the recipient. Instead, he is given a code word, which is all the recipient needs to pick up the same amount of cash from an associate of the original trader. The transaction can occur in the time it takes to make a couple of phone calls or send a fax.

The system was in place long before Western banking. The ancient Chinese used a similar method called "flying money," or fei qian. Arab traders used it as a means of avoiding robbery along the Silk Road.

Millions of Pakistanis, Indians, Filipinos and other people from southern Asia working in foreign countries use the system to send money home to relatives.

"They don't feel comfortable walking into a bank," Mr. Aziz said in an interview.

"It's very dangerous to talk about this, because it is illegal," Mr. Khan, who arrived in Quetta from Afghanistan many years ago, said this afternoon as a colleague shook his head and told him to keep guiet. "I can't tell you much."

Trust, he said, is the essential quality of a hawala trader. Most of his customers are from the same part of Afghanistan. So there is an innate sense of trust.

He said transfers were usually sent among family members and involved a few hundred dollars. Sometimes transactions are for as little as \$50.

He provides a five-digit code word, a letter and four numbers, that the recipient takes to one of Mr. Khan's associates as far away as the United States, Germany or Russia. The same associates accept money for transfer to relatives in Quetta.

"They tell the code word, and we hand over the money," he said. "Then we tear up the records on both ends."

Most hawala merchants charge a small commission, usually \$5 for transfers up to \$500 and \$10 for up to \$1,000.

Their main profit comes from currency fluctuations and extra fees for moving money for big clients.

The system is used for far larger sums, often by drug traffickers, corrupt politicians and black market traders, according to local experts and law enforcement.

"The drug dealers, the politicians who get kickbacks and others with black money use this system," said Kamran Mumtaz, editor of The Daily Mashriq, a newspaper in Quetta.

Authorities have found evidence that hawala has been used for payments by smuggling rings and militant groups in the disputed territory of Kashmir and the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> in Sri Lanka, Professor Passas said. "This is the most convenient, common and cheapest system of moving money," he said. "It is also one of the most difficult to track."

http://www.nytimes.com

Correction

Articles on Wednesday and on Sept. 20 about an underground system of transferring money internationally mistranslated the term "hawala," by which it is known. (The error also appeared on Wednesday in the daily capsule summary of the terrorism investigations.) The word, originally Arabic and now used in several languages in Southwest Asia, means a bill of exchange or promissory note, not trust or in trust.

Correction-Date: October 5, 2001

Graphic

Photos: American, Saudi and Pakistani currency at a hawala outlet in Quetta, Pakistan. A five-digit code transmitted by phone or fax is all that is needed to send money around the world. "Then we tear up the records on both ends," a trader said. Regulators hardly ever see the billions of dollars transferred. (Photographs by Vincent Laforet/The New York Times)

Load-Date: October 3, 2001



CONFLICT-SRI LANKA: REFUGEES FINALLY GET HOMES OF THEIR OWN

IPS-Inter Press Service July 31, 2001, Tuesday

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Length: 986 words

Byline: By Kumudini Hettiarachchi

Dateline: VAVUNIYA, Sri Lanka, Jul. 31

Body

Muththa Rajaratnam's tiny one-bedroom house in this northern Sri Lankan village is bare, except for a line strung from wall to wall with some tattered clothes on it. The lean-to mud kitchen has only two or three pots and pans, empty of food.

But the Tamil woman is full of smiles as she greets visitors and tells her children to roll out the blue mats donated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for her guests to sit on.

There are no chairs, tables or beds in the home she shares with her five children aged 2 to 13 years old. But "at least now we have a roof over our heads, a home to call our own," says Rajaratnam, a refugee who has lived in various welfare centers for nine years.

Today she is the owner of Home No. 245, a tiny structure, under a housing scheme for the displaced sponsored by the government in Tharanikulam, Sundarapuram and Maravankulam in the Vavuniya division.

The first group of 212 families, consisting of 1,415 men, <u>women</u> and children, has already been settled in their homes in Tharanikulam. It cost the government \$ 1,700 to relocate each family.

More than 20,000 minority Tamil civilians, displaced by the nearly two-decade campaign by <u>Tamil Tigers</u> seeking their own homeland, live in cramped welfare centers in Vavuniya, 250 km north of Colombo.

They are among close to half a million Sri Lankans from all three communities --- the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils and Muslims -- who have fled their homes due to fighting between government troops and Tamil rebels.

Rajaratnam's husband has gone to Sundarapuram to find work as a laborer as the second housing scheme is being put up there.

Rajaratnam explains how they fled Omanthai in 1992 and moved from one village after another in the north before ending up in the Punththottam welfare center in Vavuniya in 1998.

Now they are away from that environment that was so bad for the children, she says, adding that in the welfare centers, the men drink kassippu (cheap, adulterated Sri Lankan whisky) and indulge in other vices.

CONFLICT- SRI LANKA: REFUGEES FINALLY GET HOMES OF THEIR OWN

Her husband still drinks kassippu, and on most evenings she is beaten, she says. But she takes consolation in the space here for her and the children, and plans to tend her own little home garden with the mango, coconut and banana saplings given by the government.

Grateful for these blessings, she has demarcated a small section of the single bedroom with two of her best saris as a shrine for the Hindu gods the family worships.

Jobs in the area may be scarce, but not for M. Rajaseker, 50. He has set up his own enterprise -- a barber shop with a mirror, a pair of scissors, a homemade high chair for children and lots of large posters of Hindi film stars plastered to the wooden walls.

When he was living in the welfare center close to the town, he helped out at building sites, but now he has returned to being a barber, his traditional job. "I like it here better, because I own the land. I keep my salon open from six in the morning till about six in the evening and am able to earn about 125 rupees (\$ 1.40) a day," Rajaseker says.

Next door, a transistor blares out music, while the whole family is involved in digging muddy soil and building a kitchen next to their home.

Natyapan Ramasamy, 59, is directing operations, while the two elder children carry the soil to the site and the younger children play with their pets in the sand. The little plot is well-tended. The arid soil has been planted with flowering plants.

Still, many of the displaced men, <u>women</u> and children still living in the slum-like welfare centers in Vavuniya express a reluctance to move.

"We have been asked, but if the houses given by the government are far away, then we won't go. There will be transport problems, no schooling for our children and the hospital too would be far away. There will also be no jobs in an area like Tharanikulam," says 29-year-old M. Maheswari.

For her, her husband and four children aged 3 to 11, it has been one refugee camp or the other since 1996. Her two younger children have even been born in camps.

Twenty-five-year-old Gnana Mala has two children, 7 and 1 and 1/2 years old. Whenever she accompanies her husband on jobs as laborers or cutting firewood, she leaves her children with their grandmother.

"Most children at the camp don't go to school. The parents take them along to their workplace, as there is no one to look after them," she says.

Each family in the refugee camps of Vavuniya has a 10-foot by 20-foot room, where everything is done -- cooking, washing, eating and sleeping. The space of each family is divided only by a plastic sheet.

The <u>women</u> also worry about the "social environment" at the camps. Vice comes in many forms -- illicit alcohol, drugs and fighting in the evening after the men have had a few drinks.

"It's bad for the children," says 20-year-old S. Keeda, while the others nod in unison and the men turn their heads and look away.

At the new housing settlements, 34-year-old Thurairasa Shanmugathasan makes about \$ 11.33 a week selling onions and potatoes, condiments, sweets and beedi cigarettes to feed his family of five school-age children and his wife. He set up his little shop after pawning his wife's few pieces of jewelry.

A local government official explains that the area is still under development. A new two-story building will house the community hall and a school for smaller children. The others have been admitted to larger schools in the vicinity.

Arrangements have also been made for a mobile medical clinic to visit Tharanikulam, he says.

CONFLICT- SRI LANKA: REFUGEES FINALLY GET HOMES OF THEIR OWN

There are eight dug wells and seven tube wells for the people. Toilets have been built, there is a network of roads and the people are being encouraged to have their own home gardens, with cuttings provided by the government, he adds.

There are still a few hardships. But the war-weary men, <u>women</u> and children in Tharanikulam are glad to be here, away from the congestion and vice of the welfare centers.

Load-Date: August 1, 2001



The Daily Poem: Undying Gardens

The Independent (London)

November 17, 1994, Thursday

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Section: HOME NEWS PAGE; Page 8

Length: 149 words

Byline: By THIAGARAJAH SELVANITHY

Body

For copyright reasons we are not able to provide the full text of the poem on this database. Following are the details of the publication in which it appears.

A drama student at the University of Jaffna, Thiagarajah Selvanithy (Selvi), is also a poet, campaigner for <u>women</u>'s rights and editor of a feminist magazine. She was adbucted from her home in Sri Lanka on 30 August 1991 by members of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> and has not been seen since. In October 1993, a <u>Tamil Tigers</u> spokesman admitted that she was being held by the guerrilla forces. It is thought that Selvi's abduction may be linked to her criticism of the guerrilla movement. She has since been awarded the American PEN Centre's 1992 Freedom-to- Write Award and the 1994 Poetry International Award.

All this week the Daily Poem will feature poems by writers who have been persecuted for their writings or political activities in recent years.

Load-Date: November 17, 1994



Yo, brother, do us a favour, put an X beside New Labour; Opinion

The Sun

February 11, 2000

Copyright 2000 NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD

Length: 1028 words

Byline: By Richard Littlejohn

Body

MY main man 2JagZ has commissioned a special rap song to encourage black voters to turn out for the forthcoming London elections.

What patronising rubbish.

This is typical of what middle-class, middle-aged, white politicians think the black "community" wants.

Throw them a few bones, pay lip-service to equality.

What about the blacks who like chamber music, or country and western, or Beethoven? This is an insult to their intelligence.

If New Labour really wanted to engage blacks in the decision-making process, Blair would have backed the candidacy of Trevor Phillips.

Trevor's credentials were excellent. He would have represented a leap into the future, not a desperate resort to the failed politics of the past.

Instead, Londoners - black and white - have to choose between three prime examples of over-50s Old Labour.

But then that's typical Labour. They take the black vote for granted and bang on about multi-culturalism but wouldn't dream of promoting a black politician to a position of real power.

Imagine the strategy meeting which came up with the rap song.

We must turn out the black vote, or Knobber Norris could nick it. He's very popular among Asians. And women.

We could always have a black candidate.

Oh, don't be silly, we can't risk upsetting the white vote.

What do you suggest, then?

I've got it.

What, John?

That black kid on TV seems to be very popular. Y'know, that Alli Waheed character, or whatever they call him.

Ali G, you mean?

Aye, that's the fella. Let's get him to make a record. One of them hip-flask efforts.

Hip-hop.

That's it. That'll pull em in. They love all that stuff.

And so an anthem was born.

It would have been much more fun to get Two Jags himself to do it. I can just see 2JagZ and his posse being towed round Trafalgar Square, scratching.

Ladies and gentlemen, for the first time in public, this column is proud to present The 2JagZ Rap.

I'm reprezentin' Tony B

Wid him silly grin and him bitch Cher E

Him wantin' yo to cast yo cross

And vote for Dobbo

To be da boss.

Big up to Franki, not Red Ken

Him had his chance, never again

So get on down to the pollin' station

And give it up

For da Labour nation.

If you vote for Knobber Norris

He'll get jiggy with your Doris

So, me brethren, don't be passive

Nuff respec' to da

Islington Massive.

Don't go dissin' Franki D

He's the dude for you and me

When we got it in da bag

Then you can have

A ride in my Jag.

(All)

Ride in my Jag,

Ride in my Jag.

* AFTER losing the battle over Clause 28, the government is determined to extend gay rights in other areas, starting with the workplace.

I don't have any problems with equality at work, but don't see why it has to be part of the homosexual agenda.

It is clearly wrong, for instance, for one rail worker to get two free tickets simply because he is married, while an unmarried colleague only gets one.

Everyone should get the same. Whoever they choose to give the spare ticket to is their business.

It's the same with company cars and pensions. The second driver could be wife, lover, son, daughter, whoever.

If people are entitled to the same pension provisions, then they should be able to nominate anyone they choose as beneficiary.

What they do under the duvet is none of anybody else's business.

People who do equal work should be entitled to equal treatment.

Sexuality shouldn't come into it. It's not relevant.

However, you can call me old-fashioned, but with the clamour for homosexual marriages and adoption I do draw the line at maternity leave.

* IT'S not often I get sent flowers. But this week I received a lovely bouquet from Lord Alli, whom I had monstered in this column on Tuesday over Clause 28.

Given that I'd caricatured him as Little Waheed alongside Bill and Ben the Flower Arranging Men, it showed he not only has a sense of humour but, rare among politicians, a touch of class.

HIJACK A PLANE, WIN A COUNCIL HOUSE

GOOD morning and welcome to a brand new edition of ASYLUM!

Today's programme features another chance to take part in our exciting competition: Hijack an airliner and win a council house.

We've already given away hundreds of millions of pounds and thousands of dream homes, courtesy of our sponsor, the British taxpayer.

And, don't forget, we're now the fastest-growing game on the planet.

Anyone can play, provided they don't already hold a valid British passport. You only need one word of English:

ASYLUM!

Prizes include all-expenses paid accommodation, cash benefits starting at Pounds 180 a week and the chance to earn thousands more begging, mugging and accosting drivers at traffic lights. The competition is open to everyone buying a ticket or stowing away on one of our partner airlines, ferry companies or Eurostar.

No application ever refused, reasonable or unreasonable.

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Page 4 of 4

Yo, brother, do us a favour, put an X beside New Labour; Opinion

Only this week 140 members of the Taliban family from Afghanistan were flown Goat Class from Kabul to our international gateway at Stansted, where local law enforcement officers were on hand to fast-track them to their luxury Pounds 200-a-night rooms in the fabulous four-star Hilton hotel.

They join tens of thousands of other lucky winners already staying in hotels all over Britain.

Our most popular destinations include the White Cliffs of Dover, the world-famous Toddington Services Area in historic Bedfordshire and The Money Tree at Croydon.

If you still don't understand the rules, don't forget there's no need to phone a friend or ask the audience, just apply for legal aid. Hundreds of lawyers, social workers and counsellors are waiting to help. It won't cost you a penny.

So play today. It could change your life for ever.

Iraqi terrorists, Afghan dissidents, Albanian gangsters, pro-Pinochet activists, anti-Pinochet activists, Kosovan drugsmugglers, *Tamil Tigers*, bogus Bosnians, Rwandan mass murderers, Somali guerillas.

COME ON DOWN!

Get along to the airport. Get along to the lorry park. Get along to the ferry terminal. Don't stop in Germany or France. Go straight to Britain.

And you are guaranteed to be one of tens of thousands of lucky winners in the softest game on earth.

Roll up, roll up my friends, for the game that never ends. Everyone's a winner, when they play:

ASYLUM!

Load-Date: June 6, 2000



The Sun

February 11, 2000

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Section: OPINION
Length: 1041 words

Byline: Richard Littlejohn

Body

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ASYLUM!

Load-Date: April 2, 2002



<u>POLITICS-OUTLOOK: SOUTH ASIA HEADED FOR DEEPENING CHAOS IN</u> 1999

IPS-Inter Press Service
December 18, 1998, Friday

Copyright 1998 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 1057 words

Byline: By Manav Chandra

Dateline: NEW DELHI, Dec. 18

Body

Five <u>women</u> from old political families and two royal monarchs will be the stars of the political stage in South Asia next year, which observers believe will bring continued shaky democracy in the region.

Ruling coalitions in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will continue to be under siege from foes and temperamental allies, predict political analysts.

The only bright spot is Bhutan, where King Jigme Singye Wangchuk has given his tiny Himalayan kingdom its first real taste of democratic rule.

After 25 years on the throne, the popular monarch has decreed that his council of ministers will no longer be hand-picked by him but chosen by secret ballot in the elected National Assembly.

Wangchuk has also sought a vote of confidence from the legislature, prescribing that a two-thirds vote of noconfidence would require him to abdicate in favor of the Crown Prince. The king, however, determined that after "having observed the political systems of other countries," multi-party democracy is not suited to his country.

"A small nation like ours which is located between two of the largest and most populous countries in the world...cannot afford to have the divisive forces of regionalism and communalism come into play," he said in a royal communication to the Bhutan assembly.

Sectarian and provincial passions are expected to continue to dominate politics in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

In the world's largest democracy, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a right-wing Hindu party, will continue to face charges of mixing politics with religion in India.

Although forced to dilute its pro-Hindu agenda by the realities of coalition politics, the BJP will be hard-pressed to please its radical Hindu affiliates, who are accusing the Vajpayee government of deviating from the Hindu and economic nationalist philosophy to which the BJP is committed.

But equally tricky will be Vajpayee's balancing act in carrying along 16 coalition partners. Their difficult demands, specially that of the southern regional party of Tamil film star-turned- charismatic politician Jayaram Jayalalitha, have kept Vajpayee from living up to the BJP's electoral promise of an "able leader."

POLITICS-OUTLOOK: SOUTH ASIA HEADED FOR DEEPENING CHAOS IN 1999

Vajpayee enters the new year with little to show for his nine months in office other than a series of nuclear tests, a steep rise in food prices and a spurt in violence against minority communities in the Hindu-majority nation.

The setback to the BJP in the crucial November provincial polls is said to have paved the way for the return of the Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty to the center stage of national politics with Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born heiress, helping revive the popularity of the Congress opposition party.

Despite her foreign origin, slain former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's widow Sonia has been working wonders for the party which ruled India for 45 of the 50 years since independence from British colonial rule.

A seemingly reluctant entrant to public life, she is in charge of the 113-year-old Congress party and the BJP will be watching her warily in 1999.

But there is no immediate threat to the BJP in the deadlocked Parliament, where the main congressional leader has declared that her party would rather form a government on its own steam in a mid-term election than with the help of unreliable allies.

In Pakistan, former foes are expected to close ranks to take on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in his alleged bid to subvert democracy and secularism.

Opposition parties, led by Sharif's arch-foe and predecessor Benazir Bhutto, are accusing him of exploiting Islam and abusing his federal powers to further his authoritarian ambitions and stifle provincial aspirations.

Having successfully taken on the judiciary, a former head of state, and even the powerful army, Sharif is now trying to push through one of the most controversial legislative acts in Pakistan's history.

The Shariat Bill, which has been stonewalled by the opposition- controlled Senate would make Islamic law and the Sunnah (sayings of the Prophet) supreme.

But the opposition insists that this is a cover for putting absolute and unaccountable power in the premier's hand.

Pakistan's provincial leaders are charging Sharif with favoring his home province Punjab over the rest of the country. The replacement of the elected provincial government in Sindh by federal rule has alienated Sharif's former coalition ally, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), which controls the troubled port city of Karachi.

In the Indian Ocean island nation of Sri Lanka, Pres. Chandrika Kumaratunga's bid to tame a 15-year-old insurgency in the north and east of the nation will remain hobbled by stubborn opposition parties and rebels, observers say.

While the rebel <u>Tamil Tigers</u> continue to insist on difficult conditions for coming to the negotiating table, the opposition refuses to go along with Kumaratunga's radical peace package.

The main opposition United National Party argues that a proposed constitutional revamping -- which is at the center of the peace package -- would fragment the nation. The proposal would convert Sri Lanka into a federation of provinces with sweeping autonomy and is awaiting the approval of Parliament.

Bangladesh is expected to get little respite from endless mass protests that have more to do with an ongoing ego clash between the two <u>women</u> who control the destiny of one of the world's poorest nations than with genuine popular malaise.

Pushed into public life by personal tragedies that also marked turning points in the 27-year-old nation's history, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed and her predecessor, opposition leader Khaleda Zia, refuse to get along.

And in Nepal, the youngest member of the regional democratic club, King Birendra, will continue playing referee in the mainly male political arena, supervising a game of musical chairs which is expected to give the small Himalayan nation its sixth government in five years, say political pundits.

POLITICS-OUTLOOK: SOUTH ASIA HEADED FOR DEEPENING CHAOS IN 1999

After eight years of multi-party democracy, Nepalese political parties have still to clearly identify their rivals. In the endless coalitions thrown up by the indecisive verdict of the November 1994 election, the Communists have split, teamed up with its one-time foe, the Nepali Congress, and even worked with the conservative pro-royalist party.

Load-Date: December 19, 1998



HAUNTED BY MURDER

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 31, 1998 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 38

Length: 1069 words

Byline: CHRISTOPHER KREMMER

Body

It has fallen to Sonia Gandhi, the foreign-born widow of the last Gandhi to govern India, to spur the Congress Party towards victory in an election fought in the shadow of violence. CHRISTOPHER KREMMER reports on a gamble which may rout the Hindu Right.

FORGET the economy, defence and education. The issues dominating the Indian election campaign are murder and good looks.

The sentencing of 26 Tamils to death by hanging for conspiracy to assassinate the former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, set the tone this week as Gandhi's Italian-born widow, Sonia, continued her one-woman campaign for her late husband's Congress Party. Gandhi died on May 21, 1991, in an explosion triggered by a suicide bomber as he was electioneering in the southern State of Tamil Nadu.

The election was called when Congress brought down the government of Inder Kumar Gujral in December after the Prime Minister failed to dismiss a key regional party from his United Front coalition. Congress had accused the powerful south Indian Tamil party, the DMK, of helping the Tamil Tiger guerillas of neighbouring Sri Lanka to murder Gandhi. Both the DMK and the Tigers strongly deny any involvement.

Of the 41 originally accused conspirators, 12 either committed suicide or were killed in shoot-outs with the police, while three, including the Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, are still in Sri Lanka. Few have questioned the apparent infallibility of Indian investigating agencies in getting it right in 26 out of 26 of the cases, let alone the sentences of death imposed on even the lowliest of the now-convicted conspirators. The executions, mercifully, will not coincide with the elections.

Lawyers for the accused say they will appeal against the verdict and a legal process that they have compared with the Nuremberg trials. But bloody retribution by the *Tamil Tigers* is feared by some.

"This can generate violent unpredictable reactions . . . If their [the Tigers'] cadres are getting punished, they will hit back," a former Indian Foreign Secretary and High Commissioner to Colombo, Jyotindra Nath Dixit, told Reuters.

The special court, convened under the draconian Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA), was closed to the media, leaving the chief investigator, D. R. Karthikeyan, to announce: "Truth has prevailed . . . The Indian nation as a whole stands vindicated and its pride and dignity stand restored."

HAUNTED BY MURDER

Karthikeyan, a career police officer, was stationed in Sydney as head of the Indian Tea Board office in the late 1980s, just after Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka led a military coup against a Fijian Government dominated by ethnically Indian Fijians.

About the time Karthikeyan was speaking outside the south Indian court, Sonia Gandhi was plunging into the crowds at her first election rally in northern India. In the town of Rohtak, 60 kilometres north-west of New Delhi in the rich agricultural and industrial State of Haryana, she leapt with uncharacteristic spontaneity onto a bamboo barrier to reach out to an adoring crowd in the Congress Party stronghold.

"She is better looking than the other bahu [daughter-in-law]," said one of the many <u>women</u> in the crowd, referring to Sonia's sister-in-law, Maneka Gandhi.

India's security services have reportedly increased security around Sonia Gandhi since the 26 death sentences were imposed, but she seems increasingly oblivious to the risks of mingling with the kind of crowds which sheltered her husband's assassin.

A straw poll of some of the 50,000 people attending the rally confirmed that Gandhi's wheatish skin, beautiful sari and her spoken Hindi were a hit with the locals, although whether and how they will vote remain subjects for speculation. Her foreign origins were not an issue for those curious enough to attend, although opponents regularly lambast her for them. And, despite her announcement this week that she will not contest the elections, Congress leaders remain convinced it is only a matter of time before she does.

"She will lead the nation," said Bupindra Singh Hooda, Congress MP for Rohtak. "Mahatma Gandhi was not a member of Parliament, yet he led the nation."

Sonia Gandhi's campaign theme is that coalition governments have failed India, and that only Congress can provide stability. But she is also targeting the Hindu nationalist opposition of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"It is time to fight the communal forces which are trying to divide the country in the name of religion," she said at a rally in Gujarat State.

Yesterday, India commemorated the 50th anniversary of another assassination - the shooting in 1948 of Mahatma Gandhi by a Hindu extremist in New Delhi. Outside the police sports field where Sonia Gandhi's rally was held, billboards mounted on trucks carried graphic illustrations of the moment of the Mahatma's death at the hands of Nathuram Godse.

Godse, a Muslim-hater who belonged to the same right-wing political movement which spawned today's BJP, blamed the Mahatma for the loss of India's north-western provinces, which formed the newly independent Muslim nation of Pakistan.

But critics point out that some of India's worst episodes of communal violence, such as the anti-Sikh riots of 1984 in which 10,000 Sikhs were killed in Delhi alone, and the demolition of the Muslim shrine at Ayodhya in 1992, happened under Congress governments.

Sonia Gandhi has apologised to the Muslims and Sikhs for the party's failings.

The current crop of Hindu nationalists, led by the urbane former Foreign Minister (and, briefly, Prime Minister in 1996), Atal Behari Vajpayee, are softening their image in an attempt to scotch the Congress scare campaign. One of the leading right-wing figures, Bal Thackeray, has suggested building both a temple and a mosque on the rubble of the destroyed Ayodhya mosque, rather than the triumphal Hindu temple demanded by some religious organisations.

Sonia Gandhi's speaking tour so far has taken her almost exclusively to seats which the Congress already holds. It is a defensive strategy designed to avert a rout both for the party and her own uncertain reputation as a campaigner. Yet her popular appeal, whether based on sympathy, beauty or merely the lack of better alternatives, is already proved.

HAUNTED BY MURDER

The widow of a political dynasty steeped in violence, and de facto leader of a party which survives on martyrs, is threatening to spoil the Hindu Right's hopes of achieving a landslide victory.

Graphic

TWO ILLUS: Sonia Gandhi, campaigning for the Congress Party led by her husband Rajiv before his assassination by suicide bombers (aftermath pictured right) in 1991.

Load-Date: July 23, 2007



A Mother-Daughter Rivalry Turns Political in Sri Lanka

The New York Times

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Byline: By JOHN F. BURNS

By JOHN F. BURNS

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 21

Body

In a part of the world where several <u>women</u> have wielded political power in recent years, Sri Lanka still stands out, with its two top positions, President and Prime Minister, held by a daughter and her mother.

But the political dynasty that the President, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, and the Prime Minister, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, are carrying on has now taken a new and difficult twist.

Although it was Mrs. Kumaratunga who appointed her mother Prime Minister in November, associates say that the two <u>women</u> have become estranged to the point where they are barely talking to each other, and the Government is splitting into rival camps.

Sri Lankans who know both of them well say the strains have their roots both in family and political matters, but that power is at the heart of the dispute.

The two <u>women</u> belong to a political dynasty that began with Solomon Bandaranaike, who became Prime Minister in 1956 and was assassinated in 1959. His widow, Mrs. Bandaranaike, served two controversial terms as a left-wing Prime Minister in the 1960's and 1970's before being cast into the political wilderness for 17 years.

Their daughter, Mrs. Kumaratunga, won two quick election victories last year, first becoming Prime Minister and later President, now the country's most powerful position. Her husband, a fast-rising politician himself, was assassinated in 1988.

"Publicly, as much as she can bear to, Chandrika plays the dutiful daughter, which is what is expected of her in this conservative Buddhist society," said Mervyn de Silva, who has reported on politics here since the island's independence from Britain in 1948. "Privately, her attitude toward Mrs. Bandaranaike is, 'You don't count; you're a has-been.' "

This week, the two leaders made a rare joint appearance when Mrs. Kumaratunga held a ceremony to celebrate the issue of a stamp to honor her mother on her 79th birthday. But two weeks earlier, the strains were front-page news

A Mother-Daughter Rivalry Turns Political in Sri Lanka

when Mrs. Bandaranaike did not attend a reception for Hillary Rodham Clinton, who completed a five-nation tour of the region with a stop here.

Mrs. Kumaratunga's aides said Mrs. Bandaranaike had been omitted from the guest list by mistake, but Mrs. Bandaranake's loyalists said that her name had been struck from the list by her daughter. "It was a deliberate snub," one said.

One of Mrs. Bandaranaike's supporters said the mistrust had reached the point where the President sent agents of the country's spy agency to watch the comings and goings at the colonnaded Government mansion where her mother lives with two of her other children, both of whom have ruptured relations with Mrs. Kumaratunga.

Part of the dispute is said to arise over who deserves the credit for ousting the right-wing Government that ruled the country for 17 years. Friends say Mrs. Bandaranaike believes she was the key because she held together the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, founded by her husband, during the years when the rival United National Party was in power. For seven years, Mrs. Bandaranaike was a political leper, stripped of her right to vote and campaign by the former government.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, by contrast, is said to attribute her election victories to her success in forging a political coalition, the People's Alliance, whose policies departed from her mother's left-leaning legacy. Mrs. Kumaratunga, who holds a postgraduate degree from the Sorbonne, pledged to continue the previous Government's free-market policies and to sell state-owned enterprises that her mother's Governments had nationalized.

But the nub of the dispute appears more personal. Privately, and occasionally in public, Mrs. Bandaranaike has been sharply critical of her daughter's political and personal style. Part of this, Mrs. Bandaranaike's intimates say, is a sense that her daughter is not behaving appropriately for a widow.

Mrs. Kumaratunga's husband, Vijaya Kumaratunga, a popular film actor who helped her found a splinter party that broke with her mother, was shot outside his Colombo home in one of a series of political assassinations in the 1980's.

Since becoming President, Mrs. Kumaratunga, who is 49 years old, has been seen at late-night parties in Colombo hotels, often in the company of Sanath Gunatillake, another prominent movie actor she appointed a press adviser.

Her mother has also criticized her tardiness. On one occasion, the Prime Minister's aides say, she stormed out of a Cabinet meeting after waiting two hours for Mrs. Kumaratunga. Last month, Princess Anne of Britain complained to aides after waiting 20 minutes for Mrs. Kumaratunga to come down from her private quarters.

When Mrs. Bandaranaike attended a reunion at the school in Colombo that both she and her daughter attended, St. Bridget's Convent, Mrs. Kumaratunga again showed up late, and her mother criticized her within earshot of reporters, Mr. de Silva said.

"What she said was, 'One of the things I learned at boarding school was punctuality,' " the journalist said.

On other occasions, he said, Mrs. Bandaranaike has met with senior civil servants who have complained that essential paperwork has lain for weeks unattended in Mrs. Kumaratunga's office. "The civil servants come to Mrs Bandaranaike because they know that she knows how government works," he said.

But most Sri Lankans say Mrs. Kumaratunga will stand or fall by her efforts to make peace with the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, the guerrilla group that killed President Ranasinghe Premadasa in May 1993 and has assassinated many other leaders.

The Prime Minister, who gained a reputation for favoring Sri Lanka's Buddhist ethnic Sinhalese majority over the mostly Hindu Tamils when she was previously in power, could swing her influence behind a powerful faction in the governing alliance that believes Mrs. Kumaratunga has offered too many concessions to the Tigers.

A Mother-Daughter Rivalry Turns Political in Sri Lanka

"Chandrika will have to watch her back," one of Mrs. Kumaratunga's advisers said. "If she gives the Sinhalese nationalists a chance to say that she's selling the country out, they'll be on her in a flash."

Graphic

Photo: An estrangement between mother and daughter has split the Sri Lankan Government into rival camps. President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and her mother, Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, shown here after elections in August, are now barely speaking and rarely appear together in public. (Associated Press)

Load-Date: April 22, 1995



Rao bets his all on the Walking Goddess; INDIA OBSERVED

Australian Financial Review
April 30, 1996 Tuesday
Late Edition

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Length: 1042 words

Byline: HAMISH McDONALD

Body

Down at the southern tip of India, in Tamil Nadu, the election is about a motherhood issue: whether or not to throw out the State's Chief Minister, Ms Jayalalitha Jayaram, known by various titles including Revolutionary Leader, The One Who has Shaped

Us Into Men of Substance, Walking Goddess and The Primordial Power - but most often just referred to as "Amma" or Mother.

Voting for Tamil Nadu's 39 seats in the national parliament is a side-show to the State assembly elections taking place at the same time. The Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, has bet his all on Jayalalitha's continuing popularity, and given her Congress support at State level in return for her regional party's backing in central seats.

But the State branch of the Congress Party has rebelled and joined Jayalalitha's rivals for State power under exchief minister Mr M. Karunanidhi.

The local focus of electioneering in Tamil Nadu emphasises how difficult it is to pick a national trend. Corruption or Hindu nationalism may be an issue in Bombay, but further down the coast in Kerala the Chief Minister, Mr A.R. Antulay, is on a winner with his drive to make liquor more expensive and difficult to buy - a policy giving him the **women**'s vote.

A feature of Indian State elections has been the strong anti-incumbent tendency. Only a couple of governments in major States have retained power in the last five years - Janata Dal in Bihar and the Bharatiya Janata Party in Rajasthan - as voters have quickly become disillusioned.

In most cases, any government in power for more than a year has lost credibility. Mr Rao and Congress might be grateful that they lost the string of State elections at the end of 1994 and start of 1995, and that the party runs only one of the biggest States (Madhya Pradesh).

In particular, opinion polls show that Congress is due for a sweep in Andhra Pradesh, only 18 months after the State Congress Party was almost wiped out by the State-based Telugu Desam under ex-film star N.T. Rama Rao. The charismatic leader died, his family split in an unseemly squabble over office, and the State was declared bankrupt by the Reserve Bank of India as a result of Rama Rao's promises.

Rao bets his all on the Walking Goddess INDIA OBSERVED

In Tamil Nadu, the Prime Minister might have done better to follow the anti-incumbent rule. But he can be forgiven for getting it wrong. Until recently, Ms Jayalalitha's following was unquestioned. Grown men prostrated themselves when introduced. Loyalists in her All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham (AIADMK) party had her image tattooed on their foreheads. Six-story "cut-out" portraits adorn the State capital, Madras, and other cities. Critics were harassed by State police, cited for contempt of the State assembly, and silenced by libel writs.

The Chief Minister has authentic lineage in the mixed-up worlds of Tamil politics and cinema, where the dominant theme for the last half century has been Dravidian revival, putting the message that the Tamils are part of the original Dravidian population conquered by Aryan invaders and kept in their place by the Hindu caste system and Sanskrit culture.

In this theatre State, the Tamil cinema's biggest-ever star, Mr M.G. Ramachandran or just MGR, took over part of the Dravidian movement and became chief minister in 1977, ruling Tamil Nadu for 10 years until his death in 1987. Convent-educated Jayalalitha had played opposite MGR in romantic roles and graduated from his mistress to closest political confidante. In the hysteria that gripped Tamil Nadu on his death - 31 followers committed suicide and 2 million attended the funeral - Jayalalitha grabbed the political mantle from his official wife.

In 1991, her alignment with the Congress Party paid off. The suicide-bombing of Congress leader Mr Rajiv Gandhi during election campaigning near Madras in May 1991 led to a sympathy vote for her AIADMK party at State level, and Congress at national level. Ex-screenwriter Mr Karunanidhi, the previous chief minister, paid heavily for his previous backing for Sri Lanka's *Tamil Tigers*, who are blamed for Mr Gandhi's murder.

Now 48, Jayalalitha has put glamour behind her, and appears always in a loose cape over her sari. Some say this is out of embarrassment at her matronly figure. Others conjecture the cape disguises a heavy Kevlar bullet-proof jacket, worn out of fear of Tamil Tiger attack. Another theory is that she is signalling her body is off limits to sexual fantasy by the public.

Despite the excessive personality cult, Jayalalitha has been an effective chief minister. Her Government pioneered a scheme of free school lunches, which has been taken up nationally as a way of raising school attendance among the poor. Incentives have attracted new industries, including Ford and Hyundai car plants.

But Jayalalitha has also become a by-word for extravagance. Last September the wedding of her foster-son, a nephew of her companion Sasikala, cost an estimated \$4 million. The bridegroom arrived in a gilded chariot drawn by eight Arabian steeds. The bride was enveloped in silk and gold. Ornate pavilions at the Madras race course sheltered 300,000 guests.

This election campaign showed disillusionment at the end of her five-year term. Her meetings were sparsely attended and met indifference instead of the usual hysteria and sycophancy. Hostile demonstrators have even dared to hurl their sandals and shoes at the Chief Minister's cavalcade, a particular insult in this part of the world.

Once, a prime minister could provide campaign support through the State TV channel Doordarshan and All-India Radio. But since the last elections, India has seen the arrival of satellite TV and cable networks. Tamil Nadu has two private channels broadcasting in Tamil. One is owned by the family of Jayalalitha's close friend, Ms Sasikala Natarajan. The other is run by hostile interests.

Except in the bare numbers, the Tamil Nadu vote will be impossible to slot into any national trend. If voters decide that "Amma" is best, Mr Rao's official Congress should pick up a fair number of the 39 seats. If not, the national-level vote could go to the breakaway Congress ticket of State leader Mr G.K. Moopanar - who would then try to bargain his way back into the party. The result would be both a rebuke and a win for Mr Rao.

Graphic

Rao bets his all on the Walking Goddess INDIA OBSERVED

ILLUS: An orthodox Muslim woman casts her vote at a New Delhi polling station in India's general election. Polling is staggered over six days. Picture: REUTERS

Load-Date: March 20, 2012



Bells 'n buzzers debate

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

February 10, 1996 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 30

Length: 1066 words

Byline: MIKE CARLTON

Body

Bimbos, male and *female*, disport themselves before the glittering prizes. What better test for he who would be Prime Minister?

WITH hindsight - that most valuable columnist's tool - it was probably inevitable that the Minister for Human Services and Health would commit the first blunder of the campaign.

There was Dr Carmen Miranda on Wednesday, tripping lightly on stage in her towering headdress of exotic fruits, leaving behind a squishy trail of banana skins, rotten apples and rough ends of pineapple. Again.

It was not a tremendous gaffe as gaffes go: a press release misquoting a remark by John Howard, and probably not even her fault. But hers was the hand that signed the paper, to coin a phrase, and so once again Carmen's credibility is so much mouldy fruit salad.

That apart, it has been a campaign of monumental dullness, although we hacks remain fascinated by the pivotal question facing the nation: who is a fit and proper person to host the Great Television Debate between P. J. Keating and J. W. Howard?

With the Liberal leader running scared of the ABC and the leprechaun charms of Kerry O'Brien, greatness is apparently to be thrust upon Ray Martin, the People's Friend.

Ray is perfectly up to the job, although I always worry that his lairy Channel 9 neckties can send a few million roentgens of ionising radiation zooming around the family room. It's just that I can't understand why they have all overlooked Larry Emdur.

For those who don't turn on the TV set before 6 pm. Larry is the happy host of Nine's The Price Is Right, a gripping Grundy game show where squealing contestants win truckloads of goodies simply by doing their sums correctly. Bimbos, male and <u>female</u>, disport themselves before the glittering prizes. What better test for he who would be Prime Minister?

And especially now that Ross Gittins and Maximilian Walsh have revealed that the last lot of Budget figures are more rubbery than the Michelin man. Surprise surprise, Ralph Willis's cheery forecast of a \$700 million Budget surplus has somehow slipped to a thumping deficit of about \$9 billion.

Bells 'n buzzers debate

The thing is that neither Keating nor Howard wishes to discuss this horrible arithmetic because to do so would blow their spending promises out of the water.

And Howard, should he win, would have the traditional advantage of the Mother Hubbard Effect, in which the new Government flings open the Treasury cupboard and shrieks in horror that there's not a brass razoo to be seen.

"Even worse than we thought," the newcomers sob through a flood of crocodile tears, hastily abandoning every election commitment ever made. Voters may remember Bob Carr doing exactly that in the matter of the motorway tolls.

So, cut to the set of The Price is Right:

LARRY: Lovely to have you both with us. Paul, tell us a bit about yourself. You're a Prime Minister, right?

PAUL: What sort of stupid question is that, scumbag? I'm not just a Prime Minister, I'm a national asset.

LARRY: Ha ha. John, what do you do for a living?

JOHN: Well, I used to be a Conservative with a capital C but of course now I'm whatever you want me to be.

LARRY: Fabulous! Steve in our voice-over booth will tell you what you're playing for.

STEVE: Yes, Larry, Paul or John could win three fantastic years in the Lodge in Canberra, travelling by luxury Commonwealth limousine and flying RAAF VIP jet. You'll love it at the Lodge!

LARRY: OK then, Bells and buzzers ready? (BAAAARP. BRRRRING.) First question: What will the Budget deficit be at the end of this financial year?

PAUL: Well, when you look at the outcomes and amortise ongoing fiscal adjustments ...

JOHN: I'd rather not talk about that at the moment, Larry ...

LARRY: Sorry, I can't accept those answers, so question two: Will either of you put up taxes if you're elected?

PAUL: Certainly not.

JOHN: Absolutely not.

(GONG! Audience groans. Studio band strikes up theme from Promises, Promises and we fade to black).

THIRTY odd years ago, Australia was playing a cricket Test in the West Indies when a riot broke out at tea.

Rocks and bottles were hurled and, as it grew more violent, the Australians sheltered in a flimsy dressing shed, deeply unwilling to take the field again.

It was the voice of that grand old man of cricket commentating, the ABC's Alan McGilvray, who steadied the ranks. "Remember you're white men!" he cried.

The refusal to play a World Cup game in Sri Lanka suggests that our current crop of cricketers are not exactly busting to take up the white man's burden in the face of lesser breeds without the law.

I suppose there is not much point in getting yourself blown up by the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> for the sake of a preliminary one-dayer. But it does make us look a bit wimpy as a sporting nation and the feral British tabloid newspapers have had a field day with stiff upper lip lectures: don't give in to terrorism, play up and play the game, etc.

Australia must still field a team. We should select one from Treasury economists in Canberra, with special emphasis on choosing those who were out in their May budget forecasts by the odd \$9,700,000,000

Bells 'n buzzers debate

Their times of arrival in Colombo, hotel room numbers and routes to and from the ground could be widely publicised, thus solving a great many problems at a stroke.

CONFIDENCE A LAUGH

IT WASN'T exactly the crime of the century, but our house was burgled a few nights ago. Only minor valuables were nicked, presumably by a hoon with a drug habit.

Still, it wasn't pleasant. The place is now locked up like the Reserve Bank, we are thinking of getting a pit bull terrier and I warn future intruders that we have become instant converts to the Shooters' Party policy of blowing you away with a .44 Magnum.

The police arrived about four hours after our discovery, two young coppers as smart as a recruiting poster.

"Sorry we couldn't get here earlier," they said "There's a lot of this happening in the neighbourhood."

They asked us not to touch anything the fingerprint experts would want to examine.

A week later, we are still waiting for those experts to arrive.

With the horrors of the Wood Royal Commission in mind, I now wonder - probably unfairly - if these two officers were on the level. They were polite and sympathetic, but the trust has gone. That's the way it is these days, the legacy of the blundering Commissioner Lauer et al.

The new Police Corruption Commission will have an uphill battle to rebuild the public's confidence in its police service.

Load-Date: July 23, 2007



Weekly News Calendar Saturday, March 6:

Associated Press International

March 05, 1999; Friday 00:02 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 734 words

Body

Milan, Italy Women's Fashion Week continues. Through May 7.

Paris Cesar film awards announced in France.

London March organized by Alliance of Asian Christians to protest against religious persecution in India.

Sunday, March 7:

Estonia National elections.

Salvador Presidential election.

Paris Ready-to-wear fashion shows. Through March 14.

Monday, March 8:

Washington President Bill Clinton leaves for four-day trip to Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Port of Spain, Trinidad Deadline for Prime Minister Basdeo Panday to call elections expected to divide the nation sharply on racial lines amid charges by African-descended blacks that Panday is favoring those of East Indian descent.

Stockholm, Sweden Volvo stockholders vote on the proposed sale of the company's passenger car division to Ford.

Jerusalem New centrist party chooses its candidates for Israel's parliamentary elections May 17; other parties completing their lists during the week.

Bonn, Germany Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder meets Czech premier Milos Zeman.

London Monica Lewinsky begins a book tour of England, which lasts until March 25, with a book-signing appearance at Harrods department store.

London Start of three-day "NATO at 50" conference, with senior figures from NATO and its member countries.

Colombo, Sri Lanka British ceramic trade delegation, comprising 30 companies, visits. Through March 12.

Paris NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana visits, meets President Jacques Chirac and Defense Minister Alain Richard.

Weekly News Calendar Saturday, March 6:

London 50th anniversary of the Commonwealth.

Tuesday, March 9:

Vatican City Iran's President Mohammad Khatami visits. Through March 11.

Tokyo Former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, the U.S. coordinator on North Korea, visits. Leaves Tokyo on Wednesday.

London The Metropolitan Police launches a campaign to recruit Asians, in the wake of a report noting the force is wracked by racism.

Kalutara, Sri Lanka Start of trial of <u>LTTE</u> suspects in assault case of former rebel leader-turned-politician Douglas Devananda.

Paris Verdict expected in case of three ministers accused in AIDS deaths of people contaminated with tainted blood during transfusions.

London Britain unveils its annual budget.

St. John's, Antigua Opponents of the Bird family dynasty, which has governed the Caribbean island of Antigua like a fiefdom for most of the past 40 years, use general elections to raise anew questions of corruption and mismanagement.

Wednesday, March 10:

Dharmsala and New Delhi, India Commemorations of the 40th anniversary of the failed uprising that resulted in the Dalai Lama fleeing Tibet.

Belfast, Northern Ireland British government's target date for handover of some powers to new local administration for Northern Ireland, the goal of the April 1998 peace agreement.

Bonn, Germany Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Slovak prime minister Mikulas Dzurinda, first meeting of German and Slovak government leaders.

Thursday, March 11:

New Delhi "Do Economic Sanctions Work?" a lecture by D. Fred Bergsten, director of Washington D.C.'s Institute for International Economics.

Bucharest, Romania The Presidents of Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey on two-day meeting in the mountain resort of Sinaia, to discuss boosting political and trade relations, as well as security issues in the Balkans.

Brisbane, Australia Queensland Supreme Court hears multi-million-dollar claim by London-based mercenary firm Sandline International against the government of Papua New Guinea, which it accuses of non-payment of a contract.

Friday, March 12:

Independence, Missouri Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland formally join NATO in a ceremony in the city where President Truman announced the formation of the alliance 50 years ago.

Katmandu, Nepal Delegates from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh hold the first South Asian neurosurgical congress. Through March 14.

Liberec, Czech Republic Celebrations of the Czech admission into NATO, attended by top Czech politicians and ambassadors of member countries of the alliance.

Weekly News Calendar Saturday, March 6:

Saturday, March 13:

Reinhartshausen, Germany Informal meeting of European Union foreign ministers.

Nuwar Eliya, Sri Lanka Programing Committee of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation meets to prepare for foreign ministers meeting. March 14.

Sunday, March 14:

Wellington, New Zealand Britain's Princess Anne visits. Through March 18.

Tokyo Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh visits. Through March 17.

Load-Date: March 5, 1999



Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

January 23, 1996, Tuesday

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Section: SPORT; Pg. 30

Length: 1112 words **Byline:** SMITH W

Body

KEYWORD-HIT

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bomb blast escape

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Lees, then the NZ team's coach, had intended merely to save his players from the oppressively hot conditions. Instead, his decision probably saved their lives.

That same afternoon, a 17-year-old Tamil Tiger ""martyr" launched a suicide bomb attack on the Sri Lankan naval commander, killing him and five others right outside the NZ team's hotel _ at the time and place originally designated for the players' assembly. QNP

The carnage was horrific and the shock waves of the blast shattered far more than the windows of the New Zealanders' hotel rooms.

For Lees, the tour was over, less than three days after it had started. Weighed down by his responsibility not only to his cricketers

but to their families back home, he guit the trip and returned to New

Zealand, accompanied by five equally concerned players.

The players lived to fight another day, but not so Lees _ at least not in a professional sense. So antagonised were NZ cricket officials by his withdrawal that they dumped him as national coach.

Small wonder, then, that he is looking on from Dunedin with almost morbid fascination today as the Australian players go into a huddle in Adelaide to determine whether they will boycott their opening World Cup match in Colombo next month.

There are fears among team members that they might be risking their lives by playing in the tournament, especially after Shane Warne and Craig McDermott received death threats in the mail.

""They should be taking them (the death threats) seriously,"
warned Lees, now executive director of Otago Cricket. ""There are some
real nutters over there. I'm not saying there aren't some nutters in
New Zealand and Australia as well, but our nutters aren't threatening
to kill cricketers."

Not that Lees was arguing that the Australians should not go to Sri

Lanka. Indeed, he believes that if the Australian Cricket Board can give its players a 99 percent assurance that they will be safe _ ""and I'm sure they will" _ then the tour should proceed as scheduled.
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Yet many a true word is spoken in jest, much like Australian wicketkeeper Wally Grout asking Col Egar to stand well away from him in the 1963 Test series against South Africa after an anonymous caller warned the controversial umpire he would receive ""the Kennedy treatment" for calling Ian Meckiff for chucking.

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Tigers of Tamil Eelam fight to establish a separate nation in the

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The fight has claimed at least 34,000 lives, including that of Sri

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1993. *Tamil Tigers* also were the prime suspects in the assassination of former Indian president Rajiv Gandhi two years earlier.

True, the violence to date has been politically motivated and politically targeted. That is not to say that it has not had an impact on cricket, as with the bomb attack outside the New Zealanders' hotel or the cancellation because of ""civil disturbance" of the final two Tests of the Kiwis' 1986-87 tour of Sri Lanka, yet always the impact was incidental. Accidental even.

But now, after a summer of rising discontent _ with the Sri Lankans unjustly being accused of ball-tampering, spinner Muttiah Muralihdaran, the only Tamil in the side, being called for chucking, the re-birth of the boorish Australian cricketer, one dubious umpiring decision after another going against the tourists and the childish spite of the WSC final _ some deliberate threats are being directed against the Australian team.

Australia's international reputation stands to suffer grievously if Mark Taylor's men vote today to forfeit their opening World Cup fixture.

Nothing, however, is more important than the safety of the players.

And that raises the question of how well the Sri Lankan authorities can protect them when they could not protect their own president.

Former Australian batsman Peter Burge felt, first-hand, how tight Sri Lankan security could be when he spent seven weeks there in late 1993 as the ICC referee for the Test series against India.

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There is, as well, another issue to consider: any cricketer who goes into the World Cup campaign looking over his shoulder is hardly likely to perform at his peak.

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Load-Date: March 1, 2002



Buddhist Monks In Forefront Of Opposition To Peace Plan

Associated Press Worldstream

July 31, 1995; Monday 00:56 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 1104 words

Byline: NIRESH ELIATAMBY

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Led by venerated Buddhist monks, opposition is gathering momentum to the government's plan to end Sri Lanka's 12-year civil war, even before it is officially unveiled.

Hoping to address the demands of Tamils fighting for independence, the government is proposing to make Sri Lanka a federation of eight regions, including a Tamil-dominated region, each with wide powers to rule itself.

The Tamil Tiger rebels, waging a guerrilla war in the north and east, have not commented on the plan that was leaked to the media last week.

But the draft won praise from political leaders of the country's three ethnic groups the majority Sinhalese, the Tamils, and the small Muslim community.

Then the monks had their say.

"There is widespread unrest in the country because of the threat posed by separatists. It is not opportune to unveil political solutions at this crucial moment," wrote Rambukwelle Sri Vipassi, whose Siyam sect represents more than half of the country's monks.

Vipassi was one of three prelates who wrote to President Chandrika Kumaratunga last week to register their opposition to the plan.

In tacit recognition of the influence of the monks, Mrs. Kumaratunga hastened to the holy city of Kandy on Saturday to reassure them that the plan would protect the rights of the Sinhalese.

Although Buddhism is an ascetic religion which preaches meditation and good works, saffron-robed monks are politically vocal. Mrs. Kumaratunga's father, Prime Minister Solomon Bandaranaike, was assassinated in 1959 by a monk opposed to his policies.

Buddhists comprise about 70 percent of Sri Lanka's 17 million people. The opinions of revered monks hold wide sway among the public and politicians ignore them at their peril.

In recent years, the monks' power has declined, and the battle over the peace plan will be a test of their supremacy in public opinion.

Buddhist Monks In Forefront Of Opposition To Peace Plan

The monks, who consider themselves the defenders of the Sinhalese race, have long been in the forefront of opposition to Tamil autonomy. Most Tamils are Hindus.

"The Sinhala nation has been suppressed continuously for a long time to undermine its sovereignty and unity. The time has come when this can no longer be tolerated," said Gallage Punyawardhana, secretary of the Federation of Buddhist Organizations.

The Federation's views are indicative of hard-line Buddhist opinion, since it is an umbrella for more than 40 Buddhist lay organizations.

"We believe the plan gives too much power to the regions, such as regional attorney-generals, police chiefs, and the power to remove regional governors appointed by the president," said Nanda Kalupanthri, secretary of the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress, one of the largest organizations in the Federation.

The Federation and the Congress met last Friday to discuss a strategy to quash the plan. It would start with lobbying members of parliament, political parties, local non-government organizations and Buddhist leaders.

"Buddhism is a religion which teaches nonviolence and tolerance for others, but these so-called Buddhist organizations are fanning the flames of communalism," said Douglas Devananda, a Tamil legislator.

Tamil separatists have been fighting for a homeland to escape what they regard as widespread discrimination by the Sinhalese. More than 35,000 people have been killed since 1983. Tamils are 18 percent of the population.

Mrs. Kumaratunga's cabinet will present the plan to a parliamentary committee that is writing a new constitution. It would require a two-thirds vote in parliament and a national referendum.

(ne/dc/am)

A clandestine rebel radio station acknowledged Monday that 180 guerrillas, 128 of them **women** fighters, were killed last week in their biggest one-day loss in nearly two years.

The acknowledgment of high casualties is unusual for *Tamil Tigers*.

The military said it found 182 bodies of the rebels after repulsing attacks on five of its camps in the northeast. The insurgents came by boat and on foot shortly after midnight Thursday but were pushed back.

The rebels' worst one-day loss was in 1993 when 700 guerrillas were killed in a battle.

On Saturday, the military handed over to the Red Cross the bodies of 63 guerrillas.

In continuing clashes, five Tamil rebels and a soldier were killed in northeastern Sri Lanka, a military official said Monday.

The rebels were ambushed by the soldiers near the Elephant Pass base, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Colombo, on Sunday night, said Captain T.R. Dunuwille, a military spokesman. One soldier was wounded.

On Monday, one soldier was killed and three wounded at Athawetunuwewa, 220 kilometers (135 miles) northeast of the capital, in a clash with rebels. Guerrilla casualties were not known.

At least 35,000 people have been killed in the 12-year-old Tamil war for independence in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. The Tamils, who comprise 18 percent of the country's 17 million people, accuse the Sinhalese majority of discrimination in education and jobs.

The government has asked Parliament for an additional dlrs 92 million in the 1995 budget to fight Sri Lanka's escalating, ethnic civil war, officials said Monday.

That would increase the dlrs 455 million already allocated in the budget to pay for the battle with Tamil separatists.

Page 3 of 3

Buddhist Monks In Forefront Of Opposition To Peace Plan

In February, the government had hoped that a cease-fire would help reduce the defense budget for 1995 by dlrs 60 million.

But on April 19 the Tamil guerrillas broke off the truce and peace talks after only three months and escalated the fighting.

Since then more than 2,000 people have been killed, and the rebels have overrun several military bases, used missiles to shoot down four aircraft, and sunk three warships. The government responded with its biggest offensive in eight years on July 9.

In May, the government increased the defense levy and taxes on luxury items as part of its efforts to raise the dlrs 92 million to buy new weapons. Parliament will decide on Aug. 8 whether to approve that additional money.

The privatization of state-owned enterprises also is being sped up to generate an additional dlrs 100 million this year.

Investments in non-priority projects have been cut by 10 percent, and new commitments are being postponed until next year.

Since the truce ended, the military has been shopping for battle tanks, warships and aircraft in Britain, Russia, China, the United States, the Czech Republic, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Serbia, the Netherlands, Ukraine and Singapore.

For 12 years, the rebels have been fighting for a homeland in the north and east for the Tamil minority, which accuses majority Sinhalese of discrimination.

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(ne/twx)

Load-Date: July 31, 1995



PM leads bloody Sri Lankan poll

Guardian Weekly December 25, 1988

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Section: Pg. 10

Length: 1014 words

Byline: By Derek Brown in Colombo

Body

AFTER a bloody and flawed Presidential election in Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, was heading for victory as results flowed in.

Early results indicated a growing margin for Mr Premadasa over the former Prime Minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, after a day of chaos and violence in which 15 people were killed.

Mr Premadasa of the ruling United National Party received 217,114 votes or 51 per cent, according to results from 40 of 182 electorates. Mrs Bandaranaike of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party had 189,700 votes, or 42 per cent.

The Prime Minister polled heavily in urban areas, while Mrs Bandaranaike fell short of her expected dominance in the rural districts.

Mrs Bandaranaike, at 73, was seeking a comeback to the top job in Sri Lanka, 11 years after losing to the present President, Mr Junius Jayawardene. She was the world's first *women* Prime Minister, in 1960.

Despite Mr Premadasa's strong lead, the final outcome could still take into account the distribution of second preference votes by supporters of the third candidate, Mr Ossie Abeygunasekera, of the left-leaning People's Party. However, early results showed him trailing further behind than had been expected, carrying only 16,976 votes.

The closely fought race between Mr Premadasa and Mrs Bandaranaike followed a day of attacks on voters by Sinhalese extremists, but also a dramatic show of defiance by electors in the face of theats by terrorists.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> in the north, and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) in the Sinhalese south, had issued dire threats against anyone turning out to vote.

In the north, the boycott call by the Tigers depressed the turnout to between five and 10 per cent. But in the Sinhalese south, the JVP onslaught dented, but did not destroy the people's determination to vote. According to early estimates, between 50 and 60 per cent of the 9.4 million electorate voted.

All of the victims of election violence died in the Sinhalese areas of the island: the centre and south. They were killed in polling station queues, or picked off on their way to and from the poll.

At the same time, there were widespread claims that the army and police were forcing voters to the polls, by telling them that if they failed to vote, they would be regarded as enemies of democracy.

PM leads bloody Sri Lankan poll

The warning was inevitably taken seriously against the background of a ruthless campaign of state terrorism against the insurgents. But in most of the Sinhalese south, there was genuine enthusiasm, with long queues at polling stations.

In all, 15 deaths were reported which were directly related to the polling, most of the victims falling to merciless gun attacks on queues of voters. All died, almost certainly, at the hands of militant supporters of the JVP.

In towns like Tangalle, once noted as the tourist paradise and now as the heart of JVP bandit country, the police and army liberally interpreted their orders to encourage people to vote. They toured the town making loud-speaker announcements that anyone who did not vote was anti-government.

This, after weeks of ruthless counter-terrorism, was a potent message. By mid-morning, long queues had formed at the polling stations.

"They are threatening us that unless we vote y two o'clock, they will check up on us. So both sides are threatening us now," said one of the reluctant voters, Jane Wickrasinghe. "I think only in the south is it crazy like this."

But police Inspector Nimal Kulasiri said that the announcements had been made not to threaten people, but to protect them. "Most of the people requested us to do it, because of the threat against them (by the JVP). They want the threat to come from us also, because then they can vote; they will have an excuse."

Despite the threats, the intimidation, and the bloodshed, there was evidence in plenty that the Sri Lankan electorate has lost none of its relish for democracy. They last voted nationally, six years ago, and have not had parliamentary elections since 1977, 11 years and at least 8,000 deaths ago.

There were dire predictions, only a few weeks ago, that the turn-out this time could not be more than 30 per cent, given the murderous circumstances. But from the opening of polls at 7am it was clear that the pessimists were to be confounded.

The evidence was strongest, ironically, in the deep south where the JVP and the security forces have been trading atrocities since early November. From Colombo to Galle, in the south-west, the mood in the early morning was jittery and fearful.

At Galle, and in the badlands beyond, all that changed. Most shops were open, even in Matara which has been seized by terror for many weeks. In some siolated villages, soldiers reinforced the courage of shopkeepers who had obeyed the JVP strike orders, by smashing their padlocks and shutters with axes, and obliging them to open for business.

At polling booths, small queues began to form. As the morning wore on, the queues lengthened, partly because of the shortage of staff, but mostly because, it seemed, the word was spreading that it was safe to vote. Even in Akurugoda polling station, half a mile from the remains of Abeykoon Premasiri, the turn-out was 30 per cent by the halfway stage.

Elsewhere, reports of the turn-out varied enormously. In the northern Jaffna Peninsula, still in the thrall of the Tamil Tiger separatist movement, fewer than 10 per cent of the electors turned out. But in the Tamil areas of the east, up to 70 per cent turned out.

If the outcome is close, there are bound to be shrill claims of foul play, and complications about those areas where polling stations were closed early because of violence, or else never opened because the officials were too scared to turn up.

But despite all the blemishes and flaws, the vote seems to have reinforced Sri Lanka's traditional but much shaken attachment to the polling process. It was a tribute to the courage of the voters as much as to the elaborate and all-pervasive security arrangements. And, more negatively, it owed a great deal to repay the terrorists in their own coin.



INDIA PLUNGES INTO CHAOS

COURIER-MAIL

May 23, 1991 Thursday

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Length: 1072 words

Byline: GREY J

Body

India plunges into chaos Gandhi widow to lead party after murder NEW DELHI: Mobs went on the rampage in cities all over India yesterday after former Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi was murdered in a bomb blast. A national red alert was declared as widespread violence greeted the effective end of India's Nehru dynasty. Mr Gandhi's Congress (I) Party late last night unanimously elected his Italian-born widow, Sonia Gandhi, as the party's new president. India's million-plus security troops were put on alert after an emergency Cabinet meeting in New Delhi. The Government ordered a commission of inquiry into the assassination of Mr Gandhi early yesterday in a bomb blast at Sriperumpudur, 50km from Madras. His body was flown from Tamil Nadu state to New Delhi yesterday, accompanied by Mrs Gandhi and their teenage daughter, Priyanka. A bomb hidden in a bouquet of flowers partly decapitated Mr Gandhi, shocked journalists said. The body, recognisable only from the clothes he wore, lay for several minutes in a pool of blood. Reports said 14 people died with him. It is believed they included six police personnel and a Tamil Nadu politician. At least 10 people were injured. The bodies were too badly mutilated to determine immediately whether the assassin died with Mr Gandhi. Wailing mourners smashed through steel fences and gates and poured into Mr Gandhi's home yesterday when his body was brought from a city hospital. Security troopers and elite commandos used rifle butts and canes to try to push back the mourners.

QNPPolice fired tear-gas to prevent outraged supporters of Congress (I) from climbing over an iron gate into Teen Murti House, where his body will lie in state before cremation tomorrow. But witnesses said at least 200 of them smashed through the house gates and ransacked a reception room in the building. They scaled high, bambootopped concrete boundary walls and jumped over watch towers for a glimpse of the slain leader. The crowds of gatecrashers screamed ""Delhi police down, down" as police pushed some of them outside the building. Photographers and reporters were thrown from the house as attendants hastily took Mr Gandhi's body inside. The Government clearly feared a repetition of riots that erupted after Mr Gandhi's mother, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was killed by her Sikh bodyguards in October 1984. About 3000 Sikhs were killed after she was shot in revenge for her decision to order the army into Amritsar's Golden Temple to root out Sikh militants using the holiest Sikh shrine as a base. Yesterday's bomb blast came as Mr Gandhi was receiving garlands of welcome on his way to an election rally in the southern state. ""It was a massive explosion," said one shaken reporter who was part of a 35-car convoy to Sriperumpudur. ""I was way behind him when the explosion took place," she said. ""There was confusion all around and people began running all over. ""It was a near stampede. Nobody initially seemed to know what happened. Then one man began screaming in Tamil: "They have killed Rajiv Gandhi, they have killed Rajiv Gandhi.' ""People fell all over the place (after the explosion). One person said he had seen his (Gandhi's) knees also blown off." At least six people have been reported killed in rioting since the assassination. A 7-year-old girl and a 12-year-old boy were shot dead in separate incidents in Andhra Pradesh, 1300km south-east of Delhi, when police opened fire to prevent riots getting out of control. Crowds of Gandhi supporters attacked and set fire to state transport buses in Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu. In New Delhi, a 1000-strong mob attacked and burned the residence of Ram Vilas Paswan, a politician opposed to the Congress (I) Party who lives two houses away from the

INDIA PLUNGES INTO CHAOS

Gandhi residence. President Ramaswamy Venkataraman tried to visit the home but was forced to retreat from an angry mob of more than 4000 who pounded his car. Police clamped an indefinite curfew and fired rifles in the air in the coastal city of Vijaywada as hundreds took to the streets, plundering shops and homes. In the northern city of Patna, Congress (I) supporters fought a pitched battle with stones and bricks. Ten bombs exploded, wounding 11 people in Agartala, capital of north-eastern Tripura state, as supporters went on a rampage. Six offices of the state's ruling Communist Party of India-Marxist and 20 stores were set on fire. Paramilitary combat police were sent into Jalpaiguri, northern Bengal, where Congress supporters attacked rival party workers. Nearly 100 people had already died in two days of election violence. Mr Gandhi died in the midst of a general election, forcing postponement of polling. Continued, more reports, Page 2; Editorial, Leahy's view, Page 8; Death of a dynasty, Page 9 Mr Gandhi . . . bomb hidden in welcoming flowers. Distraught Gandhi supporters pound the car of Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman outside the residence of murdered Mr Rajiv Gandhi yesterday. The President was forced to retreat. A grieving Mrs Sonia Gandhi, left, and daughter Priyanka yesterday. India plunges into chaos From Page 1 Mr Gandhi, the grandson of independent India's first Prime Minister, Jawar har lal Nehru, had been battling to lead his party back to power in India's most fiercely fought election since independence from Britain in 1947. The Prime Minister, Mr Shek har, appealed on state-run tele vision against violent demonstrations over the killing. ""Let us not give in to emotionalism in this tragic hour," Mr Shekhar said. ""They (the people) should keep a cool mind." The Indian Cabinet declared a week-long period of mourning, saying: ""We call upon the nation to fight the menacing cult of violence which has entered on our public life and appeal to the nation to maintain peace and harmony at this critical juncture." Mr Gandhi had propped Mr Shekhar's tiny party in power after a minority Government collapsed last November. Mr Shek har quit in March, forcing the elections and blaming vacillating support by Congress. Mr Gandhi, widely adored among women voters, had long been in danger from Sikh separatists fighting for their own homeland in the northern state of Punjab. And Tamil militants, who use Tamil Nadu as a base, objected to Mr Gandhi's intervention in Sri Lanka's ethnic struggle. In Britain, a spokesman for Sri Lanka's **Tamil Tigers** said he was sure his guerrilla group was not involved in the killing.

Graphic

PIC OF HEAD SHOT OF RAJIV GANDHI, DISTRAUGHT GANDHI SUPPORTERS POUND THE CAR OF INDIAN PRESIDENT RAMASWAMY VENKATARAMAN OUTSIDE THE RESIDENCE OF MURDERED MR RAJIV GANDHI AND A GRIEVING SONIA GANDHI AND HER DAUGHTER PRIYANKA

Load-Date: September 25, 2003



MOTHER INDIA GETS A FACELIFT

SUNDAY MAIL (QLD)
October 18, 1987 Sunday

Copyright 1987 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 968 words **Byline:** WILSON B

Body

Mother India gets a facelift Returning to India, BRUCE WILSON finds much has changed _ but still the talk is of drought, cricket and ""The Troubles".

T]HE small headline in the Hindustan Times said: ""Eunuch dies in fight over sari". Well, I thought, here we are back in India

Most of us might have believed there wasn't an awful lot of work for eunuchs these days. And the short item never did explain just what Subhash and Asha were up to before the former set the latter ablaze in East Delhi. Better, perhaps, to leave it with the other million or so mysteries in this baffling and wonderful land. QNP

It is 16 years since I first came to India in a hit-and-run visit which turned into weeks and then months. It was the time of ""The Troubles". But, of course, there are always troubles. In this case it was the painful pre-natal procedure which led to the birth of Bangladesh, the death of East Pakistan and the Indo-Pak war of 1971.

Although I was in Pakistan last year for the triumphal return of Benazir Bhutto (whatever happened to her?), it is a decade since my last visit to India, then witnessing the defeat at the general elections of Mrs Indira Gandhi by Mr Desai and the Jana party (whatever happened to them?). Mrs Gandhi was soon back in power and then assassinated. Her chosen son, Sanjay, died in a light aircraft crash, and her other son, Rajiv, is Prime Minister.

After only a few days, one should not make snap judgments, so here goes: it is a very different India. Either someone has done a terrific cosmetic job, or the second and third generations of the Nehru family have come good with some of their pledge to make this place, which should never have been a nation at all, a cohesive and coherent thing.

Maybe there will be reason to change my mind, but it just feels different. Even as I write Eric Clapton is singing Cocaine on the radio, a song which once would never have entered this oddly moralistic country but, even so, out the window is a long line of <u>women</u> carrying sand on their heads in little baskets, emptying it like so many ants into a concrete-mixer on top of a building site. In a pretty posh block of flats next door, a sweeper is peeing on the roof.

It was obvious it was a different India from the outset. Once getting through Indian customs with a typewriter, let alone a computer and a radio, was an enormous hassle. Currency control could take an hour or two just by itself. But at Indira Gandhi Airport (there are plenty of monuments in the public sector to her) it was a breeze. I had more trouble last month at Baltimore. And there were no beggars.

So far, I have been approached by beggars about four times.

MOTHER INDIA GETS A FACELIFT

One of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's aims was to eliminate begging _ an impossibility, of course. But a decade ago to walk along the street in Delhi or Madras was to attract a crowd of supplicants.

Whether this is a good thing or not remains for me to find out, since the question is: what are they doing now? Where have they all gone? Can the government possibly have found work for them?

Mr Gandhi must often wonder why he was persuaded to give up his job as an airline pilot, a very upmarket profession in India, to become Prime Minister, a much less desirable posting. The problem in Sri Lanka with the *Tamil Tigers*, a particularly aggressive breed of terrorist, is occupying much of his time when he has plenty else to worry about. The Indians have about a division of troops deployed there as peace-keepers, but it would seem unlikely they would want to get into a full-on fight with the Tigers, whose spiritual and financial base is right here in Tamil Nadu state, of which Madras is the capital.

The artillery duels in Kashmir are, if anything, more dangerous on a long-term basis. Pakistan's military dictator . . . whoops, President . . . Zia is a much reviled figure in the Indian press and the old wounds open quickly. India is fond of pointing out that since the two nations won independence, India has never had a military dictator while Pakistan, apart from one brief spell, has hardly had anything but.

I have been in the Kashmiri hills during an artillery battle, and both sides were very good.

The Indian officer knew his Pakistani opponent well, having been at staff college together, and was able to identify him to his intelligence wallahs.

As I recall, they had nicknames for one another, Pickles and Buzz.

It is probably too far gone since partition now for the officers up there near the glaciers to have the same rapport, but each army has a long and proud tradition and you can bet they are damned good, Carruthers, damned good.

The troubles facing Mr Gandhi from man-made insanities become insignificant when compared with the hiding handed out on an all-too-regular basis by nature. The monsoon totally failed to appear in much of India this year and unless the second, smaller monsoon comes along there is going to be terrible hardship, already a famine seems certain.

If it seems a familiar story, the fact is India can usually depend on the monsoon and the harvest and get by on it _ just. But stockpiling is all but impossible, and there is just no insurance to cover the inevitable bad year when the monsoon does not materialise.

Here in Tamil Nadu, there are fears there will be no water in Madras, a city of 5 million, by the end of December. Already the local authorities are planning to "desilt" canals, surely the most ambitious task conceivable, and use the water in them. You should see these canals. They are not quite beyond description, but the exercise would be a turgid and unpleasant one.

Mr Gandhi, given the problems at home and those he struck at CHOGM in Vancouver this week over the Indians in Fiji and over the Sri Lankan and the new Kashmiri dispute, must ponder how much simpler his life was sitting at the controls of a 747.

Load-Date: September 19, 2003



POLITICS-SRI LANKA: TAMILS LOSING FAITH IN KUMARATUNGA

IPS-Inter Press Service April 28, 1999, Wednesday

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Length: 701 words

Byline: By Feizal Samath

Dateline: COLOMBO, Apr. 28

Body

Sri Lanka's sizeable Tamil minority community is fast losing faith in President Chandrika Kumaratunga who has stumbled after bold steps to end the 16-year-old ethnic violence in the Indian Ocean island nation.

Tamil citizens and political groups who had pinned great hopes on the ruling People's Alliance (PA) when it took office five years ago, now feel "frustrated and depressed."

Political observers caution that this may cost Kumaratunga valuable Tamil support in her bid to retain office. Buoyed up by wins in the recent regional polls, the PA is eyeing early national elections this year to choose a new Parliament and head of state.

The polls are due next year, but analysts expect Kumaratunga to advance the schedule to cash in on the PA's impressive show in the last of a series of provincial council elections.

Kumaratunga must keep an eye on Tamil support. The government has a one-vote majority and relies on allies like Tamil groups.

"Tamil sympathy for Kumaratunga has disappeared. I don't think the Tamils are in a position to accept any more promises," said Suresh Premachandran, secretary of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a former militant group.

"The entire Tamil population had believed she would finish this war and bring peace," he added.

A bold peace plan, centered on a radical devolution of powers to the northern and the eastern regions where most Tamils live, has been blocked by the opposition.

"There was so much of hope when she was elected. But all that has vanished. We are disillusioned, angry, afraid and frustrated," said a Tamil woman who lives in Colombo.

Another Tamil woman recalled cooking traditional delicacies to celebrate Kumaratunga's election in 1994. "There was so much of hope particularly since she is also a widow like many other Tamil <u>women</u>. Now there is only despair," she said.

Kumaratunga was elected President three months after her coalition's August 1994 win in the parliamentary poll. She had then promised a swift end to Sri Lanka's biggest political problem and to restore dignity to the minorities.

POLITICS- SRI LANKA: TAMILS LOSING FAITH IN KUMARATUNGA

Tamils were among the major supporters of the charismatic leader, the daughter of two former prime ministers.

Soon after taking office, the PA brought the Tamil Tiger rebels to the negotiating table. But the peace talks ended abruptly in April 1995 and government troops began battling the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) for the first time under the PA.

Kumaratunga tried to woo the rebels by offering sweeping autonomy for the provinces. But the main opposition United National Party (UNP) has rejected the nearly three-year-old proposal.

More than 75,000 people have died in the ethnic violence unleashed by Tamil militants demanding an independent homeland. Tamils make up 12.5 percent of the about 19 Sri Lankans and have complained of discrimination by the majority Sinhalese community.

The government asserts that it will be able to implement the peace deal, but Tamil parties supporting the ruling alliance disagree.

"I don't think they can do it in this term of office," said Douglas Devananda, leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Front (EPDP) whose former militant group has 13 lawmakers.

The government has also angered Tamils by discontinuing job quotas introduced by former President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1992 which earmarked 12 percent of recruitment to the elite Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS) for Tamils.

"The PA has done away with this system and few Tamils enter the public service now. Another category is teachers. The north and east is badly understaffed with teachers," said noted Tamil political commentator Dharmaratnam Sivaram.

Tamils are "submissive, frustrated and depressed" and many want to leave the country, said Maheswary Velautham, a Tamil woman lawyer who organizes a free legal clinic for Tamils.

The community also complains of harassment by security forces. "It is a disadvantage to be a Tamil nowadays. You are an instant target for harassment by security authorities when your identity is known," said Sivaram.

"The government thinks all Tamils are Tigers. This harassment hardens the attitude of the Tamils. We are helpless. Nobody fights for our rights," complained Velautham.

Load-Date: April 29, 1999



IN SRI LANKA CITY, A TALE OF ARMY TERROR UNFOLDS

The New York Times

May 2, 1984, Wednesday, Late City Final Edition

Copyright 1984 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Page 2, Column 3; Foreign Desk

Length: 1096 words

Byline: By WILLIAM K. STEVENS

Dateline: JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

Body

The curfew had been lifted for the day, and the teen-age youth had gone to a neighborhood store to buy coconuts, according to accounts from Jaffna residents. On the way back, they said, soldiers stopped him, asked him where he had been, and despite the coconuts he was carrying shot him dead.

Minutes later in the same neighborhood, the residents said, a goldsmith cycling to work was killed by a single bullet. Soon there were two more bodies, and the soldiers, according to the reports, piled all four bodies beside a nearby railroad track and set them afire. A visit to the area showed that only an ugly black spot remained, along with the charred bark and leaves of a nearby tree.

Article on slayings of civilians in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, by Government troops in April; Government has said 50 people were killed in attacks against terrorists who have outlawed themselves by advocating separate state for ethnic Tamils, but Western diplomats and residents say as many as 200 citizens were killed; illustrations; map (M)

A few days earlier, the residents said, air force men rolled up to a crowded open-air market where men, <u>women</u> and children go every day to buy bananas and watermelons, potatoes and pumpkins and chilis. With no warning, the troops reportedly sprayed the crowd with machine-gun fire.

Many people, including several elderly <u>women</u>, were said to have been killed. Residents of this city said they assumed that the air force men were retaliating against civilians for the terrorist slayings of two of their comrades.

Terrorists Called the Target

The Government says that in the strife in April, 50 people were killed; Western diplomats and residents say as many as 200 were killed.

The Government asserts that the targets of its troops in this isolated town in the far north of Sri Lanka are terrorists who have outlawed themselves by advocating a separate state for ethnic Tamils. But people in Jaffna tell a different story. Unable or unwilling to tackle the terrorists effectively, they say, the armed forces are waging war against ordinary citizens.

Most of the troops are Sinhalese, as is most of Sri Lanka's population. Most of Jaffna's people are Tamils, and the two groups have historically been rivals and sometimes blood enemies.

IN SRI LANKA CITY, A TALE OF ARMY TERROR UNFOLDS

The fire at the railroad track and the reported killings at the market are only two of many incidents of murder, arson, property destruction and widespread disregard for life and human rights related by Tamil residents of Jaffna.

These include many middle-class professionals and businessmen who, despite a fear of discovery and reprisal, were anxious that the story be told. All asked that their identities not be divulged. "We wouldn't be able to live here anymore," one said.

News Controlled by Government

Neither the rest of Sri Lanka nor the world at large had previously been told the story, mostly because the flow of domestic news on this island, which was formerly called Ceylon, is controlled by the Government and because Jaffna is isolated.

The city is situated on a narrow sand spit, between two bodies of turquoise water, where 750,000 Tamils live in a land drier and harsher than the lushly forested remainder of Sri Lanka.

It is a land of elephant-eared banana trees and quaint houses with red-tiled roofs, famous for its mangoes and palmyra-leaf weaving and also for its energetic and independent-minded people. It is also the center of the Tamil movement for a separate state, the advocacy of which was made a crime by constitutional amendment last year.

At the height of the violence in mid- April, and for some time afterward, ground transportation to Jaffna was interrupted. Telephone communication was next to impossible. Only two scheduled commercial planes fly in and out every week. Behind this communications screen, residents of Jaffna told of their ordeal and vented their contempt for and fear of the armed forces.

"They haven't killed a single terrorist," said a middle-aged Tamil textile manufacturer. "The Government wants our cooperation, but how can we cooperate when they burn our property, kill our children and shoot people arbitrarily?"

Many residents say the terrorists, particularly members of a separatist group called the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, operate with impunity. Since March 28, they have killed two off-duty air force men here, have ambushed an army convoy with a car bomb, have gunned down two civil servants and shot to death two policemen. All the victims were Sinhalese.

But instead of going after terrorists, said many citizens interviewed at random, the Sinhalese troops attack innocent citizens. Instead of trying to flush out a terrorist from a suspected hiding place, said many of those interviewed, soldiers set fire to Tamil businesses in the immediate area. Many asserted that soldiers had arrested, beaten and killed Tamil youths who were believed, but not proved, to be connected in some way with the terrorist movement.

'For Us, It's Terrible'

One result is that Jaffna families who might never have sided with the Tamil radicals are now said to be gravitating to that side. This is true even though many residents expressed dislike for the terrorists and their tactics.

"For the Tigers," said one resident, a civil servant, "it's fun. For us, it's terrible. We can't get out, can't go about our business."

Jaffna residents, constantly on the watch for soldiers, pointed out what they said were the scenes of much of the violence in April:

The town's biggest supermarket, set afire and destroyed, according to witnesses, by soldiers. A telex office, similarly destroyed. A few blocks away, a Buddhist hostel, used by Sinhalese pilgrims, burned and destroyed by Tamil terrorists. Across the street, a Buddhist temple damaged by the terrorists.

In a culvert nearby, the remains of bicycles and what were said to be human bones, all that was left of the reported killing of some 20 Tamil youths by Sinhalese troops.

IN SRI LANKA CITY, A TALE OF ARMY TERROR UNFOLDS

Not far away, a Catholic church defaced by men described as soldiers who went on a shooting and burning spree against the neighborhood after their convoy was ambushed by terrorists in broad daylight. Next door, a school burned out by terrorists so that the army could not use it for a command post. And all over the city, Tamil businesses destroyed.

The reports seem consistent with a well-documented pattern of behavior by the police and armed forces in previous periods of civil strife.

A team of Amnesty International investigators concluded that similar incidents, including slayings of young Tamils by Sinhalese security forces, took place during disturbances in 1981.

Graphic

map of Sri Lanka; photos of Sri Lanka



Y SRI LANKA: U.N. REFUGEE AGENCY ALSO HAS GRASSROOTS PROJECTS

IPS-Inter Press Service October 5, 1993, Tuesday

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Length: 645 words

Byline: by Rita Sebastian

Dateline: COLOMBO, Oct. 5

Body

Children in the village of Nagarillupakulam in Sri Lanka's northwest used to attend pre-school in a small shack put up by their parents.

The school had no furniture, and the children sat on the dust floor for hours listening to their teacher.

Today, the village's young attend classes in a larger building, complete with desks, chairs, books and other educational materials.

Two local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the Rural Development Foundation and the Rural Development Society and the international organization FORUT undertook the upgrading of the village school -- with ample help from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Says Hashim Utkan, who heads the UNHCR in Colombo: "We had to do something beyond settling people in camps until they can return to their original places of habitation."

Since 1983, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) has waged a war against the government in the country's north-east for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

Between 1987 and 1990, the UNHCR in Sri Lanka used to be concerned only with the internally displaced people who fled the fighting.

Last year, it also began helping rehabilitate repatriated Sri Lankan refugees from the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where they had gone to escape the clashes between the rebels and government troops. More than 200,000 refugees had been officially listed in the camps in and outside Tamil Nadu.

But in March this year, the UNHCR began its aid program to complement its traditional duties. Officials say it has been flooded with proposals since.

"There are two key elements to the program," says Utkan. "Help with resettlement and overhaul where possible the basic infrastructure addressing the immediate needs of the people."

Aside from the Nagarillupakulam school project -- which cost a mere \$1,500 -- the UNHCR has also been involved in such activities as the construction of open wells in Vankalai village also in the northwest.

Y SRI LANKA: U.N. REFUGEE AGENCY ALSO HAS GRASSROOTS PROJECTS

More than 500 families in Vankalai had been dependent on a single well for their water supply. Since that was inadequate for the whole village, the <u>women</u> had to walk four kms to buy water, paying about eight cents for four liters.

The UNHCR recently constructed three more open wells for the village and one cement tank for the collection of water. It also helped clear 3 mi of canal for water distribution in Vankalai, and cleaned and deepened the village reservoir.

According to Utkan, the UNHCR talks to the people to find out their priority needs and then tackles those at grassroots level. "We are not targeting individuals but the community," he says.

The U.N. agency also involves the help of both local and international NGOs in carrying out its development aid program.

The UNHCR officials say half of the workforce in the projects are <u>women</u>, partly because many of the men had been killed or severely injured in the fighting.

In Kandapulam village in Vavuniya, for example, local <u>women</u> helped clear 2.5 kms of road of jungle vegetation and covered its potholes.

"Today, 197 families including 55 returnee families from India enjoy their trips to Vavuniya town better for health and educational purposes and also to transport their crops to the main market," says Paul Lariviere, program coordinator for the UNHCR projects.

He says workers in the projects are paid either in cash or food rations.

Although these are mainly in areas cleared of the rebels and under the control of the military, the UNHCR has also helped in similar activities in the country's so-called "danger zones."

Says Lariviere: "We (even) provided cold storage facilities by making kerosene fridges for stocking polio vaccines for a child immunization program in an area where there was no electricity."

"What we have done is set the model for the future," says Utkan. "It is essentially a bridge between relief aid and development."

Load-Date: October 1, 1993



SRI LANKA: ARMY PREPARES TO COUNTER MAJOR GUERRILLA ATTACK

IPS-Inter Press Service November 3, 1984, Saturday

Copyright 1984 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 1062 words

Byline: by Ravindran Casinader

Dateline: JAFFNA, Nov. 3

Body

Government troops in Sri Lanka's troubled northern province of Jaffna have been placed on full alert amid rumors that Tamil separatist guerrillas are planning a major operation before the end of December.

"We have reports that the terrorists might be planning a major operation, and we are preparing for it," the commander for security forces in the north, Brigadier Nalin Seneviratne, said in an interview.

Sri Lanka, an island nation south of India formerly known as Ceylon, was hit by widespread strife last August in which hundreds of Tamils were killed by mobs of the Sinhalese majority. The violence erupted after the *Tamil Tigers*, a separatist guerrilla group, killed 12 Sinhalese army men.

The guerrillas are campaigning for a separate state for the Tamils, who account for about 21% of Sri Lanka's 14 million people. The Tamils are largely concentrated in the north.

As the guerrillas step up their activities, in particular encouraging young people to join their struggle, there is a virtual breakdown of civil administration in Jaffna.

Although the military has claimed some recent successes in combatting the guerrillas, some observers say a political solution offers the best hope to stop the violence and to meet Tamil charges of discrimination.

In the meantime, the military is preparing for a confrontation.

"A large number of terrorists have entered the peninsula in the last two weeks," Brigadier Seneviratne said, adding that "many of those whom we arrested confeessed that they had been receiving military training abroad."

The government has repeatedly charged that Tamil guerrillas train in camps in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, which is only 24 miles across the sea from Sri Lanka.

According to Jaffna residents, militant groups have been visiting homes and publishing underground leaflets advising people to store food and medicine.

"A group of boys came to my house a few days ago," one housewife, who asked not to be named, told IPS. "I had never met them before. They claimed to represent one of the militant groups. They said, 'We might soon have a major confrontation with the army. We are collecting statistics of households to help people if they are affected by army reprisals."

SRI LANKA: ARMY PREPARES TO COUNTER MAJOR GUERRILLA ATTACK

Many middle class parents in Jaffna are sending their sons abroad, fearing that if they remain at home the army may arrest them as suspected guerrillas.

"No young person in Jaffna is safe today. Every young man is suspected of being a terrorist," Jaffna Citizens' Committee Secretary Ramalingam Balasubramaniam said.

Jaffna's Roman Catholic Bishop, Bastianpillai Deogupillai, who heads a diocese of some 130,000, attributes the increase in the number of young Tamil militants to army repression.

"The first thing they do when they arrest youths is to assault them," the bishop maintained. "Is that not also violence? These boys, if released, go back with a grouse and join the [guerrilla] movement."

Within Jaffna, local authorities have ceased to function and banks are open only one hour a day. By dusk, the streets are deserted, and people keep their social activities to a minimum. Unlike in the past, weddings are held in the mornings.

"To make matters worse," said Bishop Deogupillai, "we do not have any political leadership here."

Leaders of the Tamil United liberation Front (TULF), the umbrella organization of Tamil political parties, are in exile in south India. In addition, there is no longer anyone to represent the Tamils of Jaffna in Parliament.

TULF members forfeited their seats in September 1983 after they refused to take an oath of allegience to a unitary state under a new law introduced by the government of President Julius Jayewardene.

The TULF, which also seeks a separate Tamil state, is pledged to a peaceful settlement of the problem.

Meanwhile, government troops have succeeded in recent weeks in identifying and destroying some of the guerrilla camps in Jaffna.

"We are now very much on top," National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali boasted at a press conference in the capital of Colombo last week when he disclosed details of successful army raids.

Brigadier Seneviratne told IPS: "As I said earlier, there is a large number of terrorists returning to the penisula after training abroad. As a result, the chances of our running into terrorists are greater. At the same time, we have now got more acquainted to the ground here, and our methods of tracking down terrorists too have improved with experience."

The commander acknowledged, however, that military measures alone will not resolve the growing guerrilla movement. "The military can only control those going amuck, but the reasons for such behavior cannot be resolved militarily." he said. "There has to be a political solution."

However, an all-party conference in Colombo called by President Jayewardene on Jan. 10, 1984, still has not been able to reach agreement on any proposal for a political settlement.

"No Tamil political or religious leader," Bishop Deogupillai told IPS, "can persuade the Tamil militants to consider a political settlement until Section 5 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which prevents one from having any contact with the militants, is repealed."

"This provision has drawn a wedge between the political leadership and the militants," Bishop Deogupillai added.

Reflecting the sense of hopelessness of many Jaffna people, the bishop said: "We can't go on like this. What we need is a political solution. But how we are going to solve this problem, I don't know."

In addition to the anxiety caused by the possible arrests of their children by the army, parents and school teachers in the peninsula are concerned about the disruption of the children's studies caused by the frequent boycott of schools and student protest rallies.

SRI LANKA: ARMY PREPARES TO COUNTER MAJOR GUERRILLA ATTACK

It is not uncommon in Jaffna these days for guerrillas to enter a school when the students are at assembly and demand the principal to release the students to join a protest rally.

Brigadier Seneviratne said the army is aware of such incidents. "But there is nothing that we can do," he said, adding that his men have so far held back from storming into schools to round up guerrillas.

"We would rather lose the opportunity of arresting the terrorists than risk hurting the students," he said.

Brigadier Seneviratne also said that several students, including <u>women</u>, have dropped out of school to join the guerrilla movement.



INDIA: ARMED POLICE TO ASSIST PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN SRI LANKA

IPS-Inter Press Service September 24, 1987, Thursday

Copyright 1987 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 696 words

Dateline: New Delhi Sept, 24

Body

India is to send 3,000 special armed police to help keep the peace in northern Sri Lanka, it was announced here today.

The force is meant to defuse mounting tension between the regular military regiments that make up the Indian peace-keeping force in that country, and the main militant group in the north, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*).

The move came after Indian troops opened fire on a crowd which stormed their camp in the northwestern coastal town of Mannar.

An Indian external affairs spokesperson, in a statement issued here today, said the Tigers had "used a shield of **women** and children" when staging the demonstration, and described their conduct as "reprehensible."

Indian military sources said one person was injured in the shooting. The Tigers have claimed that one person died and several were injured.

In one of the strongest statements issued by the Indian External Affairs Ministry on the rapidly worsening situation in northern Sri Lanka, the spokesperson warned the Tigers that the Indian troops would be forced to respond "more strongly" if the group did not abandon violence.

Diplomats here admitted, however, that there was little chance the Tigers would heed the warning.

For four years, an ethnic war between Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese and militant Tamil separatist groups raged in the north and east of the island.

That conflict came to an end with the signing of a peace accord July 29 between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayawardene, and the arrival of a 7,000-strong Indian peace-keeping force on the island.

The past two weeks have seen a fresh upsurge of violence in the north and east -- this time among members of rival Tamil groups.

More than 120 people have died in the internecine clashes between the Tigers and smaller armed groups which it squeezed out of the mainstream guerrilla campaign for a separate Tamil state.

Under the terms of the peace accord, the Tigers made a reluctant surrender of many of their heavy weapons.

INDIA: ARMED POLICE TO ASSIST PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN SRI LANKA

The smaller groups seized the opportunity of what they saw as a new parity in firepower to pay off old grudges and gain ground in Tamil areas where the Tigers had not established complete control.

Enraged by what they allege is a betrayal of an Indian promise of protection and recognition of their own position as the legitimate leaders of Sri Lanka's Tamils, the Tigers began a series of demonstrations against the Indian troops. Yesterday's incident in Mannar is the most recent.

The situation is complicated by the fact that neither the Tigers nor the other groups have given up their personal weapons. Last week, Indian troops arrested 15 members of one of the smaller groups -- The People's Liberation Organization -- and seized their guns.

The Tigers, however, have made it clear that they are not prepared to give up their arms, which they see as their only guarantee of security.

It is apparently in an attempt to avoid serious clashes between the Indian troops and the Tigers that the government here has decided to send in armed police.

Sources here say they will take over "routine peace-keeping jobs." India's para-military police specialize in dealing with armed militancy at a non-military level.

Their deployment in Sri Lanka is seen here as a way of reducing the level of violence in Tamil areas so that proposed elections to a semi-autonomous provincial council can be held.

Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit, who met with Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran in Sri Lanka's northern capital of Jaffna yesterday, is believed to have urged him to begin to cooperate with the Indian forces to help implement the political provisions of the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord.

The Colombo Government is expected to place a constitutional amendment before the Sri Lankan Parliament in October, giving shape to proposals for Tamil autonomy.

With the Sri Lankan and Indian leaders due to meet in Vancouver at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in mid-October to place their final seal of approval on the proposed legislation, officials here say they hope the Tigers can be persuaded to abandon their bid for one-party power and participate in the democratic process.



AP Photos COI101-102

Associated Press International April 17, 2001; Tuesday

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Section: International news

Length: 686 words

Byline: DILIP GANGULY

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

The Sri Lankan government on Tuesday accused an American journalist wounded in a skirmish between government troops and Tamil separatists of not seeking mandatory permission to visit rebel-held areas, and blamed her injury on rebel fire.

Marie Colvin, a reporter for Britain's Sunday Times, "did not obtain permission to enter or visit uncleared areas," chief government spokesman Ariya Rubasinghe said in a statement.

Under Sri Lankan law, journalists wanting to travel to areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam must obtain written permission from the Defense Ministry. Rubasinghe did not say if the government will bring charges against Colvin, 44.

"The facts that have emerged so far indicate that she has had her own secret agenda with the <u>LTTE</u>," he said, but did not elaborate.

Rubasinghe said the government advised Sri Lankan embassies to be careful when making visa recommendations.

The London-based American journalist sustained four shrapnel wounds in her head, eye, chest and arms when she was caught in fighting Monday.

She underwent surgery at the Colombo Eye Hospital and was in stable condition Tuesday.

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have been fighting since 1983 for a homeland in the north and east for minority Tamils, saying they face discrimination by the majority Sinhalese. The often-violent campaign has left more than 63,000 people dead.

Separately, the Committee to Protect Journalists on Tuesday urged President Chandrika Kumaratunga to guarantee the safety of a Sri Lankan journalist from security forces who allegedly threatened him with death for reporting the rape of two Tamil *women* held in custody by police and the navy.

The New York-based international media rights group in a letter asked that Kumaratunga make sure that A.S.M. Fasmi who works for the Tamil daily Thinakkural "is not harmed in any way." He was detained and interrogated for several hours last month for reporting the rapes in northern Manner town.

AP Photos COI101-102

The statement by Rubasinghe said that Colvin was found wounded following a confrontation that erupted when rebels tried to cross forward defense lines held by government troops in the town of Vavuniya late Monday.

"On detection of the movement by Listening Post (of government troops), terrorists had opened fire and thrown grenades. Troops retaliated with small arms fire and grenades and after a few minutes terrorists fled the area," it said. "On a subsequent search, troops found a foreign woman lying injured."

An army helicopter flew her to Colombo from Anuradhapura, 160 kilometers (100 miles) north of Colombo, where she received initial treatment.

At the hospital in Colombo, Colvin's left eye and forehead were bandaged when paramedics took her out of the operating room on a stretcher. She was conscious.

Colvin, believed to be the first foreign journalist to travel to the rebel-held northern territory since 1995, was caught in the skirmish hours before a five-day truce by government troops expired.

After spending two weeks in rebel-held territory, Colvin was being escorted by the guerrillas to the government-held town of Vavuniya when an army patrol detected them.

The Foreign Correspondents' Association of Sri Lanka called on the government to change the rules on access to the war zone. It said procedures should be established for journalists "to be assisted to cover the northeast conflict independently and adequately and to minimize as far as possible the risk necessarily involved in such work."

Colvin won the award for Best Foreign Correspondent in last month's British Press Awards. In a report in the most recent Sunday Times, Colvin described her experiences with guerrillas and told of her difficult journey to reach Tamil Tiger headquarters in Mallawi.

"After two weeks in the Tamil-held area, I set out southwards late in the evening. Government lines lay a 24-hour walk away; my Tiger guides promised to lead me back across them under the cover of darkness," she said in her last dispatch Sunday.

Colvin received a Courage in Journalism Award from the International *Women*'s Media Foundation last year.

(ddj/lak/aks-ss)

Load-Date: April 17, 2001



SRI LANKA: CAMPAIGN TO STOP ARMS SALES TO WARRING FORCES

IPS-Inter Press Service October 18, 1991, Friday

Copyright 1991 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 654 words

Byline: by Moyiga Nduru **Dateline:** LONDON, Oct. 18

Body

A group of Sri Lankan human rights activists today called on the international community to stop supplying arms, military expertise and equipment to Sri Lanka to stop the conflict in the country.

"Unless this is done, "Ranjan Fernando of a London-based Sri Lanka human rights group told IPS, "it will be impossible to stop the war."

The war, Fernando said, has badly tarnished Sri Lanka's image abroad. "We are sad that Sri Lanka has the highest rate of political killings in the world. In 1989/90 about 1,000 people were murdered every week in the country," he said.

As a result one-tenth of the country's 18 million population is "displaced in their own country."

Fernando, who spoke to IPS after a preview of "the shattered pearl", a 23-minute documentary film on Sri Lanka, declined to identify the countries selling or supplying arms to Sri Lanka.

But other activists who spoke under condition of anonymity alleged that Britain and China were involved in arming the Colombo government.

Journalists testify to the international mix of weaponry in the warring parties' armories; including weapons from Czechoslovakia and China to Israel, the U.S. and all Europe. Mercenaries from western countries have also played a part in training and coordinating logistics.

Fernando's remark followed a Sri Lankan public meeting yesterday in which several resolutions were adopted in a bid to pressure the warring parties to end the fighting.

The meeting was attended by the groups "Human Rights in Sri Lanka", "The Campaign for Democracy and Human Rights in Sri Lanka," "The Committee for Democracy and Justice in Sri Lanka," "Friends of the Disappeared in Sri Lanka," "Lawyers (in exile) for Democracy in Sri Lanka," and the "Mothers Front (London branch)."

All urged aid donor countries to implement their declared policy to link aid to a positive improvement in the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

They commended the British government's policy -- initiated by foreign secretary Douglas Hurd -- linking aid to good human rights record and democracy.

SRI LANKA: CAMPAIGN TO STOP ARMS SALES TO WARRING FORCES

The Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), also requested the international aid group "to set apart a reasonable percentage of their aid to compensate the victims of human rights violations and for the rehabilitation of their dependents."

Issues regarding the displaced were also raised after a preview showing of the television documentary "the shattered pearl", produced and filmed by Nimal Mendis and his wife Ranjani, was shown at the London offices of the channel 4 network.

Speaking after the preview, Nimal Mendis lamented that the sight of the displaced, especially that of widows and orphans were disturbing. He attributed their plight to the lack of information in Sri Lanka.

But Nimal Mendis said he found "an extraordinary humbleness" among Sri Lankan women.

"They risk their lives. They travel to the troubled south, north and east to search for their sons or husbands' bodies, collected at night by all those concerned in the conflict," Nimal Mendis said.

He added that there should be more support for the "Mothers Front", the organization that takes its lead from the movement of mothers seeking information about their sons and husbands who "disappeared" in Argentina in the 1980s.

Only few <u>women</u> have began to show interest in "Mothers Front" in Sri Lanka, he said. He hoped that the campaign would expand and pressure the government in Colombo, Tamil separatists from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>) in the north and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) in the south to stop the war.

The NGOs said they would also explore the prospect of reviving an earlier offer by Commonwealth secretary-general Chief Emeka Anyaoku to Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa to mediate in the conflict.

"It was unfortunate that the president did not reply to the secretary general's offer," Nimal Mendis said, "but we are requesting the secretary general to revive the offer."

Load-Date: October 20, 1991



Assassin of Sri Lankan president used liquor, women to penetrate security

United Press International

June 3, 1993, Thursday, BC cycle

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Section: International

Length: 702 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

The suicide bomber who killed President Ranasinghe Premadasa infiltrated the late president's household by providing liquor and **women** to his personal valet, a senior police official said Thursday.

The valet, E.M.P. Mohideen, enjoyed the late president's trust so much that security staff did not check him out periodically, said Amarasena Rajapaksa, a deputy inspector general with the Criminal Investigation Department.

Police identified the assassin as Kulaweerasingham Weerakumar of Gurunagar in Jaffna, the northern territory held by Tamil rebels, Rajapakse told reporters at a briefing on the investigation into the May 1 assassination of Premadasa.

Rajapakse said investigators, however, still could not lay blame for the assassination on the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have been fighting for the past decade to establish a separate homeland in Sri Lanka's north and east for the country's minority Tamils.

"That aspect is being probed," Rajapakse said "It is certainly not an inside job."

"We should not come into any conclusions that the <u>LTTE</u> did it," he said. "We must go into all the aspects. Let it be open a while."

Weerakumar killed Premadasa, himself and more than 20 other people by strapping some 2 pounds of plastic explosives to his body and exploding it about eight to 10 feet from the president at a May Day rally.

Rajapakse said Weerakumar used Mohideen's weakness for liquor to gain the confidence of the valet, who investigators believe helped Weerakumar pass a security check when he carried out the actual assassination.

Weerakumar often flew in helicopters with advance presidential parties, including security men, in the company of Mohideen, but the valet carefully concealed him from Premadasa in such instances, Rajapakse said.

"The assassination occurred due to the negligence of domestic staff and mid-level security personnel," Rajapakse said.

Already 23 people, including 18 Tamils and two Sinhalese members of the president's domestic staff, are now in custody in connection with the assassination.

Assassin of Sri Lankan president used liquor, women to penetrate security

Security sources said those arrested include a sergeant from the police Special Task Force and a sergeant from the now disbanded Presidential Security Division, both of whom Weerakumar had entertained with liquor.

Rajapakse said he had been warned in early March of an attempt to posion Premadasa, and advised Premadasa and his domestic and security staff.

"I wanted to solicit their cooperation," he said. "If they knew anyone or any foreigner or anything like that to bring it to our notice.

"I asked them the places where vegetables were purchased," he added. "We wanted the purchases to be made at random from different places. This was because of fears of poisoning..."

"Our request for the domestic staff who are now under interrogation was if they knew anyone in particular getting close to them to let us know," Rajapakse said. "But the answer, particularly by late Mr. Mohideen, was that there was nothing."

"From the information gathered from the persons in custody, we found that there was negligence on the part of the domestic staff. We are probing to a greater extent," Rajapakse said.

"This man went out with domestic staff and advance party," he said. "They did not allow this gentleman to be seen by the late president. They always concealed him. If he was seen, his excellency would have asked questions who this gentleman is."

Rajapakse said the assassin, whom he referred to as Kumar, came to Colombo in April 1992 and began operating a grocery shop. He said that by the time of this month's May Day rally, Mohideen fully trusted Weerakumar.

"Kumar came on one street pushing a bicycle," Rajapakse said. "When he came toward the president's parked vehicle, he was stopped by three security officers. Mohideen from a distance indicated he knew him and cleared him.

"The explosion occurred when Kumar was walking toward the president, about eight to 10 feet away from him," he said.

Rajapakse said Weerakumar also ran a trucking service that operated between Colombo and Jaffna. "There are instances that certain amount of influence were made by Mohideen to allow his lorries to pass without checks," he said.



<u>SOUTH ASIA: HUMAN RIGHTS PICTURE UNCHANGED IN 1993, SAYS U.S.</u>

IPS-Inter Press Service February 1, 1994, Tuesday

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Length: 754 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON, Feb. 1

Body

The human rights performance of the governments of South Asia remained mostly unchanged during 1993, according to the U.S. State Department.

The five major nations of the region -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal -- all continued to suffer a range of abuses, the State Department says in a report which has been provided to the U.S. Congress this time each year since 1977.

But India and Sri Lanka appeared to suffer the worst cases as continuing conflict between the central government and separatist insurgencies in both countries fuelled political killings by all parties.

"Significant human rights abuses persist throughout India," according to the report, which stressed that the violations were aggravated by "severe social tensions and the authorities' attempts to contain violent secessionist movements."

It said rights violations were especially severe in Punjab, Kashmir, and the northeast where separatist insurgencies continued and where the judicial system has broken down in the face of terrorist threats.

Abuses included summary executions and reprisal killings by security forces in all troubled areas and political killings, kidnaping and extortion by militants.

Elsewhere in India, violations included torture, rape, and killing of suspects in police custody, incommunicado detention for prolonged periods, and inadequate prosecution of security force personnel implicated in abuse, the State Department says.

Abuses were also the result of "widespread intercaste and communal violence," extensive violence against <u>women</u>, infrequent prosecution of "dowry deaths," and "exploitation of indentured, bonded and child labour," according to the report.

The report notes that India opened dialogue with international human rights groups and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), allowed international monitors access to Kashmir and elsewhere, and bolstered human rights training for Indian security and army personnel.

But the results so far have been "only modest," the State Department says.

SOUTH ASIA: HUMAN RIGHTS PICTURE UNCHANGED IN 1993, SAYS U.S.

The report found "no significant change" in Pakistan. It says while government harassment of political opponents declined, repression against a Sindh-based political party continued, often resulting in summary executions by police and the army.

And the arbitrary detention, arrest, torture and other abuse of prisoners continued in the absence of any significant effort to reform the police or judicial systems, the report says.

It charges that the government did little to curb Muslim zealots persecuting non-Muslims, and that religious and ethnic-based conflicts, while "less intense" than the previous year, resulted in numerous murders and civil disturbances.

Meanwhile, "traditional social and legal constraints kept <u>women</u> in a subordinate position in society, and significant restraints remained on workers' rights," the report says.

In Sri Lanka, the government's security forces continued to "commit serious abuses which went unpunished," says the report. More than 80 people disappeared or died after being taken into custody by security forces, and government forces killed at least 250 civilians during military operations.

In addition, repressive measures giving the security forces wide powers remained in effect. The report says many citizens were detained without trial, although they were fewer than in the previous years.

Security troops, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (<u>LTTE</u>), and other forces continued committing political killings, although the total death toll was well below that of previous years. Most deaths resulted from indiscriminate use of force rather than deliberate assassination of individuals, the report says.

In Bangladesh, the government continued to use national security laws to detain citizens without formal charges. The report said it found "credible reports" of killings of detainees by police.

Violence against <u>women</u> is a serious problem, but much of it is not reported and goes unpunished, according to the report which also said child labour remains common. The report also scored the forced repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Burma.

Nepal, according to the report, has moved towards a more open society since political reform began in 1990, but there was "no significant change" in the human rights situation.

The report says "poorly trained police forces fired indiscriminately into crowds (during) leftist-inspired unrest in June and July." At least 20 people were killed.

It said there were reports of torture and other abuse of prisoners as well.

Load-Date: February 2, 1994



SECURITY TO BE STEPPED UP AFTER MASSACRE; SRI LANKA

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

March 2, 1989 Thursday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 12

Length: 653 words

Byline: Source: The Guardian, Reuter

Body

COLOMBO, Wednesday: Security for Sinhalese villages bordering Tamil areas in northern Sri Lanka is to be tightened following the massacre of 37 peasants, military sources said today.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, accompanied by security officials from Colombo, flew to the scene of Monday's attack at Borawewa in North-Central province, the sources said.

The minister planned to discuss ways of tightening security and visit the relatives of the victims.

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of the 37 Sinhalese villagers, shot or hacked to death in the attack on a settlement on the border of Sri Lanka's Eastern province.

It was the fifth massacre of a bloody February in which 97 people have been killed in raids on unprotected settlements in the East.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the only militant group still fighting for a separate State in the North and East of the island, were again blamed for the attack.

Villagers were cut to death with knives or swords in their homes, or were shot as they tried to run away. Four **women** and nine children were among the dead and four people were wounded.

The injured included a Sri Lankan soldier who was hit when a landmine exploded as members of the security forces were called to the scene. The attackers had booby-trapped approach roads to the village with a series of pressure mines.

There was a familiar brutality about the style of the attack. It was similar to a raid on a village five days previously in the same area in which six Sinhalese were killed and seven were injured. On February 12, 37 more Sinhalese villagers had died in an attack on another settlement in the province - the worst massacre since the previous October. Six Muslims were killed in the Eastern district of Amparai at the same time. And on February 2, 11 Sinhalese were viciously executed in yet another Eastern village.

There appears to have been no particular political motive for the latest attack other than to show that the Tigers are still alive and killing after a 16-month offensive against them by a 50,000-strong Indian Peacekeeping Force.

SECURITY TO BE STEPPED UP AFTER MASSACRE SRI LANKA

The Tigers have been blamed for the massacres because they follow a similar pattern - night raids on villages in border areas of disputed territory, where Tamil militants resent any possible colonisation of areas they consider to be a homeland.

The attacks have usually been timed in protest at a particular event -Independence Day on February 4, general election day on February 15. On Monday the timing was as senseless as the killings, although the attack served as a slap in the face for President Ranasinghe Premadasa who had made a weekend speech asking the Tigers to give up violence and open negotiations with him or any other

party.

The **LTTE** last night denied any involvement in the murders. It said it condemned this "act of terrorism".

"We strongly suspect that this heinous crime could have been executed by Indian-backed groups with the intention of achieving India's strategic objectives in our country," the statement said.

The Tigers were clearly blaming other Tamil groups known by their acronyms as the EPRLF, ENDLF and TELO for the killings, and were accusing India of trying to vilify as well as destroy their organisation. But the denials are viewed as hardly credible by Sri Lankans.

The latest massacre came on the same day as anti-government extremists known as the JVP effectively closed down the North Central province's main city of Anuradhapura with a strike call. It was a grim message to President Premadasa that his appeal for national reconciliation was unlikely to ever receive a positive response from the two groups currently most responsible for division and violence.

The presidential and parliamentary elections of the past three months have given the country a fresh-faced government and the chance of a new beginning.

But to start with, it is having to face up to dealing with the same old problems.

Graphic

Map: Sri Lanka: where the villagers were massacred

Load-Date: July 20, 2007



TERROR ATTACK

Birmingham Evening Mail August 21, 2001, Tuesday

Copyright 2001 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: Pg. 4

Length: 36 words

Body

<u>WOMEN</u> rebels attacked a Sri Lankan police camp before dawn today, killing 16 policemen, two civilians and wounding 18 others. Police said seven rebels were also killed and nine were wounded in the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> operation.

Load-Date: September 25, 2001



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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Sri Lanka - Rape in custody must be stopped immediately

M2 PRESSWIRE January 28, 2002

Length: 766 words

Body

Allegations of rape in custody by army, police and navy officials increased markedly in Sri Lanka last year, Amnesty International said in a new report published today. The organization has evidence of cases where <u>women</u> in custody were blindfolded, beaten, had their clothes forcibly removed and were raped.

The majority of incidents occurred in the context of the armed conflict between the security forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) who are fighting for an autonomous state in the north and east of Sri Lanka. Many of the victims are internally displaced *women*.

"The fact that complaints of rape, like other complaints of torture, are often not effectively dealt with by police, magistrates or doctors challenges the government to tackle this problem. Deficiencies in the early stages of the criminal investigation process have repeatedly contributed to the ultimate collapse of the investigation of the rape and the prosecution of the perpetrators," Amnesty International said.

"The new government of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe must now do everything in its power to prevent this grave sexual abuse of detainees."

The organization is urging the new Prime Minister to:

- send a clear public message to all security forces personnel that rape and other serious sexual violence in custody will not be tolerated and that perpetrators of such offences will be brought to justice and held accountable;
- establish an independent investigative body with the necessary powers and expertise to open criminal investigations where human rights violations, including rape, are believed to have been committed.

Amnesty International has welcomed the steps taken by successive governments over the last few years to combat torture, such as the ratification of the UN Convention against Torture in early 1994 and its incorporation into national law later that year as well as the more recent inclusion of more specific crimes of rape in custody and gang rape as acts punishable by a minimum of 10 years imprisonment under the Penal Code. However, despite those positive steps to date not one single member of the security forces has been found guilty of rape in custody in a court of law. Only in one case, where the victim was murdered, the culprits were brought to justice.

"Ensuring justice for the countless <u>women</u> who have been victims of rape in custody, is an opportunity for the new Prime Minister to redeem his party's election pledge to 'safeguard <u>women</u>'s rights', " Amnesty International concluded.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Sri Lanka - Rape in custody must be stopped immediately

Today the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against <u>Women</u> (CEDAW) is reviewing the periodic report of the Sri Lanka government and Amnesty International takes this opportunity to particulary highlight its concerns about abuses of the rights of <u>women</u> in Sri Lanka.

Selected case study:

In March 2001, Sinnathamby Sivamany (24) and Ehamparam Wijikala (22), two Tamil <u>women</u>, were arrested by members of the navy in the coastal city of Mannar and taken to the office of a special police unit. There, Ehamparam Wijikala was taken inside the police station and brutally raped by two officers. In the meantime, a navy officer climbed into the van and blindfolded Sinnathamby with a sock aided by the driver of the van. This officer then forcibly undressed and raped her. Some time afterwards she was taken inside the office to the room in which Ehamparam Wijikala was being held. Security forces personnel present there beat her then demanding that she remove her clothes. When she refused, Rajah, a male police officer, ordered Ehamparam Wijikala to remove Sinnathamby's clothes. Both <u>women</u> were made to parade naked in front of the men. They were then made to sit in a crouched position; their hands and legs were tied and attached to a pole which was then placed between two tables so they were left hanging. They were in this position for about 90 minutes and were pinched and beaten with a thick wire during that time.

For a copy of the report visit http://www.web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/index/asa370012002

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Load-Date: January 28, 2002



Updates with U.S. and other events

Associated Press International

March 05, 1999; Friday 14:28 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 796 words

Body

Saturday, March 6:

Milan, Italy Women's Fashion Week continues. Through May 7.

Paris Cesar film awards announced in France.

London March organized by Alliance of Asian Christians to protest religious persecution in India.

Sunday, March 7:

Estonia National elections.

El Salvador Presidential election.

Paris Ready-to-wear fashion shows. Through March 14.

Monday, March 8:

Washington President Bill Clinton leaves for four-day trip to Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Port of Spain, Trinidad Deadline for Prime Minister Basdeo Panday to call elections expected to divide the nation sharply on racial lines amid charges by African-descended blacks that Panday is favoring those of East Indian descent.

Stockholm, Sweden Volvo stockholders vote on the proposed sale of the company's passenger car division to Ford.

Jerusalem New centrist party chooses its candidates for Israel's parliamentary elections May 17; other parties completing their lists during the week.

Bonn, Germany Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder meets Czech premier Milos Zeman.

London Monica Lewinsky begins a book tour of England, which lasts until March 25, with a book-signing appearance at Harrods department store.

London Start of three-day "NATO at 50" conference, with senior figures from NATO and its member countries.

Colombo, Sri Lanka British ceramic trade delegation, comprising 30 companies, visits. Through March 12.

Updates with U.S. and other events

Paris NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana visits, meets President Jacques Chirac and Defense Minister Alain Richard.

London 50th anniversary of the Commonwealth.

New York Global videoconference to eliminate violence against women, with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

New York Briefing on urgency for United States to pay back United Nations' dues.

Tuesday, March 9:

Rome Iran's President Mohammad Khatami visits. Through March 11.

Tokyo Former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, the U.S. coordinator on North Korea, visits. Leaves Tokyo on Wednesday.

London The Metropolitan Police launches a campaign to recruit Asians, in the wake of a report noting the force is wracked by racism.

Kalutara, Sri Lanka Start of trial of <u>LTTE</u> suspects in assault case of former rebel leader-turned-politician Douglas Devananda.

Paris Verdict expected in case of three ministers accused in AIDS deaths of people contaminated with tainted blood during transfusions.

London Britain unveils its annual budget.

St. John's, Antigua Parliamentary elections. Opponents of the Bird family dynasty, which has governed the Caribbean island of Antigua like a fiefdom for most of the past 40 years, use elections to raise anew questions of corruption and mismanagement.

Washington Federal Trade Commission opens antitrust case against Intel.

Wednesday, March 10:

Dharmsala and New Delhi, India Commemorations of the 40th anniversary of the failed uprising that resulted in the Dalai Lama fleeing Tibet.

Belfast, Northern Ireland British government's target date for handover of some powers to new local administration for Northern Ireland, the goal of the April 1998 peace agreement.

Bonn, Germany Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Slovak prime minister Mikulas Dzurinda, first meeting of German and Slovak government leaders.

Beverly Hills, California Milken Institute's annual global conference on the world economy.

Thursday, March 11:

New Delhi "Do Economic Sanctions Work?" a lecture by D. Fred Bergsten, director of Washington D.C.'s Institute for International Economics.

Bucharest, Romania The Presidents of Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey on two-day meeting in the mountain resort of Sinaia, to discuss boosting political and trade relations, as well as security issues in the Balkans.

Brisbane, Australia Queensland Supreme Court hears multimillion-dollar claim by London-based mercenary firm Sandline International against the government of Papua New Guinea, which it accuses of nonpayment of a contract.

Updates with U.S. and other events

Friday, March 12:

Independence, Missouri Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland formally join NATO in a ceremony in the city where President Harry Truman announced the formation of the alliance 50 years ago.

Katmandu, Nepal Delegates from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh hold the first South Asian neurosurgical congress. Through March 14.

Liberec, Czech Republic Celebrations of Czech admission into NATO, attended by top Czech politicians and ambassadors of member countries of the alliance.

Saturday, March 13:

Reinhartshausen, Germany Informal meeting of European Union foreign ministers.

Nuwar Eliya, Sri Lanka Programming Committee of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation meets to prepare for foreign ministers meeting. March 14.

Sunday, March 14:

Wellington, New Zealand Britain's Princess Anne visits. Through March 18.

Tokyo Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh visits. Through March 17.

Load-Date: March 5, 1999



Sri Lanka; vicious circle of raids and repression

Guardian Weekly December 23, 1984

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Section: LE MONDE; Pg. 8

Length: 1587 words

Byline: By Paskal Cheret

Dateline: COLOMBO, December 9/10

Body

In the Colombobound coach taking a group of tourists, just off a plane that had put down on the landing strip surrounded by coconut plantations, someone questioned the guide: "Last year, my tourist agency got me to call off my trip. Have your problems been sorted out this year?"

"Oh yes," answered the man, his face lighting up with that easy storybook smile of the Sri Lankan. "Oh yes, we took our revenge." Then, seeing the stunned expressions of the Westerners, he added: "It's normal. The Tamils kill our soldiers, so we kill them in turn."

The perfumed paradisiacal Zeylan that Marco Polo visited, which became Sri Lanka in the 1972 Constitution, suffers from a problem that the passage of years has no blurred. Two ethnic groups live side by side in mutual hatred. Some 2,000 years ago, the Sinhalese, an Aryan people from the north west of India, settled down in the south, west and centre of the island, while Dravidian Tamils, who came roughly about the same time from southern India, got a foothold in the north and east. The settlement of these two peoples was carried out at the expense of the indigenous aboriginal Veddas, whom the Tamils and the Sinhalese massacred. Before the first colonies were set up, relations between the Tamil (Hindu) kingdom in southern India and its Sinhala (Buddhist) neighbour were not bad.

Applying the policy of "divide and rule", the British in the 19th century favoured the Tamil minority and proceeded to import Tamil indentured labour recruited in southern India. That was when hatred of the Tamils began to grow among the tiny Sinhala population. In 1948, however, independence seemed to give the Sinhalese their revenge. Sinhala was proclaimed the official language. The state favoured the access of the majority ethnic group to universities, the police and the army, and the conflict between the two communities boiled up. Even recognition -- in 1977 -- of Tamil as the second official language failed to mollify the Tamils.

Clashes prompted the army to deploy troops in the north "to protect civilians", and the cycle of bombings and reprisals began. Young Tamils from the Jaffna district showed open resistance to what they termed the "occupation army": their aim was to set up *Eelam*, an independent Tamil state. More and more acts of violence and operations were committed against the police. The guerrillas claim to be "freedom fighters". Young Tamils are opposed to the "excessively moderate" stance of MPs belonging to the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF).

Today, many underground groups are fighting for the "Tamil nation". Not all of them are for the terrorism, but many of those who once criticised and armed struggle espoused it when they realised that neither the parliamentarians

nor the "legalists" were furthering their claims. While the pogroms of July 1983 helped to unite the Tamil population in their rejection of the government's authority, the militant groups are having problems working together and hammering out a common programme. Various attempts at unification have so far all failed. It is hard to say which group has the broadest support, but the present success of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) stems from the fact that they are the best organised and most effective.

The <u>LTTE</u>, which was declared illegal in 1977, was founded in 1972 by a group of young Tamils headed by V. Pira Bakharan, who gave it the emblem of the animal symbolising the Tamils' past. So the independence struggle became the war waged by the tiger against the lion personifying the Sinhala state.

A Liberation Tiger told me: "Our struggle sets Jaffna, which is Marxist and a friend of India, against Colombo which has become a base of American imperialism and is turning to China for help. Eelam will be a socialist state where human and individual liberties will be guaranted and where all forms of oppression and exploitation will be abolished. Eelam will be a neutral, nonaligned state, friendly towards India."

The Tigers are banking on weapons captured in clashes or looted from military depots to equip their "army". I tried, unsuccessfully, to find out more.

"Do you receive aid and, if so, from which countries?"

"It's too dangerous to reveal. The entire population in the north wants the army to withdraw: it's not our army; it doesn't protect us, it kills us."

The attacks on the security forces have set up a vicious cycle of reprisals. The guerrillas say: "So long as the army stays, we'll kill soldiers." To which the Sri Lankan security minister (Lalith Athulathmudali) replies: "So long as there are troubles, the army will stay put."

The people of Jaffna are solidly united, whatever their religion, behind the "cause". They resort to all kinds of "civil" tactics such as mourning days, boycotts and strikes, while the Tigers mine the roads. The Jaffna citizens' committee asked the government for a three-month moratorium without the army, but to no avail. It is a dialogue of the deaf between Jaffna and Colombo.

No tourist today ventures to the north of the island. Diplomatic staff avoid it and consulates have recalled to the capital peace-corps workers and administrative personnel. Jaffna looks like a besieged town -- a truck in flames at a crossroads, a big shop pitted with shell fragments, churches and Buddhist temples in ruins. At nightfall, when military convoys rumble through the town, shops put up their shutters and people hide behind a tree, a wall or look down. "The reason the soldiers are going so fast," a passerby whispered in my ear, "is they're afraid."

Here the army can arrest anybody any time. It opens fire at will."Since we could be killed anywhere and any time, we might as well fight, "a resident said. At the Jaffna railway station, soldiers with guns in their hands patrol on the lookout for possible terrorists.

Studying at Jaffna University, one of the best universities in Asia, has become more than difficult. Some active sympathisers of Eelam have dropped out and are living secretly in their villages or are trying to flee to India. Others are getting in touch with the Tamil communities in the centre of the island to try to win them over to the "cause". They are taking advantage of the extreme poverty and the disastrous situation of the Tamils working in the tea plantations; the Tigers are trying to recruit them and win the sympathies of the younger members.

In the north, far from foreign tourists and observers, the simmering guerrilla violence is threatening to boil up into a fullscale civil war. There have been renewed clashes between the two communities since April. The summer was particularly trying for civilians in the Jaffna peninsula.

At Valvettiturai, on August 4, sailors from the Sri Lankan navy were involved in a clash with fishermen in which two sailors and a policeman were killed. A short time later, army tanks and jeeps moved into the community and ordered all young men between the ages of 18 and 25 to come out with their identity cards in their hands or risk

Sri Lanka; vicious circle of raids and repression

being killed. The men, taken away in military trucks, have not been heard of since. Then the destruction of the town began.

Valvettiturai, a coastal town which has given the island several revolutionary heroes, is also the place where the leader of the Tigers was born. Is this why the army came down so hard on it? The chairman of the citizens' committee says: "Valvettiturai and the neighbouring villages have been martyred and suffer the hatred and vengeance of the soldiers."

One morning in September, in a small village in the north, a crowd shrieked their grief and anger. During the night, a young woman had been killed in her sleep by a shell fired from one of the navy ships lying a few miles offshore. "It's not the first time that the navy has fired blindly killing innocent people," said a witness.

On September 11, a bus carrying 46 passengers, all Tamils, was hijacked by a commando of six men, two wearing uniform. Mrs K., her daughter and her two granddaughters survived the massacre that took the lives of 16 people. "Before the people sitting up front were made get down," she recalled, "the men asked if there were any Sinhalese in the bus, and then they told us: 'You have killed our soldiers, we're going to kill you.' One by one the passengers were led behind the trees and shots were heard. One of the attackers said: 'There's no more ammunition left, what shall we do?' They then ordered the <u>women</u> to follow them. I know some who didn't dare go back to their homes for they were ashamed of what had happened to them. When one of the <u>women</u> wanted to take my daughter away, she screamed: 'Jesus, Jesus, help me.' The man hurt her arm, but let her go. We walked for a long time in the jungle and found those who had managed to flee. We didn't talk, we left behind the bodies of our brothers, without being able to do anything for them."

When young Tamils hear such stories, they are tempted to join the Tigers. Vengeance calls for vengeance, and the moderation of their elders seems out of place to them. It remains to be seen whether the entire population is ready to join the struggle. In Jaffna, everybody tells you: "All the Tamils want to be independent." But at what cost? Have not the deaths of hundreds of innocent people since the start of the clashes been a deterrent? One student answered me unhesitatingly: "No. We are militarily and morally ready to face a civil war. Alone, or with the help of others, we'll proclaim Eelam one day."



<u>HUMAN RIGHTS-SRI LANKA: PROMISING JUSTICE, GOVT SEEKS IMAGE</u> CHANGE

IPS-Inter Press Service
December 9, 1996, Monday

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Length: 792 words

Byline: By Mohan Samarasinghe

Dateline: COLOMBO, Dec. 9

Body

Sri Lanka, often accused by international human rights groups of sweeping rights violations, plans to build a memorial to the victims of political violence and rights abuses during the recent past.

To be called the "Shrine of the Innocents", the foundation for the monument will be laid tomorrow on International Human Rights Day.

It will acknowledge that "we have all been guilty" for the countless men, <u>women</u> and children who have been killed in the past two decades, said government minister Mangala Samaraweera, who heads a campaign for lasting ethnic harmony.

Sri Lanka's human rights woes began in the early 1970s when hundreds of thousands of youth were killed by government troops during a crack-down on members of a so-called left-wing rebel group, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP).

Then again in the late 1980s, troops and pro-government death squads abducted and killed suspected JVP activists following another uprising by the leftist insurgents, who themselves went on a rampage killing hundreds of government supporters and security forces personnel.

The uprising and its subsequent suppression paved the way for numerous personal vendettas where an unknown number of people -- including 38 school children from a rural village called Embilipitiya -- fell victims to thugs and those with political influence.

Also, more than 50,000 people have been killed in a 13-year-old war being waged against the state by separatist minority Tamil guerrillas in this predominantly Sinhalese island nation, according to the government.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) guerrillas, who are fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east, say that a much larger number -- most of who were Tamil -- have been killed.

"The monument will strive to transform the painful memories and the emotionally frozen frustrations of this catastrophic past into a hopeful present and future of reconciliation," the project's organizers said in a statement.

"It is expected that this monument will not kindle self-pity and provoke anger and hatred, but on the contrary, it will only germinate a sense of sadness that is capable of ameliorating the meaning of life and being."

HUMAN RIGHTS- SRI LANKA: PROMISING JUSTICE, GOVT SEEKS IMAGE CHANGE

The monument will be part of a bigger complex to be located near Sri Lanka's Parliament at Sri Jayewardenepura, which will also include a museum and an archival centre.

But the government says major strides have been taken of late to restore the country's human rights image.

This year it established a permanent Human Rights Commission to handle public complaints on abuses. A separate state-run Human Rights Task Force already monitors reported rights violations by security forces involved in fighting the Tamil guerrillas.

Also, Sri Lanka has agreed to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, making it possible for people to make individual representations on rights violations to the Human Rights Committee in Geneva, if they fail to get desired results locally.

But the London-based human rights group Amnesty International in August accused the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga of turning a blind eye to widespread violations, including extrajudicial executions, disappearances and torture.

Amnesty said the government was trying to justify such violations in the context of its long separatist war, but this was unacceptable.

Kumaratunga's government has denied the charge, arguing Sri Lanka's human rights record has improved tremendously since it came to power in 1994. Kumaratunga ran for president on a platform of peace, vowing to stamp out human rights abuses.

The Foreign Ministry responded to Amnesty's charge with a statement which said: "There has been, in recent times, a qualitative change of attitude on the part of the international community from the negative attitude which prevailed in the past, with regard to the commitment of the government to promote and protect human rights."

The government, having pledged to improve the tarnished human rights record of its security forces, recently brought charges against seven soldiers and two policemen for the reported raping and killing of a Tamil schoolgirl and murdering her mother, brother and a neighbor who came looking for her.

"We have brought this case before the court. Justice will be done," Professor Gamini Lakshman Peiris, Sri Lanka's Justice Minister, told reporters in Colombo.

Peiris promised that none enjoyed immunity from the law, which would track down human rights abusers and punish them. "Nothing is as important to this government as the need to uphold that principle in its pristine integrity," he said.

And according to Minister Samaraweera, "At least at the moment, human rights abuses are the exception and not the rule."

Load-Date: December 10, 1996



Associated Press International October 10, 2000; Tuesday

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Section: International news

Length: 7921 words

Byline: DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of the matriarch of Sri Lankan politics cast a pall over parliamentary elections Tuesday that could determine the course of the nation's 17-year civil war.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority Tamils. She hopes to win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war.

Many Sri Lankans went to the polls with peace on their minds, hoping the election would help stop the killing here.

By the end of the day, however, they were stunned by news that Kumaratunga's mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike who 40 years ago became the world's first *female* prime minister had died of a heart attack shortly after casting her ballot.

Bandaranaike, 84, was first elected prime minister July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India. She regained the office for a third time in 1994, but retired in August to let Kumaratunga appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections to help the battle against the rebels.

Kumaratunga issued no comment on her mother's death.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island nation off the southern tip of India, Tamil Tiger rebels shelled an administrative center in Jaffna, a northern city that has been under siege for years.

Reports from Jaffna, the center of the Tamil war, said 15 to 20 shells fell around the main administrative building before voting started. The army also discovered a time-activated bomb at the city's bus station shortly before polling started. No casualties were reported in either incident.

The <u>Tamil Tigers</u>' quest for an independent homeland for the nation's 3.2 million Tamils has claimed about 63,000 lives.

Kumaratunga hopes her seven-party coalition can win the two-thirds majority of legislative seats needed to pass the constitution. The coalition failed to pass the draft constitution in August.

The race Tuesday was primarily between the two main parties: Kamaratunga's People's Alliance and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party. A record 5,477 candidates were vying for 225 seats in parliament in the election.

Just after the polls closed, the two leading parties began leveling accusations of vote-rigging, violence and slayings. The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence urged the Elections Commissioner to annul the votes in at least 210 of the 9,500 polling centers.

"The nature and extent of violations have been so widespread and serious as to render the final outcome in these areas utterly meaningless," the center said in a statement.

Reports from around the country indicated widespread problems at polling booths.

The United National Party accused Kumaratunga's People's Alliance of shooting and killing two party supporters at Anuradhapura and Matale, 160 kilometers (100 miles) and 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of Colombo. Police confirmed the death in Anuradhapura. The shooting in Matale could not be immediately verified.

The voting was preceded by two attacks that left three people dead including the 6-year-old daughter of a ruling-party official and nine wounded, police said.

Two members of Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance were dragged out of their vehicles near Kandy after midnight and beaten to death, police officer Sanath Happugale said by telephone. The area is 90 kilometers (55 miles) east of the capital, Colombo.

In the second incident, a grenade was thrown into the house of the People's Alliance vice chairman of a southern village council in Elpitiya, killing his 6-year-old daughter.

The fatalities brought the total number of people killed in election violence to 65 since campaigning started five weeks ago.

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On the Net:

Tamil rebels: http://www.eelamweb.com

Sri Lankan government: http://www.priu.gov.lk

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve murders and the untimely death of the matriarch of national politics cast a pall over Sri Lanka's parliamentary elections Tuesday.

Many Sri Lankans went to the polls with peace on their minds, hoping the legislative vote would lead to the end of the country's bloody 17-year civil war.

By the end of the day, however, they were stunned by news that Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who 40 years ago became the world's first *female* prime minister, had died of a heart attack shortly after casting her ballot.

Bandaranaike, 84, was first elected prime minister July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India. She regained the office for a third time in 1994, but retired in August to let her daughter, current President Chandrika Kumaratunga, appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections to help boost the battle against the Tamil separatists, called the *Tamil Tigers*.

The rebels' quest for an independent homeland has claimed some 63,000 lives and displaced another 1 million Sri Lankans since the war began.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island nation off the southern tip of India, Tamil Tiger rebels shelled an administrative center in Jaffna, a northern city which has been under siege for years.

Reports from Jaffna, the center of the ongoing Tamil war, said 15 to 20 shells fell around the main administrative building before voting started. The army also discovered a time-activated bomb at the city's bus station shortly before polling started. No casualties were reported in either incident.

Kumaratunga regards the election as a referendum on a proposed new constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's regions, including the north and east, where separatists are fighting for a homeland for the minority Tamils. She hopes her seven-party coalition can win the two-thirds majority of legislative seats needed to pass it.

With the constitution, Kumaratunga hopes to win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and bring an end to the war.

The race was primarily between the two main parties: Kamaratunga's People's Alliance and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party. A record 5,477 candidates were vying for 225 seats in parliament in the election.

Reports from around the country indicated widespread problems at polling booths.

"At least 20 of our supporters have been either harassed and assaulted in several parts of the country," said Chinthaka Perera, a People's Freedom Front spokesman. The party emerged as the third-largest vote puller in the December presidential election.

At least six officials of Kumaratunga's People's Alliance in the eastern Ampara area were chased out of polling stations, said party spokesman Ariyasinghe, who uses only one name.

Elsewhere, two members of Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance were dragged out of their vehicles near Kandy after midnight and beaten to death, police officer Sanath Happugale said by telephone. The area is 90 kilometers (56 miles) east of the capital, Colombo. In a second incident, a grenade was thrown into the house of the People's Alliance vice chairman of a southern village council in Elpitiya, killing his 6-year-old daughter.

The fatalities brought the total number of people killed in election violence to 64 since campaigning started five weeks ago.

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Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the world's first *female* prime minister, died of a heart attack Tuesday after voting in parliamentary elections, a government spokeswoman said. She was 84.

Bandaranaije had retired last month to let her daughter, President Chandrika Kumaratunga, appoint a hard-liner in the fight against Tamil separatists ahead of the elections.

Bandaranaike had gone to her home town, Gampaha, 22 miles (35 kilometers) east of Colombo, to cast her vote. She died on the way home, spokeswoman Kusum Rodrigo said.

"I believe it is time for me to quietly withdraw from the humdrum of busy political life, to a more tranquil and quiet environment," Bandaranaike said upon her retirement Aug. 10, ending four decades of political life.

Born Sirimavo Ratwatte on April 17, 1916, Bandaranaike was a member of one of this Indian Ocean island's wealthiest families. In 1940, she married Soloman Dias Bandaranaike, a senior politician in the United National Party that was governing Sri Lanka, then called Ceylon.

Her husband later broke away to form his own Sri Lanka Freedom Party and was elected prime minister in 1956. A deranged Buddhist monk assassinated him three years later.

Bandaranaike was transformed from shy housewife into a political dynamo. She campaigned for her husband's party in the 1960 elections and became its leader.

She was elected the first woman head of government on July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became India's first woman prime minister. Her election was so unusual that newspapers weren't sure what to call her.

"There will be need for a new word. Presumably, we shall have to call her a Stateswoman," London's Evening News wrote July 21. "This is the suffragette's dream come true.

In Sept. 1961 at the Neutral Summit Talks in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, she made history by being the first national leader to say she was speaking "as a woman and a mother."

Bandaranaike and Indira Gandhi had a strong personal rapport. Both lost their husbands at a young age and came from upper class families.

Bandaranaike governed until 1965, lost the next elections, then regained power in 1970.

Reflecting a shift toward the left, Bandaranaike ordered the U.S. Peace Corps out of the country in 1970 and closed the Israeli Embassy.

In May 1972, Bandaranaike made the country a republic. During her second term she nationalized private companies, church schools and newspapers and banned imports.

She used the military to crush a 1971 insurrection by Marxist rebels, and up to 20,000 are believed to have died.

Parliament expelled her in 1980, accusing her of misusing power while prime minister, and banned her from office for seven years. Her civic rights were restored in 1986, and she narrowly lost the election for the new, more powerful post of president in 1988.

Suffering from diabetes and a foot problem that put her in a wheelchair, Bandaranaike reduced her political activities.

In 1993, Kumaratunga took over the party's leadership and was elected president a year later. She appointed her mother prime minister, now a mostly ceremonial post lacking administrative powers but carrying political clout with the people.

Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the world's first **<u>female</u>** prime minister, died of heart attack Tuesday after voting in parliamentary elections. She was 84.

The day also marked the widow's 60th wedding anniversary.

Bandaranaike had retired in August to let her daughter, President Chandrika Kumaratunga, appoint a hard-liner in a bid to boost the government's 17-year fight against Tamil separatists ahead of Tuesday's elections.

Bandaranaike had gone to her hometown, Gampaha, 35 kilometers (22 miles) east of Colombo, to vote. She suffered a heart attack in her car on her way home after casting her ballot, and was pronounced dead after being taken to a nursing home, said government spokeswoman Kusum Rodrigo.

"I think the entire nation has lost its mother," said Alavi Mowlana, a government minister for local affairs. "I cannot believe that she is no more."

Bandaranaike resigned on Aug. 10, suffering from diabetes and other ailments. She told the nation that her daughter needed someone more capable of pushing proposals to end the civil war, which has claimed some 63,000 lives since 1983.

"I believe it is time for me to quietly withdraw from the humdrum of busy political life, to a more tranquil and quiet environment," Bandaranaike had said in a letter upon her retirement, ending four decades of political life.

She was elected the first woman head of government on July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became India's first woman prime minister.

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In Sept. 1961 at the Neutral Summit Talks in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, she made history by being the first leader to say she was speaking "as a woman and a mother."

She governed until 1965, lost the next elections, then regained power in 1970.

"She knew her priorities very well and had a foresight," Jehan Perera, a Sri Lankan political analyst, told The Associated Press after Bandaranaike's resignation.

"She knew keeping good relations with big neighbor India was very crucial for a small country like ours."

Shifting toward the left, Bandaranaike ordered the United States Peace Corps out in 1970 and closed the Israeli Embassy.

In May 1972, Bandaranaike made the country a republic. During her second term, she nationalized private companies and banned imports. She used the military to crush a 1971 insurrection by Marxist rebels, and up to 20,000 were believed to have died.

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Suffering from diabetes and a knee problem that put her in a wheelchair, Bandaranaike reduced her political activities.

In 1993, Kumaratunga took over the party's leadership and when elected president a year later, she appointed her mother prime minister, a position that has become largely ceremonial.

Tamil Tiger rebels shelled a main government building in Jaffna and a time-activated bomb was found near a main bus station Tuesday as voters across this island nation held parliamentary elections that many hope will lead to the end of the 17-year civil war.

About five to 20 shells fell around the administrative center in Jaffna, the main city in the battle zone, shortly before voting began at 7 a.m. (1000 GMT) Two shells fell just 300 meters (100 feet) from the building, but local reporters there said there were no casualties.

"It looks like the rebels want to scare people so that they can't vote," said a police officer who responded to a phone call. He refused to comment further.

Jaffna, the former rebel capital about 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of Colombo, has been under siege by the Tamil separatists for years.

Nationwide, more than 12 million people were eligible to vote in this South Asian nation of 18.6 million off the southern tip of India. A record 5,477 candidates were running for 225 seats in Parliament.

Army troops were standing by in anticipation of rebel attacks or clashes between the two main parties: President Chandrika Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party.

Many residents have stocked food and fuel, anticipating the usual post-election violence between political factions.

Voting was to end at 1000 GMT and early results were expected by 1600 GMT.

In Jaffna, the army on early Tuesday discovered the bomb set to go off 22 minutes after the polls opened in a deserted house opposite the city's main bus station. Bomb disposal squad defused the bomb.

"It could have been a real huge tragedy," military spokesman Brig. Sanath Karunaratne told The Associated Press. "There were more than 100 people at the bus stop."

In three other attacks across the nation, three people, including the 6-year-old daughter of a ruling party official, were killed and nine others wounded, police said.

Two members of the Peoples' Alliance were dragged out of their vehicles near Kandy early Tuesday and beaten to death, police officer Sanath Happugale said. The area is 90 kilometers (56 miles) east Colombo.

In the southern village of Elpitiya, a grenade was thrown into the house of the local official of the ruling party.

Dantha Hewayitharana escaped, but his daughter, Upekshika Saushalya, was killed.

In the southern town of Matara, unidentified assailants threw grenades late Monday at supporters of a key Kumaratunga ally, Media Minister Mangala Samaraweera. Nine people were wounded.

The fatalities brought the number of people killed in election related violence to 64 since official campaigning started five weeks ago.

Kumaratunga regards the election as a referendum on a proposed new constitution that would give more power to the regions, including the north and east where separatists are fighting for a homeland for the Tamils, who are outnumbered 3-1 by the Sinhalese ethnic group.

The 55-year-old president hopes to win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and bring an end to the war that has claimed more than 63,000 lives.

Kumaratunga failed to push the new constitution through Parliament in August. She hopes Tuesday's vote will give her Peoples' Alliance enough seats to command the two-thirds majority needed to change the constitution. Her party had a one-seat majority in the previous Parliament.

Kumaratunga, who survived an assassination attempt Dec. 18 but was blinded in one eye, has pursued a tough military campaign against the Tigers. The rebels had helped to put her in power in the 1984 presidential election.

In Colombo, Damayanthi Ratnaveera said she came out to vote early because she feared violence later in the day.

"I finished my morning cooking and came out to vote," she said. "Who knows what is going to happen later in the day."

Election was not held in the rebel-held areas, but polling stations were open on the edges of these areas.

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: http://www.eelamweb.com

Sri Lankan government: http://www.priu.gov.lk

Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the world's first <u>female</u> prime minister, died of heart attack Tuesday after voting in parliamentary elections, a government spokeswoman said.

Bandaranaike had retired at age of 84 last month to let her daughter, President Chandrika Kumaratunga, appoint a hard-liner in a bid to boost the government's 17-year fight against Tamil separatists ahead of the parliamentary elections Tuesday.

Bandaranaike had gone to her home town Gampaha, 35 kilometers (22 miles) east of Colombo, to vote. She died on her way home after casting her vote.

Government spokeswoman Kusum Rodrigo confirmed her death.

"We are confirming that she is no more," Rodrigo said.

As 45,000 policemen and village militiamen guarded ballot boxes across the country, few violence-weary Sri Lankans showed up early Tuesday for the parliamentary elections considered a referendum on plans to end the country's 17-year-old civil war.

The violence that had marred five weeks of campaigning continued Tuesday. Three people, including a politician's 6-year-old daughter, were killed in two attacks hours before voting began at 7 a.m. (0100 GMT), police said.

Two members of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's People's Alliance were dragged out of their vehicle near Kandy and beaten to death early Tuesday, police officer Sanath Happugale said.

The members were returning to the capital, Colombo, after election work in Kandy, about 90 kilometers (56 miles) east of Colombo.

In Elpitiya in southern Sri Lanka, a grenade was thrown into the house of another People's Alliance official, Happugale said.

The official escaped, but his daughter, Upekshika Saushalya, was killed, Happugale said.

The fatalities brought the number of people killed in election-related violence to 64 since official campaigning began.

"I am not going to rush and vote. Let me see how things develop," said Justine Guruge, a store owner in the posh Horton Place residential district in Colombo.

About 12 million of the island's 18.6 million citizens were eligible to vote for 5,477 candidates running for 225 seats in Tuesday's election. Voting was to close at 4 p.m. (1000 GMT) and preliminary results were expected shortly after.

The vote is seen as crucial to the future of the Tamils, who are outnumbered 3-1 by the Sinhalese ethnic group.

Kumaratunga regards the election as a referendum on a proposed new constitution that would give more power to the regions, including the north and east where separatists are fighting for a Tamil homeland.

The 55-year-old president hopes to win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and bring an end to the war which has claimed more than 63,000 lives and added an extra strand of instability to an already restless, newly nuclearized region.

Kumaratunga failed to push the new constitution through Parliament in August. She hopes Tuesday's vote will give her Peoples' Alliance enough seats to command the two-thirds majority needed to change the constitution.

At the polling stations, army troops were standing by in case of any Tamil rebel attack or clashes between the main two parties: Kumaratunga's party and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party.

In Colombo, activity at polling stations was light in the morning because many residents, worried about violence, preferred to wait. Many residents have stocked food and fuel, anticipating the usual post-election violence between political factions and the army's subsequent imposition of a curfew.

Many residents monitored the radio for news of any violence before leaving home.

"This is just a precaution, I don't want to get into trouble," said Vidyatharan Wishwanatha, a physician. He said he would vote later if there were no reports of violence.

Security was especially tight in Jaffna, the main city in the battle zone, which has changed hands three times since 1983 and been reduced to a vast field of dilapidated buildings, caved-in roofs and walls pocked with bullet holes.

The government said Monday air force bombers knocked out a major rebel gun position 16 kilometers (10 miles) southeast of Jaffna, about 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of Colombo, to reduce the risk that rebels would fire artillery into the city on voting day.

Election was not held in the rebel-held areas, but polling stations were open on the edges of these areas.

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: http://www.eelamweb.com

Sri Lankan government: http://www.priu.gov.lk

"I believe it is time for me to quietly withdraw from the humdrum of busy political life, to a more tranquil and quiet environment," Bandaranaike had said in a letter upon her retirement on Aug. 10, ending four decades of political life.

She became the first woman head of government when she was elected on July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became India's first woman prime minister.

Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who 40 years ago became the world's first *female* prime minister, died of a heart attack Tuesday after voting in parliamentary elections. She was 84.

Bandaranaike regained the office for a third time in 1994 and retired in August to let her daughter, President Chandrika Kumaratunga, appoint a hard-liner to help boost the 17-year fight against Tamil separatists ahead of the elections.

Bandaranaike had gone to her hometown, Gampaha, 35 kilometers (22 miles) east of Colombo, to vote on Tuesday. She suffered a heart attack in her car on her way home, government spokeswoman Kusum Rodrigo said. She was taken to a nursing home, where she was pronounced dead.

The day also marked the widow's 60th wedding anniversary.

"I think the entire nation has lost its mother," said Alavi Mowlana, a government minister for local affairs. "I cannot believe that she is no more."

P.B. Puranegedara, a polling official at the school where Bandaranaike voted, said the former prime minister "smiled and sort of waved and left in her wheelchair" after casting her vote.

Bandaranaike is survived by three children: Kumaratunga; Anura Bandaranaike, a senior opposition candidate; and Senethra Bandaranaike, a philanthropist who is not involved in politics.

There was no immediate comment from Kumaratunga's office about her mother's death. Funeral arrangements had yet to be announced.

Bandaranaike resigned on Aug. 10, suffering from diabetes and other ailments. She told the nation her daughter needed someone more capable of pushing proposals to end the civil war, which has claimed some 63,000 lives since 1983.

"I believe it is time for me to quietly withdraw from the humdrum of busy political life, to a more tranquil and quiet environment," Bandaranaike had said in a letter upon her retirement, ending four decades of political life.

Born Sirimavo Ratwatte April 17, 1916, Bandaranaike was a member of one of this Indian Ocean island's wealthiest families. In 1940, she married Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, a senior politician in the United National Party, which was governing what was then called Ceylon.

Her husband later broke away to form his own Sri Lanka Freedom Party and was elected prime minister in 1956. A deranged Buddhist monk assassinated him three years later.

Bandaranaike was transformed from shy housewife into a political dynamo. She campaigned for her husband's party in the 1960 elections and became its leader.

She became the first woman head of government when she won elections July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became India's first *female* prime minister. Her election was so unusual that newspapers were unsure what to call her.

"There will be need for a new word. Presumably, we shall have to call her a Stateswoman," London's Evening News wrote July 21. "This is the suffragette's dream come true."

In Sept. 1961 at the Neutral Summit Talks in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, she made history by being the first leader to say she was speaking "as a woman and a mother."

She governed until 1965, lost the next elections, then regained power in 1970.

"She knew her priorities very well and had a foresight," Jehan Perera, a Sri Lankan political analyst, told The Associated Press after Bandaranaike's resignation.

"She knew keeping good relations with big neighbor India was very crucial for a small country like ours."

Shifting toward the left, Bandaranaike ordered the United States Peace Corps out in 1970 and closed the Israeli Embassy.

In May 1972, Bandaranaike made the country a republic. During her second term, she nationalized private companies and banned imports. She used the military to crush a 1971 insurrection by Marxist rebels, and up to 20,000 were believed to have died.

Parliament expelled her in 1980, accusing her of misusing power, and banning her from office for seven years. Her civic rights were restored in 1986, and she narrowly lost the election for the new, more powerful post of president in 1988.

Suffering from diabetes and a knee problem that put her in a wheelchair, Bandaranaike reduced her political activities.

In 1993, Kumaratunga took over the party's leadership and when elected president a year later, she appointed her mother prime minister, a position that has become largely ceremonial.

Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who 40 years ago became the world's first <u>female</u> prime minister, died of a heart attack Tuesday after voting in Sri Lanka's parliamentary elections. She was 84.

Bandaranaike regained the office for a third time in 1994. But she retired in August to let her daughter, President Chandrika Kumaratunga, appoint a hard-liner to help with the government's 17-year fight against Tamil separatists ahead of the elections.

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"I think the entire nation has lost its mother," said Alavi Mowlana, a government minister for local affairs. "I cannot believe that she is no more."

The day also marked the widow's 60th wedding anniversary.

A state funeral will be held Saturday at her ancestral home, Horagolla, Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka told a news conference after polls closed Tuesday. Wickramanayaka read excerpts from Bandaranaike's last wishes, in which she said she wanted to be buried next to her husband at Horagolla instead of cremated.

"I would like to see the completion of the children's hospital in Kandy," she wrote, referring to a district in central Sri Lanka. "In place of floral tributes, I would like the people to contribute to the hospital fund."

Wickramanayaka said the government had declared Friday and Saturday days of mourning and ordered the closure of all cinemas, liquor stores, bars and butcheries. He called on citizens to put up white flags to symbolize mourning.

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"I believe it is time for me to quietly withdraw from the humdrum of busy political life, to a more tranquil and quiet environment," Bandaranaike said upon her retirement, ending four decades of political life.

She was elected the first woman head of government on July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became India's first woman prime minister.

Born Sirimavo Ratwatte on April 17, 1916, Bandaranaike (pronounced bahn-duh-ruh-NY'-kuh) was a member of one of this Indian Ocean island's wealthiest families. In 1940, she married Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, a senior politician in the United National Party, which was governing what was then called Ceylon.

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Bandaranaike governed until 1965, lost the next elections, then regained power in 1970.

She kept a strong personal rapport with Indira Gandhi, both of whom had lost their husbands at a young age and came from upper-class families.

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As Sri Lankans waited for the results of an election that could lead to the end of a 17-year civil war, they grieved on Tuesday for Sirimavo Bandaranaike, or "Mrs. B," the matriarch of the nation's politics.

Shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, 84, the world's first *female* prime minister and mother of the president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, cast a pall over the parliamentary elections.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

The president, who lost an eye to a suicide bomber on Dec. 18, hopes the constitution will win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war, which has killed 63,000 people and displaced 1 million.

While Sri Lankans wait for the election results, they have been requested to fly white flags in honor of their former prime minister, affectionately known as "Mrs. B." She will be buried in a state funeral Saturday. Friday and Saturday have been declared days of mourning.

Bandaranaike was elected prime minister July 20, 1960, six years before Indira Gandhi became the first woman leader of India.

She regained the office for a third time in 1994 when her daughter appointed her prime minister, but retired in August to let Kumaratunga appoint a hard-liner ahead of the elections.

Bandaranaike was replaced by Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, who believes the rebels should be wiped out and that talks should only be held with moderate Tamils.

Voters at the school where Bandaranaike cast her ballot Tuesday shortly before dying of a heart attack commented on her "good fortune," rather than the ironic timing of her death. Sri Lankans, the majority of whom are believers of astrology, thought the stars had been on her side.

Tuesday also marked the widow's 60th wedding anniversary.

"She was a very lucky woman," said 48-year-old T.K.H. Peiris, a polling agent. "She had been sick so long, but it is amazing that she was able to cast her vote before she died."

The race Tuesday was primarily between the two main parties: Kamaratunga's People's Alliance and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party. A record 5,477 candidates were vying for 225 seats in parliament in the election.

Wickremesinghe has said that if his United National Party comes into power, it would immediately de-escalate the fighting in the northern Jaffna Peninsula and then negotiate with the rebels.

Several hours before news of Bandaranaike's death spread across this island nation off the southern tip of India, *Tamil Tigers* shelled an administrative center in Jaffna, which has been under siege since 1995.

Just after the polls closed, the two leading parties leveled accusations of vote-rigging.

The independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence urged the Elections Commissioner to annul the votes in at least 210 of the country's 9,500 polling centers.

The opening of the vote was preceded by two attacks that left three people dead, including a 6-year-old daughter of a ruling party official, police said.

The fatalities brought the total number of people killed in election violence to 66 since campaigning started five weeks ago.

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As Sri Lankans waited for the results of an election that could lead to the end of a 17-year civil war, they grieved on Tuesday for Sirimavo Bandaranaike, or "Mrs. B," the matriarch of the nation's politics.

A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's party at Ragama, northeast of the capital, police said. Police said the attack was politically motivated.

The government imposed a curfew in Colombo between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., (1500 GMT to 0000 GMT), confining residents to their homes.

Earlier, shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, 84, due to a heart attack. She was the world's first <u>female</u> prime minister and the mother of the current president, cast a pall over the parliamentary elections.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

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As Sri Lankans waited for the results of an election that could lead to the end of 17 years of civil war, they also grieved Tuesday for Sirimavo Bandaranaike, or "Mrs. B," the matriarch of the nation's politics.

Tens of thousands of people, including <u>women</u> in white sari and hundreds of saffron-robed Buddhist monks, grieved for Bandaranaike, 84, who died of a heart attack after casting her vote Tuesday.

A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's People's Alliance party at Ragama, 30 kilometers (19 miles) northeast of the capital, police said.

Police blamed the attack on political rivalry between Kumaratunga's party and that of her chief rival, the United National Party of former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

One of the wounded was in critical condition.

The government meanwhile imposed a curfew in Colombo between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m (1500 GMT to 0000 GMT).

Kumaratunga's party, the Peoples' Alliance, took an early lead in postal ballots, the Election Commission said.

The commission said it has counted 46,500 postal ballots until 2 a.m. Wednesday (2000 GMT Tuesday) and Peoples' Alliance have got 21,500 votes against 15,907 by the main opposition United National Party.

Postal votes come from government officials, military personnel or people who are in areas where they are not registered to vote. They generally do not provide an accurate prediction of the final result.

Earlier, shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, election-eve killings and the death of Bandaranaike, 84, the world's first <u>female</u> prime minister and mother of the president, Chandrika Kumaratunga, cast a pall over the parliamentary elections.

Kumaratunga, who did not issue a statement about her mother's death, sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

Final results were not expected until Wednesday.

The president, who lost an eye to a suicide bomber on Dec. 18, hopes the constitution will win over moderate Tamils, dim the appeal of the militants and bring an end to the war, which has killed 63,000 people and displaced 1 million.

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President Chandrika Kumaratunga's governing party took a small lead in early ballot counting Wednesday, as Sri Lankans waited for the final results of an election that could help bring the 17-year civil war to an end.

The Election Commission said it has counted 199,123 votes by 4 a.m. (2200 GMT). Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance won 92,833 votes, followed by chief rival Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party, which got 69,906 votes. Smaller parties got the remainder of the votes.

Nationwide, more than 12 million people were eligible to vote in this South Asian nation of 18.6 million off the southern tip of India. A record 5,477 candidates were running for 225 seats in Parliament.

The Commission also said it has counted 128,000 postal ballots with the Peoples' Alliance securing 60,608 against 46,922 by the United National Party.

Counting was slow as it is being done manually. The Election Commission said it was delaying counting in four of the country's 22 electoral districts after poll monitors called for balloting to be annulled due to fraud and violence.

A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, wounding 32 supporters of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's party at Ragama, northeast of the capital, police said. Police said the attack was politically motivated. The other votes were taken by smaller parties.

The government imposed a curfew in Colombo between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Earlier, a pall was cast over the elections by shelling by Tamil Tiger rebels, slayings and the death of former Prime Minister Srimavo Bandaranaike, 84, due to a heart attack. She was the world's first <u>female</u> prime minister and the mother of the current president. Kumaratunga did not issue a statement about her mother's death.

Kumaratunga sees the vote as a referendum on a proposed constitution that would give more power to Sri Lanka's north and east, where rebels are fighting for a homeland for the minority 3.2 million Tamils.

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UNITED NATIONS: CHILDREN AT WAR

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Body

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports some success in its battle against the military exploitation of minors as warring nations in Africa and Asia are changing their thinking thanks to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In its 54-page annual report "The Progress of Nations" released here, UNICEF says the Convention has been cited, both by the agency and by countries such as Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Rwanda and Afghanistan as a reson to prevent or minimize the exploitation of children in ongoing conflicts.

In Sri Lanka, the age of army recruitment was recently raised from 15 to 18, and the government used the Convention to resist army attempts to draft under-age youths.

The government of President Chandrika Kumaratunge has also vehemently condemned the recruitment of child soldiers by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) fighting a 13-year-old separatist war in northern Sri Lanka.

Sierra Leone has abided by the Convention in demobilizing child soldiers involved in the country's civil war and UNICEF has moved 1,500 young boys from Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire to civilian centers, to prevent their involvement in hostilities.

In what UNICEF calls "an extraordinary new role for the Convention," two rebel groups -- the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the South Sudan Independence Movement -- have agreed to abide by Convention principles to protect <u>women</u> and children.

"Treaties bind only ratifying countries, but in this case two internal contenders for political power have also accepted the Convention," UNICEF said.

For its part, UNICEF has applied the Convention to suspend assistance to education programs in parts of Afghanistan where fundamentalist Muslim groups have closed schools for girls.

The UNICEF study says that children in many nations continue to be victims of adults' wars, suffering loss of their parents, their homes, their childhood, their opportunity for education, their limbs and their lives to the machinery of violence.

"The Convention seeks to protect children from these worst manifestations of adult failure. A small beginning has been made," it says. The Convention, which came into force in the beginning of the 1990s, has been described as "the most rapidly accepted human rights treaty in history."

UNITED NATIONS: CHILDREN AT WAR

By the end of February this year, it had been ratified by 187 out of 193 governments. Only the Cook Islands, Oman, Somalia and the United Arab Emirates had neither signed nor ratified the Convention. Switzerland and the United States have signed, indicating their intention to ratify.

The Convention aims to bring about fundamental changes in laws, institutions, attitudes and eventually policies and practices relating to children worldwide.

"The process is inevitably a slow one, and the Convention is only six years old," says UNICEF. "But it is time to begin asking what practical effects it is having on the lives of children around the world."

Of the 43 countries who have submitted annual reports to UNICEF, 14 have said they have incorporated the Convention into their constitutions. And 35 of the 43 have passed laws or amended existing laws to conform with the Convention.

The Convention also obliges countries to meet children's needs for nutrition, health and education "to the maximum extent of available resources."

One measure of finding out whether the promises are kept, says UNICEF, is the National Performance Gap (NPG), which shows the difference between a country's actual level of progress and the expected level of progress for that country's income level.

The UNICEF report points out that its NPG table shows that some countries have achieved considerably more social progress than others at the same level of per capita gross national product (GNP). Honduras, for example, is doing better than Senegal, Zimbabwe better than Sudan, and Mongolia better than the Lao Republic, even though these pairs of countries have similar GNP per capita.

The Convention has also been cited for helping to prevent sexual exploitation of children and provide improved working conditions.

Sri Lankan parliamentarians, quoting the Convention, passed four amendments to strengthen laws related to child sex abuse, child labor and adoption. Similarly, the Philippines has taken measures to define and penalize child prostitution and trafficking.

Belgium and Germany recently extended their national jurisdiction in cases of child prostitution and pornography so that adults could be prosecuted for such crimes against children committed outside their national boundaries. They joined other countries such as Australia, Denmark, France, Japan, Norway, Sweden and the U.S. that have passed similar legislation.

UNICEF says the use of the Convention in court cases is still rare, although at least 16 countries say it can be, and sometimes has been, invoked in court.

Load-Date: June 12, 1996



Superstar set to propel anti-Rao combine to power in Indian state

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

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Byline: By M.G. Srinath

Dateline: Madras

Body

"Rajni" is a name that spells magic in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Every time it is mentioned at election meetings, people soar into raptures.

Rajni means film star Rajnikant in this movie-crazy state. For the adoring masses, he is a cross between Clark Gable and Jackie Chan with a touch of Jack Lemmon throw in.

Tamil Nadu is one of the six states where polling is due on Saturday to choose new deputies to the area legislature along with balloting to Parliament.

Rajnikant is not contesting the polls. But such is the charisma of this one-time bus conductor that he has become the pivot for the opposition combine to launch a campaign against the "corrupt and tyrannical rule" of Chief Minister Jayalalitha Jayaram.

Jayalalitha's All-India Dravida Munnetra Khazagham has a poll alliance with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party. Opposing them is a combine led by the Tamil regional Dravida Munnetra Kazhagham and Tamil Maanila Congress, consisting mainly of dissidents from Rao's party. The AlADMK is led by former filmstar turned politician Jayalalitha Jayaram.

Rajnikant spent the last two months on holidays in the United States. His physical absence from the election scene has done nothing to diminish his sway over the voters who welcomed him ecstatically on his return home early this week.

No election speech, no street corner soap box oratory for the opposition combine is complete without uttering Rajnikant's name. His ad-libbed songs and clips from his movies are usually shown at the meetings to garner support.

The opposition poll symbol is a bicycle. Tamil Nadu state is flooded with posters showing Rajnikant riding the vehicle, a shot from one of his recent blockbusters in which he plays a role of a milkman.

The tinsel world and politics over the years have become part of the same coin in the state. Tamil Nadu is home to a thriving movie industry.

Superstar set to propel anti-Rao combine to power in Indian state

The late M.G. Ramachandran, film star and mentor of Jayalalitha, for years dominated the political scene as the chief minister of the state.

MGR used to play the Robin Hood type of role. He usually transplanted these scenes into real life by donating a large part of his earnings to charities and in helping the poorest of the poor.

Now Rajnikant has filled in the gap - but with a difference. MGR never enacted roles that called for smoking a cigarette or having alcoholic drinks. He was always shown as the saviour of **women**.

One of Rajnikant's screen specialities is his manner of handling a cigarette or enjoying a drink.

Muthuvel Karunanidhi, president of the DMK party and movie script writer of standing, knows that he has no choice but to play a second fiddle to Rajnikant in a bid to ride back to power after five years.

Karunanidhi's government was dismissed by a presidential order in 1991 on its alleged links with the Sri Lanka Tamil guerrilla Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Then came the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991 during the last election campaign by an *LTTE* woman bomber.

Jayalalitha soon swept to power winning 164 seats in the 234-member legislature in an alliance with the Congress. DMK managed to win only two seats - one of them held by Karunanidhi.

The ruling alliance also won all the 39 seats in the state to the 545-member Lok Sabha.

The state Congress has now split following Rao's decision to continue with an alliance with Jayalalitha against the wishes of the local leaders.

There is an widespread resentment against the autocratic Jayalalitha administration which has repeatedly endured corruption charges. Rao justifies continuance of the alliance on the plea that "it is time tested and enduring".

The disenchantment against Jayalalitha is so widespread that several AIADMK ministers and candidates have been barred entry into many of the constituencies. Jayalalitha herself had to face missiles at one of her public meetings.

Jayalalitha warns people against voting Karunanidhi back to power by describing him as an "evil force, an enemy of the womenfolk and who afforded a free run in the state to the killers of Rajiv Gandhi." Karunanidhi denies the charge. dpa mgs vc

Load-Date: April 26, 1996



Media: To bear witness: Marie Colvin was determined to reveal the human tragedy of war. She nearly died doing so. But, as the world remembers more than 50 journalists killed last year, she tells Roy Greenslade why she will be back

The Guardian (London)
April 30, 2001

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Section: Guardian Media Pages, Pg. 4

Length: 1082 words

Byline: Roy Greenslade

Body

As the Sunday Times's brave war correspondent, Marie Colvin, rests before undergoing a delicate operation to save the sight of her left eye, it is sobering to reflect that this week also marks World Press Freedom Day.

It was inaugurated by the United Nations 10 years ago as a way of highlighting the risks taken by journalists struggling to exercise their freedom to tell the truth. Last year alone, more than 50 were killed across the globe and Colvin could so easily have added to the grim statistics recorded by the World Association of Newspapers (WAN).

She was, as she is the first to admit, lucky. Lucky to have survived so many conflicts. Lucky not to have died at the hands of Sri Lankan troops two weeks ago. Lucky to be able to fly away from so many countries which deny indigenous journalists the freedom to report.

Many of the people on WAN's list were murdered by enemies within their own countries, with Colombia and Russia having by far the worst body count. Colvin's case is somewhat different. She runs toward the sound of gunfire, putting her life on the line time after time in order, as she says with such sincerity it sounds nothing like a sanctimonious boast, "to bear witness."

Her trip to the Tamil enclave in the north of Sri Lanka in defiance of a government ban on visits by journalists was a classic example of her work. She aimed to speak to the <u>Tamil Tigers'</u> leadership to assess their political stance in the light of Norwegian-sponsored peace negotiations. But she also wanted to report on the humanitarian crisis in an area where 500,000 people - "civilians, all of them", she stresses - are living in cities turned to rubble, where aid agencies are barred from offering help, food and fuel are scarce and medicine is non-existent. It is a tribute to the Sunday Times, and a measure of its confidence in Colvin, that its editor John Witherow and foreign editor Sean Ryan backed her desire to go.

The conflict between the Singhalese and Tamils, in which 63,000 people have died since 1983, is one of the most under-reported of wars. No foreign reporter has managed to enter Tamil-held territory since the blockade began in 1995.

Media: To bear witness: Marie Colvin was determined to reveal the human tragedy of war. She nearly died doing so. But, as the world remembers more than 50 journ....

That Colvin got in was a testament to her determination and fitness: she walked 30 miles through jungle with her Tamil guides to slip past government lines. Ten days later, while trying to do the reverse journey, she ran into a government unit and, in the melee, got separated from the Tamil escort as she crawled into undergrowth.

"I was terrified," she admits, "more frightened than I've ever been before. This was a take-no-prisoners army. When I realised I was hit I didn't have any profound thoughts. I just kept thinking it was taking me an awfully long time to die." She then stood up and shouted "journalist, journalist", quickly realising that the troops she was facing were also "scared, hysterical and hyped-up".

Bleeding from injuries caused by grenade shrapnel to her left eye and chest, she was roughed up during her interrogation before receiving medical help, eventually reaching hospital in Colombo. From there, she was flown to New York via London, where her former husband, Daily Telegraph foreign correspondent Patrick Bishop, jumped aboard.

He was at her bedside when doctors confirmed what she had learned in Colombo: since the shrapnel entered the centre of her left eye, she will almost certainly be left, at best, with only peripheral vision. "I won't be blind-sided. I t's not so bad," she says almost casually from the comfort of her mother's house in Long Island.

Colvin was born and raised in New York, and studied marine biology at Yale before switching to major in English literature while working on the university's paper and becoming hooked on journalism.

After a year on a trade paper, she was hired by the international news agency UPI, working in New York and Washington before heading up the Paris bureau - "a grand name for a one-woman band", she recalls - which included covering the Middle East. While there, she acted as a stringer for the Sunday Times and in 1986, when the paper lost its renowned middle east correspondent David Blundy to the Sunday Telegraph, Colvin took his job. She acknowledges the black irony that a couple of years later Blundy was killed by crossfire in San Salvador.

Colvin made a success of that post, reporting well from Libya - where she got to know Colonel Gadafy, though not as well as he would have liked - and from the Lebanon. It was her reporting from Beirut which led her inevitably down the path of becoming a war correspondent.

Since then she has covered conflicts in the Balkans, Chechnya and, memorably, East Timor, where she famously helped to save the lives of 1,500 <u>women</u> and children besieged in a compound by Indonesian troops. She refused to leave them, waving goodbye to 22 journalist colleagues to stay on with an unarmed UN force and help highlight their plight by reporting to the world, in her paper and on global TV. The publicity was rewarded when they were evacuated to safety after four tense days.

This is the essence of Colvin's approach to reporting. She isn't interested in the politics, the strategy, the weaponry, only the effects on the people she regards as innocents. "These are people who have no voice," she says. "I feel I have a moral responsibility towards them, that it would be cowardly to ignore them. If journalists have a chance to save their lives, they should do so."

People, clearly, have not forgotten Colvin's courage. At the end of her Sunday Times report about her Sri Lankan experience, she wrote: "What I want most, as soon as I get out of hospital, is a vodka martini and a cigarette." Later that week, having moved briefly to New York's St Regis hotel, she was woken by a room service waiter bearing a tray with a huge bottle of vodka and all the necessary ingredients for her drink of choice. She says: "It had been fixed, God knows how, by the East Timor crowd, the people in the compound."

It is the only moment I detect any emotion in Colvin's voice. After a moment she tells me that although she has stared death in the face it won't stop her returning to the front line if the occasion demands.

That's why Thursday, World Press Freedom Day, is so important. It reminds us that journalism, proper journalism, Colvin's journalism, is still worth fighting for, even in a country where celebrity trivia dominates too many news pages.

Media: To bear witness: Marie Colvin was determined to reveal the human tragedy of war. She nearly died doing so. But, as the world remembers more than 50 journ....

Special report on World Press Freedom Day at www.mediaguardian.co.uk

Load-Date: April 30, 2001



The New York Times

December 13, 2000, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

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Byline: Compiled by Terence Neilan

Compiled by Terence Neilan

Body

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN: U.N. AIDES PULL OUT

Eight United Nations officials have left Kabul for security reasons, fearing a violent reaction if the organization goes ahead with an American and Russian request to hit Afghanistan with more sanctions. The proposed curbs include an arms embargo against the Taliban, without a similar ban on opposition forces. Barry Bearak (NYT)

SRI LANKA: READY FOR PEACE

The government announced that it was prepared to begin peace talks with the separatist <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, but rejected demands to lift an economic embargo on rebel-controlled areas. It also said there would be no immediate deescalation of the military campaign as a predicate for negotiations. Barry Bearak (NYT)

INDIA: PARLIAMENT TIE-UP ENDS

Seven days of paralysis in Parliament has ended with the nation's political parties agreeing to a debate about contentious plans to build a temple on the ruins of a destroyed mosque in Ayodhya. Opposition legislators have been furious with remarks by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, above, in support of the temple construction. Barry Bearak (NYT)

JAPAN: EMPEROR FOUND GUILTY

Closing a symbolic trial of Japan's World War II leaders, a mock tribunal found the late Emperor Hirohito guilty for his army's policy of systematically forcing Asian <u>women</u> into sexual slavery. "Superiors can be responsible for the acts of their subordinates if they'd known or should have known that these acts had been committed," said Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, one of four judges at the <u>Women</u>'s International War Crimes Tribunal. (AP)

KOREAS: NORTH AND SOUTH MEET

High-level government negotiators from South and North Korea met to set the tone for future relations between the two former adversaries. In Pyongyang, Unification Minister Pak Chae Kyu of South Korea told his counterpart, Chon Gum Jin, that there was a perception that North Korea was not improving relations as quickly as promised. Both sides will open full talks today. (AP)

EUROPE

BRITAIN: TIES TO NORTH KOREA

Britain and North Korea agreed to establish diplomatic relations, and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said the decision was "taken in recognition of the significant progress" in the dialogue between the two Koreas. In a sign of its opening up to the outside world, Pyongyang has this year already established formal ties with Canada, Italy and Australia. Warren Hoge (NYT)

TURKEY: U.S. CLOSES CONSULATES

The United States closed its consulates in Istanbul and the southern city of Adana for what an embassy official in Ankara said were security reviews. The official declined to say what led to the review or whether there had been a specific threat. The embassy remained open because it is considered more secure. American officials have expressed concern recently about possible attacks sponsored by the exiled Saudi Osama bin Laden, who Washington believes was behind the 1998 bombings of its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Douglas Frantz (NYT)

TURKEY: A POLICE PROTEST

About 3,000 policemen marched through Istanbul to protest the overnight ambush of a police bus that killed two officers and injured 12. Waving guns and chanting slogans, the police demanded better protection and tougher sanctions against criminals. The attack on the bus occurred in a neighborhood where the police clashed last week with protesters opposed to moving inmates to small-cell prisons from the current dormitory-style rooms in Turkish prisons. Douglas Frantz (NYT)

FRANCE: LAWYERS STRIKE

Courts ground to a virtual standstill as 35,000 lawyers staged a nationwide strike to demand more pay for providing legal aid to the poor. "It's the first time in history," said Francis Teitgen, a spokesman for Paris lawyers. Mr. Teitgen attacked the government for failing to offer more money and said Britain's budget for free legal advice was 10 times larger than France's. (Reuters)

SWITZERLAND: MAD COW MOVE

Reacting to the growing number of cases of mad cow disease in surrounding countries, Switzerland has banned the sale of meat and bone meal from its livestock. Such animal-based feed is suspected of spreading the disease to people. The ban, starting January, will affect some 100,000 tons of feed a year, most of which has been exported to Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. Elizabeth Olson (NYT)

GERMANY: HELP FOR IMMIGRANTS

Germany's commissioner for foreigners announced a \$282 million annual program for immigrants and said integration had been an area neglected in the past. The program puts special emphasis on language courses and measures for helping new arrivals, with migrants to be given a voucher for 600 hours of German lessons and tuition in living skills. Victor Homola (NYT)

THE AMERICAS

PERU: REBEL GIVES UP

Capt. Ollanta Humala Tasso of the army, who mutinied and fled into the Andes with a band of soldiers two months ago to protest the corruption of the armed forces, said he is giving up his rebellion. The officer has requested a meeting with the interim president, Valentin Paniagua, and said he is ready to face justice. Clifford Krauss (NYT)

TRINIDAD: ELECTION VICTORY

Prime Minister Basdeo Panday's governing United National Congress gained a narrow victory in Trinidad's parliamentary election, but the opposition appeared set to begin a legal challenge. Mr. Panday's party won 19 seats and former Prime Minister Patrick Manning's People's National Movement gained 16 seats. But Mr. Manning said his party would file court documents challenging the candidacies of two Congress winners. (Reuters)

MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ: TROOPS WITHDRAWN

Iraqi troops have withdrawn from positions they took in a weekend incursion into a Kurd-controlled part of northern Iraq, Kurds in the region said. Kurdish factions have controlled most of northern Iraq since Baghdad was defeated in the 1991 gulf war. The Kurdish enclave is protected by American and British jets that enforce a no-flight zone over northern Iraq. No fighting was reported in the incursion. (Agence France-Presse)

AFRICA

GHANA: RUNOFF SET

The opposition candidate John Kufuor and John Atta Mills of the governing National Democratic Congress will meet on Dec. 28 in a runoff in the presidential election, the electoral commission said. Its chairman also gave the final results of the Dec. 7 election, in which no candidate won an outright majority. Mr. Kufuor of the New Patriotic Party polled 48.35 percent of the vote, with 44.85 percent for Mr. Mills. (Reuters)

BURUNDI: INTERNATIONAL AID

International donors meeting in Paris agreed to grant Burundi some \$440 million in relief, reconstruction and development aid, the World Bank announced. The announcement came at the close of a two-day conference led by South Africa's former president, Nelson Mandela. He has been mediating peace efforts in Burundi, laid waste after seven years of civil war. (Agence France-Presse)

IVORY COAST: COUNTING BALLOTS

President Laurent Gbagbo's Ivoirian Popular Front will be the dominant force in the new Parliament after Sunday's general election, but with no absolute majority will be forced to work with the former governing party. Latest results give the Front 91 seats in the 225-seat Parliament and the Democratic Party 70 seats. (Agence France-Presse)

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Map of Ghana.

Load-Date: December 13, 2000



MIDDLE EAST: ATTACK SHOWS NEW FACE IN PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE

IPS-Inter Press Service January 31, 2002, Tuesday

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Length: 1206 words

Byline: By N. Janardhan Dateline: DUBAI, Jan. 31

Body

The confirmation that the Jan. 27 suicide bomber in Jerusalem was a woman, a first in the Palestinian struggle for a homeland, has shown the world a new face in the Arab-Israeli conflict and raised fresh security concerns for Tel Aviv.

Thus far, Palestinian <u>women</u> have been fighting Israel as accomplices in bomb and gun attacks and plane hijackings.

They have not been the main figures in suicide missions, as in the case of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> in Sri Lanka or even that of 16-year-old Sana Muhaidli of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, who blew herself up in a 1984 car bomb attack on Israeli troops in then occupied southern Lebanon.

The bomber, 28-year-old Wafa Idris, is a member of Al Aqsa Brigades affiliated with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. She had treated many of her wounded community people as a Red Crescent paramedic and had herself had been struck thrice by Israeli rubber bullets.

The delay in the Palestinian claim on the Jan. 27 attack had led to speculation that radical groups were attempting a cover-up to keep future attacks by <u>women</u> under wraps. Idris' suicide bomb attack killed one Israeli and wounded dozens.

And if the Israeli police statement that the woman only wanted to plant a bag filled with explosives when she was blown to pieces is true, it provides resistance groups fodder to involve more <u>women</u> in future attacks.

Traditionally, the radical religious Palestinian groups have rarely emphasized <u>female</u> activists, but secular resistance forces have had <u>women</u> activists in their ranks. Two radical groups -- Hamas and Islamic Jihad -- have suggested that an Islamic ruling forbids <u>women</u> from being part of suicide missions.

But a Hamas leader now says that no religious decree prevents <u>women</u> from fighting in the intifada uprising against Israel.

Choosing to remain silent about which of the factions may have carried out the attack, Sheikh Hassan Yusef says: "It is Muslim <u>women</u>'s right to fight against occupation and no fatwa (decree) forbids them from joining the struggle."

MIDDLE EAST: ATTACK SHOWS NEW FACE IN PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE

"The Prophet Mohammad has always defended <u>women</u>'s right to jihad (holy war)," says the West Bank leader of the Islamist movement. "It is not the first time a Palestinian woman has taken part in the fight against Israel. Several of them have already had the honor to contribute to the resistance."

Says Leah Tsemel, a lawyer and member of the Israeli Public Committee Against Torture: "Palestinian <u>women</u> have taken part in political and military activities, as sisters or mothers. Several had leading roles in the first intifada (from 1987 to 1993)."

One name every Palestinian remembers is Leila Khaled of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who hijacked a TWA flight in 1970 to highlight the Palestinian cause. Tsemel recalls another: "Dalal Al Moghrabi of Fatah landed a rubber boat on a Tel Aviv beach, from where she fired on a bus in the city."

Khaled's bid was foiled, and she was captured and detained in Britain before being exchanged with prisoners from another plane hijacked by her group in 1977, putting an end to the Black September crisis.

Khaled, now in Jordan and an outspoken politician, was quoted as saying: "I'm not surprised that <u>women</u> would take this path in the struggle. The situation has become so bad as a result of Israeli repression that Palestinians -- men or **women** -- have concluded that there is no difference between life and death."

Of the Jan. 27 incident, Khaled said: "It's true it is the first time a woman has carried out a martyrdom attack, but there's always a first time."

Wisam Idris, the suicide bomber's sister-in-law, recalls she had noticed a transformation in Wafa after Palestinian-Israeli violence broke out in September 2000. "Usually when she came back from work, she would tell us stories about the injured people she had treated and she looked affected. She used to say 'If I die, I want to die as a martyr'," she says.

Thus far, <u>women</u> have contributed to the resistance movement by helping place bombs in cinemas or supermarkets, carrying arms or killing Jewish settlers. For example, Randa Nabulsi from Nablus was sentenced to 10 years in jail in 1969 for carrying explosives and planting a bomb in a Jerusalem supermarket.

In July 2001, a woman carrying a bomb in a beer can entered a supermarket in predominantly Jewish West Jerusalem, planted the can on a shelf and walked out after shopping for groceries. The bomb exploded but caused no injuries.

In August, according to Israeli security agencies, the same woman entered a pizzeria in West Jerusalem masquerading as the girlfriend of a man who was carrying a bomb concealed in a guitar case. After she walked out, the man detonated the bomb, killing himself and 15 Israelis.

Some suggest that <u>women</u> may resort to suicide attacks more for socio-economic rather than political reasons.

The fact that more than three million Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have suffered 35 years of Israeli occupation and have to endure an Israeli economic blockade may well be the catalyst for more extreme forms of resistance.

Occupation has a different impact on <u>women</u> than on men, says Marina Barham, who lives near Bethlehem and runs a local theatre company.

"<u>Women</u> are not just individuals but mothers, sisters and wives. Whatever happens to their families affects their lives completely and they have to take responsibility for it," she explains. "A lot of <u>women</u> have been involved in political factions, but over the years <u>women</u> have taken a different role, and not just a supportive one."

She adds, "During the first intifada, it was easier for <u>women</u> to take part in protests, though traditionally they were told this was not something for <u>women</u> to do. But in this latest struggle, because the Israelis used guns and tanks so quickly, <u>women</u> have kept back" -- but for Jan. 27.

MIDDLE EAST: ATTACK SHOWS NEW FACE IN PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE

Often, <u>women</u> are involved in community programs, Barham says, working with children, the grieving and traumatized. There have been <u>women</u>'s demonstrations in Ramallah and key <u>women</u> political figures have been speaking out on the conflict.

If <u>women</u> are becoming more radical, argues Fikr Shaltoot, the coordinator of a medical charity in Gaza, it is because of the brutal Israeli action against the Palestinians. "It is because of what we see day and night -- the destruction of homes, the closures, people killed while they are sleeping, people dying because the checkpoint won't let an ambulance past to get to the hospital.

"Many <u>women</u> are depressed and suicidal. If there is a chance for Palestinian <u>women</u> to martyr themselves, then they will. Everyone is very surprised the Jerusalem bomber was a woman, and perhaps she will be honored more because of that," Shaltoot explains.

"But in Palestine there are already many heroines -- if a woman has a son handicapped by a shell, if she is widowed, if her husband is imprisoned and she continues to support the family, then she is a heroine for me," Shaltoot adds.

Meantime, the Jan. 27 incident has put Israel's guard up even higher. As a senior Israeli security officer says: "The idea of a suspect's profile is in the process of disappearing. <u>Women</u>, children and old men were not suspects. Now, any Palestinian -- unless may be over 75, blind and lame -- is a suspect."

Load-Date: February 3, 2002



A mother's place is where, exactly?

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)
October 10, 2001, Wednesday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 33

Length: 1134 words

Byline: SUE DUNLEVY, HELEN CARTER

Body

British journalist and single mother of a nine-year-old daughter, Yvonne Ridley was arrested after crossing the Afghan border illegally to report on the terrorism crisis. Was she right to take the risk?

NO

By Sue Dunlevy

WHEN Yvonne Ridley stole across the Afghanistan border robed like a Taliban woman, the dangerous game of pursuing the truth for the British newspaper the Daily Express was not her only responsibility. She had left a nine-year-old daughter behind her in London.

We might have considered it brave and unusual if Yvonne was a single woman when she set off across the Afghan border, but the fact that she was a mother is what makes her story extraordinary.

MATP

Australian National University sociologist Dr Dorothy Broom says Yvonne Ridley has shattered our social norm -- that a mother is a mother first and last and that she should not undertake anything that might jeopardise her role as a mother.

Three decades of feminism has won <u>women</u> equal rights and major economic and social advances, but it hasn't changed our romantic social expectations about motherhood.

As a mother of two young children, a feminist and a journalist myself, I have asked myself, how could she do it? I know I would not have had the courage to take the same risks myself.

When my editor first rang me to discuss this story, my first fear was that he was going to ask me to undertake a similar task and every part of me was screaming, "No!"

The journalist in me was attracted to the idea that this would be the most interesting story of our times and could serve a great public purpose.

I'm not a risk-taker by nature, but my chief fear was what would happen to my children if I never returned.

The mother in me overrode the journalist.

A mother's place is where, exactly?

Leaving Katherine, 6, and Lucy, 2, while I spend weeks travelling on an election campaign bus has been the hardest decision I have had to make as a mother.

I can't wait to call them every night, to find out what new things they have done or learnt and I'm dying to hold them in my arms once again.

But I know I'm coming home to them at the end of the week.

A mother and journalist who was travelling with Prime Minister John Howard when he was caught up in the terrorist bombings in the US told me her first act on returning to Australia was to go to her children's school, pull them out of class and hug them.

Even though she had been too busy to be scared for her own safety in Washington, she had obviously felt frightened she might not be there for her kids.

This feeling is not exclusive to women.

Fathers feel the same way, but because we expect them to be risk-takers we aren't confronted when they make the same choice as Yvonne Ridley.

Why is it that no one considers it remarkable that thousands of soldiers who are fathers are putting their lives on the line as military action against Afghanistan begins?

Yvonne Ridley must surely have felt the same drive, to want to be there to be a mother to her child, but she decided to risk capture and possible death when she made her decision to cross the Afghanistan border.

She might never have got home to see her daughter again.

I can understand her drive to get the story because it is what makes journalists tick and I admire the bravery she showed in chasing the yarn.

Without risk-takers prepared to make their own interests secondary to a noble cause our society would be a poorer place.

But as a parent I can't comprehend how she made that choice.

YES

By Helen Carter

YVONNE Ridley was just doing her job when she was arrested by the Taliban in Afghanistan, but the backlash against her has been consistent and strong.

As the single parent of a nine-year-old daughter, she has been accused of being reckless and details of her three marriages have been picked over.

There have even been suggestions that she is some kind of Israeli agent, which is nonsense at best and downright dangerous at worst.

I have been a good friend of Yvonne for more than six years, since we met at the British Sunday newspaper, News of the World.

This negative reaction is deeply disturbing for her friends, family and employer. The implied criticisms have been subtle but insidious.

Should Yvonne not have put herself at risk because she was a woman and a mother? The BBC's world affairs editor, John Simpson, has been lauded for sneaking into Afghanistan with his 188cm frame shrouded in a burqa.

A mother's place is where, exactly?

Ironically, it was Simpson's antics which led to pressure on other reporters to cross the border. I know Yvonne not as reckless, but as a tenacious and determined reporter.

One <u>female</u> commentator wrote about how the stakes are higher for her colleague because of her status as a single mother. So, how would it make it better if she had a partner at home?

Surely we are beyond the point where <u>women</u> reporting from the front-line are considered an oddity. While there remain fewer <u>women</u> than men, Yvonne is in good company, working alongside some of the most distinguished <u>women</u> in the field.

Veteran war reporter Marie Colvin has been shortlisted for a Woman of the Year award next week for bravery while reporting on the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> in Sri Lanka, where she was blinded in one eye by shrapnel.

Do <u>women</u> report war differently? It's a moot point, and the present deployment proves that editors are seeing beyond gender.

One wonders whether their children and home lives would be dragged into the equation should anything happen to them.

A letter to Tony Blair from Yvonne's daughter Daisy, who was nine yesterday, was shown on national television.

The haunting image of Daisy's worried face has stared out of several newspapers as she has pleaded for her mother's release.

Publicity is important, of course, but it worries me that this subliminally reinforces the message that Yvonne has a child and shouldn't be in Afghanistan.

The editor of the Sunday Express, Martin Townsend, summed Yvonne up well when he described her as a decent, honest and truthful woman.

"Her aim was to report, as an unbiased bystander, on the terrible problems Afghanistan faces and the need for understanding on all sides," he said.

I have spent a lot of time with Yvonne and her daughter Daisy. A couple of years ago, I was looking after Daisy for a day while Yvonne was covering a political protest in Trafalgar Square, London. From an early age, Daisy was interested in her mother's job and understood that it was a great adventure.

Yvonne has no time for superficial people. She is the sort of person who enjoys life and has a wide circle of friends.

She is one of the most capable journalists I have ever met, with a strong sense of self-preservation.

Yvonne's only crime, it would seem, has been attempting to combine being a mother with a demanding and rewarding career.

That is not news. Thousands of **women** do that every day without being publicly judged.

Load-Date: October 17, 2001



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hobart Mercury (Australia) October 2, 1999, Saturday

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Length: 1139 words

Body

Killers

With reference to the article, Natural Born Killers (September 25) William Dalrymple, the distinguished travel writer, in his book The Age of Kali quotes the leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> in Sri Lanka as saying: "Our camps are all equipped with televisions and videos. War films are shown three times a week and are compulsory viewing. None of us are trained soldiers. We've learned all we know from these films." Dalrymple adds: "Here in Sri Lanka the tactics of an entire civil war _ tens of thousands killed, maimed and wounded _ seem to be largely inspired by imported videos." What comment can be made?

E. GODFREY

South Hobart

East Timor

The only reason why East Timor should not be part of Indonesia is that Portugal was the colonial power, not Holland. At the same time, the only reason why Irian Jaya should be part of Indonesia is that Holland was the colonial power. It is quite extraordinary that there should be such a song and dance about East Timor while little or nothing is said about Irian Jaya. The miserable situation in East Timor should be resolved by Portugal and Indonesia, under United Nations auspices; Australia should not be directly involved and, if a peace-keeping force could be justified, such force should be predominately Asian, and Asian led. Australia's involvement not only smacks of neo-colonialism, but will be fearfully expensive, and, if just one Australian life is lost, will not be worth it.

JOHN SOLOMON

Taroona

Public drunkenness

The Mercury Editorial (September 28) ought to be compulsory reading for politicians about to debate the proposed changes to laws on public drunkenness.

The Editorial was not critical of the State Government's initiative. On the contrary, the initiative was supported.

The Mercury highlighted the difference between a well intended aim and an unfortunate result.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If intoxicated Aborigines (who are harming no-one but themselves) are to be arrested for resisting police efforts to forcibly remove them from a public place on the same scale as happened before the law changed, what is the point?

The Mercury's view is that if the Government wants to put an end to charging people with offences _ such as resist arrest, obstruction etc _ which arose out of police contact with intoxicated persons, then the Government should do precisely that.

The Government ought to adopt the Mercury's comment which I take to mean:"If something is worth doing, it is worth doing well."

MICHAEL MANSELL

Legal manager

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

The Editorial (September 28) suggest that public drunkenness is a victimless crime. This is true only in the most superficial sense.

In an event the relevant offences are drunk and disorderly or drunk and incapable. A disorderly drunk is a threat to public safety and an incapable drunk is offensive to the normal sensibilities and standards of a civilised community.

Both offences should remain and should be policed.

We punish drunks in cars because they are a danger to society. Drunks in the street are a danger, if not to others, then to themselves.

Why should the community in general suffer loss of human dignity because of the diminishing societal values of a few trendy reformers?

CORNELIUS CRACKNELL

Bruny Island

The Editorial (September 28) is to be commended. It supported the State Government's initiative to decriminalise public drunkenness while at the same time drawing attention to what are the obvious consequences or drawbacks to the current proposal.

In its current form the proposed legislation may well amount to a change in name alone: the consequences will remain the same. As a society we must be prepared to do more than change the brush strokes, we must change the picture.

Let us hope that the Editorial provided "food for thought" for the politicians about to take part in the debate on public drunkenness and will help them address the issues in a meaningful way.

ANTONIA KOHL

Indigenous Women's Program

Hobart

Republic

On a visit to England in 1973, there were two arrival queues, one labelled British, the other non-British. Being unsure which was for me with my Australian passport, I asked an immigration officer who said, "Of course you're British" and pointed me to the British queue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A few years later, the scene was very different. Now there were three queues: British, European Union, and others. As an Australian, I now found myself frozen out from the unrestricted inner or middle ranks, and relegated to the also-rans, with restrictions on my time of stay. Having sworn loyalty to the Queen on two occasions, when I became an Australian citizen and on entering the public service, I wonder now what the relevance is of having sworn allegiance to the head of a foreign country, when that country makes it very clear that I do not belong there? I am now living in a sovereign, independent country whose links with the UK are purely historical. It is time we acknowledged these facts by electing our own head of state, instead of paying lip service to a meaningless, foreign connection.

HENRY FINLAY

Sandy Bay

Proponents of the direct election model will no doubt be slapping themselves on the back on November 7 if the referendum question fails. But they are misguided if they think their voice will be heard. All we will hear is the Prime Minister claiming the day for the status quo and the Queen. It is likely we will never get another opportunity for reform in our lifetime.

M. MADDOCK

Sandy Bay

Vehicle ownership costs

My future wife and I have two registered cars, two registered motorcycles and at least one other vehicle we would register if we could afford it. As an owner/operator, I can only use one vehicle at a time. But the State Government is forcing me to pay for MAIB insurance on the ones I can't use, although any claim on one of them would be fraudulent as I could not possibly be using it.

Have a look at your latest registration payment details. How much is the third party premium? It makes up the majority of the payment doesn't it. As only licenced drivers should own and operate a vehicle, wouldn't it make more sense to have a one-off third party insurance fee built-in to the licence payments? Then everybody driving a registered vehicle would have one policy covering them no matter what vehicle they were driving. You would still have to pay for the registration costs for every vehicle you own and intend to drive but only one insurance premium.

It sounds like something a car and motorbike fanatic like me could only dream about. Food for thought though isn't it?

DARREN STEWART

Glenorchy

Requirements

Letters may be condensed unless marked "use in full or not at all". Poetry, open letters, or copies of letters sent elsewhere are not normally published. The receipt of individual letters cannot be acknowledged, nor will unused letters be returned to the writer.

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Compiled by Terence Neilan

Body

EUROPE

BRITAIN: EX-CABINET AIDE FREED

Jonathan Aitken, 57, a former Conservative Party cabinet minister found guilty of perjury last year in a doomed libel action, was freed from jail after serving 7 months of an 18-month sentence. He must now spend months under curfew in his London house, wearing an electronic ankle tag that allows his movements to be monitored. Once considered likely to become a leader of his party, he is now planning to study theology at Oxford University. Warren Hoge (NYT)

BRITAIN: SUPPORT FOR CANING

Fifty-one percent of British parents want to see the return of corporal punishment to schools, a survey for The Times of London shows. Caning was outlawed in public schools 14 years ago and in private ones last year, and teachers' union officials said there was no chance of its return. They also said parents must share the blame for discipline problems. Warren Hoge (NYT)

AUSTRIA: HOLOCAUST SETTLEMENT

The Bank Austria chairman, Gerhard Randa, said he hoped a \$40 million settlement against Austrian banks approved in New York by a U.S. district judge would give Holocaust survivors some solace for the traumas they suffered. Notice of the settlement has been mailed to 27,883 current or former Austrian citizens in 68 countries. Many of the survivors and heirs had their assets confiscated or otherwise looted. (AP)

GERMANY: SLAVE-LABOR FUND NEEDS MORE CASH

More companies will need to agree to contribute to a \$2.6 billion fund to compensate Nazi-era forced and slave laborers if the goal of making the payments by midsummer is to be met, the fund's spokesman, Wolfgang Gibowski, said. About \$1 billion has been raised so far, he said, from a total of 110 companies, up from 65 in December. Victor Homola (NYT)

GERMANY: PICKING A JEWISH LEADER

The Jewish Central Council will pick a new president tomorrow, five months after the death last August of Ignatz Bubis, who had led the Jewish community since 1992. The leading candidates are Paul Spiegel, 61, of Dusseldorf, and Charlotte Knobloch, 67, of Munich. Victor Homola (NYT)

SERBIA: KOSOVARS FREED

Four Kosovo Albanian men, held in Serbian jails since July 1998 on terrorism charges, were freed after the case against them was dismissed for lack of evidence, according to the Humanitarian Law Center, a Belgrade human rights group. The four, accused of attacking a police convoy, were handed over to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who escorted them to Kosovo. Steven Erlanger (NYT)

THE AMERICAS

VENEZUELA: KEY AIDE QUITS

Infrastructure Minister Julio Montes has resigned amid local press reports that he had opposed President Hugo Chavez's decision to appoint an army general as head of a state-run agency that works closely with Mr. Montes's department. Mr. Chavez has denied those accounts, saying Mr. Montes stepped down because of a health problem, not because he was alarmed at the growing role of the military in the government. Larry Rohter (NYT)

PANAMA: REFUGE FOR COLOMBIANS

Nearly 400 Colombian peasants who fled fighting between leftist guerrillas and the Colombian Navy have been granted provisional refuge in Panama. President Mireya Moscoso's decision marks a break with the policy followed by Colombia's other neighbors, who have consistently refused to concede any sort of refugee status to families fleeing Colombia's civil conflict.

Larry Rohter (NYT)

MEXICO: OLIVE BRANCH REJECTED

The new rector of National University, Juan Ramon de la Fuente, found his new concessions spurned by students who have paralyzed classes and research since April. Among the offers was amnesty for crimes that authorities accuse the strikers of committing. A faculty council approved the package, but the strikers rejected it. Sam Dillon (NYT)

AFRICA

ANGOLA: DIAMOND TALKS

Robert Fowler, chief of the United Nations Sanctions Committee on Angola, will arrive in Luanda this weekend for talks with the government about an embargo that was intended to prevent the Unita rebels from selling diamonds in exchange for arms. The embargo has been criticized for failing to stop the flow of money to the rebels. Rachel L. Swarns (NYT)

KENYA: MARRIED WOMEN SEPARATE

An 80-year-old woman in a western tribe has divorced her young wife because of "cruelty and violence." Some tribes allow <u>women</u> to marry when an elderly widow has not had a son, and one is needed to perpetuate the family line. The widow usually chooses the man who is to father the child with the younger woman. Such marriages are

not recognized by law, but the court allowed the divorce after village elders failed to resolve the problems. Ian Fisher (NYT)

ASIA

INDIA: SECRET DEFENSE REPORT

A government-appointed committee that has been investigating lapses in India's defenses in the recent conflict with Pakistan in the Kashmir mountains submitted its long-awaited report to the prime minister, but recommended that its contents be kept from the public. The military has been criticized for permitting Pakistani-backed forces to enter Kashmiri territory known as Kargil last year. Barry Bearak (NYT)

SRI LANKA: CURFEW LIFTED

A curfew was lifted in Colombo at 12:30 p.m., but not before more than 1,000 ethnic Tamils had been detained for questioning by security forces. The government says its intelligence reports indicate that several suicide bombers have infiltrated the capital as the so-called *Tamil Tigers* intensify their rebellion. Barry Bearak (NYT)

PAKISTAN: A GUILTY PLEA

Javed Iqbal, the Pakistani who says he killed 100 boys in Lahore and disposed of their bodies in vats of acid, told a court that he would plead guilty to murder charges and would not hire a defense lawyer. He called himself the "nation's culprit," confirming the statement of an investigating officer that the accused had confessed to the killings during interrogation. Barry Bearak (NYT)

NORTH KOREA, U.S.: JAN. 22 MEETING

Officials of the United States and North Korea will meet in Berlin on Jan. 22 to resume talks aimed at improving relations. The two sides, which adjourned amid signs of progress on Nov. 19, are trying to prepare a high-level North Korean visit to the United States. Victor Homola (NYT)

EAST TIMOR: BISHOP SPEAKS OUT

East Timor's spiritual leader, Bishop Carlos Belo, criticized the United Nations, accusing it of dragging its feet in operations to help thousands of refugees out of Indonesian West Timor. The Nobel peace laureate also said the United Nations had relied too much on the church for help. (Reuters)

MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ: A HAND TO KUWAIT

Iraq is seeking to provide Kuwait with information on about 600 people who disappeared during its seven-month occupation in 1990-91, Foreign Minister Mohammad Said al-Sahhaf said, signaling an apparent change of policy on missing persons. Iraq has until now maintained that although it took some Kuwaitis prisoner at the end of the gulf war, it lost track of them during a Shiite Muslim rebellion that broke out afterward. (Agence France-Presse)

JORDAN: PILGRIMAGE SITE

Thousands of Jordanians flocked to the Jordan River site where Jesus is believed to have been baptized to mark the official opening of the location to tourists ahead of Pope John Paul's visit to the kingdom on March 20. Jordanian archaeologists say a cluster of old Byzantine churches and mosaics prove the site, called Wadi Kharrar, is where Jesus was baptized. (Reuters)

IRAN: 1,026 PARDONED

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader, has pardoned 1,026 prisoners convicted of minor offenses to mark the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and the beginning of the three-day Eid al-Fitr holiday, the official news agency reported. (Reuters)

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Graphic

Photos

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Beauty of Sri Lanka shines through the gloom of civil war

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

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Byline: By Frank Zeller

Dateline: Colombo

Body

The train slowly chugged out of Colombo's Fort station, through the outskirts of the traffic-choked capital and into the lush rice paddies and coconut palm groves of rural Sri Lanka.

Passengers relaxed to the rattle and the rythmic banging of a broken carriage door as the train reached its top speed of perhaps 30 kilometres an hour on its way into the central mountain range.

A cool breeze blew away the sultry air. Within minutes it was easy to forget that this beautiful, teardrop-shaped island off the southern tip of India is a country at war with itself.

For 14 years Sri Lanka has been torn apart by a bloody conflict between the Buddhist Sinhalese, who have dominated post-independence governments, and insurgents from the largest minority, the Hindu Tamils, who are fighting for a separate homeland in the north.

Half a century after independence from Britain, there seems no end in sight to a war which has so far claimed some 50,000 lives.

Suicide bombings have turned Colombo into a city under siege, dotted with road blocks and sandbag nests which are manned by rifle- toting teenage soldiers of both genders.

Their task seems near hopeless in view of several recent blasts which have killed hundreds and maimed more this year alone in hailstorms of debris and broken glass.

A huge gash still scars the financial centre's new showcase building, the World Trade Centre, which has remained empty since a suicide squad of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rammed a truckload of explosives into it late last year.

Tourism has been hurt, but by no means destroyed, by the carnage. Beach resorts along the southwestern coast continue to attract planeloads of mainly European tourists, who greet the famous deep- orange sunsets with lightening storms of camera flashes.

Tour buses still ply the hill country, the safari parks and the cultural triangle of ancient cities in the interior of the country. Despite the civil war, the many charms of this tiny country of 18 million people, about the size of Tasmania, continue to attract thousands of travellers every year.

Beauty of Sri Lanka shines through the gloom of civil war

On our train, the tea man, carefully balancing an armful of cups and an aluminium pot of aromatic sweet milk tea, swayed into the carriage as the train passed a bend on its slow ascent into the hills and headed into the mouth of a colonial-era tunnel.

When the train emerged from the darkness, we had entered the sleepy hill country, where the baking heat had turned the morning fog into a thin white haze.

A tapestry of a hundred different greens seemed to defy popular notions of biology. Palm trees, orchid and bamboo thickets, eucalypts and pine trees grew within metres of one another, intersected occasionally by rocky, cascading mountain streams.

Fresh grass sprouted between the weathered wooden railway sleepers and swarms of white butterflies were stirred up by the passing train.

Villagers, dressed in traditional sarongs and saris, and school children in pressed white school uniforms waited as the train lazily rumbled past, before resuming their own journeys along the track.

The temperature gradually dropped as forests gave way to tea plantations, which cover the rolling hills like a verdant carpet.

The neat rows of bushes, tea factories and occasional planters' bungalows are enduring legacies of the British colonial era which add an other-worldly charm to this part of the country.

Ironically, the former Ceylon was due to become a major coffee producer under British rule, which followed periods of Dutch and Portuguese occupation. Only after a crop disease wiped out the coffee plants did the British introduce tea.

Tea, which is still hand-plucked by sari-clad <u>women</u> carrying cane baskets on their backs, remains one of this poor country's three main foreign currency earners, besides garment production and wages from domestic aides in the Middle East. All three industries are dominated by <u>women</u> labour.

Echos of the British past are everywhere as the train continues its meandering journey through the sedate high country. Shop signs in small towns advertise "short eats" and "fancy goods". Children play cricket, perhaps eager to one day emulate the stunning successes of their country's national team.

After a lumbering eight-hour journey, the train arrived in the small hill town of Haputale, which is nestled on a high ridge and seemed to float above a sea of clouds.

Not far from Haputale is the appropriately-named World's End. ocated at the edge of the savannah-like, highaltitude Horton Plains plateau, which is still the prowling ground of leopards, it marks the edge of a sheer 700metre-high cliff.

Most of the time it is obscured by thick clouds, but when the mist mercifully clears for a few minutes, it offers a breathtaking bird's eye view of a series of long valleys far below.

Our next destination, this time by van along central Sri Lanka's mountainous serpentine roads, is Kandy, the ancient Sinhalese spiritual and cultural centre. The last of the great Sri Lankan empires had its seat here and survived European expansion for more than three centuries until the British subverted it 133 years ago.

Dalada Maligawa, the Temple of the Tooth, is located by the town's central, artificial lake and is said to house the tooth of the Buddha. In August every year, a ten-day festival sees a spectacular procession of up to 100 richly-decorated elephants parade a replica of the relic casket through the streets.

The temple remains one of the most important sites of the Theravada school of Buddhism, a fact the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> booked on when they bombed it days before the February 4 Independence Day celebrations.

Beauty of Sri Lanka shines through the gloom of civil war

The blast killed 14 people, damaged part of the temple complex and forced the government to shift the ceremony, which was attended by Prince Charles, to Colombo. Now a tight security cordon ivolving three body and bag searches greets pilgrims and tourists alike.

Further to the north, where the country is flatter and drier, lie the ruins of the ancient cities from which previous kings ruled Sri Lankan civilisations for much of the past 25 centuries.

Aside from the ruined cities of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, the focal point of this region is the spectacular Sigiriya rock fortress, built in the 5th century atop a giant monolith towering over the surrounding landscape.

The climb to the summit leads past the frescoes of the "Sigiriya Damsels", whose bare-breasted beauty has been reproduced in countless tourist brochures. A stairway, framed by a set of giant lions' claws carved from the rock, leads to an iron staircase to the top.

An hour after sunrise, the plateau is a peaceful place, a world away from the chaos of Colombo or the bitterly-contested Elephant Pass battleground only 170 kilometres to the north.

Here it is easy to agree with a host of enchanted travellers who praised the beauties of Sri Lanka. Marco Polo reportedly believed it to be the "finest island of its size in all the world".

Ancient Arab traders called the land Serendib - a name that gave birth to the English word serendipity, the faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident. The happiest discovery Sri Lankans can hope for now is an end to the war, but few expect it any time soon. dpa fz mb ks

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Sri Lanka's 12-year-old war reaches a turning point

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Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

In the strip of rocky land that juts out at the top of this island country that travel writers love to call a paradise, tens of thousands of people are on the move, hungry, penniless, dragging their children through monsoon rains.

Their misery started a week ago when Sri Lankan government soldiers advanced to within five kilometres of the fortress city of Jaffna, but it has gone almost entirely unseen. The government has barred journalists from visiting the north of the island, and in September imposed censorship on local newspapers, ensuring that this, the most dramatic chapter of Sri Lanka's 12-year-old war, goes largely unreported.

But amid the misery and the chaos one thing is clear: Jaffna, the citadel of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, is set to fall. And with it the myth of invincibility for one of the most ruthless guerrilla organizations in the world. For more than five years, the Tigers have had the run of Jaffna and much of the northern province, transforming one-third of Sri Lanka into a no-go area for government forces and Sinhalese civilians.

But all that began to change at the end of October when the Tigers, whose fighters are known for preferring suicide by cyanide capsule to surrender, appear to have taken a rare decision to withdraw. Refugees from Jaffna say the guerrillas moved through the town with loudspeakers, ordering people to leave everything and flee. And, aside from the elderly, the sick, most of the people of Jaffna obeyed.

More than 400,000 people are believed to have walked or cycled through the rain to shelter under the banyan trees of Chavakachcheri to the east of Jaffna. From there, they have been trudging to the shores of the lagoon that separates the Jaffna peninsula from the mainland to wait for one of the fishing boats that have been ferrying people across day and night for the past week - 2,000 people every 24 hours.

"They are in a panic. They have no idea what will happen to them; they don't know when the war is going to end," said S. Thillainadarajah, the government agent for Killinochi, the refugees' first port of call on the mainland.

Aid workers say there is barely room to walk in the small town, which lies within Tiger-controlled territory. Schools and temples are packed with people. At least 60,000 people have reached Killinochi; 300,000 more are on the way. They are already beginning to fan out to other centres in the northern province.

The Sri Lankan government has said it is organizing relief for the displaced Tamils, but there has been little sign of that so far. The officials say they have enough food for the regular population of Tiger-held areas in the north only until Monday, let alone the tens of thousands of recent arrivals.

Sri Lanka 's 12-year-old war reaches a turning point

The recent events herald the demise of a regime that demanded complete loyalty from its citizens, and refused to settle for anything short of complete independence for its people. For the last five years, Jaffna town has been the capital of a Tiger mini-state that ran schools, issued exit visas, collected taxes and dealt out justice - at gunpoint as well as by more orthodox methods.

The area has been five years without electricity or telephones or many rudimentary foodstuffs: the government bans civilians in Tiger-controlled areas from bringing in anything that could be construed as useful to the guerrillas. This includes chocolate (an energy food); penlight batteries (potential bombs); panadol, a form of aspirin (anaesthetic for jungle surgery).

But from that hardship, the Tigers have created the ultimate fighting machine, a core of fighters who demanded total loyalty from the rest of the population. From 7 a.m., when the Voice of the Tigers went on the air with a Martyr's Salute and 25 minutes of rousing music, until late at night, the cause of Eelam, the Tamil homeland, ruled life on the Jaffna peninsula.

No sacrifice could be too great for Eelam or its leading progenitor, the guerrilla leader who was almost never seen in public: V. Prabhakaran. *Women* donated their savings, their gold jewelry and finally their children. The Tigers turned them into tiny killing machines, blooding them in attacks on Sinhalese villagers before they graduated in their teens to become human bombs, members of the Black Tiger suicide squads.

Puzzled By Order

The few refugees who have managed to cross into government-held areas at the northern town of Vavuniya are bewildered at the Tigers' order to flee.

"We paid them a huge sum in tax only last week," said one woman, who fled the peninsula for Colombo. Like most Jaffna families, she relies on the earnings of children abroad. "And now they say they cannot protect us. We asked for our money back, and they said no. This is not right."

Although the army is jubilant at the success of Operation Sunshine, few people believe that Jaffna's fall - and it seems now inevitable that it will fall - will mean the end of the Tigers. Witnesses from Jaffna town say that a day ahead of the exodus the Tigers declared a curfew and began moving out senior cadres, office computers as well as field guns in a well-planned retreat.

Now it is the Sri Lankan army that must decide what to do next. After 12 years in which it has grown unaccustomed to having the upper hand, the army is reluctant to fritter away its gains.

The government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga also must persuade the civilians to return. Refugees crossing into government territory say fewer than 5,000 people remain in towns now controlled by the government on the peninsula. Though the present regime has tried to prove it is committed to human rights, the Sri Lankan army has too long a history of brutality to be easily forgotten.

Targets Of Terror

The loss of Jaffna is undeniably a body blow to the Tigers. Without territory - and, crucially, without a large town to administer - the Tigers are like any other guerrilla group. It remains to be seen whether they can carve out a new mini-state around the refugee camp at Killinochi. But if there is one thing Sri Lankans have learned in 12 years, it is that their war has a moving battlefield.

Since the start of Operation Sunshine on Oct. 17, the highest civilian casualties are hundreds of kilometres from the battlefields: in the villages in the Sinhalese heartland where Tiger children and <u>women</u> have hacked to death and disemboweled more than 170 people in a series of raids.

Fear of a terrorist strike in the capital has never been greater. Last week, the government ordered schools across the island closed, one month ahead of Christmas holidays for fear of an attack against pupils. Officials admitted they acted without any direct threat from the Tigers, but out of pressure from worried parents.

Sri Lanka 's 12-year-old war reaches a turning point

President Kumaratungahas become a virtual prisoner inside her home, summoning officials to her residence rather than risk an outing to the presidential secretariat.

The state of siege is a strange ending for the leader who, more than any other, tried to broker a peaceful end to Sri Lanka's war. Kumaratunga came to power last year by promising to negotiate a deal with the Tigers. Now, after they have broken a truce and refused to take part in more talks, she seems convinced that they must first be disabled, and then dragged to the bargaining table by force.

Graphic

Thousands have fled Jaffna.

Load-Date: November 10, 1995



A return passage to India

Herald

October 13, 1987 Tuesday

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Body

THE small headline in the Hindustan Times said: "Eunuch dies in fight over sari". Well, I thought, here we are back in India.

Most of us might have believed there wasn't an awful lot of work for Eunuchs these days. And the short item never did explain just what Subhash and Asha were up to before the former set the latter ablaze in East Delhi. Better, perhaps, to leave it with the other million or so mysteries in this baffling and wonderful land.

It is 16 years since I first came to India in a hit-and-run visit which turned into weeks and then months. It was the time of the troubles. But, of course, there are always troubles. In this case it was the painful pre-natal procedure which led to the birth of Bangladesh, the death of East Pakistan and the Indo-Pak war of 1971.

Now the slogan of the day is "Cricket For Peace". But there is war in Sri Lanka, albeit civil war, where Indian troops are trying to play the peacemaker. Indian and Pakistani artillery units are trading shells, no doubt with deadly efficiency, in the foothills of the Himalayas. There is a dreadful drought and a crop failure across much of the country except, of course, in Bengal where they are mopping up after horrendous floods. Here in Madras they will run out of water unless it rains before December.

Although I was in Pakistan last year for the triumphal return of Benazir Bhutto (whatever happened to her?). It is a decade since my last visit to India, then witnessing the defeat at the general elections of Mrs Indira Gandhi by Mr Desai and the Jana party (whatever happened to them?). Mrs Gandhi was soon back in power and then assassinated. Her chosen son, Sanjay, died in a light aircraft crash, and her other son, Rajiv, is Prime Minister.

After only a few days, one should not make snap judgments, so here goes: it is a very different India. Either someone has done a terrific cosmetic job, or the second and third generations of the Nehru family have come good with some of their pledge to make this place which should never have been a nation at all a cohesive and coherent thing.

Maybe there will be reason to change my mind, but it just feels different. My goodness, even as I write Eric Clapton is singing Cocaine on the radio, a song which once would never have entered this oddly moralistic country, but, even so, out the window is a long line of <u>women</u> carrying sand on their heads in little baskets, emptying it like so many ants into a concrete mixer on top of a building site. In a pretty posh block of flats next door, a sweeper is peeing on the roof. Plus ca change and all that.

It was obvious it was a different India from the outset. Once getting through Indian customs with a typewriter, let alone a computer and a radio, was an enormous hassle. Currency control could take an hour or two just by itself.

A return passage to India

But at Indira Gandhi Airport (there are plenty of monuments in the public sector to her) it was a breeze. I had more trouble last month at Baltimore. And there were no beggars.

So far, I have been approached by beggars about four times.

One of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's aims was to eliminate begging, an impossibility of course. But a decade ago to walk along the street in Delhi or Madras was to attract a crowd of supplicants.

Whether this is a good thing or not remains for me to find out, since the question is: what are they doing now? Where have they all gone? Can the government possibly have found work for them? We shall see.

Mr Gandhi must often wonder why he was persuaded to give up his job as an airline pilot, a very upmarket profession in India, to become Prime Minister, a much less desirable posting. The problem in Sri Lanka with the *Tamil Tigers*, a particularly aggressive breed of terrorist, is occupying much of his time when he has plenty else to worry about. The Indians have about a division of troops deployed there as peace-keepers, but it would seem unlikely they would want to get into a full-on fight with the Tigers, whose spiritual and financial base is right here in Tamil Nadu state, of which Madras is the capital.

THE Artillery duels in Kashmir are, if anything, more dangerous on a long-term basis. Pakistan's military dictator, whoops, President, Zia is a much reviled figure in the Indian press and the old wounds open quickly. India is fond of pointing out that since the two nations won independence, India has never had a military dictator while Pakistan, apart from one brief spell, has hardly had anything but.

I have been in the Kashmiri hills during an artillery battle, and both sides were very good.

The Indian officer knew his Pakistani opponent well, having been at staff college together, and was able to identify him to his intelligence wallahs.

As I recall, they had nicknames for one another, Pickles and Buzz.It is probably too far gone since partition now for the officers up there near the glaciers to have the same rapport, but each army has a long and proud tradition and you can bet they are damned good, Carruthers, damned good.

The troubles facing Mr Gandhi from man-made insanities become insignificant when compared with the hiding handed out on an all-too-regular basis by nature. The monsoon totally failed to appear in much of India this year and unless the second, smaller monsoon comes along there is going to be terrible hardship, already a famine seems certain.

If it seems a familiar story, the fact is that India can usually depend on the monsoon and the harvest and get by on it. Just. But stockpiling is all but impossible, and there is just no insurance to cover the inevitable bad year when the monsoon does not materialise.

Here in Tamil Nadu, there are fears that there will be no water in Madras, a city of 5 million, by the end of December. Already the local authorities are planning to "desilt" canals, surely the most ambitious task conceivable, and use the water in them. You should see these canals. They are not quite beyond description, but the exercise would be a turgid and unpleasant one.

Mr Gandhi now is hoping to find a sympathetic audience for the many problems he is facing at the CHOGM meeting in Vancouver. At one point, a senior member of his staff said, Mr Gandhi wondered if he might not cancel and send a deputy.

But he is anxious to put India's case on both the Sri Lankan problem and the new Kashmiri dispute.

How much simpler it must have seemed sitting at the controls of a 747.

END OF STORY

Graphic

CARTOON

Load-Date: September 19, 2003



Grasping at two realities: Sri Lanka's Jaffna Peninsula

The Guardian (London)
June 15, 1987

Copyright 1987 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 1192 words

Byline: By DEREK BROWN

Body

Normality, says the Sri Lanka Government, is being restored to the Jaffna Peninsula. It doesn't look like that from the helicopter gunship whirring high over the strangely silent villages. Nor in the shattered main square of Point Pedro. Nor in the hospital at Puloly, where a young boy bathes his raw burned leg under a tap in the rubbish strewn yard.

But nomnality here grows out of gun barrels. Three weeks ago it was the elaborate bunker and trench defences of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u>. Now it is represented by 3,000 soldiers, re-discovering the old military truth that occupation can be more difficult than conquest.

The army holds at most a third of the peninsula. It has Vadamararchchi, the wedge at the north east corner, and a narrow coastal strip to the west. It also has garrisons at strategic points, including the battered star shaped fort in Jaffna Town. Elsewhere the Tigers, with an armed strength said to be between one and 3,000, remain in control. So now there are two strange forms of Jaffna reality.

According to the Tigers and their sympathisers, the army has been fought to a standstill. Hundreds of civilians have been slaughtered in indiscriminate shelling, air attacks, and retaliatory murders. A quarter of the population of 850,000 is displaced, and many are now hungry, if not starving.

In Colombo yesterday a distinguished citizen from the heart of the occupied zone, offered a horrific account of the bombing, the panic and mass killings. He said the air force had dropped more than 100 improvised petrol bombs, in oil drums packed with pieces of rubber which stuck to any human or other object. Home made napalm, in fact. The same witness had frightening estimates of at least 600 civilian deaths in Vadamararchchi, including 300 villagers gunned down in cold blood.

The army's account is that 33 soldiers and 47 civilians died in 'operation liberation' plus around 150 separatist rebels.

More to the point, the terrorists had been taught that the military could move when and where it wants. The civilian population, say the soldiers, welcomed them and is now cooperating. Free food is being distributed. Power, transport and other essentials are geing restored.

As a sign of its confidence, the Government, after denying reporters permission to enter the peninsula for many weeks, is now laying on regular press trips. They follow an increasingly familiar pattern: by ageing Avro transport from Colombo to Palaly air base in the northern coastal strip, and then by open sided helicopter gunship to camps in the liberated zone.

The aircraft climb and descend steeply, staying out of range of the machine guns which, all aboard fervently hope, are the most formidable ground to air weapons available to the Tigers.

But even from 1,000 feet, it is difficult to see widespread damage, let alone the thought of catastrophic destruction alleged by the Government foes. The most obvious feature of the landscape is its flatness, its poverty and its emptiness. The fields seem deserted, no traffic moves on the country roads, and there is hardly a soul in the villages. On the ground it looks different. At Puloly, we saw the first signs of battle: a gutted house, others badly damaged, and improvised army road blocks. But here too, were signs of fledgling normality, government style. The police station had just re-opened, manned by Tamil officers' from Jaffna. Two <u>women</u> arrived to register a complaint against their neighbours. A small incident, but also a small confirmation that the new regime was being used.

Opposite the police station is the Point Pedro base hospital where wards like sheds, open at the side, were crammed with casualties of the army invasion. Several had savage burns. They said they had been caught by the petrol bombs.

Dr S. R. Anandaraja, said the hospital was short of pain killing drugs and oxygen, contrary to government claims. He was deeply reluctant to discuss the cause of the burn wounds. The army I colonel in charge of Puloly gave the doctor authority to speak to the press but he advised:'If such a thing (the petrol bombing) has happened it is very inhumane, so think very carefully.'

At Point Pedro itself, on the north east tip of the island, Colonel Udena Gunawardena admitted that some terrorists had re-infiltrated the area: the odd sniper as well as the unit which planted a land mine at the village of Thikkam last week, killing three soldiers and 10 detainees being returned to their families after interrogation. Local lore has it that these detainees were gunned down by infuriated soldiers after the death of their colleagues. But at Puloly they still have some of the hideously blast-mangled bodies.

The town of Pont Pedro is living proof of the two forms of normality. Between the army camp and the inhabited area, there lies a swathe of utter devastation. The main square is littered with rubble, and whole buildings have collapsed - mined, the army says, by the departing Tigers. Elaborate slit trenches and escape routes honeycomb some of the rebel fortifications.

Beyond this moonscape, the town is slowly coming back to life. There is a bus stand, the focal point of any community in this region, and a skeleton service is running. A market is functioning, but with pathetically little in it to buy except coconuts. A Tamil-speaking colleague from India managed to speak briefly with local people before the ever watchful army men moved in to eavesdrop. He reported that the people were deeply unwilling to speak, but had indicated that they feared the security forces more than the Tigers.

Then we were hustled on to Kankesanturai where the army base protects a deep water port. A merchant ship was slowly disgorging its cargo of flour. It had been there a week, with three other ships waiting off the harbour. A purchasing officer from the local cooperative explained that everyone who turned up at distribution centres was being given a kilo each of rice and flour every day. But diesel fuel for the lorries was scarce. Nor was there any explanation of how food was distributed to the old, the infirm, and other housebound people.

We were then flown over Jaffna town, at a respectable height. Even so, it was plain to see the absurdity of carpet bombing claims. The area around Jaffna fort was indeed severely damaged, and the telecommunications building next to the fort was broken beyond repair.

When we returned to Palaly, Brigadier Gerry de Silva, explained the army's tactical withdrawal from Atchuveli, a village south of the coastal strip. It had been done, he said, to avoid civilian casualties. The Tigers say their fighters pushed the soldiers back as part of their long promised but never quite delivered counter offensive.

The danger which the army now sees is that the Tigers, having been driven out of their bunkers and fixed lines, will revert to a more orthodox guerrilla campaign. Meanwhile, with a total of 10 infantry battalions, and other terrorist

Grasping at two realities: Sri Lanka 's Jaffna Peninsula

fronts in the eastern and northern regions, the Sri Lanka army will be stretched to take the rest of the peninsula, let alone hold on comfortably to the strange new normality it has created by force.

Load-Date: June 9, 2000



189 tamil rebels surrender to sri lankan troops

Copyright 1999 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency
MARCH 29, 1999, MONDAY

Length: 191 words

Dateline: colombo, march 29; ITEM NO: 0329229

Body

a total of 189 tamil rebels surrendered to government troops by sunday evening in the northern province of sri lanka after the troops' operation ranagosa (the sound of war), military sources here said monday. the sources said more than 100 rebels of the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (Itte) indicated their willingness to surrender to the troops last week. the number is expected to increase further because of the efforts taken by the government and the troops towards their welfare. another group of Itte members are also awaiting surrender with their weapons. there are five Itte women among those who surrendered, including a sinhalese woman married to a Itte cadre, the sources said, the troops have already started projects to educate and rehabilitate them in the area, they added. earlier this month, sri lankan government troops launched the ranagosa operation to expand the security force-controlled region in the northern wanni area. the Itte rebels have been fighting against the government since 1983 for a separate state of their own in the north and east of the country.

Load-Date: March 30, 1999



9 tamil rebels killed in northern sri lanka

Copyright 1999 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency
APRIL 25, 1999, SUNDAY

Length: 158 words

Dateline: colombo, april 25; ITEM NO: 0425116

Body

sri lankan government troops saturday killed nine tamil rebels in separate clashes with the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (*Itte*) in the north of the country, a military spokesman announced here on sunday. spokesman rp witana said the troops engaged a group of *Itte* rebels with small arms on sunday afternoon and killed five rebels and injured four others in the north of oddusudan in the northern province. around 10:50 a.m. sunday in west of paranthan, government troops observed a group of *Itte female* cadres moving towards paranthan and engaged them with machine guns and small arms, killing at least three of them, he said. witana added that government troops operating ahead of defenses sniped and killed one *Itte* terrorist at paranthan on sunday morning. the *Itte* rebels have been waging a war against the government since 1983 for a separate tamil state in the north and east of the country.

Load-Date: April 26, 1999



9 tamil rebels killed in northern sri lanka

Copyright 1999 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency
APRIL 25, 1999, SUNDAY

Length: 158 words

Dateline: colombo, april 25; ITEM NO: 0425116

Body

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Load-Date: April 27, 1999



ASIA '92: SOUTH ASIAN CHILDREN TRAGIC VICTIMS OF ADULT POLITICS

IPS-Inter Press Service
December 29, 1992, Tuesday

Copyright 1992 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 789 words

Byline: by Mahesh Uniyal

Dateline: NEW DELHI, Dec. 29

Body

It was a year of despair and hope for South Asian children who bore the brunt of violent adult politics even as the region's governments held out the promise of a childhood.

For the first time, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to join hands to combat hunger, disease, illiteracy and abuse which is the lot of most of the region's over 400 million children.

"We consider this to be an integral part of, and a first charge on our respective government's efforts at improving the lives of the people in our region," members of a regional meeting on children in the Sri Lankan capital in September declared.

The national action plans for children endorsed by the Colombo SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) meeting have been designed to attain the child survival and development goals set by the U.N. World Summit for Children in 1990.

But in the year that is coming to an end, concern for the child was overshadowed by political, ethnic and religious conflict, and state repression.

Just 200-km north of the venue of the conference in Colombo, thousands of children are growing up in a war zone, caught in a bloody battle between security forces and Tamil guerrillas that has stretched on for close to a decade.

At year-end, the number of child victims of violence spiralled dramatically as religious riots engulfed the subcontinent after Hindu zealots razed a medieval mosque in India where over 1,200 are officially reported killed.

Photographs in newspapers across the country of orphaned children in the debris of their demolished homes or in relief camps in the aftermath of the violence was revealing evidence that it is children who ultimately pay for adult senselessness.

A brutal state crackdown on non-Buddhists in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan this year turned some 100,000 of its people of Nepali-origin into refugees. Tens of thousands poured into Nepal where relief workers are struggling to provide food and shelter.

A desperately poor nation is trying to cope with the influx of refugees, but many child victims of Bhutan's 'ethnic cleansing' policy have died of malnutrition and disease in refugee camps.

ASIA '92: SOUTH ASIAN CHILDREN TRAGIC VICTIMS OF ADULT POLITICS

"Children and <u>women</u> are the worst sufferers of all kinds of violence," says Sushila Bhan of the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR). In the first such Indian study, the ICSSR is examining the fallout of secessionist and sectarian violence in the country on the young.

There has been no let up in separatist strife in India's north and north-east. Insurgencies in Kashmir, Punjab and Assam have orphaned children over the past decade. Exact figures are not available.

In Sri Lanka, the war has forced 625,000 people to leave their homes in the north and northeast, according to the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Social Welfare which says between 20 to 25 percent of these are children.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) guerrillas have even recruited children to fight the Sri Lankan army. Most of those in the "baby brigades" are shorter than the guns they carry, and some are as young as eight.

Continuing domestic strife in South Asia will frustrate governments' efforts to meet ambitious targets for children.

These include slashing infant and under-5 child mortality by a third, halving both maternal mortality and malnutrition among children below five, and universal access to basic schooling, safe drinking water and sanitation, all by the year 2000.

This is a daunting task for a region where of the 35 million children born annually, five million die before the age of five. And most of those lucky enough to survive do not get the chance to develop to their full potential.

However, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in its latest state of the world's children report is optimistic that stepped up social spending coupled with political and social support can make this a reality.

"Poverty is (now) unacceptable as a reason for not achieving the child survival and development goals," Eimi Watanebe, UNICEF representative to India said here while launching the 1993 report.

The report says developing countries should -- and can -- restructure government spending to allocate at least 20 percent on nutrition, primary health care, clean water, safe sanitation, basic education and family planning services.

This may, however, be a tall order for South Asia where health and education are allocated only two and four percent respectively of government funds while defense gets 18 percent.

Though defense budgets have shrunk particularly in India and Pakistan, the state in both countries spends a great deal in controlling internal strife. India is estimated to have spent over \$100 million to control riots at year-end.

Load-Date: December 31, 1992



Salvadoran hospitals facing bed shortage in light of alcohol-related deaths

Associated Press International October 11, 2000; Wednesday

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Section: International news

Length: 850 words

Dateline: SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador

Body

Hospitals are running out of hospital beds due to a bizarre epidemic of methyl alcohol poisoning, which has caused 117 deaths so far, officials said Wednesday.

"The situation gets more difficult every minute there are no beds left in the hospital," said Dr. Hector Manuel Rosales, director of the hospital in Ilobasco, 55 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of San Salvador.

llobasco is in the province of Cabanas, where 43 people have died over the past four days. Rosales said he referred six patients to the country's largest hospital, also named Rosales, but "They have told us that they can't take anymore."

The number of deaths has reached 117 with the victims spread over six of this Central American country's 12 provinces, including the capital San Salvador, the authorities said.

Police say the poisoned alcohol was sold openly to poor farm workers at liquor stores under the brand name Thunderbolt, a well-known cheap sugarcane liquor.

One theory is that black-marketers adulterated the alcohol when refilling discarded Thunderbolt bottles. The company has yet to publicly react to the mass poisoning blamed on its brand.

The first cases appeared last week in the small town of San Vicente, 35 miles (56 kilometers) east of San Salvador, where a total of 44 people have died, said Dr. Roberto Cea, director of the morgue at the Legal Medicine Institute.

Those who ingest it experience headaches, vomiting, stomachaches, blindness and usually death. The first symptoms usually appear within six hours of ingestion

A ban on the sale of the brand Thunderbolt was announced soon after the first cases, but police say continuing clandestine sales have kept the number of victims rising. There has been not been an official mass public awareness campaign.

The Salvadoran Congress was due to vote late Wednesday on a proposal to impose a 10-day nationwide ban on the sale of all liquor.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's ruling party appeared on the verge of winning a majority of Parliament seats on a promise to end the country's 17-year civil war.

Salvadoran hospitals facing bed shortage in light of alcohol-related deaths

With more than 90 percent of the vote in the Parliament election tallied Wednesday, Kumaratunga's People's Alliance had 48 percent of the vote, or 88 seats in the 225-member Parliament. The opposition United National Party was next with 39 percent and 72 seats. Other parties were winning the balance of the seats.

With the votes in one district still to be counted, the elections commissioner announced that the final results would not be made public until Thursday.

Tuesday's vote in this island nation off India's southern tip was tumultuous, marked by violence, death and accusations of vote rigging.

With a 10 p.m. curfew imposed, many people remained at home Wednesday, monitoring state radio and television for results. Soldiers patrolled the capital with AK-47s slung over their shoulders, stopping cars at checkpoints.

The driving election issue was the civil war between rebels of the Tamil minority and the government, which is dominated by majority Sinhalese. The violence has raged for 17 years, leaving 63,000 people dead and displacing an additional 1 million people.

Kumaratunga who lost vision in one eye in a Tamil Tiger rebel suicide bombing on Dec. 18 has sought to push through a new constitution granting more autonomy to the provinces in an effort to placate Tamils and sideline rebels fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east.

With only a one-seat majority in the last Parliament, members of Parliament blocked her attempts to pass the constitution, so Kumaratunga saw Tuesday's vote as a referendum on her plan.

Though Kumaratunga has pledged to bring an end to the war, her government has spent some dlrs 375 million in military hardware and weapons in recent months, Army Brig. Sanath Karunatellike told The Associated Press. The hardware was purchased from China, Pakistan, Ukraine and Czechoslovakia.

"She will keep the military option open, because given the track record of the <u>LTTE</u> (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam), she cannot afford to lower her guard," said Jehan Perera, an analyst with the National Peace Council, an independent think tank.

"If the political efforts fail, she may have no other option but to go flat out after the separatists," he said.

Although the People's Alliance gained the most seats in the 225-member Parliament, it still needs at least 113 seats to form its own government without resorting to a coalition.

Deputy Elections Commissioner K. Senanayake said that 75 percent of the 12 million registered voters cast ballots in the country's 11th parliamentary elections on Tuesday.

At least 71 people were killed during the five-week campaign and on polling day, according to the independent Center for Monitoring Election Violence.

The elections were also marred by the death of former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, 84, who died of a heart attack moments after voting.

A state funeral will be held Saturday for Bandaranaike, the world's first <u>female</u> prime minister and Kumaratunga's mother.

On the Net:

Tamil rebels: http://www.eelamweb.com

Sri Lankan government: http://www.priu.gov.lk

Load-Date: October 11, 2000



The women dying for revenge - For Palestine's young martyrs, suicide seems the only route to freedom

The Sunday Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

April 7, 2002, Sunday

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Section: WORLD-TYPE- FEATURE-BIOG- AAYAT AL-AKHRASTABLE; Pg. 52

Length: 1280 words

Byline: BRUCE WILSON

Body

LONDON: On Friday, March 29, a pretty, 18-year-old Palestinian girl called Aayat al-Akhras, in her last year of high school, said goodbye to her parents and left home in the Dehaisha refugee camp, near Bethlehem, saying she had an appointment in Jerusalem.

It was mosque day for her Islamic family, a traditional afternoon off in the 10,000-strong "camp" which has been a refugee centre for so long it is really an established town of its own.

Her family claim they had no idea what was to happen.

That afternoon in Jerusalem was wet and windy, and the Supersol supermarket in the suburb of Kiryat Yoval was crowded with Jewish shoppers preparing for their own Sabbath the next day. Few noticed the Arab girl in western dress toting a heavy bag over her shoulder.

MATP

An alert security guard did, though. He started to push her out the door of the market.

She then detonated the bomb she was carrying, blowing herself to bits and both legs off the security guard, who later died. Another Israeli was also killed and 20 shoppers were hurt.

Luckily, a mortar shell al-Akhras was carrying failed to explode or the carnage would have been devastating. Still, within a couple of hours the narrow, mean streets of Dehaisha were echoing to the celebratory gunfire the Palestinians reserve for their martyrs.

For that is what this young woman, who was engaged to be married and had plenty to live for, had become: a martyr.

Her picture was printed off to hang alongside those of other martyrs in Palestinian living rooms. Sweets were distributed in her name. She was blessed in mosques throughout Palestine and the Arab world.

The bombing was claimed by the al-Aqsa brigade, a militant wing of al-Fatah, Yasser Arafat's power base. Al-Aqsa is the mosque in Jerusalem held as being one of the most sacred of Muslim shrines.

A chilling statement was released immediately after the bits of al-Akhras they recovered were buried.

The women dying for revenge - For Palestine 's young martyrs, suicide seems the only route to freedom

"We have 200 young women from the Bethlehem area alone ready to sacrifice themselves for

the homeland," an al-Aqsa leader said.

That helps to explain why Israeli tanks are in Bethlehem.

Aayat al-Akhras was the third and youngest Palestinian woman to become a suicide bomber.

The first, Wafa Idriss, 28, killed herself and an Israeli in West Jerusalem in January. The second, Daria Abu Aysha, 22, killed herself and wounded three Israeli soldiers at a West Bank checkpoint in February.

Idriss was the first woman suicide bomber, and her action startled both Arabs and Israelis. Although the <u>Tamil</u> <u>Tigers</u> of southern India and Sri Lanka have used <u>women</u> suicide bombers in their uprising, they were previously unknown in Islamic patriotic movements.

<u>Women</u> play a major part in the Israeli armed forces, but the culture of Islam has kept them out of the actual firing line, although eye-witnesses say the <u>women</u> are more frightening than the men in many Palestinian street demonstrations.

That three young <u>women</u> would voluntarily die in such a premeditated and grisly way for their cause seems incomprehensible to most societies. The way they went to their deaths has also puzzled outside observers and Israeli intelligence.

The day before her mission, al-Akhras had been talking to her boyfriend about marriage after her graduation with, she hoped, good enough grades to enter a profession. She was a westernised Palestinian and not especially religious.

But you don't need to look too deeply to find the motive. She was born into a family turned into refugees by the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. One cousin had been killed by Israeli soldiers during the Palestine intifada of the '90s, and two others were badly wounded.

Last month, Israeli troops invaded the Dehaisha camp, killing three people, arresting hundreds, destroying homes, and holding **women** and children captive.

"It bred in us feelings of despair and revenge," one man there told reporters.

And, he added with insight: "That is what a suicide bomber is: a mixture of despair and resistance. You don't have to be a man to feel that. You don't

have to be a woman. You can be a boy -- or a girl."

Little is known of what drove Daria Abu Aysha to her suicide mission from her home in a village near Nablus, a town in the midst of endless Palestinian-Israeli troubles. She was an English literature student from an activist family, and one day she simply went to a nearby Israeli army checkpoint and blew it, and herself, up.

But the case of Wafa Idriss has been widely documented. She had worked with the Red Crescent, the Islamic Red Cross, as a part-time ambulance driver and medic.

Although Israel denies it, the Palestinian medics claim they are persistent targets. It seems very likely that the suffering that Idriss routinely saw turned her from nurse to killer.

Many of the ambulance staff are **women**, and the Palestinians have little of the medical fallback the Israelis enjoy.

"I knew she was stressed," a colleague said of Idriss. "She was upset and angry about what she had seen. She talked about suicide to me and about suicide bombings. I thought she was joking."

Idriss, said friends, was

The women dying for revenge - For Palestine 's young martyrs, suicide seems the only route to freedom

"a model young woman", a loving daughter and a good neighbour who helped out people in trouble. She was also from a highly political family.

On Sunday, January 27, she rushed from her home, telling her family she was running late for work, but would see them later that day. Instead, she picked up a 10kg rucksack bomb and went to Jerusalem.

Idriss went to Jaffa St, an area of bars, restaurants and shops in West Jerusalem's heart, and increasingly a target for Palestinian bombers. There, she detonated the bomb, killing an 81-year-old woman and wounding 100 more. Once again, al-Aqsa claimed responsibility for the atrocity.

Idriss lived in another camp, Amari, near Jerusalem. She did not tell her three brothers -- all al-Fatah activists -- what she intended to do.

"I was surprised she did this," eldest brother Khalil told interviewers. "But she loved Palestine and wanted it to be free."

That would seem to be the key to this. Unlike Israel, the Palestinians have little artillery, apart from fairly primitive rockets, and no tanks.

When Mohammed Daragmeh, 20, went into Jerusalem on his kamikaze mission, he calmly read a statement of intent first.

This said he was dying for Palestine. In fact, he was a walking artillery piece, prepared to die.

Israeli intelligence has warned that <u>women</u> with babies in prams or strollers are being primed for use as bombers, as are younger and younger Palestinian boys.

What is not known is just when Idriss and al-Akhras were briefed on their final missions, and by whom.

There was speculation at first that Idriss was not a bomber but merely someone transporting a bomb, because until her mission all the Palestinian kamikazes were explosives wrapped around their torsos.

But after the second and third rucksack bombs, the explanation seemed clearer. It was simply Islamic modesty: no good Muslim man would feel comfortable removing a woman's clothes to wrap explosives around her.

If so, that is just another bizarre side to this increasingly grim story.

The Palestinians believe they are being forced into more and more desperate acts of survival by an Israeli government they claim is determined to destroy them.

As a result, the suicide bombers have put the entire Middle East on alert, closer to conflict than at any other time in 20 years.

"We have a million more," one Palestinian leader said, indicating every Palestinian in what they call "the occupied territories" would be prepared to be a walking artillery round.

If this seems beyond the comprehension of most societies, the Palestinians would respond that most societies are not in almost terminal despair.

Load-Date: April 6, 2002



Tigers declare a ceasefire

The Independent (London)
November 14, 1994, Monday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 11

Length: 97 words

Body

Colombo - The leader of the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> announced a unilateral week-long ceasefire hours after the inauguration of Chandrika Kumaratunga as Sri Lanka's first <u>female</u> president.

Velupillai Prabhakaran said in a message broadcast over the Tigers' radio station that the guerrillas should retaliate only if attacked. He did not give a reason for the ceasefire, but said it would take effect immediately.

The decision could be an effort to push the government to resume peace talks that were suspended after the assassination of an opposition presidential candidate, Gamini Dissanayake. AP

Load-Date: November 14, 1994



Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 11, 2001 Thursday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Letters; Pg. 17

Length: 1250 words

Body

Pick an enemy, any enemy

It's blindingly obvious once you realise it. In Orwell's 1984, Eurasia was the enemy. It was all their fault. In Hitler's Germany, the Jews, Gypsies anybody who wasn't Aryan. In the United States, before the fall of the wall, it was the commies, specifically the Russkies defined brilliantly by Reagan (or his script writers) as The Evil Empire.

And in John Howard's Australia it's the "illegal immigrants", neither illegal, nor yet immigrants. But what matter? The point is to identify an enemy whose purpose is to distract the populace from the problems at home. Brilliant.

John Newton,

Glebe, October 10.

To side with the Howard Government's treatment of the boat people and possible asylum seekers is bad enough, Kim Beazley, but to jump on the bandwagon coming down on the obvious desperation of these families taking a calculated risk with their children will not induce as many as you would think to tick your box, or that of John Howard's.

It would seem the fear of missing your own boat precludes you from placing yourself in that of a refugee's.

Brian Johnson,

Gymea, October 10.

Howard and Ruddock have short memories if they do not understand the behaviour of desperate parents.

Who could forget 1999 and East Timorese parents throwing their children over razor wire into the Dili UN compound to save them from murder by the Indonesian military?

Stephen Langford,

Australia East Timor Association,

Darlinghurst, October 9.

Under a dinkus most aptly headed "Spin City", Mike Seccombe (Herald, October 9) used the issue of "unauthorised arrivals" as a club to beat John Howard and the Coalition Government in his pathological crusade against them.

Directly below his tirade was an appeal from John Moore, national president of St Vincent de Paul Society, which Seccombe should read and digest.

The \$120 a day which it costs Australian taxpayers for the upkeep of illegal migrants to this country would go a long way, I am sure, to provide the "compassion and concern" Mr Moore feels is lacking in the welfare available for our own homeless refugees.

It could even convince the wayward Mr Seccombe that charity begins at home and help him get his priorities in order.

Ron Elphick,

Buff Point, October 10.

The Howard Government says that it wants to get tough on people smugglers who, it claims, are the root cause of our problem with illegal immigration. How's this for a radical idea? Instead of punishing the poor, desperate people who have given their life savings to try to escape from their homeland, thereby reducing demand for people-smuggling services, why don't we focus on punishing the smugglers, thereby reducing the supply of those services?

John Clayton,

Wahroonga, October 10.

The sun shines out of it

One of our recent prime ministers described Australia as the arse-end of the world. Pretty nice arse, especially in view of the state of the rest of the world. I'll vote for those who pledge to keep it such.

Bernie Bourke,

Ourimbah, October 10.

Who dares wins

There are no guarantees in this life and, yes, travel insurance doesn't cover terrorism, but it seems to me that once we start cancelling our travel plans and putting our everyday lives on hold because of the events of September 11, we are letting the terrorists win.

Kerry Gonzales,

Oatlands, October 10.

Lady killers

Con Vaitsas asks: "Why are there no <u>female</u> terrorists?" (Letters, October 10). Mr Vaitsas is wrong. In the past, <u>female</u> terrorists have had prominent, and lethal, roles in a number of terrorist groups in Europe, Asia and the Americas. The <u>Tamil Tigers</u> of Sri Lanka have even employed <u>female</u> suicide bombers.

Osama bin Laden's organisation and the Taliban have extreme anti-woman policies and these appear to preclude the use of <u>females</u> as operatives in their terrorist cells. Perhaps our ardent Western feminists should organise yet another email petition to the UN protesting at the exclusion of Muslim <u>women</u> from this modern occupation.

Paul Atroshenko,

Waverley, October 10.

To Con Vaitsas: there's one in every home, Con. Mine's Hungarian. Wanna swap?

Anthony Jones,

Artarmon, October 10.

On a wing and a prayer

If Lindsay Fox and Solomon Lew think they can revive Ansett, I wish them better luck than they had in trying to get Coles Meyer off the ground.

William S. Lloyd,

Denistone, October 9.

Time for a child restraint

At first I thought it was cute, the Herald printing letters from young children (some as young as six months), but today's political comment from an 11-year-old is the last straw.

Let there be no restriction on freedom of thought and expression, but let's not use children as our mouthpiece just to get a letter printed. Let the adults ask the naive questions!

Margaret Hamilton,

Hunters Hill, October 10.

Hi, I am Sam and I am 14 months old. I challenge 11-year-old Vicki Copeman (Letters, October 10) to a debate on national debt. The only provisos will be that it will need to be before my bedtime which is 7.30pm and I will need my mum to do a little bit of interpreting for me. I am hoping that Bob the Builder becomes PM because we all know that he can fix it. I know he will do a great job with Wendy as his co-runner.

Samuel J. Massey,

Frenchs Forest, October 10.

Let's cop some truth

Having watched my complaint go through the farcical situation of police investigating police, the best thing that Mr Carr could do is to have an independent body with some ability, and willingness, to deal with the myriad complaints that are made against the police. The latest tales of corruption are part of a continuum stretching back to the Rum Corps.

We don't need any more multimillion-dollar stunts, publicity-friendly judges heading commissions, or worldwide searches for a super commissioner. Just give someone some teeth to deal with the tide of information and complaint that laps at the door of police headquarters, year after year.

Joe Weller.

Lewisham, October 10.

Jock strapped

Those people loudly calling Alan Jones the most influential radio "jock" in Australia because of his 15 to 20 per cent ratings should remember that 80 to 85 per cent are not influenced by him. His treatment of the Opposition Leader on Tuesday reflects no credit on someone ignored by 80 to 85 per cent of the population.

G. Healey,

Petersham, October 9.

Hitler's hypocrisy

The view that Hitler was homosexual (Herald, October 8) is not new. The Duchess of Windsor in her autobiography, The Heart Has Its Reason (1956), states that after meeting Hitler she arrived at the conclusion that "Hitler did not care for <u>women</u>", a polite way of saying he was homosexual.

Homosexuals in positions of authority who have persecuted other homosexuals are not uncommon. Only a bill of rights in Australia will properly protect sexual and other liberties which are the basis of democracy.

Paul Knobel,

Darlinghurst, October 10.

An idea blossoms

Congratulations to the White Wreath Association, and its sponsors, for the very professional display in Martin Place on October 10. A moving and thought-provoking event, drawing attention to the very serious problem of suicide in Australia.

Ian Ryan,

Dee Why, October 10.

Feeling fleeced

I know that, generally, things aren't all that flash, and there are more important issues in the world than the price of lamb chops, but ... I was a tad peeved having to pay \$9 for three of them last Friday at my local butcher, who was charging \$12.50 a kilo. Walked past on Monday and they were \$13.50. Are sheep becoming an endangered species or just getting harder to catch?

John Keogh,

Woollahra, October 9.

Load-Date: July 24, 2007



Steeped in Jane Austen on a Sri Lankan Mountaintop

The Chronicle of Higher Education

November 16, 2001

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Section: THE CHRONICLE REVIEW; Pg. 5

Length: 1404 words

Byline: ANNE TAGGE

Body

Readers of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice will recall that Elizabeth Bennet, the future "mistress of Pemberley," on first seeing Mr. Darcy's home "standing well on rising ground, and backed by a ridge of high woody hills" felt an intense admiration for its site and natural grandeur.

Jane Austen's famous fictional Pemberley was based on Chatsworth in Derbyshire. Now a real Pemberley exists -- in picturesque, though war-torn, Sri Lanka, a few miles from where a mob killed more than two dozen inmates at a rehabilitation camp for suspected rebels last fall.

The conflict between the Sinhalese majority on the island, who are mostly Buddhist, and the Tamil minority, who are mostly Hindu, dates from the 19th century. In 1948, the British colony of Ceylon became independent; it was renamed Sri Lanka in 1972. The government -- dominated by Sinhalese -- instituted policies designed to reverse the favoritism most Sinhalese believe the Tamils received from the British. Since then, the conflict has become increasingly violent, with 60,000 combatants and civilians killed so far. The <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, terrorists notorious for suicide attacks, are demanding a separate Tamil nation.

The Pemberley International Study Center is a beautifully realized islandof culture, everything Jane Austen and Janeites would wish for. Modeled onthe Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Study and Conference Center, Pemberley's buildings and gardens are magnificent (some photos of them appear on the Web at http://www.pemberleyhouse.com). The center is located just outside Haputale at an elevation of 4,000 feet in Sri Lanka's central mountain range and has some of the finest views in the country.

The center's trustees select applicants from around the world to spend up to four weeks as resident scholars at Pemberley. The trustees particularly welcome applications from people who are studying or writing about certain specified fields, including Jane Austen, the environment, and archaeology, or whose current work involves the fine arts or creative writing, as well as Sri Lankan subjects. The wide variety of topics is designed to attract scholars in many different fields, so that Pemberley will become a landmark international institution.

Pemberley House is used during another part of the year to provide educational programs for Sri Lankan youth. Members of the Gooneratne family, which owns Pemberley, often speak of their gratitude toward their native land and emphasize their goal of using Pemberley to give something back to Sri Lanka.

Inland from the cemetery at the port of Trincomalee, where her brother Adm. Sir Charles Austen is buried, Jane Austen might be surprised to see the name Pemberley attached to a 19th-century tea-estate bungalow gloriously restored, furnished in traditional style, and equipped with up-to-date amenities. But on an outside wall of the house

Steeped in Jane Austen on a Sri Lankan Mountaintop

is a prominent brass plaque with a quote from Pride and Prejudice about Elizabeth's reaction to her Pemberley -"She had never seen a place for which nature had done more, or where natural beauty had been so little
counteracted by an awkward taste." -- and the words "For Yasmine."

The house and the center are a tribute to the Austen scholar Yasmine Bandaranaike Gooneratne from her Darcy, Brendon Gooneratne. A physician and, in his younger days, an acclaimed cricket player, Brendon Gooneratne is a conservationist devoted to the history of Sri Lanka and the protection of its wild elephants. Yasmine and Brendon divide the year between Pemberley and Australia, where she is an emeritus professor of English at Macquarie University.

Yasmine's aunt, the late Sirimavo R.D. Bandaranaike, was the world's first <u>female</u> prime minister, and Mrs. Bandaranaike's daughter, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, is the current head of Sri Lanka's government. Professor Gooneratne's publications include Relative Merits: A Personal Memoir of the Bandaranaike Family of Sri Lanka, and two insightful novels on postcolonial themes, A Change of Skies and The Pleasures of Conquest. During her long career, she has taken a special interest in the colonial and postcolonial world. Her finest portrayal of the colonizer's mentality is the 1999 This Inscrutable Englishman, a biography of Sir John D'Oyly that she wrote in collaboration with her husband.

D'Oyly worked in the Ceylon Civil Service in the early 19th century, a time when Britain controlled only the periphery of Ceylon, not the ancient centers or Kandy, the mountain capital. Although he fell in love with Ceylonese culture, by extending British rule over the entire island he is directly responsible for the British cultural influence in Ceylon -- an influence ironically illustrated in the tastes of the Gooneratnes.

Today, as when D'Oyly arrived, Sri Lanka is politically divided. The central government has been unable so far to subdue the insurgents, centered in the northern Jaffna area and the eastern provinces. Today also, Sri Lanka proves more complex and intriguing on close sight than at a distance. Those of us who were resident scholars at Pemberley House in the summer of 2000 experienced some contrasts and surprises. Initially, the center seemed far away from ethnic conflict, but we could not forget the ties of the Gooneratnes to the Sri Lankan political aristocracy and prominent Sinhalese families.

The staff members at Pemberley are nonextremist Tamils. Hard-working and English-speaking, they maintain an elegant, old-fashioned standard of life at Pemberley. Although many of them come from poorer backgrounds, the manager of tea cultivation is in fact the former owner of the entire estate. A well-educated man, he occasionally joined me and my fellow scholars before dinner, telling stories of the old life of the local tea planters.

Across the road from Pemberley House is an orphanage founded by Father Bosco, a Tamil Christian who takes in needy children without regard to any of the barriers that divide Sri Lankans elsewhere. The orphanage uses innovative agricultural practices in its production of eggs and vegetables, which it sells to raise money. It is thus a prototype for solving Sri Lanka's two biggest problems: poverty and tensions among religious and ethnic groups.

Back at Pemberley House, conversation at meals, with one of the Gooneratnes presiding, centered on anecdotes of their early lives in Ceylon along with a formidable blend of literary topics. The Gooneratnes clearly hope that their scholars will equal those at Bellagio, where they once studied. We were to use this unique opportunity to concentrate on our projects, with generous help from their numerous academic and professional friends.

Nothing detracted from the intense intellectual atmosphere -- not the splendid tropical landscape, the beautiful house, or the news that a cobra had been shot near the new ornamental pool (constructed in the shape of Sri Lanka). Even when everyone watched a complete lunar eclipse from the porch in the light of dozens of tiny oil lamps, Yasmine Gooneratne pointed to the sky and quoted Tennyson's "Locksley Hall": "Many a night from yonder ivied casement, ere I went to rest,/Did I lookon great Orion sloping slowly to the West./Many a night I saw the Pleiads, rising thro' the mellow shade,/Glitter like a swarm of fire-flies tangled in a silver braid."

On another evening, the guests were army officers, including two young men recently returned from the Jaffna front. Even then, any conversation about politics was discouraged.

Steeped in Jane Austen on a Sri Lankan Mountaintop

At the Bellagio of the east, in the mountain heart of an Asian nation at war, the nostalgic Gooneratnes and the resident scholars discuss Austen, elephants and their protection, the attraction of 19th-century British poetry for upper-class families in Sri Lanka, and the failure of the world to see through the publicity of Tamil emigres.

There is a strange isolation to Pemberley House, as if one were on a luxury liner. For the moment, all else in the world is utterly remote, beyond the island of the dinner table, beyond the smoky haze from brush fires. Even the capital seems far away, and no one mentions the latest in Sri Lanka's civil war. We read the Colombo newspapers, bought each morning in Haputale, only in our elegant bedrooms.

Anne Tagge is a writer. She was a member of the first group of resident scholars at the Pemberley International Study Center, in Sri Lanka, where she studied the history and literature of exploration.

Load-Date: December 17, 2001



NO-HEADLINE

The Independent (London)
July 23, 1996, Tuesday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL; Page 10

Length: 97 words

Body

Tamil rebels claimed to have killed at least 1,200 Sri Lankan troops in the battle for a north-eastern army camp, and said they had surrounded reinforcements sent to rescue the besieged garrison.

A statement from the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> yesterday said 241 rebels, including 68 <u>women</u>, had also died in the fight for the Mullaitivu army camp, regarded as the bloodiest battle in years.

An army official said the claim that government troops were surrounded was exaggerated. He estimated casualties at 300 killed and 200 wounded, and said more than 300 rebels had been killed. Reuter - Colombo

Load-Date: July 23, 1996



Global Impact News Alert

United Press International May 4, 2000, Thursday

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Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 1353 words

Byline: BY LEE MICHAEL KATZ, UPI International Editor

Body

TOP OF THE NEWS

SIERRA LEONE--The United Nations considered the urgent need to reinforce U.N. peacekeepers in the West African nation of Sierra Leone on Thursday. The move comes a day after rebels killed seven peacekeepers and took at least 50 peacekeepers and civilians hostage. The action also raises questions about the U.N.'s ability to keep peace in Africa.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook on Thursday pledged logistical support for the U.N. peacekeeping effort after a phone conversation with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan about what Cook termed the "disturbing violence" in Sierra Leone. "Kofi and I also agreed on the rapid deployment of those U.N. forces which have not arrived," Cook said. The United States may also be asked to provide logistical support to bolster the U.N. troop force in Sierra Leone.

There are nearly 9,000 U.N. troops in Sierra Leone, but several thousand more troops are already in the pipeline, since the U.N. Security Council has authorized a force of 11,000 troops. The U.N. Security Council was likely to discuss what it has called the "deteriorating situation" on Thursday.

But the concern extends beyond Sierra Leone to all of Africa. The death of the Kenyan peacekeepers casts a shadow on an ambitious U.N. peacekeeping effort in the Congo. And it was reminiscent of the problems faced in U.N. peacekeeping efforts in Somalia, where the 1993 deaths of crack American peacekeeping troops in Mogadishu brought a Western reluctance to intervene in Africa. After that, "we know that the international community and the western countries were not ready to go to Rwanda" to stop the 1994 genocide, U.N. Secerary-General Kofi Annan said. "And after Sierra Leone I think there's going to be very little encouragement for any of them to get involved in operations in Africa."

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HONG KONG--China's President Jiang Zemin will step down from his top party posts in the next three years, the South China Morning Post reported Thursday.

According to the Hong Kong-based newspaper, Jing has indicated he will not seek a third term as party secretary general in 2002 and has told his colleagues to back his deputy, Hu Jintao, for the top job. Jiang reportedly also step down from the presidency a year later.

Global Impact News Alert

If the report is borne out, it would mean that Jiang seeks a gradual transfer of power during a critical time for relations between China and nearby Taiwan, as well relations between Beijing and the United States and the West.

The comments were made in a private meeting with politburo members and senior Communist Party cadres, the newspaper said. They also indicate a future political reshuffling in China. Quoting a party source, the newspaper said that Jiang told members that at the 16th Communist Party Congress in 2002 only two of the seven members of the Politburo should remain. He named Hu and Li Ruihuan, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference chairman, as those who should stay after 2002.

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LOS ANGELES -- Thousands of computer users worldwide Thursday were flummoxed by an e-mail worm virus dubbed the "Love Bug," which traveled via the Internet. The virus is believed to have originated in the Philippines. It turned up in personal e-mail accounts and in the systems of a number of major corporations and government agencies in the United States and abroad. The alluring subject line said "I Love You," or else instructs the recipient to open a "love letter"; doing so prompted the booby-trapped attachment and unleashed the virus.

The latest so-called basic script-based worm virus latches onto the address book program of the victim's e-mail system and mails itself to everyone in the hapless sender's address book. The FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center, the government's clearinghouse for virus information, said in a release that "I Love You" attachments should be deleted, both from inboxes and "deleted items" queues. "Anti-virus software vendors are currently working on inoculation software," the FBI said. "Please consult your anti-virus software website for updated information and inoculations."

The warnings have come to late for many computer users. Media reports indicate the virus was launched in Asia Thursday morning and with lightning speed tore through systems in Europe and the U.S. Media reports indicated the virus has hit everything from Asian banks to Britain's House of Commons and the U.S. federal government.

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THE NETHERLANDS-On the second day of the landmark trial of two Libyans accused of planting a bomb aboard Pan Flight 103, witnesses Thursday described the fiery wreckage that rained down on Lockberbie, Scotland after the 1988 mid-air explosion.

The explosion spread carnage and flames for miles around the area, the witness noted. The trial is being held in a special Scottish court transplanted to the Netherlands. But while the trial could last up to a year, it is already rehabilitating the international reputation of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

The opening of the trial at a neutral site in the Netherlands is a major milestone in bringing Gadahfi's regime back into the international fold after years of pariah status. Gadbafi endured seven years of sanctions before handing over last year the two men, who are described by the prosecution as Libyan intelligence agents who placed the bomb aboard a suitcase on the plane.

Western nations moved to embrace diplomatic relations with oil rich Libya as the trial date approached. The rush is likely to increase even further now that the trial has started. Even the United States, which had 189 Americans killed in the bombing, is considering lifting a nearly 20-year-old travel ban on Libya.

"What the trial means is they want to go through the processwithout delegitimizing any longer the Libyan government or regime," former Arab League U.N. Ambassador Clovis Maksoud said. "The thrust of the international community is that they are distinguishing between the legal track and diplomatic and commercial relations with Libya."

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MIDEAST -- Israeli shelling reportedly killed two <u>women</u> in Lebanon and dozens of Katyusha rockets from Hezbollah guerillas were fired on civilian areas of northern Israel on Thursday, injuring 17 people.

Global Impact News Alert

The attacks could prompt retaliation and are an explosive sign of the problems that could happen after Israel withdraws from a buffer "security" zone in Lebanon by July. The Israeli army ordered all residents of northern Israel into air raid shelters. Military chief of General Staff Lt. General Shaul Mofaz said Israeli must act against a recent "trend" of increased Hezbollah attacks. Israel's inner security Cabinet was meeting on Thursday to decide the Israeli response to the attacks.

Some fear that the vacuum left by the Israeli withdrawal could spark a wider confrontation in Lebanon. Officials and analysts said that could include Syrian troops based there, if more attacks are launched

U.N. special envoy, Terje Roed-Larsen, said Thursday he was encouraged by the talks he held with Lebanese officials regarding the Israeli pullout from south Lebanon. He called for speedy preparation to deal with the pull-out as "time is short."

The fighting also came as Arab diplomats called for a greater U.N. troop role in Lebanon after the Israeli pull-out.

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SRI LANKA -- Sri Lanka on Thursday put itself on war footing, giving sweeping powers to the armed forces by invoking the Public Service Act. The move came a day after India refused to intervene in the conflict with Tamil Tiger separatists, when it became clear Sri Lanka would be on its own dealing with the rebels.

An ordinance promulgated by Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga Thursday morning gave sweeping powers to the military to crush the *Tamil Tigers* who advanced toward the northern town of Jaffna.

The armed forces have been authorized to confiscate private property and seize vehicles to protect national security, the order said. The ordinance also outlaws strikes, demonstrations and public meetings that could pose a threat to national security and unity. Censorship of military news in the local media has also been tightened under the new rules.

Load-Date: May 5, 2000



Canada the in place for outlaws

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

December 22, 2000 Friday

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; Crime

Length: 1363 words

Byline: COLIN NICKERSON, PAUL CHERRY of The Gazette contributed to, this report

Body

As police closed in on his vast smuggling empire in China's Fujian province, Lai Changxing last year made a hasty but plush escape - grabbing a first-class seat on the next plane to Canada. After entering the country as a "tourist," the criminal kingpin plunked down \$1.3 million for a luxury home in British Columbia and was back in business.

No one knows where fugitive Boston mobster James J. (Whitey) Bulger went to ground when he vanished from the view of law enforcement in 1995. But Canada is a good bet.

The FBI recently issued Wanted posters printed in French for distribution in Quebec, where Boston's most notorious gangster is believed to have stashed huge sums of cash in safe-deposit boxes.

Boston Globe; The Gazette contributed to this report

Canada is fast gaining an international reputation as a good place for criminals and terrorists seeking a permanent hideout under a new alias - as may be the case with Bulger.

Or, as with the alleged Islamic radicals arrested in last year's millennium bomb plot against the United States, it's just a temporary base of operations.

"Canada is almost a welcome wagon for crime," said Antonio Nicaso, a Toronto expert on organized crime. "Here there is a much lower risk of detention or prosecution than in the United States or Europe."

A recently declassified report by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the national spy agency, indicates that Canada is now home to more international terrorist organizations than any other nation. More than 50 groups, from Sri Lanka's <u>Tamil Tigers</u> to the agents of the shadowy Osama bin Laden, use Canada as a hideout and even staging ground for terror attacks.

The report cites a "disturbing trend as terrorists move from support roles, such as fund-raising and (weapons) procurement, to ... planning and preparing terrorist acts from Canadian territory."

This week a new report on international crime prepared by the CIA, FBI, and other U.S. intelligence and enforcement agencies warned that Canada has become both a refuge for Asian mob figures and a significant North American gateway for Chinese Mafia: "The United States faces a growing threat from Chinese organized-crime groups using Canada as a base from which to conduct criminal activities that impact our country," stated the report released by the White House.

Canada the in place for outlaws

Big bucks make for an easier life on the lam. But Canada is a soft touch even for destitute criminals trying to lie low.

James Anthony Martin, now 52, headed north after he was alleged to have gunned down a Harvard graduate in a drug deal gone wrong in Cambridge, Mass. The murder occurred in 1976. For nearly a quarter-century, Martin drew welfare and other social benefits in Montreal while following a career of armed robbery, petty theft and transporting narcotics that resulted in at least 16 arrests. But authorities never seriously probed his past even though neighbours knew he had a "troubled" background in the U.S.

Geographic proximity makes Canada an obvious bolthole for American criminals. But indulgent immigration policies are turning it into a destination of choice for desperate characters from around the planet.

Canada's relatively loose border controls and immigration policies - coupled with a 242,438-kilometre coastline that is nearly unpatrolled except near the more populated zones - are also making it a newly important port of entry for drugs and illegal aliens whose ultimate destination is the U.S.

Analysts say Canada's lackadaisical approach to illegal immigrants, generous social-welfare programs and seriously underfunded law-enforcement agencies represent a more or less open invitation to criminals.

When an Algerian with terrorist connections was arrested entering Washington State last December with a trunkload of bomb materials, it made headlines around the world. But Ahmed Ressam had been living in Canada since 1994, securing welfare benefits - and notching up a Quebec criminal record - even though he'd been caught entering the country illegally with a false French passport.

Lai Changxing certainly wasn't seeking welfare benefits when he arrived in Canada in August 1999, describing himself as a simple tourist. China has another description, calling him the country's most-wanted fugitive. Among other things, it is alleged he corrupted thousands of officials, high and low, with gifts of cash and <u>women</u> to protect a crime ring that smuggled billions of dollars' worth of vehicles, crude oil, weapons and computers into Fujian province.

Lai's fake passport wasn't spotted when he presented it at Vancouver's international airport. Neither did anyone pay attention when he paid cash for a posh suburban home. Or when he was barred from casinos in British Columbia for loan-sharking. Or when he partied with Asian crime figures near Niagara Falls, dropping as much as \$600,000 a night at gaming tables.

Finally, after 15 months of apoplectic protests by Chinese officials, Canadian authorities apprehended Lai on Nov. 23, but they haven't sent him back. The hope was for a quick extradition, but the case has become an international soap opera, with Lai loudly - if improbably - claiming to be a refugee not from justice but "political persecution."

There's little doubt that if Lai is returned home he will face a firing squad (14 lesser cohorts have already been executed). And that leaves Canada in an embarrassing situation. Ottawa likes to boast of its unyielding stand against capital punishment. But officials are also desperate to combat the country's new image as an easy sanctuary for undesirable immigrants - and a place where even absurd refugee claims can stretch for years and even decades.

"Canada doesn't want to be a haven for criminals," said Irene Arseneau, a spokesman for the federal Justice department. "We welcome immigrants, we welcome refugees, but only when they come through the front door."

It's not clear what door James Anthony Martin used to enter Canada after allegedly shooting dead 28-year-old Edward Paulsen in Cambridge, Mass., in 1976. But he certainly made no attempt to follow the straight and narrow after taking up illegal residence in Montreal; he was charged with 31 crimes over 24 years, and even served a stint in a Canadian prison. But apparently no one thought to check whether the misbehaving American might actually be wanted in the U.S.

It took a dogged "cold-case" investigation by Cambridge police to finally bring Martin back to Massachusetts last January on a murder charge.

Canada the in place for outlaws

Meanwhile, there is no proof - but strong suspicion - that one of America's most-wanted criminals, Whitey Bulger, slipped into Canada in 1995, skipping Boston just days before federal indictment on 18 counts of murder, as well as numerous charges of extortion, drug-running and racketeering.

Bulger, now 71 and suffering from heart disease, has criminal links to Montreal's vicious West End Gang, and he is thought to have stashed quantities of unlaundered cash in safe-deposit boxes in Toronto and Montreal.

In 1987, for example, Bulger tried to board a plane for Montreal at Boston's Logan airport with a bag containing an estimated \$100,000 in \$100 bills. He fled the scene. There have been at least two unconfirmed sightings of the mobster in Quebec and Ontario.

The Montreal Urban Community police would not comment officially on whether they are attempting to locate Bulger. Some sources within the force's squads that deal with organized crime said they had heard of Bulger mostly through news reports that he recently made the FBI's most-wanted list - but weren't certain of whether there was a specific attempt to find him among Montreal's underworld.

The RCMP in Montreal referred a request for information about any local investigations into Bulger to Interpol.

"We know he's traveled extensively in Canada, but we are following leads all around the world," said the FBI's Stuart Sturm, stressing that the search for Bulger is being closely co-ordinated with the RCMP and other Canadian police agencies.

"There's reason to believe he maintained money in Canada. So we are hoping to find him with help from our good northern neighbour."

Graphic

Photo: COURTESY OF THE FBI; Is fugitive Boston mobster, Whitey Bulger (seen in 1994 photos at left and centre and in altered, photo, right) hiding in Quebec?

Load-Date: December 22, 2000



Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia) September 19, 2001, Wednesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 18

Length: 1366 words

Body

Don't make us pay

I AM sure we all sympathise with Ansett employees who have lost their jobs and possibly their accrued entitlements.

If Ansett's assets were sold improperly, if directors allowed the company to trade when they knew it was insolvent, then there may be some legal recourse.

But it should not be the responsibility of the Australian taxpayer to recompense Ansett's workforce. Nor should they be recompensed by future passengers paying a surcharge on tickets.

The loss is theirs and others should not have to bear it.

Many employees were given the chance to leave the company a couple of years ago and again, more recently. An additional incentive of \$75,000 was offered to some, as Ansett struggled to reduce costs.

Did Ansett's well-paid employees ever go to management and ask what they could do in order to keep it in the black? Did they offer higher productivity, or short-term salary cuts?

If the Government failed to act, then so did the Opposition. Did anyone hear them say much about Ansett until the end was all but inevitable?

Mike Hodgson, Richmond

Thrown to the wolves

JOHN Howard declared a day of mourning to let America and her people know that our hearts go out to them in their time of grief.

But his sympathy apparently did not extend to his fellow Australians as Ansett employees were thrown to the wolves by a Government that spent millions of dollars on advertising, gave \$1 billion to Medibank Private, and took more than \$24 billion in GST revenue.

Prime Minister, do not throw away everything that you have worked for over a few lousy dollars.

A. Houston, Keon Park

Who let Ansett fail?

I AM utterly amazed at what has happened to Ansett. Surely, with a taxpayer population of at least 10 million, an annual levy of \$200 per head, matched by the Government, would produce \$4 billion over a year?

I cannot understand how National Party members have allowed this collapse and I am sure Peter Costello had to get John Anderson's approval before the 100 per cent foreign ownership of an Australian airline was allowed to take place.

Can you imagine the late John McEwan, Doug Anthony or Peter Nixon allowing this to happen?

Come on, John Howard, get your Transport Minister to perform instead of blaming everyone else for his own inactivity and lack of foresight.

Thomas Lonergan, Melbourne

Cash package is possible

KIM Beazley is right, if the Howard Government stopped spending millions of taxpayer dollars on self-advertising, it could put together a package to save Ansett Airlines.

John Barry, Croydon

Failure rewarded

BONUSES are usually paid for achievement. How ironic that Air New Zealand and Ansett Australia senior executives should be rewarded for failure.

Noel Butterfield, Surrey Hills

Weakness breeds terrorism

THE assault on the US is undoubtedly one of the most heinous terrorist attacks the world has seen.

Terrorism should be condemned, no matter what the cause. However, many countries practise the concept of "your terrorist is not my terrorist".

As long as governments allow people with foreign terrorist connections to operate, collect funds, disseminate propaganda or merely use their countries as havens, terrorism will flourish.

A good example is how the world at large treated the brutal Tamil Tiger terrorists with kid gloves. Sri Lanka was forced to stop the war against terrorism and enter so-called negotiations.

As a result, the *Tamil Tigers* have become one of the deadliest international terrorist organisations in the world.

Until recently, Tiger headquarters were in London. Now, they claim it is in Melbourne.

Asoka Subhawickrama, Sydney

CONTINUED page 19

Respect all in our community

I WRITE to express my outrage and sorrow at the attacks on the Muslim community.

War begins in the hearts of individuals.

If we have learnt anything from the horrors of the pogroms of the last world war, we must rise above our fear and initial outrage and live up to our progress as a nation.

Australia is a multi-cultural society. Religious tolerance has grown slowly, despite our desires to cling to the subjective rightness of our own beliefs.

We as a nation must stand behind our belief in freedom, extending this to all individuals who are part of our community.

We cannot stand by and watch any section of our society become the butt of our anger and fear, without taking on the characteristics of those responsible for our grief.

Helena Phillips, Moe

Barbaric cowards

THE terrorists' purpose is to draw the world into their madness. Their actions, not their race or religion, define them as barbaric cowards.

Don't let them win. They will succeed if we harm another person, or raise our voice in anger towards them.

All people bleed the same colour blood and all children cry when they are frightened.

Colleen Delzoppo, Caulfield

Religions cause pain

I AM an atheist and have been so from the moment I realised I had the ability to reason. I have always believed that all religions are the manifestations of human stupidity and developed because of our inability to understand life and the world around us.

To give meaning to matters that we don't understand, we attribute them to some supernatural force, or God.

Religions are a crutch for human stupidity.

Religions have caused more pain, suffering and destruction around the world than peace and goodwill.

Sumner Berg, Beechworth

Time to understand

I HAVE been reading and watching the events unfold in the aftermath of the US terrorist bombing and, like everyone else, I am shocked and appalled at this horrific incident and tragic loss of life.

Everyone is surely asking why did this happen? For decades now, diplomacy has failed to find an equitable and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis.

Meanwhile, the US supports Israel and Arabs around the world are becoming more disillusioned with the hypocrisy of US foreign policy.

Sometimes, I feel that the public knows more about football than important world issues. We are increasingly becoming a country involved in major world events and can no longer remain ignorant or complacent.

Nothing can excuse or justify the actions of these terrorists, but let's also examine and try to understand and address some of the reasons leading to these terrorist acts so that we can prevent them from happening again.

John Raptos, Camberwell

Walk a mile in their shoes

IF it is proven that Afghan or Afghan-supported terrorists delivered the catastrophe to the US, please remember that not all Afghans are terrorists, or terrorist sympathisers.

It is their fear of terrorist acts that is driving them from their own country.

Who wouldn't use all means to reach a country such as ours, that promises relief, peace and safety. Please take a moment "to walk a mile in their shoes".

Debra O'Neill, Noble Park

Terrorists everywhere

MANY letters call for a homogenous nation, free of potential terrorists. I agree. To help, I have drawn up a short list of countries known to have terrorists among their numbers:

The United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, France, Germany, Japan, Afghanistan and the United States (yes, Timothy McVeigh was a terrorist).

Zena Fobe, Ringwood

Unity required

IF the Herald Sun reader response is any indication, the horrific terrorist attack on America has unleashed another wave of hysteria towards the Afghanistan asylum seekers.

In reality, the Afghanistan people are not only fleeing the Taliban regime, but the possibility of US military attack.

As anybody listening and watching the unfolding events in America will have discovered, terrorist infiltration is sophisticated, organised and well financed.

Whether we like it or not, multiculturalism and globalisation are facts of life. To respond to the terrorism crisis with fear, ignorance and racism can only be detrimental to a cause which, above all, requires unity.

Dawn Peck, Maryborough

Laughter too loud

TO Howard Hutchins (Herald Sun, September 14): It's a tad difficult to say "hello" to those rejoicing Muslim <u>women</u> in Sydney. Their laughter and cheers would drown me out.

B. Prosser, Knoxfield

Load-Date: November 12, 2001



Sri Lanka orders probe into fake visas for Russia

Associated Press International

January 4, 2000; Tuesday 23:29 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 1367 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

The government has ordered a probe into how 38 Sri Lankans who tried to enter Russia illegally managed to leave home with false travel documents, an immigration official said Tuesday.

The Sri Lankans, carrying fake visas, were on a flight to Makhachkala in the Republic of Dagestan when the plane was diverted by bad weather to Astrakhan, about 1,400 kilometers (850 miles) southeast of Moscow, ITAR-Tass reported Monday from Moscow.

The fraud was detected when the passengers' papers were rechecked to provide transit visas to those who wanted to go to city hotels, said the report, quoting officials of the Russian border guard service.

The Sri Lankans' visas had been prepared by intermediaries and the visa holders did not know they were false, the report said. The Sri Lankans intended to sell consumer goods in Dagestan and did not have criminal intent, the report said.

Sri Lanka, which has a population of 18.6 million, has an estimated 400,000 people working overseas, most of them housemaids in the Middle East. The country is trying to stop passport and visa

raud.

A powerful explosion was heard Wednesday near the prime minister's house in Sri Lanka's capital, police said.

Details were not immediately known. Initial police reports said that the explosion may have been carried out by a suicide bomber.

Police confirmed that an explosion had occurred outside the house in a posh residential neighborhood, but they gave no details.

The explosion occurred near the house of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who is also the mother of President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Mrs. Kumaratunga herself was wounded in a bomb attack last month at her final campaign rally in Colombo before the presidential election.

A powerful explosion Wednesday near the prime minister's house in Sri Lanka's capital killed at least one person and wounded many others, police said.

Sri Lanka orders probe into fake visas for Russia

Initial reports said the explosion may have been carried out by a suicide bomber, the police control room said. Details were not immediately known.

Police confirmed that an explosion had occurred outside the house of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who is also the mother of President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

They said at least one body was found and many others were being rushed to the hospital.

It was not immediately clear if the prime minister was wounded or if she was at home.

Mrs. Kumaratunga herself was wounded in a suicide bomb attack last month at a campaign rally in downtown Colombo last month just days before the presidential election.

Police said a <u>female</u> Tamil Tiger guerrilla detonated explosives strapped to her body that killed 23 people and wounded more than 100 others, including the president. Doctors reportedly have said that Mrs. Kumaratunga may lose the sight in her right eye after suffering a shrappel wound.

The militants have been fighting for 16 years to create a homeland called Eelam in the northeast where most of the Tamil minority live. The struggle has left an estimated 61,000 people dead so far. They say Tamils are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

Investigators have identified the Tamil Tiger guerrilla who detonated explosives strapped to her body that killed 23 people and wounded the Sri Lankan president last month, police said Tuesday.

Police identified the suicide bomber who was killed in the blast in Colombo as Gunanayagam Leela Lakshmi, a resident of the eastern town of Batticaloa that has a Tamil majority. She joined the rebels 10 years ago, a police official said on condition of anonymity.

The militants have been fighting for 16 years to create a homeland called Eelam in the northeast where most of the Tamil minority live. The battle has left an estimated 61,000 people dead so far. They say Tamils are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

Federal investigators visited Ms. Lakshmi's home over the weekend and questioned her mother and younger sister. They also visited the school where she studied and questioned the principal and other teachers. Police did not say what they told the investigators.

Ms. Lakshmi was a member of the rebel's dreaded Black Tigers squad of suicide bombers. In the past, the Tigers have been accused of assassinating top politicians, including President Ranasinghe Premadasa and India's former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

The Tigers have denied the charges.

The rebels reportedly targeted Mrs. Kumaratunga because of her military campaign against them in the past five years.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, her right eye closed from the assassination attempt, on Monday publicly accused the rebels for the first time of trying to kill, then discredit, her.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, 54, suffered a serious eye injury in a suicide bombing just two days before presidential elections. Doctors have said she may lose the sight in the injured eye.

"After they failed to kill me on Dec. 21, they went village to village with hailers telling people I have suffered brain damage," she said in a televised address to the nation.

With one eye shut, Mrs. Kumaratunga looked assertive on the broadcast. Wearing spectacles, she often thumped her desk to emphasize a point.

Sri Lanka orders probe into fake visas for Russia

The Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam "wanted to kill me, but it was God who saved me," the president said.

This is the first time the Sri Lankan government has publicly

lamed the Tamil rebels for the assassination attempt.

A suspected Tamil rebel set off explosives strapped to her body outside the office building of the prime minister in the Sri Lankan capital Wednesday, killing herself and five others, police and witnesses said.

Four policemen and a civilian were among those killed and many wounded victims were being taken to the hospital, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast, but suspicion immediately fell on the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels

It was not immediately known if Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike was in the building at the time or was scheduled to go there.

Police said the bomb was set off when officers moved in to check out a woman near the building housing the prime minister's office.

"Our people found her movement suspicious and they tried to check her when she exploded herself," said Deputy Inspector General of Police Jagath Jayawardene.

The explosion damaged the outer walls of the building. Earlier, police had said the blast went off outside the prime minister's home.

Mrs. Bandaranaike is also the mother of President Chandrika Kumatatunga, who herself was recently wounded in a suicide bomb attack last month at a campaign rally in downtown Colombo just days before the presidential election.

Police said a <u>female</u> Tamil Tiger guerrilla detonated explosives strapped to her body that killed 23 people and wounded more than 100 others, including the president. Doctors reportedly have said that Mrs. Kumaratunga may lose the sight in her right eye after suffering a shrappel wound.

The militants have been fighting for 16 years to create a homeland called Eelam in the northeast where most of the Tamil minority live. The struggle has left an estimated 61,000 people dead so far. They say Tamils are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

The explosion damaged the outer walls of the office of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who is also the mother of the president, Chandrika Kumatatunga. Earlier police said the blast occurred outside the house.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast, but suspicion immediately fell on the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels. The guerrillas have been fighting security forces for the last 16 years to carve out a homeland for the minority Tamils.

The war has left more than 61,000 people dead so far. The Tigers have particularly targeted Kumatatunga and her family because she has said that her security forces will continue to try and crush the Tamil uprising.

The president herself escaped an assassination attempt last month during the presidential race. A suicide bomber set off explosives strapped to her body as Kumatatunga was getting into her car. She was injured in the right eye and doctors reportedly have said she may lose sight. That blast, at an election rally in downtown Colombo last month also left 23 people dead and more than 100 wounded.

(ddj-dg/kg)

Load-Date: January 4, 2000



Tamil tiger chief masterminds terror

United Press International May 15, 2000, Monday

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Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 1276 words

Byline: By Martin Sieff, UPI National Security Editor

Dateline: WASHINGTON, May 15

Body

UPI ANALYSISVellupillai Prabharakan, the brilliant, reclusive mastermind of Sri Lanka's <u>Tamil Tigers</u>, is virtually unknown outside South Asia and is a personal mystery even in his own country. But he leads one of the world's most formidable and successful guerrilla-terrorist movements, which he has shaped in his own implacable image.

As his Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eetam hammer away at the beleagured Sri Lankan army troops cut off in the city of Jaffna, Prabharkan looks closer than ever to achieve his lifelong dream of an independent Tamil ethnic state carved out of Sri Lanka, the former British colony of Ceylon.

But many fear that his dream could become his own people's nightmare.

If Prabharakan brings the same ruthless, intolerant will to governing in peace as he did to winning in war, they fear he could create a murderous tyranny that would slaughter Sinhalese and dissident Tamils alike on a genocidal scale.

The 45-year-old Prabharakan has been named a "Master of Terror" by John F. Burns of The New York Times. He has earned that distinction.

In the past 17 years, Prabharakan's Tigers have never numbered moirthan 10,000 activists at any one time in a small Tamil population of 3.2 million, only 18 percent the total population of Sri Lanka.

Yet in that time, they have fought a murderous guerrilla war that has cost 17,000 lives and fought the 150,000-strong, well-equipped Sri Lankan army to a stand-still.

Currently, 40,000 Sri Lankan troops, about one quarter of the entire field strength of the army, is trapped in the city of Jaffna on the Jaffna peninsula, hanging on for dear life against repeated Tiger attacks.

Prabharakan deserves the sole credit for creating such a formidable instrument of war. He has proved to be an inspirational guerrilla leader and tactical genius comparable with Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh in the first category and with Ho's great general, Vo Nguyen Giap, in the second.

Little is really known about Prabharakan. He is a reclusive mastermind who shuns publicity and diplomatic encounters and who masterminds the Tigers' long, fearsome struggle from his secret jungle base in the jungles of northeastern Sri Lanka.

Tamil tiger chief masterminds terror

Prabharakan was born Nov. 26, 1954 in the Sri Lankan coastal town of Velvettithurai on the same Jaffna peninsula his forces are now struggling to re-conquer. The youngest of four children, he was a shy child who found refuge in books and dreamed early of military glory.

His childhood heroes were the great military conquerors Napoleon Bonaparte and Alexander the Great. Later, he drew inspiration from the Indian nationalist leaders Subhash Chandra Bose - who joined the Japanese in World War II to fight against the British-commanded Indian army in Burma - and Bhagat Singh.

He despised the more moderate, non-violent and democratic tactics of Mohandas K. Gandhi and Jawarhalal Nehru, the architects of India's independence from the British Empire.

He turned to murder as a tool of political expression when hardly out of his teens. By the age of 21, he had been accused of murdering the mayor of the city of Jaffna.

He has infused the Tigers with his own driving will and intolerance of compromise. Most of his guerrillas wear cyanide capsules around their necks and commit suicide by swallowing them rather than be captured. Very few of them have ever been taken alive by the Sri Lankan army.

Prabharakan sets the example for this crazed bravery himself. He is said to wear his own cyanide capsule.

He has shown not the slightest sympathy or understanding for either domestic political or diplomatic compromise. He is an unyielding zealot who trains forces of *women* and children to kill and be killed.

He uses <u>women</u> suicide bombers - from an elite force he has called the Freedom Birds - as one of his favored tools of assassinations. They wear body belts packed with explosives and detonate them at public rallies.

His murderous intolerance extends to his own people. From 1990 to 1995 his Tigers controlled the city of Jaffna. Hundreds -- perhaps thousands -- died during his reign of terror there.

Anyone who was openly critical of Prabharakan and his policies ran the risk of being arrested, tortured and executed. Even the wrong kind of joke could lead to a rapid, grisly death. Many of his critics and other victims were just dumped in dungeons for years, being hauled out only for the occasional merciless beating.

He is even said to have murdered many of his own top lieutenants.

In his paranoia and relentless taste for blood, Prabharakan eerily recalls Pol Pot, the genocidal despot of Cambodia, whose Khmer Rouge regime killed between 1 to 3 million people out of a total population of only 7 million in a three-year period from 1975 to 1978.

Prabharakan has never so far had the opportunity to carry out slaughter on that scale. But he has been able to create, inspire and maintain control of a fanatical nationalist guerrilla army that could conquer millions of people to be left to his (lack of) mercy.

He also continues to benefit from the indifference and ignorance of the wider world.

The Tigers' long record of appalling random terror and assassinations has been little noted outside Sri Lanka and India. They have been able to operate offices in London and Paris. They have raised large sums of money from Tamil communities in Australia, Germany and Britain. The authorities in these countries have turned a benign blind eye to these activities.

But the Tigers have used the money they have raised to skillfully buy the kinds of weapons best suited to their tactics. They have all the mobile artillery, anti-tank weapons, and light arms and ammunition that they need.

Through the 1980s, Prabharakan enjoyed strong support in India from the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and from prominent and powerful political leaders in south India, where 50 million Tamil speakers live in the state Tamil Nadu alone.

Tamil tiger chief masterminds terror

But support from New Delhi began to erode when Prabharakan rejected an Indian peace plan for Sri Lanka in 1987. It eroded even more when his formidable guerrillas effectively drove the Indian army out of Sri Lanka after inflicting significant casualties on them three years later.

And it evaporated entirely when a suicide bomber inspired by the Tigers blew up former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi - Mrs. Gandhi's son - when he was campaigning in southeast India in 1991. The Indian government still holds Prabharakan responsible for instigating that murder.

Prabharakan has even been losing support from mainstream Tamil leaders in India who previously supported the vision of an independent Tamil state on Sri Lanka.

On Monday, May 15, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Karunanidi, who supports a separate Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka, lashed out at the Tigers.

"How can a movement which has killed leaders of its own race save Tamils from annihilation?" he said in the Tamil Nadu state assembly in the capital Chennai.

According to a Press Trusty of India (PTI) report, Karunanidhi pledged to repress any violence by the Tigers in Tamil Nadu, or any activity aimed at seceding from India.

But such moves of repudiation look likely to come too late to have any effect on Prabharakan's military juggernaut. If his forces succeed in their current efforts to destroy the large Sri Lankan army force holed up in the city of Jaffna, the democratically elected government in Colombo could have little choice but to accede to his sweeping demands.

If that happens, the Tamil people of northeastern Sri Lanka could find that the intolerance they resented so long from the majority Sinhalese may pale compared with the savagery they could experience from the tyrant who rose up from among them.

Load-Date: May 16, 2000



<u>OLYMPIC GAMES: ATHLETICS - JONES' GOLDEN BEAUTY TRACKED BY</u> THE BEAST

The Independent (London) September 29, 2000, Friday

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Section: SPORT; Pg. 30

Length: 1192 words

Byline: James Lawton In Sydney

Body

IT WAS such an easy line, the Beauty and the Beast, for the story which moved a little closer to outright domination of these Olympics last night when Marion Jones, of sculpted body and apparently serene mind, collected her second gold medal with such composure and power she might have popped down from Mount Olympus for a loosener.

She ran in on the bit, easing away from her rivals and then looking out again beyond the widest horizon ever contemplated by a woman athlete.

Everyone here is waiting for her to crack. It is a bit like hanging around for a sandstorm to blow away the Sphinx. If Margaret Thatcher wasn't for turning, Marion Jones is not for cracking. She wants to run and jump through these Olympics in unprecedented style and the mud can stick where it may.

Dump as much as you like, she seems to be saying, but just watch me polish the gold.

Beauty and the Beast; beauty for the 24-year-old athletic goddess from North Carolina, beast for her 31-year-old husband C J Hunter, the world shot putt champion who must defend himself against a series of positive drug tests.

The tag has been applied to the troubled couple from the moment they first held hands on the campus of the University of North Carolina, but really it fits just as neatly these entire Games.

Beauty there is almost wherever you look, beauty of form, of performance, but as each day goes by the tracks of the beast become a little more visible. They led us earlier this week to the sight of the tearful Romanian hammer thrower Mihaela Melinte being ejected from the Olympic stadium - and yesterday to the forlorn expression of her pixie compatriot, Andreea Raducan, losing her appeal against the confiscation of her gymnastic all-around medal for, as the former tennis star and resigning head of the Romanian delegation, Ion Tiriac, insisted, "taking the wrong aspirin."

Reports of whole folders of positive test results gathering dust over the years at the offices of USA Track and Field provided another wagon-load of spoor.

So where does the the beauty end and the beastliness begin? The line has never been more difficult to draw and if anyone doubts this they should have been in Stadium Australia last night when Hunter infiltrated the press, offered himself for interview to a bemused French journalist - "there are only so many questions you can ask C J Hunter,

OLYMPIC GAMES: ATHLETICS - JONES' GOLDEN BEAUTY TRACKED BY THE BEAST

well one really," she said - and then slipped down to the trackside to hug and kiss his wife after she had give the accelerator the merest touch to win in 21.84sec.

The question the French journalist had in mind was inevitably asked of Marion Jones. Are you clean? She could assure all those who supported her, who loved her, that she was a clean athlete. No, she said, she would not allow the pressure of her husband's predicament to overwhelm her challenge for a historic haul of five gold medals. "I will face each challenge as it comes. I wasn't nervous before going to race today, I just got 'excited' butterflies. I knew I had to run today, these <u>women</u> sitting beside me now (silver medallist Pauline Davis-Thompson, of the Bahamas, and Susanthika Jayasinghe, the Sri Lankan bronze medallist) came out to win the gold. I said to myself, 'When I've dealt with them, I'll think about the long jump. And then the relays.'

She has much to deal with, yet the smoothness of her performance on the track was effortlessly reproduced in the big conference room, where the world wanted to know how she was holding up in the company of the Beast - or, put another way, while Sleeping with the Enemy.

"I want to prove to myself," she said, "that I can leave Sydney with five gold medals. I know at this level you have to keep focus while some of the world is changing around you. I have a goal and I've been pursuing it for a long time. I think of all the time that has been spent in bringing me to this position, all those hours my Mom spent getting me to track meets. All that work, all those hours... to let one event ruin all that, no way."

If she has been through a version of hell these last few days, you wouldn't guess it. Her strong, fine face, her large, wide-open eyes, present a surface of composure which in the circumstances are stunning. Or uncanny.

Or, perhaps, the most eloquent statement of all about the nature of the world which she has worked to conquer for so long. Living with doubt, she seems to be saying, is simply part of what it takes to be where she is now, which is to say, a few days away from being the most successful woman athlete of all time. Doubt is just another element in the life of a top-class athlete. Something you engage as you go along, pushing it on one side as best you can.

"I've spent so many sleepless nights thinking about this time, about these gold medals, and when I first came into the stadium last week for the 100 metres, the place was full at around 10 am in the morning," Jones said. "I just looked around and it blew my mind. But now I know it is so much better when it happens than how it was when you imagined it. It's so much better having the gold medal around your neck."

Having Hunter on her back is an issue she deflects with a few easy phrases. She says that things happen, and you have to work your way through them. "I've enjoyed winning the two medals, but they are just of part of something I have set out for myself. I like to think I will find a way to do it."

The evidence of last night says that she will. She cruised through the race, and then later she first smiled, then laughed out loud when the silver medallist Davis-Thompson talked of her battle against the Bahamian athletic federation, and how, as a young girl with a large chest and a "big butt" she was marched around the island by her mother to find a "horrible" sports bra.

And then Jones nodded reflectively when the bronze medallist, Jayasinghe, spoke of her days in the shadows of the *Tamil Tigers*, when eating and sleeping were the most compelling priorities and training was, "very, very hard."

Yes, said Jayasinghe, this was a great day in her life, if not the greatest.

For the Beauty it was, when you got down to it, just another day at an Olympian's office. "I'm doing all this because I can," she says. Maybe the 30 -year-old Dutch mother Fanny Blankers-Koen might have done it at the 1948 Olympics in London if the men who made the schedule had been as mindful then as they are today of the commercial potential of producing Superwoman.

Blankers-Koen did not do so badly, winning the sprints, the 80 metres hurdles and the sprint relay, and it was true that she held the world records in the events she couldn't fit in, the high and the long jumps. But if Fanny could have done it, if she could have easily worn six gold medals around her neck, you have to wonder how she would have fared these last few days.

OLYMPIC GAMES: ATHLETICS - JONES' GOLDEN BEAUTY TRACKED BY THE BEAST

She could run and she could jump beautifully, but how well could she have lived with the pressure that has built around Marion Jones?

Jones handled it without a blink as she moved a little nearer to the dream of her life. She won a race beautifully - and then she kissed the Beast.

Meanwhile, the 27th Olympics had no choice but to hold its breath.

Graphic

A victorious Jones kisses her husband, C J Hunter, who has had four positive tests for steroids this year AP; Marion Jones wins the 200 metres yesterday to take her second gold medal of the Games David Ashdown

Load-Date: September 29, 2000



CHARMING CHAMELEON OR A BELLIGERENT WARMONGER?; SASTHI BRATA PROFILES THE NEW PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, ATAL BIHARI VAJP AYEE.

Birmingham Post

March 25, 1998, Wednesday

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Section: Pg. 13

Length: 1293 words

Byline: Sasthi Brata

Body

The newly sworn-in Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is playing a dangerous game of realpolitik which is likely to have serious global repercussions.

Though he personally presents a liberal face in the Western world, his Party's (Bharatiya Janata Party - BJP) agenda states that India will manufacture an atom bomb and carry out an over ground nuclear test (with no specific time -frame).

Pakistan is justifiably worried (the two countries have fought two fulcale wars since independence in 1947) and has made its concerns known to the international community, with reciprocal threats.

The irony is that India exploded an atomic device in 1974 and it is widely accepted that she already possesses a fission (atom) bomb, though it is unclear whether she has yet made a fusion (hydrogen) bomb.

Pakistan, too, certainly has the capacity to make an atom bomb (if she has not already done so). In addition, India has rocket launching facilities from which she can target nuclear warheads towards both China and Pakistan.

The belligerent noises by the Bharatiya Janata Party are largely for domestic consumption, as it has come to power on an extremist nationalistic (swadeshi) ticket - the greater glory of Hindu India.

Neither the International Monetary Fund nor the World Bank would tolerate India conducting a nuclear test or a public declaration that she is about to manufacture an atom bomb.

In order to keep his motley coalition (14 disparate parties) together, Vajpayee has been compelled to make these nuclear threats, which no one expects to be carried out, but which keeps the arms race between the two countries speeding ahead, adding fuel to the simmering tensions within the 110 million Muslims in India.

It is in this context that Vajpayee's public and private pronouncements must be judged.

He claimed that he was no "war monger." External Affairs are his forte. He was a widely respected Foreign Minister in 1977 under the Desai regime and once addressed the United National General Assembly in Hindi (India's National language) to resounding applause.

CHARMING CHAMELEON OR A BELLIGERENT WARMONGER?; SASTHI BRATA PROFILES THE NEW PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, ATAL BIHARI VAJP AYEE.

He said that "India's Muslims have nothing to fear from his Party." Yet it was the BJP, led by Vajpayee's second in Cabinet, which organised a 1,000 mile march to Ayoddha, demolished a Muslim mosque in Northern India and proposed to build a Hindu temple in its place.

The ideal of a modern secular nation is clearly perceived to be under threat from the new Government.

Vajpayee was jailed by the British in 1942 as an agitator and there are unconfirmed rumours that he secured his release from prison through questionable means.

As a student leader he joined the Rashtriya Sevak Sangh (a member of that party assassinated Mahatma Gandhi in 1948) and began his career as a journalist.

When I first met him in 1977 (he was Foreign Minister), he appeared to be remarkably free from the pompous braggadocio which surrounds most Indian politicians.

As I had been unable to get him through his office, I phoned him at his house and he answered himself.

On my remarking about his informality, he said: "Only people who lack confidence need to wrap themselves with symbols of power."

Sprinkling his conversation with quotations from classical Hindi poets, he displayed an impish sense of humour.

His chubby cheeks and thick sensuous lips radiate a genial warmth which wholly contrasts with the rabid blood-thirsty image his opponents project about his Party.

A suave and civilised man, the new Prime Minister is an acknowledged poet of some distinction, though he also has several published English tomes to his credit.

He is an expert cook of Indian sweetmeats, of which he offered me a sample in his house.

Eschewing the spartan life prescribed by the Father of the Nation (Mahatma Gandhi), Vajpayee dresses flamboyantly and likes to sip a drop of highland brew with ice and soda at sundown.

This latter taste may not appear unusual in a western politician but in India's puritanical climate, it signals a personality trait free from hidebound convention, especially as such inclinations are publicly condemned.

But it is as "the Bachelor Boy of Indian politics" that he is best known to Indian newspaper readers.

Vajpayee has never married and it is widely known that he enjoys the company of attractive ladies. And here it is his mellifluous voice that must draw **women**.

On the public platform that same voice assumes an oratorical power which has provided some spectacular performances both on international forums and in the Indian Parliament (he won the Best Parliamentarian of the Year award in 1994).

The political facet of this enigmatic personality is going to be severely tested in the coming weeks and months.

Last time he was in the hot seat (from May 16 to June 1 in 1966) Vajpayee resigned rather than submit himself to a confidence motion in Parliament.

This time he is likely to fare better (though given the volatile nature of Indian politics and the brown-paper-envelope currency in which it frequently trades, prediction is hazardous).

Among the Cabinet members of his Party (BJP) there are some fanatical bigots but in order to get his Parliamentary majority he has had to woo a diverse collection of fringe parties which do not see India as the exclusive preserve of the Hindu majority.

CHARMING CHAMELEON OR A BELLIGERENT WARMONGER?; SASTHI BRATA PROFILES THE NEW PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, ATAL BIHARI VAJP AYEE.

Coupled with the electorate's revulsion at a fresh General Election and his own Party's greed for power at any cost, extremist rhetoric is almost certain to remain in the realm of words rather than translate into deeds.

Robin Cook's performance in Pakistan during the Queen's visit brought Britain into bad odour with the last Government in India.

The BJP's declared nuclear ambitions, its strident constitutionalist stance on the Kashmir issue as well as its past pronouncements regarding India's Muslims does not augur well for Indo-British relations.

Once again Vajpayee's personality is pivotal.

As an experienced international statesmen he is fully aware that whatever his more zealous colleagues may demand, there are constraints under which India must operate.

Vajpayee said that he is determined to "open a new dialogue with Pakistan." He will need the expertise of a juggler to keep his domestic audience satisfied that India is not being sold short while making placatory gestures towards her neighbours.

Apart from the deteriorating condition of the economy (following the recent deregulationist boom) and its bloated bureaucracy, India is faced with problems from Sri Lanka in the form of the successionist <u>Tamil Tigers</u> about whom Vajpayee remains ambivalent (Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a Tamil Tiger).

Like other politicians faced with domestic travails, the new Prime Minister will turn his attention to the world stage. He is proposing to table a motion in the United Nations regarding the Middle East peace process.

In whatever way he cuts the pack, however, Kashmir and India's Muslim minority will persist in remaining Vajpayee's principal concern.

Pakistan's beleaguered Prime Minister, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Shari is already being urged to be tough with the new Indian administration.

The nuclear card is being played by both sides and neither is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty nor the Test Ban Agreement.

My attempt to get unambiguous replies to specific questions were largely unsuccessful. Vajpayee evasions, though understandable from the domestic perspective, were professionally frustrating.

But perhaps his very elusiveness was itself a sign that Vajpayee intends to remain in power for longer than a fortnight this time round.

In a shrewd move, he has brought a Gandhi into his administration. Maneka Gandhi (Indira Gandhi's errant daughter-in-law) has been made a Minister of State, though she won her seat as an Independent.

Graphic

Balancing act: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the new Prime Minister of India.

Load-Date: November 11, 1998



hke102012 -- sri lanka's tamil rebels to conscript school children

Copyright 1998 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency
OCTOBER 20, 1998, TUESDAY

Length: 190 words

Dateline: colombo, october 20; ITEM NO: 1020092

Body

hundreds of mothers in sri lanka's eastern province have complained to the government troops and tamil political parties of a threat to the lives of their young children from tamil rebels, according to reports reaching here tuesday. the rebels of the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (Itte) have launched a huge recruitment campaign in the province to conscript at least 5,000 young boys by the end of this year, the reports quoted tamil political sources in the province as saying. Itte leader velupillai prabhakaran has given a target to each of his area leaders to recruit a minimum of 60 young boys within the next two months, the sources said. so far schools have been the main target of the Itte to reach their goal to boost their ranks. during the past few weeks a number of young persons have been reportedly abducted. the reports added that young girls and www.women who had lost their husbands in the war have also been abducted for conscription. the Itte has been fighting a war against the government since 1983 for a separate tamil state in the north and east of the country.

Load-Date: October 20, 1998



Sri Lanka Bomber Kills Self, Others

Associated Press Online September 15, 2000; Friday

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Section: International news

Length: 846 words

Byline: DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

A suicide bomber triggered an explosion outside an eye hospital in central Colombo Friday, killing himself and four others, police said.

At least 26 people were injured in the explosion, 10 of them critically, said Dr. Hector Weerasekera, director of the National Hospital where the injured were being treated. The dead included a policeman and three civilians who were passing by when the explosion occurred.

No one claimed for responsibility for the blast. However, Tamil Tiger rebels fighting for an independent homeland have a suicide squad and often carry out such bombings. They have been battling for a separate area for the minority Tamils in the north and east since 1983.

It wasn't immediately clear if more people had died in the blast, police said. Body parts lay strewn near the explosion site and several vehicles were damaged.

R. K. Nissanka, a fire department official, said a civilian passing the eye hospital saw a man acting suspiciously and informed a policeman on duty. The police officer went to question the man who then set off the explosion.

"I heard a big noise and covered my face with my hands and fell down. All I saw was people running everywhere," said J.W. Ariyawansa, a patient who was coming to the hospital. His right hand was badly injured in the explosion and a piece of shrapnel was lodged in his head.

Sri Lanka's health ministry is located next to the eye hospital.

Police cordoned off an area two miles across around the hospital and approximately 50 soldiers moved in investigate. Two army helicopters hovered overhead.

Last year, President Chandrika Kumaratunga was blinded in her right eye when a suicide bomber, believed to be a member of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, tried to assassinate her during an election rally. Twenty-five people were killed and more than 90 were injured in the attack.

The rebels have carried out three attacks in the capital this year. In March, 31 people were killed in a bombing and shootout near parliament. In June, a government minister was assassinated by a suicide bomber. Earlier in January, a *female* suicide bomber blew herself up close to the prime minister's residence.

Sri Lanka Bomber Kills Self, Others

More than 62,400 people have been killed in the Tamil separatist insurgency.

A suicide bomber triggered an explosion Friday outside an eye hospital in central Colombo, killing himself and six others a few minutes after the health minister and World Health Organization officials had driven by.

No one claimed for responsibility for the blast, which injured 24 people, four critically.

But police blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebel group, which has a suicide squad and often carries out such bombings. The rebels, who seldom comment on such attacks, have been battling for a separate area for the minority Tamils in the north and east since 1983. More than 62,400 people have been killed in the war.

Health Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva told The Associated Press he thought he was the target of the attack.

"I passed that way just seven minutes before the blast. I suspect I was the target," de Silva said.

Shortly before the explosion, World Health Organization officials also drove past the area for a scheduled meeting with de Silva at the Health Ministry. The ministry's offices are located next to the Eye Hospital.

Fire Department Chief R. K. Nissanka said the bomber triggered the explosion when a policeman approached him for questioning. A civilian had told police the man was acting suspiciously.

"I heard a big noise and covered my face with my hands and fell down. All I saw was people running everywhere," said J.W. Ariyawansa, who was heading into the Eye Hospital for treatment at the time of the blast. His right hand was badly injured and a piece of shrapnel lodged in his head.

The suicide bomber and the policeman were killed instantly in Friday's attack. Three people died en route to the National Hospital, and two died after arriving in the emergency ward, said Pushpa Soysa, head of the nurses training unit. Of the 24 injured, 10 underwent surgery and four were in critical condition, Soysa said.

Within hours of the blast, a special police team were searching hotels in the city for suspected *LTTE* members, said Bodhi Liyanage, deputy inspector general of police.

"It is an emergency operation and will continue until late in the night," he said. State television reported that four persons were arrested.

The rebels have been blamed for three bombings in the capital this year. In January, a suicide bomber blew herself up near the prime minister's residence. In March, 31 people were killed in a bombing and shootout near Parliament. In June, a Cabinet minister was assassinated by a suicide bomber.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga was blinded in her right eye last Dec. 18 when a suicide bomber tried to assassinate her at an election rally, when 25 people were killed and more than 90 were injured.

The rebels have also been blamed for the suicide bomb assassinations of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on May 21, 1991 and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa on May 1, 1993.

Load-Date: September 15, 2000



ELEPHANTS ORPHANS

SUNDAY MAIL (QLD)

March 10, 1991 Sunday

Copyright 1991 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 1264 words

Byline: DAVIS P

Body

SUNDAY MAG march 10 PAGE 2 ELEPHANT ORPHANS SUNDAY MAG march 10 PAGE 2 ELEPHANT ORPHANS East of Colombo, an elephant orphanage seeks ways to ensure the species' survival. PETER DAVIS reports from Sri Lanka.

T HE mahout (elephant driver) yelled: ""Hida! hida!". Slowly, Kumani, 23 years-old and three tonnes, went down on her side, breaking wind on the way.

She didn't bat an eyelid as a veterinary team literally scrambled over her and flapped her ear in search of a willing vein. In went the needle. Out came pure elephant blood.

QNP

Their job finished, the mahout yelled ""Daha". With astonishing grace Kumani rose to her feet and strode off to join the herd. The mahout called forth the next patient.

This was the scene at Pinnewala, once a 10-hectare coconut plantation, now an elephant orphanage 77km northeast of Colombo, in the beautiful Sri Lankan hill country.

Established in 1976 with just seven elephants, the orphanage now has 37 residents. Most of them, especially the young ones, have been rescued from ditches dug by farmers to protect their crops.

The taking of the blood samples is a weekly ritual that forms part of a five-year study by Colombo University and the Universities' Federation for Animal Welfare.

The samples will go to a laboratory in Edinburgh where they will be tested against lengthy check sheets of observed behavior in an attempt to identify the period of elephant fertility. The long-term aim is to improve the breeding rate.

Breeding at Pinnewala hasn't been too successful. But last year, two babies weighing 80kg each were born. The gestation period for an elephant is about 20 months. Like <u>female</u> whales and dolphins, <u>female</u> elephants help each other with birth and the calf is reared by the group.

Babies brought in from the jungle are bottle fed. They are tethered to a tree as the staff, with the aid of a funnel, pour up to seven litres of formula directly into each elephant's throat.

The babies waiting their turn stir the dust with their trunks. They continually shift their weight from one foot to the other while keeping a keen eye on the man with the milk.

Sometimes they trumpet with anticipation, creating a cross between an earth tremor and a sonic boom.

ELEPHANTS ORPHANS

They may be only babies, but in a sense they are born old. Not only do they already have wrinkles, but they also appear to have the collective wisdom of their elders. They are miniatures of majesty.

When the feeding is over the babies form a tight bundle trumpeting their way to join their adopted elders grazing in the field. The entire herd is led to the river by the mahouts. There the elephants are bathed and scrubbed for three hours until another round of formula milk at lunchtime. After lunch, it's back to the river for yet more scrubbing and swimming.

Watching the elephants in water, it's easy to see how they originated from aquatic beasts. When completely submerged they employ their trunk as a snorkel. When fully grown this highly sensitive and versatile organ, which has no bone, will be controlled by 60,000 separate muscles. It will be capable of picking a single blade of grass or uprooting a fully grown tree. It can smell one of its own kind from a distance of 10km.

I joined the babies for their swim. To be tickled by their soft bristles (eventually these will wear down from continued rubbing); to splash water on them and to be splashed; to receive their trunk in your hand and to look directly in their eye is to feel both the pleasure and pain of their domesticity.

These elephants are genuine in their delight with human contact.

But for them, there will never be the privacy that only the jungle can offer. There is no escape from the gaze of the tourist and the yell of the mahout, which they already know to obey.

At 5pm the food arrives. It's brought in by contract laborers from the surrounding district. Each adult devours a daily average of 250kg of leaves from the sweet-tasting kithule palm and the jack fruit, and deposits a daily average of 80kg of fine elephant manure.

According to the orphanage curator, Mr Banbanda, it's not a bad life for the elephants at Pinnewala. The endless cycle of eating and bathing is not too different from how the wild elephants live in their natural environment.

""For me this is a service, not a job," he said, indicating his respect for the creatures.

But at night the orphans are tied up. ""This allows the mahouts to maintain control of the herd," said Mr Banbanda.

A t least some of these orphans are destined for the Buddhist temples where, to maintain a tradition that stretches over 2000 years, they will be used in pageants and for ceremonial purposes. Their life will be one of reverence.

Elephants that have been domesticated in the orphanage cannot be released into the wildlife parks because they will be rejected by the wild herds.

It's difficult to overestimate the cultural and spiritual significance of the elephant in Sri Lanka. Virtually every Buddhist temple is surrounded by stone carvings of the beast.

It was an elephant that carried the sacred tooth of Buddha, Sri Lanka's most prized possession, to the kingdom of Kandy in the central hills. And every August, Kandy celebrates the world-famous Perahera Festival where, for two weeks, up to 100 elephants take part in the ceremony to parade a replica of the sacred tooth.

Elephants are known to walk silently and tread carefully through life. They leave minimal traces as their hind feet step into the exact position of their forefeet. They are known also to sob when emotionally distressed and to meditate at sunset. They are vegetarian. It's no wonder the Buddhists say that we could do well to model our life on that of an elephant.

But the Sri Lankan elephant (Elephus maximus maximus _ a unique sub-species of the Asian Elephant) is an endangered species. Estimates are that the small island _ which equals the size of Tasmania, yet has the population of Australia _ now holds only 3000 wild and 350 domestic elephants. (At the turn of the century the elephant population was estimated at 12,000.) Only a small percentage of the decimation of the Sri Lankan elephant can be attributed to the ivory trade.

ELEPHANTS ORPHANS

Unlike their African cousins, where both male and <u>female</u> elephants produce tusks, it is only the males in Sri Lanka that can become tuskers. And then it's only about one in 10 which actually grow the precious ivory.

One British explorer, Major Thomas Rogers, claimed the dubious honor of having personally shot 1300 elephants.

The Sinhalese regard it as divine providence that Major Thomas was killed by a lightning bolt. And they love to tell you that ""lightning still strikes his grave".

More recently, like many Sri Lankan citizens, elephants have become innocent victims of the political strife that is tearing the country apart. Just before I arrived, 16 elephants were found slaughtered at Lahugala in the south-east.

Authorities claim it was the work of <u>Tamil Tigers</u> (guerillas fighting for a separate Tamil state) who are engaged in illegal logging of the national parks. Others say the Tigers shot the elephants simply to provoke the Sinhalese community.

Nobody knows how many other such massacres have occurred. But the most persistent threat to the elephant remains the spreading of human settlement.

Peter Davis is working on a television drama about the elephants of Sri Lanka. Pictures by PETER DAVIS ABOVE: At each feed, mahouts pour up to seven litres of formula into a baby elephant's throat.

RIGHT: A veterinary team extracts blood from an elephant's ear.

LEFT: Vijay the elephant carries a 250kg load of kithule palm back to the orphanage.

Graphic

PIC OF ORPHAN ELEPHANTS BEING TREATED AND FED BY A VETERINARY TEAM IN SRI LANKA

Load-Date: September 25, 2003



Lonely vigil for the loss of innocents; Christian Rees talks to Sri Lankan mothers who are united in the search for their missing sons

The Independent (London)
October 15, 1990, Monday

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Section: LIVING PAGE; Page 14

Length: 1269 words

Byline: By CHRISTIAN REES

Body

HEWALAMINI Magalin has walked miles from her village to the house of a local opposition MP in Matara, capital of Sri Lanka's southern province. She has brought with her a few rupees and a photograph of Asoka, her 16- year-old son. For the small, middle-aged woman, this journey is a last desperate attempt to find her child, one of the thousands of young men who have disappeared in Sri Lanka in the past 18 months, as the murderous civil war continues between the dominant Buddhist Sinhalese and the minority Hindu Tamils, who are pushing for an independent homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

On 8 November last year, at four o'clock in the morning, armed police cordoned off Hewalamini's village and took Asoka away. "The dogs were barking, so I opened the door. Two policemen came in, woke our son, took his shirt, tied his hands with it and dragged him from the house. Then they took him to the paddy field with other boys from the village. They kept them there without food or water, until late in the afternoon."

The police took off two busloads of boys. With other parents from the village she waited all day outside the police station, while the police brought in informers. "They told me not to worry, they'd return my son in two days." Eventually they brought out her son with his head covered by a cloth.

"The police made him tell me he had put up an anti-government poster. Next time I came, my son's eyes were bloodshot and his cheek was swollen. He had been beaten." This was the last time she saw him.

After months of searching army camps throughout the island, Hewalamini has joined Mothers for Human Rights, a newly formed <u>women</u>'s movement, determined, by peaceful protest, to force the government to tell them what has happened to their missing sons.

Many of the missing boys are innocent victims of the government's sweeping emergency powers, which have enabled the army and police virtually to eliminate the Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front or JVP) last year. More recently the same powers have been used against Tamils suspected of sympathising with the <u>Tamil Tigers</u> guerrilla movement. Last week the World Council of Churches in Geneva denounced the brutal treatment of the "innocent Tamil population" by government forces, saying more than 3,000 civilians had been killed during the past four months.

At the height of the security force's much-criticised fear campaign last autumn, as many as 50 people were killed each day, their bodies often burnt on tyres by the roadside. Those who lived through that period came to recognise the tell-tale wire inner rings, the small mounds of embers and the acrid smell of burning rubber as proof of the

Lonely vigil for the loss of innocents; Christian Rees talks to Sri Lankan mothers who are united in the search for their missing sons

previous night's work. The nocturnal death squads operate independently of the regular police or the army - either as private armies, rumoured to belong to certain ministers, or under shadowy names: PRRA, the Black Cats, the Green Tigers - commanded by unknown leaders.

Military sources say as many as 25,000 civilians may have been killed. The government admits 12,000 young men are missing. That is to say, there is no record of their deaths, nor are they among the 7,200 boys presently held in detention and rehabilitation camps. The opposition, basing its figures on reports from constituents, claims that up to 100,000 young men may be missing.

Two months after Hewalamini's son was taken, the other boys from her village were released. She was then told her son would be freed in a week, but, on returning, was told he had been transferred to Boossa, a large rehabilitation camp. There, they said they had never heard of the boy.

For the past seven months she and her husband have gone from camp to camp looking for their son. It is a common story. She believes her son is innocent of any involvement with the JVP. And she still believes he is alive.

Since dawn, Hewalamini and hundreds of other <u>women</u> from villages around Matara, informed only by word of mouth, have been coming to the headquarters of Mangala Samaraweera, a Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) MP, to join the new movement and register details of their missing relatives. By noon, 800 <u>women</u>, ranging in age from 22 to 72, each carrying a photograph of their lost sons, sit packed together in the forecourt of the old house.

They tell similar stories: a son, taken by police in the night and sighted only once in nine months; endless vigils outside police stations and fruitless journeys to the army camps.

Lilawatte, a woman looking older than her 60 years, proffers a worn newspaper clipping, dated 29 November 1988. Slowly, the black and white dots on the paper form themselves into a photograph of a young man. His head has slumped on to a white placard hung round his neck, covering his chest. It reads: "This is what happens to the followers of Wijeweera, signed: PRRA". Rohana Wijeweera was the executed leader of the JVP. PRRA was a former leftist group - the People's Revolutionary Red Army.

With macabre calmness, Lilawatte tells me that this is a photograph of her son. His body had been tied to an electrical transformer, in the centre of Matara.

Lilawatte has lost three sons. One of them, a Buddhist priest, was taken from his temple last November. "He clung to the chief priest's robes, but the army still took him." Three months later, they took her third son, a married man with three children. "My husband is 72 years old," she says. "He can't work any more. These boys looked after us. Just because one son was involved with the JVP, why should they take all the others?"

One of the demands of the Mothers for Human Rights is that compensation be paid to the families of those who have disappeared. According to one MP, the government has paid almost pounds 1.5m to about 3,000 people affected by JVP killings. These dependants are also given preference in hiring for government jobs. But a death certificate is needed in order to qualify for the government scheme. Ranjan Wijeratne, the deputy minister of defence, told parliament earlier this year that he would not allow death certificates to be issued for suspected terrorists. None of the <u>women</u> present hold death certificates because the government has not disclosed the fate of their missing relatives. As a result, some <u>women</u> who have lost husbands are unable to gain access to their savings accounts or claim insurance.

"I know of one case in particular," says Mangala, "where the woman actually saw her husband's body by the roadside, but she can't get a death certificate."

Mangala explains how the frustration of trying to get information from the government led him to start the <u>women</u>'s group. "I found that 75 per cent of our time was spent trying to locate missing people. With the prevailing climate of fear, individuals who could come forward to talk might disappear. It seemed better, therefore, for the <u>women</u> to organise themselves."

Lonely vigil for the loss of innocents; Christian Rees talks to Sri Lankan mothers who are united in the search for their missing sons

News of the Mothers for Human Rights group has already spread. There are now 2,000 <u>women</u> registered in Matara, with a further 2,000 in the neighbouring town, Hambantota. Plans to register <u>women</u> in each of Sri Lanka's seven provinces are going ahead and within three months the group hopes to be ready to pressure the government for information. It intends to publish a book of photographs of missing persons to be sent to human rights organisations world- wide. It will also try to uncover exactly how many young men are missing in Sri Lanka.

Are these <u>women</u> afraid? "No," they say unanimously. "We've lived in fear for so long," explains Premalata. "It's a relief to meet. If we stay at home, we're like madwomen."



LOSING THE DRUGS WAR

COURIER-MAIL
July 22, 1988 Friday

Copyright 1988 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 1265 words **Byline:** SILVESTER J

Body

By JOHN SILVESTER THE victims of illegal drugs are traditionally seen as the young junkies, endlessly roaming back streets in search of their next ""fix" _ and more often than not dying from an overdose, slumped against the grimy wall of a public toilet. But the reality is that every Australian is a victim of drugs. Whether it be through the increased insurance premiums brought about by burglaries carried out by addicts, or higher taxes to pay for the police and customs fight against the problem, drugs and the battle against them affect everyone. Australian police believe as much as 60 percent of crime is drug-related a massive financial burden on the community. Yet most people still are ignorant of the full extent of the problem is Australia. The facts make chilling reading. FACT: According to figures released by the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse in March, there are between 30,000 and 50,000 heroin addicts, and at least 60,000 recreational, irregular users in Australia. On these figures, and accepting conservative police estimates that an addict uses at least 0.5g of street heroin a day and a recreational user 0.5g a week of an average eight percent pure, then Australia consumes about 1068.72kg of 80 percent pure per year. This is an annual bill of \$2,137,440,000, or \$5.856 million a day. This means that more than one street cap (value about \$50) is bought every second. FACT: On the figures of more than 100,000 heroin users in Australia, there are more heroin users than police, judges, prison officers, doctors and lawyers combined. QNPIf it is accepted that nearly all heroin abusers fall into the 15 to 35-year age bracket, then about one in 49 of the risk group illegally use the drug. FACT: The amount spent on heroin in Australia is about 3.7 times the amount spent by the Federal Government on law, order and public safety (\$579 million). FACT: About twice as much money is spent on heroin as on all drugs prescribed by doctors in Australia in the last financial year (about \$1.1 billion, according to the Health Department). FACT: About 3.5 million people in Australia have tried marihuana, or more than one in five people. About 272,269 people in Australia have tried heroin, or more than one in 60. About 825,333 people in Australia have tried amphetamines. About 409,033 people in Australia have tried cocaine _ more than one in 40. An estimated 30 percent of all people in Australia aged 14 to 19 have tried marihuana. An estimated 2.5 million people in Australia aged between 20 and 39 have used marihuana. The majority of heroin users are men aged between 20 and 40. FACT: Cocaine in the Middle East is combined with powdered human bones to increase the weight for sale. FACT: In the 1930s, Australia had the worst cocaine and heroin problem in the Englishspeaking world. FACT: The terrors of withdrawal from heroin are over-rated. Experts say the effects for between five and seven days are similar to a bad dose of the flu. Withdrawal from alcohol dependency is far more dangerous than from heroin addiction. FACT: One in every five deaths in Australia is drug-related, and one in three of all deaths in the 15-34 age group. FACT: Australia has a massive amphetamines problem, which is far greater than heroin. Police suggested that in many cases of domestic violence and in some siege situations, amphetamines were to blame because a user suffering withdrawal symptoms becomes severely depressed and paranoid. FACT: An estimated 500,000 Australians use cannabis once a month. About 256 million in the world use cannabis. FACT: Australians have a massive dependency on legal sedatives and anti-depressant drugs. FACT: One drop of pure nicotine can kill a man in a matter of moments. FACT: More than 11 percent of all prisoners in Australian jails are

LOSING THE DRUGS WAR

there for drug offences. Even though police say they want to target drug syndicate leaders, the majority of charges laid on drug matters relate to possession and use rather than the more serious charges of traffic and maufacture. FACT: Heroin is worth at least 100 times more than gold. (Gold is about \$550 an ounce and heroin, 80 percent pure, is worth \$5600 when cut to street purity and sold in 0.25g caps). FACT: Most major international terrorist organisations are at least partially supported by drug money. They include, in Europe, the Gray Wolves, Red Brigade, Armenian and Kurdish rebels, the ETA Basque seperatists in Spain, the IRA; in South America, FARC, M19, the Contras; in Sri Lanka, the *Tamil Tigers*, Tulf; India, the Sikhs and in Burma, perhaps the biggest narcoterrorist, Khun Sa, the leader of the Shan United Army. International intelligence indicates that drug money is the single greatest source of funds of terrorism. Certain ethnic pressure groups in Australia have been indirectly funded with drug money. FACT: Police action on drug smuggling is counter-productive in a democracy. The more drugs are seized, the more they are in short supply. The shorter the supply, the higher the price. The higher the price, the more profit. The more profit, the more incentive to import drugs. The more incentive, the more people will be tempted to become involved in trafficking. The scarcer the drug and the higher the price, more crime will be committed by addicts who need money to score. This is the ""crime tariff" that everyone in society pays because of the drug problem. Police might have some effect if they were given absolute draconian powers to deal with drugs, such as those given in Singapore in 1977 during an anti-drug crackdown, ""Operation Ferret". The powers included being able to demand urine tests from anyone at any time for drug analysis, and to admit any drug user to a drug rehabilition centre for two years' supervision without a trial. But such powers are unlikely to be given to authorities in Australia. FACT: In the US about 80 percent of people, by the time they have reached their mid-20s, have tried an illicit drug. FACT: Marihuana has been estimated as the second biggest cash crop in the US. FACT: In 1984 10,643kg of heroin and 58,737kg of cocaine were seized throughout the world. That quantity of drugs is valued in Australia at \$50,654,500,000. The size of the world's drug problem can be seen by the fact that law enforcement officers generally agree they seize about 10 percent of drugs. FACT: In the US, about 25 percent of its top 500 companies demand urine tests from job applicants to check for drug use. Figures from the US Drug Enforcement Administration show a drug user is 3 1/2 times more likely to be in an accident at work and five times as likely to file a worker's compensation claim. FACT: NSW illegal drug users buy about 100,000 needles a month. FACT: A Commonwealth Health Department/ NACAIDS survey in 1986-87 revealed that two percent of 1500 adults surveyed said they had injected themselves with illegal drugs in the past year, and five percent had at some time in the past. Those figures translate to 500,000 people having injected themselves and 175,000 having done so in the past year. A possible 9000 illegal intravenous drug users can expect to be infected with AIDS and AIDS-related diseases in the next two years. According to Dr Les Drew, a former consultant to the Federal Government on drug addiction, at least 6000 of the cases will die. It is impossible to estimate how many people will become infected with AIDS after having sexual contact with intravenous drug users. In New York, 22 percent of women infected with AIDS are sexual partners of intravenous drug users, or are intravenous drug users.

Load-Date: September 20, 2003



<u>i bc-SRILANKA-REBELS 11-28 0144 Sri Lankan police arrest 16 suspected</u> rebels smuggled into capital

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 28, 1997, Friday, Cycle 07:56 Central European Time

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Length: 126 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Sri Lankan police early Friday arrested 16 suspected Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) rebels being smuggled into the capital Colombo inside empty tea chests.

Police found the 13 men and three <u>women</u> when they carried out a full search of a lorry near the city centre. The suspects were under interrogation, police said.

Security forces have been on high alert this week in anticipation of a rebel attack as <u>LTTE</u> guerrillas commemorated their fallen cadres in what they call "Heroes Week".

LTTE rebels claim to be fighting in the northern and eastern parts of the island for an independent homeland for minority Tamils, but also carry out attacks in the capital to keep the security forces under pressure and to destabilize the economy. dpa da fz

Load-Date: November 28, 1997



three rebel women spies arrested in sri lankan

Copyright 1998 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency NOVEMBER 16, 1998, MONDAY

Length: 170 words

Dateline: colombo, november 16; ITEM NO: 1116076

Body

the sri lankan police have arrested three tamil rebel <u>women</u> spies in the harbor town of trincomalee in the east of the country, the island newspaper reported monday. the three, a teacher and two other <u>women</u>, had passed on information to the liberation tigers of tamil eelam (<u>Itte</u>) which is fighting a war against the government for a separate state, and were arrested last saturday, police sources told the paper. the information to the <u>Itte</u> had been passed on by telephone. police found the telephone numbers of the three arrested in a diary of a dead <u>Itte</u> cadre. they were reported to have confessed having communicated information regarding the movements of the armed forces to the tigers for a long time, the sources were quoted as saying. in one instance, one of them gave information regarding the movements of a senior police officer and the vehicle used by him, the sources said.

the three women are expected to be brought to colombo for further investigation.

Load-Date: November 16, 1998



<u>PM-World-News-Digest</u>; <u>INDEX</u>: <u>International</u>; <u>EDS</u>: <u>All stories below are</u> also moving as separates. This digest will stand for the PM cycle.

The Canadian Press (CP)
January 5, 2000 Wednesday

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Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 941 words

Byline: By The Canadian Press

Body

A summary of top world news today:

RENA, Norway - Rescue workers today resumed searching for survivors after two passenger trains crashed headon at high speeds, but they feared they would find more bodies after police said the 26 people still missing were most likely killed.

-BODY- "They are probably not alive. The damage was so great that they could not have survived," district Police Chief Magnar Lynum said at a news conference in Elverum, the nearest city to the crash site, 175 km north of Oslo. The death toll so far stood at seven.

For almost six hours after the accident Tuesday afternoon, one of the trains burned intensely, belching smoke above the snow and pine trees.

By the evening, the fires were under control, and smoke-divers had entered the charred and twisted wreckage without finding more survivors. The smell of smoke still pervaded the winter air as rescue crews retired for the night in military tents set up around the site.

There were at least 30 injured from the 67 survivors accounted for. The engineers on both trains were missing.

A local train with 17 people aboard and a larger regional express with 83 people aboard were probably each going up to 88 km/h around a curve when they crashed head-on, according the state railroad directorate. The cause was still not known.

The diesel trains - one southbound and the other northbound - collided at 1:30 p.m. at the Aasta Station in Aamot township near the town of Rena.

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. - Israel and Syria finally are beginning their first substantive discussions in nearly four years, resuming the chase for elusive peace after settling a dispute on what to talk about first.

Committees of experts from both countries as well as the United States, which is playing the role of facilitator, were to begin the challenging job today of narrowing the gaps that have divided Israel and Syria for more than half a century.

PM-World-News-Digest; INDEX: International; EDS: All stories below are also moving as separates. This digest will stand for the PM cycle.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said the committees would meet over the next couple of days to tackle outstanding issues between the two countries. Rubin did not elaborate on which committees would convene or even their number.

But the key issues dividing the two foes include the extent of an Israeli pullout from the strategic Golan Heights that Syria lost in 1967, water rights, the character of peace, security arrangements and a timetable for the withdrawal.

Israel had wanted to discuss security first. But Syria insisted on taking up the withdrawal issue - how much land Israel would yield and the timetable for the pullback. The dispute led to the cancellation of a three-way session on Monday that was to bring together U.S. President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa.

That hurdle was overcome Tuesday with an American proposal that the committees meet simultaneously, according to a source close to the Syrian delegation. Speaking on condition of anonymity, he told the Associated Press the committees were assigned to deal with border demarcation, water, security and normalization of relations.

ZAGREB, Croatia - Promising democracy and economic prosperity, the opposition coalition has handed a stunning defeat to the only government Croatia has known in nine years of independence - the authoritarian party of the late president Franjo Tudjman.

Final, unofficial results of parliamentary elections showed Tuesday that the centre-left opposition coalition easily won nine of 11 constituencies in Monday's vote for the lower house.

In some regions, the coalition of Social Democrats and Social Liberals led by a 2-1 margin over Tudjman's Croatian Democratic Union.

Social Democrat leader Ivica Racan, who is expected to become the new premier, pledged Tuesday to "honestly work on changes."

Because of Croatia's complicated voting system, the exact number of seats in the lower house is still not known.

According to the results released Tuesday, the main opposition coalition will control 71 of about 150 seats. Tudjman's party collected 40, and could get four or more additional seats from Croats living abroad, who overwhelmingly supported the party.

Final official results will not be known until after Jan. 16, when repeat voting must be held in 11 polling stations where irregularities were reported. That vote is not expected to substantially alter the final results.

The new Parliament is to be convened 20 days later.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - A suicide bomber killed at least 12 people and wounded 28 near the Sri Lankan prime minister's office in central Colombo today, just weeks after the country's president survived an assassination attempt.

Four others were in serious condition in hospital.

Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike was not in her office at the time of the explosion, officials said. Police suspect rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*) were behind the blast.

"Two <u>women</u> constables and two policemen of the prime minister's office, a passerby and the suicide bomber were killed in the explosion," Jagath Jayawardena, deputy inspector general of police, told reporters at the scene.

PM-World-News-Digest; INDEX: International; EDS: All stories below are also moving as separates. This digest will stand for the PM cycle.

Officials said five others had died while being taken to hospital. The local TNL radio said one more had died after being admitted to hospital.

In a separate incident, a prominent Tamil politician and lawyer, Kumar Ponnambalam, was shot dead in a Colombo suburb by a lone gunman who escaped, police and witnesses said.

What's ahead

Jan. 6

Burlington, Vt. - Court date for Bouabide Chanchi.

Jan. 24

Croatian presidential election to replace the late Franjo Tudjman.

Feb. 11

London - Michael Abram back in magistrates court for alleged attempted murder of George Harrison.

Load-Date: October 11, 2002



UNITED NATIONS: U.N. CRACKS DOWN ON USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

IPS-Inter Press Service October 12, 1997, Sunday

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Length: 936 words

Byline: By Thalif Deen

Dateline: UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 12

Body

The United Nations intends to crack down on the use and abuse of children in armed conflicts that has occurred in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

"We are witnessing an abominable crime on the eve of a new millennium," says Olara Otunnu, the U.N.'s newly-appointed Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict.

Otunnu is a former Ugandan foreign minister, but now is a national of Cote d'Ivoire. He plans to visit countries where either governments, or rebel groups, are accused of abusing children at war.

"I want to move as fast as I can," he told reporters here. "We have a very long list of countries where children are caught up in conflict situations."

These countries include Sri Lanka, Liberia, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has recently focused on the plight of children in at least three other countries: Afghanistan, Uganda and Algeria.

Otunnu says he will serve as an advocate for children, promoting measures for their protection in times of war and for their healing and reintegration into society.

According to the mandate given by the 185-member General Assembly last year, Otunnu said he will take concrete initiatives in particular cases, inform and mobilize international public opinion, ensure high priority for the welfare of children affected by armed conflict, and act as a catalyst among U.N. agencies and humanitarian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop a concerted and focused approach to meet the needs of children in conflict.

Asked if he would probe the plight of children in countries subject to U.N. sanctions such as Iraq, he said his mandate includes "all aspects of children effected by conflicts.

"My role is non-political. My mission is humanitarian -- and I will be rigorously impartial," Otunnu said, adding that he would "fastidiously check on facts, because truth is usually the first casualty in war."

Otunnu plans to use as his primary guide a comprehensive 1996 report on "Children in Armed Conflict" authored by the former First Lady of Mozambique, Gracha Machel. The proposal for the appointment of a Special Representative was originally made by Machel.

UNITED NATIONS: U.N. CRACKS DOWN ON USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

One of the key recommendations of her report was that the age of military recruitment should be raised to 18. "No child under 18 should have any role in any armed force of any kind," she said adding that all children now in an armed force, whether governmental or non-governmental should be demobilized.

"By the year 2000, there should be strong public opinion against using children as soldiers, rape as a weapon of war and the use of landmines," she added. She also urged the Security Council to single out the protection of children when it adopted mandates for peacekeeping operations.

Asked why increasing numbers of children were becoming soldiers, Machel said military commanders had told her that children were impressionable and easy to dominate. "They were good soldiers because they obeyed orders without challenge. Moreover, when they lost their parents and communities, they often joined the armed forces for food and safety," she added.

Last week Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar devoted his entire address to the General Assembly on children in armed conflict. "A subject which in the experience of Sri Lanka is drenched in blood and tears," he said.

Kadirgamar said that in his own country, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (*LTTE*), a rebel insurgent group, has conscripted thousands of teenage children to fight its war. "This barbaric practice of conscripting or luring children for war must be condemned by all civilized states without any room for equivocation or doubt, and be eliminated from our world, if we are to preserve our humanity," he told delegates.

In its 1996 "State of the World's Children Report" UNICEF said that during the last decade, about two million children have lost their lives and another four to five million have been disabled as a result of military conflict.

Another one million children have been orphaned or separated from their parents, and some 10 million have been psychologically traumatized in ethnic conflicts or civil wars. The number of child victims has risen as the number of civilian deaths has increased in recent conflicts.

Between 1945 and 1992, there were 149 major wars in which more than 23 million people were killed. At the end of 1995, conflicts have been raging in Angola for more than 30 years, in Afghanistan for 17 years, in Sri Lanka for 11 years and in Somalia for seven years.

The main cause for the rising death toll of civilians, including <u>women</u> and children, is that most contemporary conflicts are not between states, but within them.

The UNICEF study said that most children who die in wartime have not been hit by bombs or bullets, but die of starvation or sickness due to the destruction of medical services, water supplies and food sources.

UNICEF says it is concerned not only about children who are victims of war, but also about child soldiers. The AK-47 -- one of the world's fastest selling assault rifles, "can be stripped and re-assembled by a child of ten," UNICEF said.

Children have other advantages as soldiers. "They are easier to intimidate and they do as they are told. They are also less likely than adults to run away and they do not demand salaries," UNICEF said.

As part of its anti-war agenda, UNICEF has proposed an Optional Protocol to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, which will bar the recruitment of children under 18 into the military. At present, the Convention has an under-15 age barrier.

Load-Date: October 14, 1997