

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:11:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223507909

Documents (100)

1. [*Sri Lanka Bomb Kills 3 Policemen*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

2. [*Thousands flee as army readies for Tamil attack*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

3. [*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
News

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

4. [*Hundreds detained in Sri Lanka : Police use curfew to sweep capital in hunt for Tamil Tiger rebels*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

5. [*Government Launches New Offensive Against Tamil Stronghold*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

6. [*Suicide attack on president Female bomber's assassination bid kills 31, injures another 108*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

7. [*ARREST CASTS CLOUD ON AUSSIE GUERRILLA TRAINER*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

8. [*Tamil Rebel Blamed in Gandhi Assassination Killed in Sri Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

9. [*18 Soldiers Killed in Advance Toward Rebel Stronghold*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

10. [*WHAT THEY SAID World Cup '96*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

11. [Rebel Leader Orders Unilateral Week-Long Cease-Fire](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

12. [Government: 600 Rebels, 78 Troops Dead In War's Bloodiest Fighting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

13. [Mass burial for Sri Lankan Muslims](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

14. [1ST LEAD: Suicide bomber attacks at Sri Lanka prime minister's office](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

15. [ROUNDUP: 38 civilians killed in rebel attack in Sri Lanka , military says](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

16. [*Killings overshadow election in Sri Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

17. [*Indians snare top Tigers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

18. [*Tamil parties urge creation of demilitarized zone in northern Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

19. [*REFUGEES' LAST HOPE; Would you let them stay in Canada?*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

20. [*India increases patrols to block Sri Lankan refugees*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

21. [*ROUNDUP: Suicide bomber kills top army officer in Sri Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

22. [*Tamil youth identified as Premadasa's killer*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

23. [*Channel hopper: The latest in terrorist fashion, the bikini bomb*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

24. [*Sri Lankan delegation leaves for Oslo to seek global support, aid for peace process*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

25. [*Radio: Radio review: Talk of the devil*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

26. [*DEVELOPMENT- SRI LANKA : MORE AID THAN EXPECTED FOR WAR-TORN STATE*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

27. [*Bomb explodes killing three policemen, other clash claims 111 lives*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

28. [*Playing with fire*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

29. [*DOOM AND GLOOM*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

30. [*Prime Minister Begins Task Of Rebuilding Sri Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

31. [*Hospital Bombed As First Reports Surface of Civilian Casualties*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

32. [EDITORS:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

33. [PLEA FOR HELP FROM WAR-TORN ISLAND](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

34. [Calcutta decked up for cricket World Cup opening bash](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

35. [Sri Lanka violence](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

36. [Amnesty: Children face rights violation and abuse in South Asia](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

37. [*Tamil Militants Kill 15 Sinhalese Villagers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

38. [*Nine Villagers Hacked to Death, Rebel Arms Depot Destroyed*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

39. [*Over 40 dead as Delhi and Tigers take the war east: Muslims stage protests in Colombo as the conflict shifts from Jaffna*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

40. [*Hundreds of civilians killed in fighting in northern Sri Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

41. [*TAMIL REBELS BLAMED FOR MASSACRE*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

42. [Rebel landmine kills three soldiers in Lanka attack](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

43. [Twelve refugees dead as boat capsizes in north Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

44. [A HASTY BURIAL FOR THE BOMBING VICTIMS WITH NO NAMES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

45. [SRI LANKA -CONFLICT: WAR-WEARY SRI LANKANS SUE FOR PEACE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

46. [Landmines indispensable to a modern army](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

47. [Explosions Hit Naval Ships as Truce Apparently Broken](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

48. [Guerilla leader dies in Sri Lanka war](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

49. ['We just want fighting to end': Widow returns to Sri Lanka after burying husband](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

50. [--International NewsWatch--](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

51. [Sri Lankan rebels kill 41 as fighting spreads](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

52. [After Big Victory, Sri Lankan Says She'll Resume Rebel Talks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

53. [Travel: Red Channel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

54. [MASSACRE OUTRAGE : Revenge attacks fear after slaughter](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

55. [Premadasa Says Settlement Possible as Gov't Gains in Fighting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

56. [Official: Rebels Murder Fellow Tamils For Meeting With Indian](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

57. [INDIA : TROOPS WILL USE FORCE TO END SRI LANKAN VIOLENCE](#)

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

58. [AP Photo COL1](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

59. [Sri Lanka Government Sentences Guerrilla Leader in Absentia](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

60. [Peoples' Alliance claims to have support for new government](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

61. [TAMIL SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 12 AT PREMIER'S OFFICE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

62. [Peoples' Alliance of Sri Lanka going for coalition government](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

63. [Sri Lankan governing party leads in parliamentary vote: President's mother, world's first female PM dies a day after vote](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

64. [Sri Lanka rebels accused of plotting bombings, recruiting children](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

65. [World](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

66. [--Sixth NewsWatch--](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

67. [New wave of attacks as rebel war hots up](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

68. [Nine including women soldiers killed in Sri Lanka explosion](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

69. [INDIA : GANDHI'S KILLERS EVADE CAPTURE BY COMMITTING SUICIDE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

70. [Presumed brain behind Gandhi killing comes to a farcical and bloody end: Derek Brown in New Delhi describes the last stand in a suburban house of the Tamil leader One-Eyed Jack and his suicidal band of accomplices](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

71. [50 killed in guerilla massacre](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

72. [Female suicide bomber kills 3 in bomb blast](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

73. [Rebel mine attack kills 11 in Sri Lanka](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

74. [LETTERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

75. [India to Halt Military Operations for 48 Hours](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

76. [50 killed in guerilla massacre](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

77. [Female suicide bomber kills three in bomb blast](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

78. [Police detain five Tamil suspects for suicide bombing attack](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

79. [High-tech infrastructures vulnerable to New Terrorism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

80. [Sri Lankan rebels, government seek to avoid violence in ongoing peace effort](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

81. [Mass murder not the Islamic way](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

82. [English rugby league officials attempt to salvage Australian tour](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

83. [Letters](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200284. [Sri Lanka extends emergency rule, detains 19 in bombing](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200285. [BLAST IN SRI LANKA KILLS 21 AND BOMBER A CABINET MINISTER WAS AMONG THE DEAD AS THE NATION CELEBRATED ITS WAR HEROES. NO ONE HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY.](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200286. [AP Photos COL102,3](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200287. [Wounded President wants answers](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed byPublication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 200288. [36 villagers reported dead in rebel attack in northern Sri Lanka](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers,Newswires & Press

89. [--International NewsWatch--](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

90. [Letters](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

91. [Tamil Tigers look for an exit strategy from jungle hide-outs: Leader is hopeful of having peace talks, write Edward Luce and Amal Jayasinghe:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

92. [Defense case in landmark sexual enslavement trial gets off to rocky start](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

93. [EDITORS:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

94. [*International News Briefs By The Associated Press*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

95. [*Commission blames withdrawal of elite bodyguards for Gandhi slaying*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

96. [*Tamils massacre 28 as tension rises before poll*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

97. [*Death Toll Rises to 173 in Tamil Attack*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

98. [*Sri Lankan military court begins probe into massacre of civilians*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers,Newsires & Press
Releases; Timeline: Jan 01, 1984 to Dec 31, 2002

99. [*Tamil rebels retreat from military onslaught in northern Lanka*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

100. [Revenge fears hang over Colombo funeral](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Tamil Tigers" OR LTTE

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

Sri Lanka Bomb Kills 3 Policemen

Associated Press Online

September 18, 2000; Monday

Copyright 2000 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: International news

Length: 419 words

Byline: DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

A bomb explosion at a police checkpoint killed at least three policeman on Monday, just a day after soldiers repulsed a rebel counterattack in the north that left 111 combatants dead and more than 200 wounded.

The explosion near the eastern town of Kalmunai occurred when police stopped a van to search it, said a constable at the Kalmunai police station, 135 miles east of the capital, Colombo. Three policemen were killed and six were wounded, police said.

Meanwhile, in the northern city of Chavakachcheri, soldiers repulsed a rebel counterattack late Sunday in a battle that left 111 dead. The clash occurred in the same city that government soldiers captured earlier in the day, said Brig. Sanath Karunaratne, the spokesman. The city is six miles east of Jaffna, the former rebel stronghold.

Some of the dead included government soldiers, Karunaratne said. Most of the 228 wounded soldiers were treated for minor injuries, he said, giving no figure for wounded rebels.

The bodies of 18 rebels were recovered and handed to the International Committee of the Red Cross, Karunaratne said.

Another 75 bodies of rebels remained scattered in the area, government spokesman Ariya Rubasinghe said in his daily briefing on the war. He said a 15-year-old **female** rebel fighter was captured by the troops.

The government and human rights groups frequently accuse the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of using children as fighters in their 17-year war to create a homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east. The **Tamil Tigers** have not responded to the charges and have made no comment on the government's recent offensive or the latest battles.

Independent verification of the casualty reports is not possible as neither side allows reporters into the battle zone.

Earlier on Sunday, MiG-27 fighter jets had helped the army recapture Chavakachcheri in an assault that the government said killed four soldiers and wounded 46. Troops on Sunday said they saw the rebels deserting their bases and defense lines.

Within seven hours the rebels were back, trying to reclaim the town.

Sri Lanka Bomb Kills 3 Policemen

The capture of Chavakachcheri the second largest town in the Jaffna Peninsula and 190 miles from where Monday's bomb explosion occurred is seen as a major victory for the government ahead of the Oct. 10 parliamentary election. Military gains against the rebels could win votes for the ruling People's Alliance.

Earlier this year, the rebels wrested Chavakachcheri from the military.

More than 62,400 people have been killed in the conflict since 1983.

Load-Date: September 18, 2000

End of Document

Thousands flee as army readies for Tamil attack

THE AUSTRALIAN

November 2, 1995 Thursday 0 Edition

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 444 words

Byline: -SOURCE- AFP, Reuters

Body

TENS of thousands of civilians fled the peninsula Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka yesterday as security forces prepared for a final push on the citadel of Tamil separatism, aid workers and officials said. "There is a mass movement of the civilian population from Jaffna town," a foreign aid worker said. "People are in a state of panic. They all want to leave the place quickly. A military spokesman said thousands of infantry troops backed by tanks and artillery were poised to resume their march towards Jaffna town, headquarters of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Ground troops had set up new defences at the town of Neerveli, captured from the LTTE after a ferocious two-day battle that had left 176 combatants dead on both sides. The rebels' mass exodus began after the fall of Neerveli and marks a turning point in the army's campaign to recapture the entire Jaffna peninsula, where the rebels run a virtual mini-State. "On the map, it looks easy. We have another five miles (8km) to cover before go to Jaffna. It is not that easy. The bloodiest fighting is yet to come," the military spokesman said. Army sources expected the final few kilometres of the advance to be the bloodiest of the latest campaign, with progress slow through rebel minefields, booby traps and ambushes. Close fighting was expected at the well-fortified towns of Urumpirai, Kopai and Kondavil - all serving as part of Jaffna's defences - before the army could get to Jaffna town.

The military spokesman said the LTTE may have moved some of their heavy equipment, such as the rebel radio station, out of the embattled peninsula and relocated it in the northern mainland where there had been no fighting. Diplomatic sources speculated that the Tigers were preparing to abandon their Jaffna stronghold and renew a guerilla campaign aimed at targets across the country. The security forces launched their Rivirasa (Sunshine) offensive on October 17 with the objective of capturing Jaffna, which has been under rebel control for five years. The offensive came after Tamil separatists rejected a government plan to devolve power to the country's regions. The army claims at least 700 rebels have been killed and more than 2000 wounded in the offensive. The army has lost 179 men and had 640 wounded. Tamil sources said up to 300,000 people had been made refugees as a result of the latest fighting. Most had sought shelter in the south-eastern sector of the Jaffna peninsula. An estimated 10,000 Tamil men, women and children left the peninsula completely and arrived at the northern mainland on Tuesday, travellers said, as the Tigers issued a desperate appeal for recruits to defend Jaffna.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

Copyright 1995 Xinhua News AgencyXinhua News Agency

MARCH 18, 1995, SATURDAY

Length: 532 words

Dateline: hong kong, march 18; ITEM NO: 0318124

Body

following are news items from the asia-pacific desk of xinhua in hong kong today: hke031801 --major news in leading philippine english newspapers hke031802 --malaysian vice minister on development in labuan hke031803 -5 drug traffickers arrested in myanmar hke031804 --major news in pakistani press hke031805 --measures taken for preserving myanma culture hke031806 --thailand hires foreign firms to draw up traffic plan hke031807 --survey on organ donation conducted in malaysia hke031808 --swissair man on drug charge hke031809 --3 filipinos kidnapped in mindanao hke031810 --roundup: intelligent aussies surprise world hke031811 --foreign exchange rates in hong kong hke031812 --thailand's rubber price remains stable hke031813 --india, bhutan sign trade pact hke031814 --india to install storm detection radars hka031815 -macao witnesses increase in housing contracts in 1994 hke031816 --20-month growth in building consents ends in nz hke031817 --ltte releases sri lankan police constables hke031818 --deported bangladeshis return from saudi arabia hka031819 --fujian holds investment, trade fair in hk hke031820 --one wounded in nazi clash in melbourne hke031821 --india's software exports increase 36 pc in 1994-95 hke031822 --women trafficking rampant in bangladesh hke031823 --airlanka obtains traffic rights in middle east hke031824 --lanka govt calls for speeding up wb aided projects hke031825 --india exports heavy water abroad hke031826 --bangladesh's balance of payment situation weakened hke031827 --bangladeshi pm returns from european visit

following are news items from the asia-pacific desk of xinhua in hong kong today: hka031829 --chinese official on court of final appeal in hk hke031830 --world bank approves 65.1m dlrs credit to pakistan hka031831 --weather information for asian-pacific cities hke031832 --ltte releases 16 captives in northern sri lanka hke031833 --vehicular pollution increases in indian cities hke031834 --us-swiss group to invest 1.5b dlrs in philippines hke031835 --k.l. stocks end higher hka031836 --drug traffickers to face tougher penalties in hk hka031837 --chinese textile antique show opens in hk hka031838 --child sex-abuse cases rise in hong kong hke031839 --prices of rubber, palm oil remain bullish hke031840 --pak opposition leader off to london to meet mqm head hke031841 --no posting in law bodies on political basis: pak pm hke031842 --eu to loan 30m dlrs for philippine airport project hke031843 --ramasy yusuf intends to use explosive against pak pm hke031844 --nepali pm back from copenhagen summit hke031845 --indonesia welcomes us offer on military training hke031846 --indonesia to take advantage of yen surge hke031847 --indonesia to issue food quality certificate hke031848 --taliban admits mistakes in attacks on kabul hke031849 --adb warns manila of balance of payment crisis hke031850 --indonesia to punish manipulating companies hke031851 --indonesian travel agents urged to develop ecotourism hke031852 --indonesia to restructure state-owned companies hke031853 --singapore refutes new allegations on maid case hke031854 --new mechanism for afghan power transfer announced hke031855 --austrian president to visit indonesia

Load-Date: March 19, 1995

news items from asia-pacific desk of xinhua

End of Document

Hundreds detained in Sri Lanka: Police use curfew to sweep capital in hunt for Tamil Tiger rebels

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

January 8, 2000, Saturday, FINAL

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Section: News; C16

Length: 468 words

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Sri Lankan authorities lifted a curfew in the capital, Colombo, yesterday after security forces detained hundreds of ethnic Tamils for questioning in a hunt for Tamil Tiger rebels, officials said.

A senior government official told Reuter the curfew had been lifted at 12:30 p.m., an hour and a half earlier than scheduled.

Security forces had sealed off the capital in a hunt for Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) guerrillas after intelligence reports that several rebel suicide bombers had infiltrated the capital.

Police said some 1,500 people, including around 200 **women**, had been detained and were being questioned at various police stations in the capital. None of the detainees had been released as at 5:30 p.m., they said.

Under curfew, the city was deserted.

Offices and schools in Colombo, rocked this week by a suicide bombing outside the premier's office, were shut as security men moved from house to house in a cordon-and-search operation.

Banks and the Colombo stock exchange were also shut, and no trading took place on the country's foreign-exchange market.

The curfew began at midnight Thursday.

Nobody was allowed to enter or leave the city.

Witnesses said hundreds of soldiers and police were cordoning off select areas, asking people for their identification papers.

Those who failed to produce them were taken to the nearest police station for questioning. Every Sri Lankan citizen has to have a national identity card.

The **LTTE**, fighting for an independent homeland for minority ethnic Tamils in the island's north and east, are blamed for three recent suicide bombings, including one that wounded the president last month.

Hundreds detained in Sri Lanka : Police use curfew to sweep capital in hunt for Tamil Tiger rebels

On Wednesday, a suicide bomber blew herself up in front of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike's office, killing 13 people. The premier was not in her office at the time.

Hours before the curfew was announced, a special police team arrested the dead bomber's parents and a sister in the eastern coastal town of Akkraipattu.

On Dec. 18, the prime minister's daughter, President Chandrika Kumaratunga, was wounded in a suicide bomb attack that killed 26 people. A second bomb exploded the same day at a suburban opposition-party meeting, killing at least eight.

Kumaratunga, targeted in the final days of her campaign for re-election as president, won a second six-year term in the Dec. 21 polls with just over 51 per cent of the vote.

State radio also said yesterday that a team of U.S. experts had arrived in Colombo to help local authorities investigate the suicide bomb blast at Kumaratunga's election rally.

Hours after Wednesday's blast, prominent Tamil politician and lawyer Kumar Ponnambalam, leader of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress and a proponent of a separate Tamil homeland, was shot dead in his car.

Load-Date: January 9, 2000

Government Launches New Offensive Against Tamil Stronghold

July 26, 1996, Friday, AM cycle

Copyright 1996 Associated Press All Rights Reserved The Associated Press

Section: International News

Length: 404 words

Byline: By DEXTER CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lanka's military, seeking to avenge its worst defeat in 13 years of civil war, sent jet fighters, field guns and tanks on a new offensive Friday against Tamil guerrilla strongholds in the northern jungles.

Fifteen soldiers were killed and 60 were wounded as the forces marched to within about 3 miles of Kilinochchi, the town that has become the main base of the Tamil Tiger rebels, military officials said.

Most of the rebels and many civilians appeared to have fled the town. Some international relief agencies also withdrew their workers after the army began building up its forces in the area.

The army put Kilinochchi under curfew, and civilians were told to take shelter in schools, churches or Hindu temples, a military statement said.

Also Friday, thousands of soldiers began evacuating a military base after recapturing it from rebel fighters, the military said.

The Tamil attack on the Mullaittivu camp, 170 miles north of Colombo on the northeast coast, was the worst military defeat yet in the war. Only 30 soldiers from the 1,200-man garrison were found to have survived, and the camp was flattened by bulldozers.

Even as warships evacuated the troops from Mullaittivu on Friday, rebel mortar fire hit a naval landing craft, killing one soldier, the army said.

Meanwhile, at a police station in Colombo, police paraded Tamil suspects in front of survivors of a commuter train bombing that killed 63 people, hoping they could identify who planted the two bombs, officials said.

At least 40 Tamils from the war-torn north, including about a dozen women, have been picked up in police sweeps of Tamil neighborhoods near Dehiwala station, where the bombing occurred Wednesday, police officials said on condition of anonymity.

The two bombs exploded within seconds of each other on separate cars of the commuter train, wounding 350 people. A third bomb was discovered and defused.

Immediately after the blasts, police detained two Tamils at the train station whom passengers claimed had acted suspiciously.

Government Launches New Offensive Against Tamil Stronghold

The government has blamed the bombing on the **Tamil Tigers**, who have fought since 1983 for an independent homeland for the Tamil minority. More than 43,000 people have been killed in the civil war in this predominantly Sinhalese country.

The Tigers have denied responsibility for the bombing.

More than 100 Buddhist monks in saffron robes demonstrated Friday outside Colombo's main railway terminal to protest the bombing.

Load-Date: July 26, 1996

End of Document

Suicide attack on president Female bomber's assassination bid kills 31, injures another 108

Townsville Bulletin/Townsville Sun (Australia)

December 20, 1999, Monday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 17

Length: 447 words

Body

COLOMBO -- Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga escaped a **female** suicide bomber's assassination bid in an attack on a weekend election rally.

Thirty one people were killed and a total of 180 wounded in this and another bomb attack on the city.

The attacks came only days before a presidential poll in which Ms Kumaratunga is seeking re-election.
AAP

The president was taken to hospital following one of the blasts and officials and local newspapers said her right eye was injured, but state radio quoted doctors as saying she was out of danger yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the bomber tried to jump over a barrier to get close to Ms Kumaratunga while the president was walking back to her car after she had finished speaking at a meeting of her ruling People's Alliance on the last day of campaigning before Tuesday's vote.

The death toll in this explosion rose to 21 when some of the seriously wounded succumbed to their injuries in hospital. Some 110 people were wounded. Soon afterwards a second bomb exploded at a meeting of Sri Lanka's main opposition United National Party in Ja-Ela, a Colombo suburb, killing at least 10 people and injuring 70.

A senior police official and several of Ms Kumaratunga's security guards and her driver died in the first blast and a former army commander died in the second.

Ms Kumaratunga made an appeal from her hospital bed for calm and asked people to pray for her, government ministers said on state-owned television.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the spotlight fell on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) separatists fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east since 1983. More than 55,000 people have been killed in the war and the **LTTE** has been accused of previous attacks on presidents, including one in 1993 in which President Ranasinghe Premadasa was killed.

After Saturday's explosions, hundreds of troops were deployed on the streets of Colombo.

Authorities imposed a curfew in the capital and the adjoining Gamapaha district.

At least three senior ministers and some foreign journalists were among the injured at the ruling party's rally.

Suicide attack on president Female bomber's assassination bid kills 31, injures another 108

At least 10 bodies, including that of the suicide bomber, were still lying at the scene of the blast several hours after the explosion.

A fireworks display was taking place near the rally when the bomb exploded, witnesses said.

British Foreign Minister Robin Cook condemned those responsible for the blasts.

"I am concerned by reports of injuries to the president," he said.

"I wish her a speedy recovery. It is essential that the forthcoming elections are held peacefully in an atmosphere free of intimidation and violence."

Load-Date: March 9, 2002

End of Document

ARREST CASTS CLOUD ON AUSSIE GUERRILLA TRAINER

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

December 31, 1996, Tuesday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 388 words

Byline: BOLT A

Body

KEYWORD-HIT

Arrest casts cloud on

Aussie guerrilla trainer

By ANDREW BOLT THE fate of an Australian nurse fighting with the Tamil Tiger guerrilla group in Sri Lanka is in doubt after the reported arrest of her husband by the guerrillas' commander.

Adele Wilby, from Warragul in south-eastern Victoria, is believed to have been training **female** soldiers _ including suicide squads _ for the Tigers, who have been fighting a bloody war for autonomy in Sri Lanka.

She is the most prominent Australian to be fighting for a guerrilla group, and has been on the run in the Sri Lankan jungles for eight years.
QNP

Her husband, Anton Balasingham, is the Tigers chief spokesman and theoretician, but the rival Eelam Peoples Democratic Party claims he has been arrested by rebel supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran after a year of setbacks for the separatist group.

ARREST CASTS CLOUD ON AUSSIE GUERRILLA TRAINER

The claim was backed by the Sri Lankan Government's military intelligence, but leaks from that source are often unreliable.

The military intelligence source indicates that another 28 senior rebels have been arrested for failing to stop an advance by government troops, who this year captured the Tigers northern stronghold of Jaffna.

The military also alleges that Balasingham has been absent from several recent political meetings organised by the Tigers.

Wilby is unlikely to be allowed to keep her senior role with the Tigers if her husband is in disgrace.

But a leading Tamil activist in Melbourne, Rajiv Rajeevan, denied the claims of Balasingham's arrest as government propaganda.

He said Balasingham was still a key figure in the Tigers leadership and was not under arrest.

Wilby is the daughter of a retired Warragul railway worker and unionist. She met Balasingham, a Tamil Marxist, when she enrolled at the London Polytechnic to study social science.

They married and returned to Sri Lanka, joining the **Tamil Tigers**.

"You could describe me as the black sheep of the family," she said in 1990.

The Sri Lankan Government has had them on its most wanted list for years, with soldiers under shoot-to-kill orders.

The Tiger leadership has had to shift its headquarters several times this year as it struggles against a government advance. Direct communication with the group is impossible, except by messenger.

The civil war in Sri Lanka has resulted in the deaths of more than 50,000 people in 13 years, mostly civilians.

ARREST CASTS CLOUD ON AUSSIE GUERRILLA TRAINER

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

Tamil Rebel Blamed in Gandhi Assassination Killed in Sri Lanka

The Associated Press

November 13, 1995, Monday, PM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 393 words

Byline: By DEXTER CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lankan forces have killed a Tamil rebel woman who allegedly helped plan the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi four years ago, the guerrillas said today.

Akila, who used only one name, died during the offensive that the military launched last month on Jaffna peninsula, a rebel stronghold in northern Sri Lanka.

At least 1,600 people have been killed and 6,000 soldiers and rebels wounded in the largest offensive of the 12-year civil war in Sri Lanka, where the insurgent **Tamil Tigers** are fighting for a homeland.

Thousands of soldiers renewed their advance today, heading south in an attempt to encircle the city and move in when the monsoon rains end in early January, military officials said on condition of anonymity.

In Colombo, Justice Minister Lakshman Peiris predicted a military victory soon. "There has been a significant change in the strategy with the military striking at the source of the problem in the north," he said.

The minister told a group of more than 100 foreign investors at a seminar promoting investment in Sri Lanka that "there is a mood of desperation" on the part of the rebels.

In a statement from their London office, the rebels said: "Lt. Col. Akila attained martyrdom on Oct. 30 during the defense of Jaffna." They did not explain what caused the delay in announcing her death.

Akila, who joined the rebel movement in 1987, led the **women**'s wing of the guerrilla forces.

In July, India requested the extradition of Akila, Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and intelligence chief Pottu Amman to be tried for Gandhi's assassination. The former Indian prime minister was killed by a suicide bomber at an election rally in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on May 21, 1991.

Gandhi ordered Indian troops into Sri Lanka in 1987 to help crush the Tamil insurgency. The rebels were blamed for killing him out of revenge.

Tamil Rebel Blamed in Gandhi Assassination Killed in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's police chief, Wickremasinghe Rajaguru, has offered a \$ 96,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Prabhakaran, who faces charges of treason and murder, the state-owned Daily News reported today. But the offer was not connected to the Indian government's extradition request, officials said.

Tamil rebels accuse Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority of widespread discrimination against the Tamil minority. An estimated 38,000 people have died since the war began in 1983.

Load-Date: November 13, 1995

End of Document

18 Soldiers Killed in Advance Toward Rebel Stronghold

The Associated Press

October 24, 1995, Tuesday, PM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 384 words

Byline: By DEXTER CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Thirty rebels and 18 soldiers were killed in a bloody fight for control of a northern town along the route to the rebel stronghold of Jaffna city, the military said today.

Some 42 soldiers also were injured in Monday's fighting for Neerveli, about 5 miles from Jaffna city, the military said.

A rebel counterattack began Monday night at the outskirts of town, and the fight for control of Neerveli continued today.

The government's week-old offensive - the biggest of the 12-year ethnic war - is designed to capture Jaffna, headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The city has been the center of Tamil culture for centuries.

The **Tamil Tigers** have been fighting for a homeland in the north and east since 1983. Tamils accuse the Sinhalese majority of discrimination in education and jobs. More than 36,000 people have died in the war.

Some 105 soldiers and 425 rebels have died in the past week of fighting and 650 rebels and 294 soldiers have been injured, according to the military.

An onslaught on Jaffna, where many of the peninsula's 800,000 people have taken refuge, could cause heavy civilian casualties, military officials said.

Rebels claimed today the government advance had been halted and that they had destroyed three battle tanks.

Capturing Jaffna is only half the job. In 1987, the guerrillas conceded the city to troops from neighboring India trying to enforce a peace accord. Rebel raids forced the Indians to send in more than 100,000 soldiers to hold Jaffna and other towns in the east. The Indian troops pulled out in 1990 and control reverted to the Tamils.

Meanwhile, local editors said the government has urged them to play down the killing of Sinhalese civilians by Tamil rebels, fearing reprisals against minority Tamils.

The guerrillas have attacked four villages in eastern Sri Lanka in the last three days and shot and hacked to death 85 Sinhalese men, **women** and children.

18 Soldiers Killed in Advance Toward Rebel Stronghold

In a rebel attack Sunday night, the military said eight mortar shells missed a military base in the east and hit some neighboring homes, killing two civilians and wounding 12.

Deputy Defense Minister Anuraddha Ratwatta requested Monday that news and photos about attacks on civilians not be splashed on the front pages of newspapers, the editor of a Sinhalese language daily said on condition of anonymity.

Load-Date: October 24, 1995

End of Document

WHAT THEY SAID; World Cup '96

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

March 18, 1996 Monday

Late Edition

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Section: SPORT; Sporting Life; Pg. 31

Length: 353 words

Body

"My mum died a couple of years ago and I felt bad - but I feel worse now."

West Indies captain Richie Richardson after their loss to minnows Kenya.

"We had to get off the mini-bus called disaster and on to the streetcar named desire."

Windies manager Wes Hall after his side bounced back with a win against Australia.

"I believe Shane Warne is the best bowler in the world."

Richardson after the unbelievable semi-final defeat to Australia.

"It's the greatest escape that I've been involved in."

Mark Taylor on the final-over semi-final victory.

"I am ready to swear over the holy Koran that I am not involved in betting and that I am clean."

Pakistan captain Wasim Akram answers claims by his neighbour that he bet on his team losing its quarter-final to India.

"We don't mind if India loses to Timbuktu, but India has to beat Pakistan."

Indian cricket fan Haji Mohammad.

"This was only a cricket match, not a war. Let's not be carried away. You win some, you lose some. That's the way of life."

Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin in the wake of the riot-affected loss to Sri Lanka.

"Allah be praised that India is not contesting the final."

Pakistan's English-language daily The Nation.

"When the match is on everybody forgets about the war, everybody forgets about the economy. Everything comes to a standstill. It's crazy."

WHAT THEY SAID World Cup '96

Sri Lankan taxi driver Mahathun on the final.

"We look at the game as outsiders but have a mental block on wishing Sri Lanka to win."

Lawrence Thilakar, Paris-based spokesman for the **Tamil Tigers**.

"We just cop it all and say nothing, but it's been pretty rugged and the boys have just about had enough."

An unidentified Australian player on the criticism for forfeiting their match in Colombo.

"We would prefer Sri Lanka to win, of course, but we do like Shane (Warne) and we would like a visit."

A prostitute from Lahore's red-light district on the eve of the Cup final.

"If Pakistan had won, things would have been booming."

The prostitute bemoans the absence of the local side in the final.

"The **women** finished their cooking for the day early in the morning so that they can watch the match."

A resident of Colombo.

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

Rebel Leader Orders Unilateral Week-Long Cease-Fire

Associated Press Worldstream

November 13, 1994; Sunday 03:25 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 423 words

Byline: DEXTER CRUEZ

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

The leader of the rebel ***Tamil Tigers*** announced a unilateral week-long cease-fire just hours after the inauguration of Chandrika Kumaratunga as Sri Lanka's first ***female*** president.

Rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran said in a message broadcast Saturday over the Tigers' clandestine radio station that the guerrillas should retaliate only if attacked, military intelligence officials said.

Prabhakaran did not give any reason for declaring the seven-day cease-fire, but said it would take effect immediately, said the officials who monitored the broadcast.

Brig. Gen. Gemunu Kulatunga, a military spokesman, said he was not aware of the rebel cease-fire. But he said no attacks were reported overnight.

The rebel's cease-fire could be an effort to push the government to resume peace talks suspended following the assassination of a presidential candidate.

There have been several cease-fires in the past, but the rebels have often used them to build up their defenses. The last cease-fire was broken in July 1990, when the 13-month peace process with the previous regime collapsed.

Mrs. Kumaratunga won Wednesday's election with a record 62 percent of the vote on a pledge to end the 11-year ethnic war with Tamil rebels.

"We will continue our quest for peace, recognizing that the path is a difficult and tortuous one," Mrs. Kumaratunga said in a television address after taking the oath of office Saturday before hundreds of people in a rainstorm.

She succeeded President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga of the United National Party, who did not compete in the elections.

Since the election results were announced Thursday, there have been only a few minor skirmishes between government troops and rebels in the north and east of the island nation. Eight rebels and a soldier were killed in the clashes.

The election campaign was torn by the assassination of Mrs. Kumaratunga's main opponent, Gamini Dissanayake, who was killed along with 56 others by a suicide bomber suspected of being a Tamil rebel. Peace talks were suspended after the Oct. 24 killings.

Rebel Leader Orders Unilateral Week-Long Cease-Fire

Dissanayake's wife, Srimala, took his place but finished far behind Kumaratunga in the voting.

Tamils make up about 3 million of the country's 17 million people and accuse the majority Sinhalese of discrimination. The Tamil Tiger rebels want a separate Tamil nation in the north and east of this island. More than 34,000 people have been killed in the war.

(PROFILE

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(REG:EURO;)

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(REG:AFRI;))

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Load-Date: November 13, 1994

End of Document

Government: 600 Rebels, 78 Troops Dead In War's Bloodiest Fighting

The Associated Press

July 19, 1991, Friday, PM cycle

Copyright 1991 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: International News

Length: 401 words

Byline: By DEXTER CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

More than 600 Tamil rebels and 78 soldiers have died in nine days of the most intense combat since the guerrillas began fighting for an independent homeland eight years ago, the government said today.

Officials said today that government troops killed at least 100 Tamil rebels in the latest drive to rescue a besieged army camp, one of the few bases in the embattled north still under military control.

Fifteen soldiers also were killed in the fighting Thursday to relieve the Elephant Pass camp, said the officials at the Joint Operations Command, the center of the government's anti-guerrilla operations.

There has been no confirmation of the government claims. The fighting erupted after the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam tried to storm the camp and laid a siege.

At least 18,000 people have been killed in the nine-year-old insurgency that grew out of complaints that the majority Sinhalese discriminate against Tamils in jobs and education.

The Elephant Pass camp, 185 miles north of Colombo, straddles a causeway linking the rest of Sri Lanka with the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula.

The officials said 89 soldiers were injured Thursday in close combat when troops could not use heavy artillery for fear of hitting the camp, where about 1,000 soldiers are resisting the rebel siege.

"In some instances the rebels just rush towards advancing troops without any cover," a senior military official said. Some of the rebel casualties included women guerrillas, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The army has destroyed several vehicles and now the rebels are finding it difficult to evacuate the seriously injured," the official said.

In a bid to prevent rebel reinforcements, the military is also conducting operations in other northern regions, including Mannar, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya and Jaffna, he said.

Defense Secretary Gen. Cyril Ranatunge said Thursday that the stocks of food, ammunition and medicines in the Elephant Pass camp would last for weeks.

Government: 600 Rebels, 78 Troops Dead In War's Bloodiest Fighting

The camp is the most strategic of the four military garrisons in the north, which include an air base near Jaffna town and a naval base on the northeastern coast.

Tamils are 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. Most of them live in the northern and eastern provinces where the **Tamil Tigers** want to set up the independent nation.

The Sinhalese account for 75 percent of the population and control the government and the military.

End of Document

Mass burial for Sri Lankan Muslims

The Independent (London)

August 14, 1990, Tuesday

Copyright 1990 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS PAGE; Page 11

Length: 410 words

Byline: From DEXTER CRUEZ of Associated Press

Body

ERAVUR, Sri Lanka - White flags of mourning fluttered above Muslim homes yesterday in five Sri Lankan fishing villages where Tamil gunmen slaughtered 173 residents with machine-guns and machetes. Military officials said the death toll had risen through the day, as families brought in more bodies from the Saturday night massacre.

It was one of the worst cases of butchery in the island's ethnic conflict, in which Tamil separatists are fighting the Sinhalese-dominated government and attacking Muslim and Sinhalese civilians.

A Tamil politician said that the attack on Muslim villages had been in retaliation for the killing of 33 Tamil villagers by Muslims earlier on Saturday. At least 538 people have been killed on Sri Lanka's east coast in the past 10 days. The victims include 363 Muslims, 100 Tamils and 75 Sinhalese, military officials and politicians said.

In Eravur, tension lingered as the military lifted an overnight curfew and stepped up patrols. Victims were given a mass burial.

Brigadier Upali Seneviratne, the top army officer in the Eastern Province, said at least 40 Tamil gunmen attacked the villages. "They broke into three groups and shot at everybody in sight," he said. The dead included 29 women and 31 children, one of whom was a nine-day-old girl, he added.

On 3 August, gunmen raided another eastern village and massacred 140 Muslims in two mosques. The incident set off a chain of vengeance killings.

On Sunday, Sri Lankan police shot and killed 15 Tamil rebels after the guerrillas killed four Muslim farmers at Sammanturai in the Batticaloa district, officials said. Six soldiers were killed in a rebel attack in Talaimannar, in the north-east the same day.

The government blames attacks on Muslim and Sinhalese civilians on the Tamil Tigers, the militia fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east. The Tigers have denied the charges and say the killings were carried out by pro-government Tamil agents to discredit their organisation.

"Why should we attack Muslims?" asked Lawrence Thilakar, a Tamil Tiger leader, in a telephone call from the group's London office. "We need the fullest co-operation of the Muslim people . . . this dangerous game being played by the government will not last long, very soon the truth will come out."

Elsewhere in Sri Lanka, military officials blamed Tamil rebels for ambushing a truck in the north-eastern Trincomalee district around dawn yesterday and killing 15 Sinhalese.

Mass burial for Sri Lankan Muslims

End of Document

1ST LEAD: Suicide bomber attacks at Sri Lanka prime minister's office

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 5, 2000, Wednesday BC Cycle 05:49 Central European Time

Copyright 2000 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 512 words

Body

...Colombo (dpa) - A **female** suicide bomber, believed to be a Tamil rebel, exploded herself at the gate of the Sri Lankan prime minister's office in the capital Colombo Wednesday, killing at least seven people, police said.

The woman, apparently waiting for her target near the entrance to the prime minister's office, was summoned to be checked by security officers. While she was being checked, she detonated the explosives attached to her body at 9:05 a.m. (0305 GMT), police said.

Twenty nine injured people have been rushed to the national hospital in the capital.

Police said the target of the attack was not immediately clear, but among those who use the entrance where the bomber was lurking was Deputy Defence Minister General Anuruddha Ratwatte, a prime target of the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**).

Police said the prime minister's office was probably not the target of the attack.

The prime minister's office is currently not used by Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, 83, due to her age and ill-health. She operates from her home, at Rosemead Place, about two kilometres from where the explosion took place.

"The suspected woman suicide bomber was on the opposite side of the road standing in front of the Saudi Arabian Embassy. A Prime Minister Security Division officer suspected the woman's movements and called her to the main entrance," said an employee at the prime minister's office, Jagath Prasanna.

"The woman, in her early twenties, dressed in slacks and a shirt, claimed she cannot speak Sinhalese. Our security officer called for a lady Tamil translator and questioned her. She claimed she was waiting for a job agent close to the Saudi embassy and was planning to travel as a house maid," the eyewitness said.

The bomber exploded herself as the security person became more suspicious and wanted two **women** police constables to check her, he said.

Two **women** police constables, the translator and the police officer of the security division were among the seven killed along with the suicide bomber.

1ST LEAD: Suicide bomber attacks at Sri Lanka prime minister's office

Police said the situation at the site of the explosion is under control and the area has been cordoned off.

The explosion came three weeks after another woman rebel suicide bomber made an abortive attempt on President Chandrika Kumaratunga's life as she was leaving her final election rally on December 18.

Twenty four persons were killed in the blast along with the suicide bomber, three days ahead of the presidential election in which Kumaratunga was returned to office for a second term.

Police have warned that at least 12 suicide bombers of the LTTE are believed to have infiltrated the capital to carry out attacks, mainly targetting government ministers and politicians.

Tamil rebels fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and eastern parts of Sri Lanka have stepped up their armed struggle in recent months.

They have captured vast chunks of army-held territory in the north and are continuing attacks around a main military complex. dpa ad jh

Eds: adding details of attack, background

Load-Date: January 5, 2000

End of Document

ROUNDUP: 38 civilians killed in rebel attack in Sri Lanka, military says

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 21, 1999, Sunday, BC Cycle 11:56 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 506 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Heavy artillery and mortar shelling by Tamil rebels has killed 38 civilians and injured 56 around a Catholic church at Madhu in northwest Sri Lanka, the Defence Ministry said Sunday.

The ministry said rebels had fired indiscriminately towards the church on Saturday. All the civilians killed and injured were said to be Tamils.

Some 4,000 civilians were reported to have sought refuge on the church grounds from heavy fighting between rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) and government troops during the past five days.

The ministry in a statement said the mortars and artillery had been fired into church premises.

The injured civilians, including 16 **women** and 25 children, have evacuated by the military from the Madhu area to Vavuniya hospital, some 60 kilometres east of the area of fighting.

Madhu is about 312 kilometres north of Colombo. Rebels had seized control of the area for three days until security forces pushed the rebels back on Saturday night.

The rebel attack had come soon after the church and the surrounding areas were brought under the army control, the ministry said.

A journalist based in Vavuniya quoting the injured said as saying one mortar shell had directly hit the church and two more mortars shells had come down immediately outside the church.

"We were sleeping when the first mortar came and fell on the church and thereafter two more mortars fell in the grounds opposite the church where the refugees were resting", the journalist reported the injured as saying.

They had also confirmed that the area was under the control of the army at the time of the attack and the rebels were firing towards the military in the area.

The rebel reaction was not known immediately, as the rebel radio news bulletin has been jammed for the past three to four days in the north, the journalist reported.

The **LTTE** operates a clandestine radio service in the area.

ROUNDUP: 38 civilians killed in rebel attack in Sri Lanka , military says

Earlier, the Catholic bishop for the area, Rev. Rayappu Joseph, said that at least 4000 civilians had taken refuge in the church grounds during the past few days and that they were running short of food supplies.

'We have made an urgent appeal to the government to send more food to the area, but fighting is preventing sending any supplies', he said.

Rebels, who are fighting in north and eastern Sri Lanka for an independent homeland for minority Tamils, have intensified their attacks against the security forces in the recent weeks in the northern province.

The Sri Lankan government is strictly enforcing a censorship on news related to military operations in the north and east since the fighting intensified.

The Madhu church area has been accommodating displaced persons for the past 10 to 12 years as Tamil civilians who are very often displaced by fighting between troops and rebels take shelter there.

International Relief agencies, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross offer their services in the area. dpa da pt

Load-Date: November 29, 1999

End of Document

Killings overshadow election in Sri Lanka

The Independent

February 13 1989, Monday

Copyright 1989 Independent Print Ltd

Length: 424 words

Byline: From TONY ALLEN-MILLS in Colombo

Body

A RENEWED outbreak of political bloodletting in Sri Lanka claimed the lives of at least 45 people over the weekend as Tamil separatists and other extremists stepped up their terror campaigns in advance of Wednesday's parliamentary election.

Government sources blamed the ***Tamil Tigers*** for a massacre of 37 Sinhalese villagers in central Anuradhapura district early yesterday. Up to 50 Tamil rebels were said to have stormed the isolated village of Dutuwewa, dragging residents from their homes and hacking them to death or shooting them. Among the victims was a Buddhist monk, six women and 20 children.

The Tigers denied involvement, but the assault appeared deliberately timed to scare off potential voters in the election, which President Ranasinghe Premadasa hopes will consolidate his victory in December's presidential poll. Unidentified men also broke into the house of Somapala Amarakeerthi, an opposition candidate, and stabbed and shot him to death. This attack was blamed on the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), the militant Sinhalese nationalist group that is also demanding a boycott of the poll.

Mr Amarakeerthi was the 14th candidate to be murdered in a seven-week campaign which has cost at least 700 lives.

Most of the attacks have been blamed on the JVP, but other violence has sprung from inter-party conflicts, and even feuds among candidates of the same party. Some observers believe the government's decision to allow candidates up to six armed bodyguards each has at times encouraged violence.

Sirima Bandaranaike, the former Sri Lankan prime minister who narrowly lost the presidential poll, claims to have escaped two assassination attempts since December. Mrs Bandaranaike said the campaign was like a 'small war'; her enemies accuse her of overstating the threat because her Sri Lanka Freedom Party is on the verge of a second successive defeat.

Although President Premadasa's United National Party (UNP) is expected to emerge with a clear majority on Wednesday, he faces a daunting task in producing any kind of policy that might simultaneously persuade both the Tigers and the JVP to lay down their arms.

The Tigers have rejected the Indian-Sri Lankan peace accord, which aims at increasing autonomy for the Tamils without granting them the full independence the Tigers demand. But the presence of the Indian peacekeeping force generally regarded as essential to provide a stable framework for the accord's devolutionary proposals to be implemented, has in turn enraged the JVP.

Killings overshadow election in Sri Lanka

Title Page 1

Load-Date: September 28, 2000

End of Document

Indians snare top Tigers

The Guardian (London)

February 16, 1988

Copyright 1988 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 415 words

Byline: From JOHN RETTIE

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

Indian troops yesterday trapped four senior Tamil Tiger leaders in a suburban home during a mopping-up operation in the Sri Lankan east coast town of Batticaloa.

One of the captured Tigers committed suicide by swallowing the cyanide capsule which members of the separatist guerrilla group traditionally wear around their necks, Mr J N Dixit, the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, said. The Tigers' eastern province political leader, Sitta, was prevented from committing suicide at the last minute.

Another Tiger militant fell off the roof of the Catholic church where he was hiding and had to be taken to hospital by the parish priest. He was arrested at the weekend.

About 40 ranking Tigers, including seven leaders, have been arrested by Indian troops during their four-day sweep of eastern Sri Lanka aimed at driving the militants from their last stronghold.

According to Mr Dixit, about 100 more, selected from the 30,000 men who were paraded past a rebel informer during the first three days of screening, are still being interrogated. But the Tigers' two top military commanders in Batticaloa, Karuna and Dileep, appear to have escaped.

The four leaders arrested yesterday with a number of sympathisers were taken by surprise. After the curfew which had been in force since Thursday night was lifted in the morning, many people assumed the Indian operation was over.

According to Mr Dixit, a number of 'hardcore' Tigers escaped from Batticaloa, and probably fled to Trincomalee to the north and Vavuniya to the north-west. Operations were continuing there.

He said the escape route to the south had been blocked to prevent the Tigers from taking revenge on Sinhalese villagers in the Amparai district.

Mr Dixit said India was not averse to discussing a compromise with the Tigers, provided it was within the framework of the Indo-Sri Lankan peace agreement. New Delhi has consistently refused to talk to the Tigers unless they first lay down their arms.

Reports from Batticaloa say Indian soldiers behaved in exemplary fashion during the operation.

They distributed rations to people who ran short of food during the curfew, and generally allowed ***female*** relatives to take food to their men who were waiting to be screened at various assembly points.

Indians snare top Tigers

For their part, the **Tamil Tigers** are reported to have lifted the civil disobedience campaign in Batticaloa that crippled the civil administration, under pressure from people who were unable to collect their food stamps or pensions.

Load-Date: June 8, 2000

End of Document

Tamil parties urge creation of demilitarized zone in northern Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 3, 1995, Friday, BC Cycle 05:52 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 501 words

Body

Colombo (dpa) - Leading Tamil political parties in Sri Lanka have urged the Government to declare a demilitarized zone in a section of northern Sri Lanka to accomodate tens of thousands of civilians fleeing following a major offensive against Tamil separatists.

Spokesman for the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), Joseph Pararajasingham said Friday the proposal was made in the wake of reports that civilians who fled the fighting in the northern Jaffna peninsula were even taking shelter in open grounds and roads.

He said the refugees were mainly taking shelter in the Chavakachcheri area, 15 kilometres southeast of the area where the military offensive is in progress against rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"We have called the Government to declare the area where refugees are taking shelter a demilitarized zone ensuring that the civilians could stay there until the offensive is over," Pararajasingham said.

An estimated 400,000 people are said to have fled the northern Jaffna peninsula because of the offensive, which entered its 18th day Friday.

Pararajasingham, who is also a member of Parliament, said diarrhoea was fast spreading in the area where civilians had taken refuge and the situation would soon reach crisis proportions unless international aid and relief workers get to the area.

A spokesman for United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) in Colombo said the Government had not sought their assistance so far but would consider the request if made.

"We have heard that some of the women had given birth to children on roads without any medical assistance," Pararajasingham said.

Another leader of a Tamil political party, - the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), Suresh Premachandran said his party also had called for the declaration of a demilitarized zone to protect the refugees.

Premachandran said the rebels have told the people to flee the north after possibly finding it difficult to defend the northern Jaffna peninsula, a major separatist stronghold.

Tamil parties urge creation of demilitarized zone in northern Lanka

Government troops on Friday continued their offensive and were still four-and-a-half kilometres away from the key town of Jaffna. The **LTTE** rebels claim to be fighting in the north and eastern parts of the country for an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

The offensive has so far claimed over 1000 lives of rebels and 221 soldiers, according to figures given by the military.

Tamil political parties in Colombo quote witnesses as saying that over 50 civilians have been killed in shell, artillery and air strikes by the security forces, but the military denies there have been civilian casualties.

In Colombo security has been stepped up while all schools have been closed down islandwide as a security precaution.

In a separate incident, rebels stormed a village in eastern Sri Lanka and carried out an attack Thursday night. Initial reports said at least two civilians were killed. dpa dv bg

Load-Date: November 3, 1995

End of Document

REFUGEES' LAST HOPE; Would you let them stay in Canada?

The Ottawa Citizen

January 24, 1993, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 1028 words

Byline: JACQUIE MILLER; CITIZEN

Body

Few bureaucratic decisions have such life-or-death consequences.

Each year, Immigration Department officials sit in their offices and review the files of hundreds of people who have been rejected by Canada's refugee board.

It's one last check before the person is deported from Canada. Officials decide if there are "humanitarian and compassionate" reasons to allow the claimant to remain in Canada and become a landed immigrant. They consider, among other things, whether the person would be at risk if sent back home of "a threat to life, excessive sanctions or inhumane treatment."

The decisions can be heart-breakingly difficult. A wrong decision could send someone back to persecution, torture or death.

Critics, including the human rights group Amnesty International, say the humanitarian rules are interpreted so narrowly that people in genuine danger are being refused permission to stay in Canada.

The government admits there's been widespread confusion about the so-called "humanitarian" review. The Immigration Department recently rewrote the humanitarian rules to make the process more clear. It says Canada has the most elaborate and generous system for screening refugees in the world.

Here are some of the cases recently reviewed by government officials. You decide: would you let them stay in Canada?

1. Ever since she married as a teenager in Trinidad, Dularie Boodlal's husband Kenrick viciously abused her. She was beaten and slashed with knives and razors.

After 17 years of marriage, Dularie fled with her three children and settled in Toronto in 1988. Kenrick followed them to Canada and continued to terrorize Boodlal and the children. In Toronto, Kenrick was found guilty of assaulting his wife three times and was also convicted on eight counts of uttering death threats. He returned to Trinidad in 1991.

Canada's refugee board rejected Dularie's claim for asylum because she didn't fit the United Nations definition of a refugee as someone fleeing persecution based on religion, politics, race, nationality or social group.

Dularie feared her husband would kill her if she were deported to Trinidad.

REFUGEES' LAST HOPE; Would you let them stay in Canada?

ANSWER: YES. Immigration Minister Bernard Valcourt intervened to allow her to stay in Canada.

2. Peter Zujewski and Mazena Tomala fled their native Poland in 1988 when the Communists were in power. They married in Canada, eventually settling in Ottawa. They learned English and French, got jobs, and had a daughter, who automatically became a Canadian citizen.

More than three years after they arrived, the refugee board rejected the family's claim. By the time the board heard their case, communism had collapsed in Poland and it was safe to go back.

Local politicians and the media waged an intense campaign to allow the family to stay in Ottawa. Thousands of people sent letters or called Valcourt on their behalf.

ANSWER: NO.

Valcourt said they were not genuine refugees who had a "well-founded fear of persecution" and letting them stay as refugees would only condone abuse of the system. "The integrity of the system is the strongest guarantee that Canada's protection will be afforded to persons in need," he wrote at the time.

Valcourt said the family should follow the same rules applied to would-be immigrants, who must apply from outside Canada and are judged on such things as education, work experience and knowledge of English and French. So the family returned to Poland and applied to come to Canada as landed immigrants. They were accepted, and are now back in Ottawa for good.

3. A Saudi Arabian woman fled to Montreal because she didn't want to wear a veil and be subjected to other restrictions on women in her country.

People had thrown rocks and taunted her for walking the streets of her hometown without a veil. Restrictions on women in the country prevented her from studying what she chose at university, living independently, travelling without her father's permission or holding any job that would put her in contact with men.

Canada's refugee board rejected her claim, saying her treatment in Saudi Arabia did not amount to persecution. An American human-rights group, Middle East Watch, says the woman would be in "grave danger" from the repressive Saudi government if she returns home and continues to profess feminist beliefs.

ANSWER: NO. Valcourt also reviewed the case and rejected a humanitarian appeal to allow her to stay in Canada. The woman is now in hiding in Montreal, and will be deported if found.

4. The couple and their three children fled their native Sri Lanka three years ago. A small businessman, his troubles began when the Tamil Tigers guerrilla group forced him to collect money for them. He was jailed and tortured by both Sri Lankan soldiers and the Indian army, who had intervened in the civil war.

After his release from jail, the man went into hiding. When soldiers couldn't find him, they arrested and raped his wife.

The family now fears persecution from three different political agents in the civil war: the Tigers; a rival Tamil political group; and Sri Lankan authorities.

Canada's refugee board rejected their plea for asylum in 1990. It noted that the Indian army had left Sri Lanka, the rival Tamil political group was no longer operating in their home area, and the Tamil Tigers were negotiating with the government.

But since the refugee board decision, the situation has changed in Sri Lanka. Talks between the Tigers and the government broke down, and the civil war escalated. Amnesty International says that gross human rights abuses continue by both the Tigers and the Sri Lankan authorities, including torture and executions.

REFUGEES' LAST HOPE; Would you let them stay in Canada?

And in 1991, the family received some chilling news from back home: Sri Lankan authorities had come looking for the man. When they couldn't find him, they killed his uncle.

The family is waiting for a deportation order, and may go underground in Toronto rather than returning to Sri Lanka.

ANSWER: NO

A special appeal to Valcourt on the family's behalf made by Toronto refugee advocates was also rejected.

FINAL APPEAL: Humanitarian review flawed, critics chargeB5

Graphic

(photo of refugee woman)

Load-Date: January 25, 1993

End of Document

India increases patrols to block Sri Lankan refugees

United Press International

May 14, 2000, Sunday

Copyright 2000 U.P.I.

Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 507 words

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India, May 14

Body

The Indian government Sunday ordered its navy to step up patrolling of the country's maritime boundary with Sri Lanka to prevent infiltration of refugees from Jaffna and announced an extension of ban on the Sri Lankan separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in India.

The Indian government directed its navy to increase patrolling on the maritime boundary with Sri Lanka as aid agencies and reports from Sri Lanka indicated a possible influx of refugees to India. Reports from Colombo said a large number of Tamils living in Jaffna could flee to India to avoid the fierce fighting between the Tamil Tiger guerrillas and the Sri Lankan forces.

While the politicians of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu are against any Indian military intervention in Sri Lanka, which could stem the exodus of civilians from Jaffna, they are also mounting pressure on the Indian government to check the arrival of refugees into the state. These politicians say that an influx of refugees could lead to a serious crisis in Tamil Nadu, which already is home to hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankan Tamils living in state-run refugee camps.

Tamil politicians prevailed upon the Indian prime minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, to announce India's non interventionist approach to Sri Lanka a couple of weeks ago when the Sri Lankan government was looking for assistance to evacuate some 40,000 soldiers trapped on Jaffna. It was under the influence of these politicians that India decided to stay away from Sri Lanka's ethnic crisis and also not sell weapons to Sri Lanka.

The Indian home minister, Lal Krishna Advani, said in the central Indian city of Nasik that the government also has decided to extend the ban **LTTE** for another year. Indian news agencies, the Press Trust of India and United News of India, said the announcement was made by the home minister while addressing media in Nasik.

The Indian government banned the **LTTE** in 1991 after the Sri Lankan rebels were accused of assassinating former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. A **female** Tamil Tiger suicide bomber had detonated herself, killing Gandhi as he was to address an election meeting in Tamil Nadu. Since then, the government has been extending the ban every year.

Meanwhile, reports from Colombo said that the Sri Lankan armed forces have appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross to urge the rebels to refrain from shelling civilian population.

India increases patrols to block Sri Lankan refugees

A defense ministry statement issued in Colombo said that the rebels had fired mortars at the civilian population in the outskirts of Jaffna town. It said that the shelling had caused threatened the lives of civilians in the town and in adjoining areas.

The London-based Human Rights watchdog body Amnesty International had appealed Saturday to both sides to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safety of civilians. The Red Cross had made a similar appeal to government troops and rebels a few weeks ago, when fighting intensified on Jaffna's coastline, leaving thousands of people trapped between the two warring sides.

Load-Date: May 15, 2000

End of Document

ROUNDUP: Suicide bomber kills top army officer in Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 9, 1999, Monday, BC Cycle 12:38 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 501 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

A Tamil rebel posed as a refugee to carry out a suicide bombing Monday that killed a top army officer inside a military camp in eastern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman said Monday.

The officer was distributing food relief to displaced civilians in the area when the attack was carried out at the Vakaraï camp, 287 kilometres east of the capital in Batticaloa district at noon.

The dead officer was identified as the second in command of a volunteer unit of the Sri Lanka Army, Major T.G.J.B Karunanayake. Another officer, a major, was injured in the incident.

Initial reports said the bomber was a **female** but the military later clarified that it was a male suicide bomber who had carried out the attack.

"The bomber posed as a refugee and collected food rations which were being personally distributed by the officer when the bomb went off," military spokesman Colonel C. Vithana said.

The distribution of food relief takes place every Monday at the camp, which is close to an area where the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) have strongholds.

The suicide attack came just 10 days after rebels assassinated a key Tamil politician in the capital in a similar manner.

A suicide bomber leaped on to the vehicle of Dr. Neelan Thiruchelvam, a member of parliament who played a key role in drafting proposed constitutional reforms aimed at ending the Tamil minority ethnic conflict and killed him while he was on his way to office on July 29.

In a separate development in the northern part of the country Monday, the first batch of civilians and 12 lorries carrying food supplies crossed over into a rebel held area ending a six week deadlock between the military and rebels over the opening of a new road.

Military spokesman, Colonel Vithana said that 500 civilians had crossed over by Monday evening and the rebels had accepted them.

Food and medical supplies to rebel-held areas in the central part of the northern province had been suspended for the past six weeks as the **LTTE** were refusing to accept a new route offered by the security forces.

ROUNDUP: Suicide bomber kills top army officer in Sri Lanka

Another batch of 500 civilians are due to leave Tuesday and enter the rebel held areas across Mankulam, 300 kilometres north of the capital.

The transit point has been set up at Mankulam, the last location where the security forces have their camp when travelling from the capital. Further north the security forces have control of the Jaffna peninsula.

However between Mankulam and the military controlled areas further north there is a gap of about 30 kilometres where the security forces are fighting to establish a land route.

The non-availability of a land route between the south and the northern Jaffna peninsula is causing severe difficulties to the civilian population.

Rebels claim to be fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils, but have been confined to a stronghold in the central part of the northern province and restricted to pockets in other areas in the north and east.
dpa ad jp

Load-Date: August 9, 1999

End of Document

Tamil youth identified as Premadasa's killer

United Press International
May 3, 1993, Monday, BC cycle

Copyright 1993 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 523 words

Byline: BY IQBAL ATHAS

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Detectives Monday identified the suicide bomber who killed President Ranasinghe Premadasa as a Tamil youth but said they could not confirm their suspicions he was working for the Tamil separatist guerrillas.

An official of the Crime Detective Bureau headquarters, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, also said investigators had uncovered evidence that the bomber, identified as Varnakulasingham, was known to the president's valet, E.M.P. Mohideen, who also was killed in Saturday's bomb explosion.

The assailant had made several visits to the president's private residence during his association with the valet, the official said, without elaborating.

On Sunday, the head of the Crime Detective Bureau, Superintendent Lionel Gunatilleke, said the investigation so far pointed toward the involvement of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, although he said there still was no conclusive evidence implicating the LTTE.

The LTTE, which has been fighting for the past decade to set up a homeland for the country's minority Tamils in the country's troubled north and east, insisted after the assassination Saturday it had no role in the attack.

Gunatilleke said the evidence included a fragment of a cyanide capsule, an item sometimes used by the Tamil guerrillas, that was found in the lower neck of the assassin.

Premadasa, however, faced other threats, including those from opponents who blamed him for the unsolved killing one week earlier of Lalith Athulathmudali, a former minister and leader of the Democratic United Liberation Front.

In several towns, including Matara, Kandy and the immediate suburbs of Colombo, people lit firecrackers in celebration of the news of Premadasa's assassination.

The president's remains lay Monday in a lion flag draped over a closed casket at Sri Sucharita Hall, the president's birthplace and private residence.

The narrow streets of the old St. Sebastian Hill neighborhood in Colombo's Hulftsdorp sector was a sea of heads, as men, women and children of all ages gathered to pay their respects to the man who was widely regarded as a friend of the poor.

Tamil youth identified as Premadasa's killer

There were tears in many eyes as mourners silently sobbed. Some openly wept as they filed passed the closed casket. An honor guard of four service personnel stood sentinel at the corners of the casket, heads bowed and arms reversed in mourning for their late commander in chief.

Premadasa's remains were to be brought Tuesday to the president's palace to lie in state until his funeral Thursday.

Premadasa was killed by a bicyclist carrying a bomb who came within 5 feet of the president as he was preparing to lead a May Day celebration in the capital, Gunatilleke said Sunday.

Gunatilleke said the death toll in the bomb explosion that killed Premadasa had reached 24, including seven police officers and the president's valet.

Ranil Wickremasinghe, an official government spokesman and minister of industries, told a news conference Saturday that acting President Dingiri Banda Wijetunge would be the ruling party's nominee for president.

A vacancy in the office of the Sri Lankan president must be filled by Parliament within four weeks.

End of Document

Channel hopper: The latest in terrorist fashion, the bikini bomb

Sunday Life

April 7, 2002

Copyright 2002 Belfast Telegraph Newspapers

Length: 437 words

Byline: DAVID YOUNG

Body

"THE bomber will always get through."

The origins of this phrase are lost in the mist of the Second World War, but its essential truth is as relevant now, as it was in the days of Stukas and Wellingtons.

Everyman: Suicide Killers (BBC2), took a thoroughly unsettling look at the modern incarnation of the suicide bomber - the Jew-hating Arab jetliner pilot, the no-hoper Palestinian teen, with a couple of kilos of plastic explosives under his shirt, or the Tamil 'Black Tigress' wearing the latest in terrorist fashion, the bikini bomb.

Throughout history, there have always been people ready to kill themselves and others in pursuit of a cause.

Usually, but not always, the cause is a holy cause, sanctified by whatever religion the acolyte's native community holds dear.

Ian Stuttard's compelling, disturbing and bleak film showed us how the families of the Palestinian bombers - though they feel pain at the loss of their son or daughter - are at the same time, given a new level respect and kudos by their society, as the family of a martyr.

This respect, and the hero worship of the dead bomber seen in murals, banners and posters, encourages others to step forward.

And there is no doubt, as the dapper spokesman for the *Tamil Tigers* told the programme, the suicide bomber, is very cost effective in spreading general fear in the society under attack.

"It's a glamorous tactic," he said, adding that suicide bombing is likely to become more common in the future.

"The modern suicide suit is now very comfortable to wear," he said, for all the world as if he were describing the latest catwalk fashion accessory.

"We have developed the bikini bomb."

This is made of up of two kilos of plastic explosive and 1,000 ball bearings, and is designed for women - who are less likely to be as thoroughly searched as men, especially in what the magazines call the 'bikini zone'.

This thought-provoking programme told us that the groups who recruit and train people to be suicide bombers are very careful to screen out nutters.

Channel hopper: The latest in terrorist fashion, the bikini bomb

An al-Qa'eda handbook describes the qualities of the ideal recruit: "Tranquility and a calm personality that can cope with psychological traumas such as mass murder ... likewise the ability to withstand reverse psychological traumas, such as killing one, or all, members of his or her own group."

Islamic Jihad, another extremist group, calls the acts of the suicide bombers "self-sacrifice or martyrdom in the service of Allah".

And most worrying of all, was his interview with a little Palestinian girl aged eight, who professed herself eager to die, so long as she could take some Israelis with her.

Load-Date: May 7, 2003

End of Document

Sri Lankan delegation leaves for Oslo to seek global support, aid for peace process

Associated Press International

November 22, 2002 Friday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 423 words

Byline: SHIMALI SENANAYAKE; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe departed Saturday for Oslo, Norway, to seek international support and aid as he steers his nation toward ending one of Asia's longest civil wars.

Wickremesinghe's 17-member delegation were to join representatives from the rebel ***Tamil Tigers*** at a conference Monday where approximately 20 countries, including the United States, Britain, Japan and Germany, will discuss Sri Lanka's future.

The four-member rebel team will be led by its chief peace negotiator, Anton Balasingham.

Since coming to power in December, Wickremesinghe has received wide international support in his peace efforts to end the country's 19-year civil war.

"We need to see how all this political goodwill can be captured across the board and some kind of development assistance program be developed for Sri Lanka," the country's senior peace negotiator Milinda Moragoda told The Associated Press.

"As far as financial resources are concerned, we are only looking for short term emergency needs that can be addressed for the north and east in the next five to six months," said Moragoda.

He said focus areas would be the resettlement of more than 1 million internally displaced people, clearing of tens of thousands of land mines and addressing the needs of ***women*** and children in the war-affected north and east.

Many participating countries are likely to find it difficult to pledge large sums of money to a fund jointly made up of the government and the rebels, due to legal bans on the militants.

Their Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam group is outlawed as a terrorist organization in India, the United States, Britain, Canada and Australia.

Sri Lanka lifted a four-year ban on the group before it held peace talks with the Tigers in September.

In an unprecedented move, the rebels and the government issued a joint statement ahead of the Oslo meeting, calling for international help.

Sri Lankan delegation leaves for Oslo to seek global support, aid for peace process

"We want to meet some of the urgent needs of our population and we would like to demonstrate that inspite of what has taken place over these many years, co-operation for the benefit of the people of this island is possible," they said.

The peace efforts have shown unexpected progress, with the February cease-fire holding well. Two rounds of peace talks held in Thailand have shown progress and both sides have agreed to work together toward a political solution to the conflict.

The third round of talks will be held from Dec. 2-5, also in Oslo.

Monday's meeting is expected to be followed by a full-fledged donor conference to be held in Tokyo, Japan next year.

Load-Date: November 23, 2002

End of Document

Radio: Radio review: Talk of the devil

The Guardian (London)

November 26, 2001

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Section: Guardian Features Pages, Pg. 16

Length: 429 words

Byline: Elisabeth Mahoney

Body

For those who doubt that the world has really changed since September 11, Making Terror, Breaking Terror (World Service) is irrefutable evidence that it has. A three-part study of what terrorism means today, this is a deeply intelligent series of programmes asking all the questions we've only lately been mulling over. What it made me realise was that we should have heard such broadcasts long ago.

Allan Little began his investigation with Mayor Giuliani's statement on the fight against terror: "We're right and they're wrong. It's as simple as that." Within the first 30 minutes the programme had brought into view everything that unravels such certainty: the complications, contradictions and moral ambiguities surrounding the idea of terrorism. When does a terrorist become a freedom fighter? Is Islamic extremism morally different to the violence of ETA? Is any cause worth armed struggle? What other options do the disempowered truly have? "If one person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter, how should one define terrorism?" was one of many big questions asked by Little. I'm not sure that the programmes are going to come up with all the answers, but it's good to have these questions asked just now.

What I liked best were the smaller details emerging from the case studies of terrorist groups distinguished by their levels of grassroots support - the Tamil Tigers and Hamas. Recruitment procedures for suicide bombers vary between groups: the Tigers like to recruit women because culturally in Sri Lanka there's a reticence about giving them body searches; Hamas begin their selection by suggesting recruits go to early prayers, at 5am: "If you don't have stamina enough for that, you're not committed enough." The next stage is smuggling guns across Israeli checkpoints, with the threat of a life sentence if caught, and monitoring of stress levels throughout. Terrorism is classically "the weapon of the weak"; Hamas knows that not all of its volunteers are strong enough for what might lie ahead.

Text Message (Radio 3) could only have been written in recent months, too, and as part of The Wire series of new writing by award-winning writers - this week, Jeanette Winterson. Her protagonist, Amy Bright, realises the triviality of her life only after events in New York and a near-death experience whilst feeding penguins. This was too writerly a play for radio, with dialogue that felt smart rather than real. "They didn't blow up truth, they blew up a fantasy," says one character, consoling another. That's true, but somehow it didn't feel it.

Load-Date: November 26, 2001

DEVELOPMENT-SRI LANKA: MORE AID THAN EXPECTED FOR WAR-TORN STATE

IPS-Inter Press Service

May 27, 1998, Wednesday

Copyright 1998 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 902 words

Byline: By Angeline Oyog

Dateline: PARIS, May 27

Body

Donors offered Sri Lanka \$ 780 million in aid pledges today -- new funds for development assistance to sustain its economic reform efforts and rehabilitation projects in the war-affected areas.

At the end of a two-day meeting here with donors at the European offices of the World Bank, Sri Lanka received \$ 80 million more than what it had expected to get before leaving for Paris for the negotiations.

And Colombo officials were told that more assistance will be made available for reconstruction in the north and eastern regions of Sri Lanka in the event of peace.

G.L. Peiris, Sri Lanka's Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning, said he was "extremely happy with the outcome."

The total pledges, he added, was, for his government, "an indication of overwhelming confidence in Sri Lanka's management of its economy and in what was achieved in 1997 and the good prospects for 1998."

The results of the meeting with donors in Paris was particularly satisfying for the Sri Lankan delegation. Aware of the steep decline in global official development assistance, they had been advised to expect no more than \$ 700 million upon leaving Colombo, not the \$ 780 million actually offered.

Countries like Japan, Sri Lanka's most generous aid disburser, have cut aid flows by 10 percent, and also rechanneled it to help its neighbors in East Asia, who desperately need the emergency monetary support.

According to Peiris, the donors were "enthusiastic" about the results of economic reforms including the decrease in the budget deficit, the growth of its gross domestic product the GDP by six percent and its credit surplus.

Country reports prepared by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Asian Development Bank showed a confidence in the government's handling of the economy, proven by the significant increase in productivity and growth, he said.

Economic growth levels have climbed despite intense fighting in the disputed north and east of the island. Last year, the growth rate was 6.4 percent -- higher than most of its "tiger" neighbors in Asia -- up from 3.8 percent in 1996 when the war and a series of crippling public sector strikes curbed growth.

DEVELOPMENT- SRI LANKA : MORE AID THAN EXPECTED FOR WAR-TORN STATE

Sri Lankan economic planners have been praised by the World Bank and IMF for a judicious mix of policies that have curbed government spending, raked in high revenue from the sale of state firms and kept the budget deficit in check.

In Paris today the donors added more words of praise for the government of president Chandrika Kumaratunga for improving macroeconomic stability.

But they pointed out that additional structural reforms were needed. They stressed that good governance was important if the country wished to attract private investment.

The donors were concerned that Sri Lanka's gains in human resource development were in jeopardy and welcomed the ongoing efforts to address issues in health and education.

They also expressed concern that prospects were not more encouraging for a prompt end to the conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The delegates had commended the government for its efforts to devolve authority to the regions as part of a peaceful solution to the 15 year old conflict and with the help of development partners, to improve the lives of people in the areas affected by the war.

But they deplored the enormous toll of the war in human lives and foregone economic development and urged all parties in Sri Lanka to put the future of their country above politics and called on all of the country's political leaders to unite for peace and prosperity.

In its 1997 annual report, the human rights organization Amnesty International called attention to the human rights violations committed by both sides as they went on with the war.

Thousands of Tamil civilians were arrested during military operations by government forces all over the islands. Many of them were prisoners of opinion and some 1,600 were detained without charges or trial, including 600 who have been detained for over a year.

The torture of prisoners was prevalent and Amnesty had received numerous reports of detainees dying in prison. People arrested by military forces in the north and in the east of the country, the base of the conflict, were particularly vulnerable.

Armed Tamil groups cooperating with security forces were also responsible for human rights violations, particularly the disappearances of persons.

At least 220 Tamil civilians have disappeared and some 50 others summarily executed. Some 24 persons, including 13 women and seven children under the age of 12 were killed in this way in February by soldiers assisted by members of paramilitary groups. This massacre was reportedly in retaliation for the murder of two soldiers by the LTTE some hours earlier.

The LTTE fighters were also guilty of human rights violations, including deliberate and arbitrary killings of Sinhalese or Muslim civilians. According to Amnesty, the group did not hesitate to torture or mistreat their prisoners, including children whom they then forced to join the armed group.

Although Amnesty acknowledged that the government had taken a number of measures to guarantee the respect of human rights, the organization said it remained very preoccupied by the recurrence of human rights violations and by the failure of the government to bring to justice the persons committing these violations.

Load-Date: June 4, 1998

Bomb explodes killing three policemen, other clash claims 111 lives

The Associated Press

September 18, 2000, Monday, BC cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 420 words

Byline: By DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

A bomb explosion at a police checkpoint killed at least three policeman on Monday, just a day after soldiers repulsed a rebel counterattack in the north that left 111 combatants dead and more than 200 wounded.

The explosion near the eastern town of Kalmunai occurred when police stopped a van to search it, said a constable at the Kalmunai police station, 135 miles east of the capital, Colombo. Three policemen were killed and six were wounded, police said.

Meanwhile, in the northern city of Chavakachcheri, soldiers repulsed a rebel counterattack late Sunday in a battle that left 111 dead. The clash occurred in the same city that government soldiers captured earlier in the day, said Brig. Sanath Karunaratne, the spokesman. The city is six miles east of Jaffna, the former rebel stronghold.

Some of the dead included government soldiers, Karunaratne said. Most of the 228 wounded soldiers were treated for minor injuries, he said, giving no figure for wounded rebels.

The bodies of 18 rebels were recovered and handed to the International Committee of the Red Cross, Karunaratne said.

Another 75 bodies of rebels remained scattered in the area, government spokesman Ariya Rubasinghe said in his daily briefing on the war. He said a 15-year-old **female** rebel fighter was captured by the troops.

The government and human rights groups frequently accuse the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of using children as fighters in their 17-year war to create a homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east. The **Tamil Tigers** have not responded to the charges and have made no comment on the government's recent offensive or the latest battles.

Independent verification of the casualty reports is not possible as neither side allows reporters into the battle zone.

Earlier on Sunday, MiG-27 fighter jets had helped the army recapture Chavakachcheri in an assault that the government said killed four soldiers and wounded 46. Troops on Sunday said they saw the rebels deserting their bases and defense lines.

Within seven hours the rebels were back, trying to reclaim the town.

Bomb explodes killing three policemen, other clash claims 111 lives

The capture of Chavakachcheri - the second largest town in the Jaffna Peninsula and 190 miles from where Monday's bomb explosion occurred - is seen as a major victory for the government ahead of the Oct. 10 parliamentary election. Military gains against the rebels could win votes for the ruling People's Alliance.

Earlier this year, the rebels wrested Chavakachcheri from the military.

More than 62,400 people have been killed in the conflict since 1983.

Load-Date: September 19, 2000

End of Document

Playing with fire

Northern Territory News (Australia)

October 16, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: OPINION; Pg. 10

Length: 1024 words

Body

CRACKER night. Is it on the first of July? For all the morons, yes it is.

Some of us have had enough. You are thoughtless, inconsiderate and a danger to our neighbourhood.

The fact of the matter is, you have no respect for the kids and animals that get an unnecessary fright from your immature actions. When they are let off so close to a main road (cnr Woodroffe Ave and Temple Tce) have you thought about the potential danger to motorists?

If you are making your own crackers maybe you'll learn your lesson the hard way when it doesn't go to plan.

It may be the only way for you to grow up.

Nikki Taylor-Faint

Woodroffe

No place

like home

IN RESPONSE to your article entitled "Insurance Crisis Hits Home Births", Wednesday October 9.

Wow! What a beautifully radiant mother pictured cradling her wonderfully, healthy baby only minutes old. How inspiring her words "the birth of our child at home was the most empowering experience of my life".

Having given birth both in hospital and at home, her words certainly resonated with me. Home provides the optimal environment for birth. However, feeling empowered wasn't necessarily due to the fact that my baby's birth took place at home.

Empowerment comes from having knowledge and taking responsibility for oneself.

Contrary to popular belief, birthing a baby at home has nothing to do with luck and little to do with guts.

The only guts I required was to defend myself against misinformed people trying to give me advice.

Home birth requires humility, knowledge and flexibility. When a woman has the opportunity to receive continuity of care from a midwife, a relationship of mutual trust and respect develops.

Playing with fire

This model of care is recognised by the World Health Organisation as "the most appropriate care for the majority of healthy women". This option is not publicly funded and costs about \$1800.

Whether a baby is born at home or in hospital is not the issue, it's about choice, honesty and preserving our humanity.

Lisa Boscaini

Darwin

Children on

the loose

TOP marks to the parents/guardians of the feral juveniles (mostly 12 and 13-year-olds) who ran amok around Fawcett Court, Malak, between 11pm and 2am on Friday night/Saturday morning, October 11 and 12.

You must feel so proud that you are developing such an anti-social, rude, selfish and intolerant group of people. Heaven help us. This is our next generation.

This same group of juveniles repeated Friday night's performance on Saturday night. Sitting in walkways, annoying dogs, drinking bourbon and cola, lighting fires and damaging trees, then leaving their mess for somebody else to clean up.

Here's a novel thought. How about contributing something positive to society, instead of continually belly-aching about your rights and how much the world owes you. What about the rights of the rest of society?

Yes. Top marks parents. And, oh, by the way, what were you doing while your little darlings were running feral? Sleeping? Or still out partying? You obviously didn't care one bit where your offspring were and who they were annoying.

Name and address

withheld by request

We're all

at risk

TIME and time again international and national experts on terrorism have at length sounded repeated warnings that this country and its nationals could be at risk and an easy target given the terrorist groups firmly entrenched in this country.

There is no secrecy about their existence and activities as we have watched for decades the mayhem caused by these radical groups, mainly the Arab fundamentalists, the Tamil Tigers, Abu Sayyaf group and many others. They all act in concert operating throughout the world.

What strikes me the most is their audacity to take advantage of all the benefits provided to them as migrants by the respective governments, mostly obtained by deception.

It has been revealed recently that for the purpose of funding their terror organisations, they have even registered various cultural and ethnic groups and splinter groups of the same ethnic mob to receive government grants obviously for sinister purposes.

Topping the list of recent recipients of Commonwealth and state government funding are the Canberra Muslim League and the Association of Tamil Societies. Some of the groups in the latter association have been banned in many countries due to their alleged links with the Tamil Tigers and they have had their assets frozen, running into

Playing with fire

millions of dollars, when it was found that the funds flowed into Tiger coffers and were remitted under the pretext of poverty alleviation programs.

The carnage of the bomb blast in Bali is just the tip of the iceberg.

This is undoubtedly a wake-up call to our sleepy, inactive, complacent NCA, ASIO, and our police forces, both federal and state.

Foreign Affairs and the Immigration Departments should be doing more to alert the nation of these impending dangers that confront us today and name the countries that should be avoided as holiday destinations.

Grant Grogfeit

Noonamah

Disarm

the world

HERE'S a thought for Mr Bush, he's the President of the world isn't he? Oh, I'm sorry I apologise, that is not completely true. He's the President of the United States of America.

I don't know what became of me.

So why doesn't this great man of authority, with all his power and so-called wisdom and integrity, strike a deal with not only Saddam, but all the countries on our great planet, and abolish all weapons of mass destruction, including his own.

It would be a huge step in the direction of eliminating fear and obstinacy which dictates the minds of our world leaders.

It seems to me that these great superiors of authority, who presume to take upon themselves the best interests of their fellow countrymen and women, assume they can achieve a triumph for the betterment of humanity by inflicting severe consequences on a country which also has inhabitants just like you and me.

In contemplating the senseless scenario that could be created by such a course of action, I am reminded of a quote by one of the finest minds of humankind.

"Problems cannot be solved at the same level of consciousness that created them."

His name was Albert Einstein.

Stevie Ray Roads

Karama

Load-Date: October 15, 2002

DOOM AND GLOOM

MX (Melbourne, Australia)

April 23, 2001, Monday

Copyright 2001 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 527 words

Body

ISRAEL ROCKED BY SUICIDE BOMB

ISRAELI Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has blamed the Palestinian Authority for a suicide bomb attack that killed an Israeli man and injured dozens more.

The rush-hour bombing in Kfar Saba, the second deadly blast in the area in less than a month, occurred the day after Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs had met in a bid to quell the violence.

Police said the bomber detonated an explosives-packed belt among a crowd of passengers as they were getting on a bus. Two died and about 40 were injured.

LIGHTNING STRIKES NEPALESE VILLAGE

AT LEAST four people were killed and 19 seriously injured when an electrical transmission line was short-circuited by lightning at a village in western Nepal.

Local people did not inform police because they feared unnecessary legal procedures, police said. Three of those who died in Kota village belonged to the same family.

FRENCH CASTLE IN PARTIAL COLLAPSE

TWO people were injured when a 100m section of rampart on France's historic Saumur castle collapsed on a group of nearby dwellings.

A man, 41, suffered fractures to both legs, and a woman, 46, sustained face and knee injuries.

It was not known what caused the 16th-century rampart to crumble but recent heavy rains may have undermined the foundations on the banks of the River Loire.

HUNGER STRIKES CLAIM THREE TURKS

A HUNGER strike by inmates and their relatives protesting the conditions in Turkish prisons has claimed the lives of three women. The death toll now stands at 17.

A 24-year-old woman, jailed for membership of an extreme-left underground group, died in an Istanbul hospital after being on a hunger strike since December. She weighed just 29kg and had refused all treatment.

DOOM AND GLOOM

Later, the wife of a prisoner died after a 160-day fast and a third woman, also jailed for belonging to an extreme-left group, died 180 days after she began her fast.

TIGERS BOMBARD SRI LANKA MILITARY

TAMIL rebels kept up heavy artillery attacks against military positions in northern Sri Lanka, the Defence Ministry said.

The statement came as the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) admitted they lost six of their Sea Tiger cadres in a major clash with the navy.

The **LTTE** said over its clandestine Voice of Tigers radio that two of those killed were self-styled "lieutenant colonels."

TORNADO RIPS THROUGH KANSAS

A TORNADO ripped through the central Kansas town of Hoisington last night, killing one person, damaging 400 homes and shearing the roof off a hospital.

Duane Koester said his house was the only left standing in his neighbourhood. "Right where I'm at, when I look west, there's not a thing standing," he said. "It's down to rubble. Trees are down to sticks."

Koester said his family was watching weather reports when "all of a sudden, we hear this roar. I said 'That don't sound great, something's wrong. Let's get to the basement quick.' Ten seconds later, it hit."

GRISLY FIND IN MASS GRAVE

A RUSSIAN reconnaissance unit has found the remains of at least 18 people in a mass grave near a rough mountain road in southern Chechnya.

The victims appeared to have been killed in 1996 or 1997 but it was not immediately clear who they were.

Load-Date: November 12, 2001

Prime Minister Begins Task Of Rebuilding Sri Lanka

The Associated Press

August 19, 1994, Friday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 449 words

Byline: By KRISHNAN GURUSWAMY, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Determined to end a brutal ethnic war, Sri Lanka's new prime minister on Friday created a ministry of ethnic affairs and promised early talks with separatist rebels and minority leaders.

"We have stretched our hand of friendship and hope that the Tamil Tigers...will take it and come for discussion with us and re-enter the democratic process," Chandrika Kumaratunga said at a news conference several hours after taking office.

Kumaratunga, the daughter of two prime ministers, was named prime minister on Thursday. Her top priority is ending the 11-year guerilla war that has left 34,000 people dead and forced the government to spend 20 percent of its annual budget on defense.

Rebels are demanding a Tamil homeland in the north and east of the Indian Ocean republic, where Sinhalese Buddhists are a majority and Hindu Tamils seven percent of the 17 million population. Tamils complain of discrimination in jobs and education.

Kumaratunga said her government wants to create a "society where political intimidation, terror and violence will be eliminated."

But to make peace she will have to negotiate with the defeated United National Party. Its leader, Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, is the country's president and heads the defense ministry.

Tuesday's poll ended the United National Party 17-year rule, marked by rampant corruption and human rights abuses. But the government's free-market economic policies created a booming economy fueled by low import duties.

Kumaratunga, 49, said her government would continue the UNP's economic policies "but with a human face," spending more money on welfare programs and education of women.

The government also plans to appoint a commissions to investigate the assassination of her actor-politician husband, Vijaya, in 1988 by Sinhalese radicals and the disappearance of about 60,000 people during a crackdown on leftists rebels in the south.

Prime Minister Begins Task Of Rebuilding Sri Lanka

Mrs. Kumaratunga, dressed in a blue sari, the same color as her People's Alliance Party's symbol, knelt before five Buddhist monks who chanted prayers for peace and prosperity.

Outside her home, supporters danced and hugged.

For the first time in three days, thousands of Sri Lankans shopped for bread and vegetables after police and soldiers dismantled roadblocks and lifted a round-the-clock curfew. But the government said the night curfew would continue indefinitely to prevent post-election violence.

The new government of 22 Cabinet ministers includes Mrs. Kumaratunga's mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, 72, who was the world's first **female** prime minister. She served from 1960-65 and 1970-77.

Prime Minister Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, father of the current Sri Lankan leader, was assassinated in 1959 by a Buddhist monk.

Load-Date: August 20, 1994

End of Document

Hospital Bombed As First Reports Surface of Civilian Casualties

Associated Press Worldstream

November 15, 1993, Monday 13:03 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 443 words

Byline: DEXTER CRUEZ

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Air Force planes accidentally hit a hospital maternity ward Monday and killed three pregnant women during a bombing mission against Tamil rebels who took part in the biggest rebel assault in Sri Lanka's 10-year civil war.

The defense ministry said the hospital in Kilinochchi was damaged in an air strike against two battle tanks.

The rebels had seized the tanks when they withdrew on Sunday from Pooneryn camp, 10 kilometers (6 miles) north of Kilinochchi, which they had captured four days earlier.

Tamil politicians, who were briefed by the military on the fighting, said three women were killed in the air raid. They also said nine civilians were killed inside a church last Friday in an air strike on Jaffna city, the stronghold of the Tamil Tigers.

The two incidents were the first reports of civilian casualties in the fierce fighting that began when a powerful Tiger force overran Pooneryn last Thursday.

It was the most successful military strike of the Tigers' campaign for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east of the country.

Army troops and commandos recaptured the base on Sunday. The military said 272 bodies of servicemen were recovered and about 145 men were missing and feared dead.

Defense Secretary Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe said the military had an unconfirmed report that 60 to 70 soldiers also were taken captive by the rebels.

The military claims 700 rebels were killed, but the Tigers have been silent about their casualties since Saturday, when they said they had lost 150 fighters.

Pooneryn is a key outpost in the blockade of Jaffna. The rebels hold the peninsula and most of the mainland south of Jaffna, including Kilinochchi. Government forces patrol the lagoon that separates the peninsula from the mainland and control the causeway linking the two rebel areas.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasingh said that despite the attack, the government is still willing to hold peace talks with separatist.

Hospital Bombed As First Reports Surface of Civilian Casualties

"The doors to negotiations remain open. This (battle) does not change that," Wickremasingh said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

As he spoke, military helicopters continued to evacuate injured troops and reinforce Pooneryn.

"Troops are still being brought into the region to expand the perimeters of the base," said the army's spokesman, Brig. Nalin Angammana.

Following their offensive, the militants retreated in boats across the lagoon to the peninsula. They had destroyed the camp and made off with heavy weapons, including the tanks, mortars and high-speed motorboats.

About 19,000 people have been killed since the Tamils began the war, complaining of discrimination by the dominant Sinhalese. (dc/am)

Load-Date: November 26, 1993

End of Document

EDITORS:

Associated Press Worldstream

November 13, 1994; Sunday 01:58 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 477 words

Body

Updating the full AP News Digest that moved at 0000 GMT, here is the status of major stories at this hour. Story movement times are approximate and may be affected by computer routing conditions in individual areas. Stories carry "i" category code, or "f" category code for financial topics.

The Associated Press World Service editor in charge in New York is Leslie Shepherd. The AP International Desk telephone number is (1) 212-621-1650.

Developing:

_Indonesia-East Timor. Thousands of East Timorese rampaged through the streets on Sunday, looting shops, burning cars and smashing windows in protests against Indonesian rule. Has moved, developments will be expedited.

With: APEC-Indonesia-Journalists. Has moved. Indonesia-APEC-Notebook. Moving now.

_Clinton-Asia. President Clinton toured the bombed-out island fortress of Corregidor as he began an Asian trip by commemorating World War II victories in the Pacific and urging a "common direction" for open trade. Has moved, developments will be expedited.

With: Philippines-Clinton-Protest, Philippines-Mrs. Clinton. Have moved.

_Bangladesh-Politics. At least 35 people were injured in clashes between opposition activists and government supporters as a general strike shut down Bangladesh's major cities Sunday. Expected by 0800 GMT.

_Sweden-EU. Like many Swedish families, Eva and Tygve Redaelli will walk together to Sunday's referendum on Sweden's membership in the European Union, but will part ways once inside the booth. Has moved, updated expected by 0900 GMT.

Also upcoming:

_Death Checkpoint. The Bab Al-Zawiya checkpoint blocks a key intersection in the twisting streets of Hebron's old center, cutting the city in half. Avoiding it requires a six-mile detour, but passing through can be lethal. Expected by 1400 GMT.

EDITORS:

_US-Voter Voices. In the crescent of suburbs north of Atlanta that make up Newt Gingrich's district, voters have listened to him rail for years about the need to renew American society. Now that he's going to lead a Republican-controlled House of Representatives, they want action. Expected by 1200 GMT.

Also moved:

_Yugoslavia. The Bosnian government asked Croatia and the United Nations for help to stop attacks on its surrounded soldiers in the northwestern community of Bihac.

With: ANALYSIS-Yugoslavia-Next Campaign.

-Palestinians-Israel. Palestinian police rounded up 115 activists, searched mosques and traded fire with gunmen in Yasser Arafat's toughest campaign yet against Muslim militants.

-Sri Lanka-Rebels. The leader of the rebel **Tamil Tigers** announced a unilateral week-long cease-fire just hours after the inauguration of Chandrika Kumaratunga as Sri Lanka's first **female** president.

(PROFILE

(WS SL:BC-AP News Digest, Advisory; CT:i;

(REG:EURO;)

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(REG:ENGL;)

(REG:ASIA;))

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Load-Date: November 13, 1994

End of Document

PLEA FOR HELP FROM WAR-TORN ISLAND

The Sun Herald (Sydney, Australia)

April 7, 1991 Sunday

Early Edition

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Section: REAL AUSTRALIA; Pg. 87

Length: 426 words

Byline: EMMA TOM

Body

FATHER Emmanuel Fernando of Sri Lanka has a loud and desperate message for Australia:HELP |

The Sri Lankan-born Catholic priest is touring northern NSW and Queensland as part of a tour organised by Australian Catholic Relief.

He is here to raise awareness of the crisis in his homeland, to rally support for church workers there, and to encourage Australia to take a more active interest in the affairs of its Asian neighbours.

Fr Fernando has spent many years working with the Social and Economic Development Centre (SEDEC), which is the relief and development agency of the Church in Sri Lanka.

He works in justice and peace programs at local, diocesan and national levels.

"I prepare and organise educational programs, and promote the awareness that physical violence is not the solution to human problems," Fr Fernando said during a visit to Lismore.

Sri Lanka is no bigger than Tasmania, and yet has a population equal to Australia's.

For the past decade, it has been ravaged by fighting between Government forces and the rebel **Tamil Tigers**.

In one incident in early January, 23 **women** and children were hacked to death in the town of Ampara.

Australian Catholic Relief's January report on Sri Lanka says towns are being bombed, roads are being mined and "fear and suffering is endemic".

The organisation has worked closely with SEDEC and has sent \$315,000 to Sri Lanka in the past six months.

It recently received \$80,000 from the Federal Government, which will be used to help ease the country's refugee problem.

"We have a population of 17 million, and 1 million of them are refugees,"Fr Fernando said.

"These people come from all races and have had to leave their homes to escape death in the fighting."

PLEA FOR HELP FROM WAR-TORN ISLAND

Fr Fernando knows well the horrific conditions of refugee camps and said inadequate food, shelter and medicine had resulted in disease, malnutrition and starvation.

"The situation requires immediate relief," he said.

"We need to resettle and rehabilitate these people. There are immediate survival needs, but we must also organise jobs and education."

The Gulf War had worsened the situation, Fr Fernando said. The many Sri Lankan workers in the Gulf now were returning as penniless refugees.

"Australians who want to help should learn more about the human problems of Third World countries, especially Asian countries," he said.

"They should regard people in need as their neighbours and look towards finding solutions."

He praised the work of Australian Catholic Relief and said people should be aware of the constructive role of the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka.

Graphic

Port: Fr FERNANDO

Load-Date: July 21, 2007

End of Document

Calcutta decked up for cricket World Cup opening bash

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 10, 1996, Saturday, BC Cycle 13:21 Central European Time

Copyright 1996 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Sports

Length: 545 words

Dateline: Calcutta

Body

The eastern Indian metropolis of Calcutta was all decked up Saturday on the eve of the opening ceremony that will kick off the sixth cricket World Cup extravaganza as officials from the participating nations tried to persuade Australia and the West Indies to play their scheduled matches in Sri Lanka.

The 75-minute function on Sunday at the Eden Garden grounds, planned and executed by Gianfranco Lunetta and his Italian firm "Half-moon Images", may well compare to the closing ceremony of the Barcelona Olympic games four years ago and the opening ceremony of the 1990 football World Cup in Italy, according to reports.

Besides the laser shows and fireworks, the event will see former Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen, "descending from the heavens" in a helicopter wearing 12 colourful scarves carrying the names of the 12 participating teams. She will hand over one each of the scarves to the respective captains.

The teams will be led into the open stadium by top Indian women models in sarees and sporting the colours of the respective nations. Miss India Sandhya Chib will lead the Indian team that is being captained by Mohammed Azaruddin.

The 300-year old Calcutta city, which the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had once described as a "sinking city", has been transformed. Everything is spick and span with archways, banners and hoardings all over the city which has a population of more than 13 million people.

Meanwhile, the crucial meeting between the representatives of the London-based International Cricket Council (ICC) and officials of the participating nations got under way in Calcutta to break the logjam over the refusal of Australia and the West Indies to play their scheduled matches in Sri Lanka due to security reasons.

ICC Chairman Clyde Walcott has said it cannot force the two teams to play in Sri Lanka and has also thrown cold water on the tournament organiser's request for the United Nations to send an observer to the Indian Ocean island nation to comment on security there.

The world cup starts on February 14 with the first match between England and New Zealand in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad.

In all 37 matches are to be played in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The final is scheduled to be played in Lahore, Pakistan, on March 17.

Calcutta decked up for cricket World Cup opening bash

The officials are meeting amid a reported assurance from the guerrilla Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) that the two teams had nothing to fear from them.

"We have nothing against any foreigners and they have nothing to fear from us ... our targets are the Sri Lankan government and their military," Indian newspapers quoted Lawrence Thailaker, a Paris-based politburo member of the LTTE, as saying.

Inderjit Singh Bindra, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, warned that the boycott of the two teams will have "long-standing repercussions".

He compared the current impasse with the United States-led boycott of the Moscow Olympics in 1980, which was followed by a retaliation by the former Soviet bloc which stayed away from the Los Angeles games four years later.

"You never will know what will be fallout of this stance taken by Australia and the West Indies four years from now," the Indian official said. dpa mgs

Load-Date: February 10, 1996

End of Document

Sri Lanka violence

United Press International
August 12, 1990, Sunday, BC cycle

Copyright 1990 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 471 words

Byline: BY IQBAL ATHAS

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil separatist rebels wielding automatic weapons, straight razors and knives coated with cyanide attacked three villages in eastern Sri Lanka and killed at least 105 Moslems, military officials said Sunday.

In a separate incident, armed Moslems killed 40 Tamils in an attack Sunday on a Tamil refugee camp in the village of Sammanthurai, about 24 miles south of the eastern provincial capital of Batticaloa, military sources said.

The sources said the attack was staged in retaliation for the killings of seven Moslems earlier Sunday by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

More than 2,000 people have been killed since hostilities between government forces and the ***Tamil Tigers*** began in mid-June, when rebels staged simultaneous attacks on four military camps in eastern Sri Lanka.

The Tigers have been fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east of the country since 1983, but the violence of the past few months came after a year of relative calm.

The Tiger rebels claim that Sri Lanka's minority Tamil community, which is mostly Hindu, needs a separate nation because of years of discrimination by the majority Sinhalese, who are predominantly Buddhist.

In the attack on three adjacent fishing villages near Erovur, about 12 miles north of Batticaloa, Tiger rebels killed at least 105 Moslem villagers, authorities said.

Brigadier Daya Wijesekara, chief spokesman for the Defense Ministry's operations headquarters, said the attacks began Saturday evening and ended about 3 a.m. Sunday.

Wijesekara said Tiger rebels stabbed some of their victims with knives coated with cyanide.

Alavi Mowlana, an official of the Colombo-based Moslem Refugee Organization, said representatives of his group working in the villages told him Tiger rebels also used grenades, automatic weapons and straight razors to attack villagers.

"Groups of Tiger rebels went around with a public address system asking villagers to remain indoors," Mowlana said. "Later, small groups of Tigers ordered men, ***women*** and children to come out of their homes. Some were lined up and shot. Hand grenades were hurled into houses where the occupants refused to come out. They also used barber razors to slash some of the victims."

Sri Lanka violence

Military sources said at least 54 survivors were airlifted by Sri Lankan Air Force helicopters to government hospitals.

One of the survivors was M. H. Habeeba, a 10-year-old girl, who said in a telephone interview from Polonnaruwa Government Hospital that rebels ordered her and her family to stand in a line before the guerrillas opened fire.

"I lost my father, mother, sister and elder brother," she said. "They were lined up in a row and were shot dead. I fell down along with them and surfaced after the attackers left."

The girl was later found by villagers and evacuated by a government helicopter.

End of Document

Amnesty: Children face rights violation and abuse in South Asia

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 22, 1998, Wednesday, BC Cycle 05:00 Central European Time

Copyright 1998 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 571 words

Dateline: New Delhi

Body

Children in South Asia faced a host of human rights violations, including torture, child labour and being forced into prostitution, the human rights organisation Amnesty International said in a report released Wednesday.

"South Asia's children remain prone to a litany of human rights violation at the hands of state agencies and abuses by armed opposition groups," the report issued in Dhaka and Karachi said.

Amnesty said even if state officials might deny their responsibility for the abuses "their complicity, acquiescence and indifference often serve to perpetuate them".

The "Children in South Asia: Securing their Rights" report looked into the situation of children in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bhutan.

It found that nearly 40 per cent of the region's population, around 539 million of the 1.2 billion people, were aged below 18 and 13.3 per cent below five, together constituting one-fourth of the world's children.

The children of the region were also deprived of their economic and social rights.

The report quoted the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as saying that each year 4.7 million children die in South Asia, the majority from preventable and curable diseases like diarrhoea, and respiratory troubles. Two-thirds of the surviving children were malnourished.

"Urbanization, poverty and the breakdown of family structures have left millions of children displaced or forced to fend for themselves on the streets where they are especially vulnerable to violence and exploitation. Girl children and those from marginalized minority groups face additional discrimination and disadvantage," it said.

Amnesty said girls are particularly considered as a burden in the region. Because of this **female** foetuses are aborted, girls killed at birth or later looked after badly.

On the state's treatment of children, the report said children were often held illegally and arbitrarily for long periods in police custody without following proper procedure.

They faced torture and illtreatment, including sexual abuse in prisons where they were kept at times even on false charges or for minor offences such as petty theft, begging or vagrancy, Amnesty said.

Amnesty: Children face rights violation and abuse in South Asia

On trafficking of children for prostitution, the report said every day "a miserable cargo of young girls and women is being trafficked across well-beaten paths within South Asia and further afield."

It said just on two routes, from Nepal to India and from Bangladesh to Pakistan, some 9,000 girls were sent for prostitution every year.

The report said organized groups kidnapped children often very young, and sold them into prostitution, domestic servitude, bonded labour or marriage.

The number of very young girls being trafficked was reportedly increasing because of the preference for virgins and fear of the killer disease AIDS. Police officials and border guards were often hand-in-glove with the racketeers in return for bribes, Amnesty said.

The children were also at the receiving end of armed conflicts as in Sri Lanka where the government is battling the secessionist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Children belonging to Tamil ethnic group are routinely picked up by army and policemen on suspicion of being allied to the LTTE, the report said. Similar situation prevailed in Afghanistan and parts of India where armed groups were fighting the government. dpa mvb mu

Load-Date: April 22, 1998

End of Document

Tamil Militants Kill 15 Sinhalese Villagers

The Associated Press

March 18, 1988, Friday, PM cycle

Copyright 1988 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: International News

Length: 427 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil rebels with pick axes, swords and daggers killed 15 people in a Sinhalese village in eastern Sri Lanka, military and police sources said today.

The attack Thursday occurred near the historic Buddhist temple town of Digawapi in Ampara district, about 125 miles east of Colombo, said the sources. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

More than 110 people, most of them members of the Sinhalese majority, have been killed in the past 18 days in a series of attacks and reprisal attacks. Authorities have blamed the violence on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest Tamil militant group.

At least six **women** and two infants were among the victims of Thursday's massacre, the sources said. All the victims were Sinhalese.

Tamil extremists used swords and daggers to kill the villagers because gunshots would have alerted two Sri Lankan military camps nearby, the sources said.

The Tigers have been fighting for a separate homeland in the Northern and Eastern provinces, where most of the Tamils live.

The attack came hours after a Sri Lankan minister, Gamini Dissanayeke, returned from India and announced Indian and Sri Lankan troops will patrol together in the east.

The Tigers oppose an Indian-sponsored peace accord signed last July. The accord was designed to end the 4-year-old Tamil guerrilla war against the Sinhalese-dominated government and the Sinhalese ethnic group.

It would grant some autonomy to minority Tamils in the north and east. More than 50,000 Indian troops are in Sri Lanka to enforce the India-Sri Lanka peace pact and disarm the Tigers.

Under the accord, Sri Lankan security forces were confined to their barracks and only Indian troops were dealing with the Tamils.

Both Tamil and Sinhalese militants oppose the accord. The **Tamil Tigers** have refused to surrender their arms, as called for in the pact. Many Sinhalese say the accord makes too many concessions to Tamils.

Tamil Militants Kill 15 Sinhalese Villagers

India and Sri Lanka both have accused Tamil militants of killing Sinhalese in retaliatory attacks that began March 2 with the killing of 18 Sinhalese in Morawewa village in eastern Trincomalee district.

On March 4, Tamil rebels used land mines to blow up a crowded truck in the same area. At least 26 Sinhalese died in the explosion.

A band of men suspected of being Sinhalese extremists then killed 22 Tamil bus passengers near Horawapotana village, also in Trincomalee district.

The predominantly Hindu Tamils make up 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, 75 percent of whom are Sinhalese Buddhists. Tamils say they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese.

End of Document

Nine Villagers Hacked to Death, Rebel Arms Depot Destroyed

The Associated Press

October 10, 1987, Saturday, PM cycle

Copyright 1987 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: International News

Length: 431 words

Byline: By SEEMA SIROHI, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Nine Sinhalese villagers were hacked to death despite a crackdown by Indian peacekeeping troops on Tamil rebels, officials said today.

The Indian forces today destroyed Tamil weapons, seized broadcasting equipment and shut down two Tamil newspapers, according to authorities.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said in a television interview aired in England Friday night that the Indian force of 10,000 troops will get tough on guerrillas who refuse to lay down their arms.

"Our forces will act very firmly," he told the British Broadcasting Corp. in New Delhi. Referring to the main Tamil rebel force, he said, "We tried to pull the Tamil Tigers over into the mainstream for a voluntary disarmament so that they could get involved in the (peace) building process. But there were certain things that happened which have not allowed that to happen."

He did not elaborate. Sri Lankan officials and newspapers have criticized India for not doing enough to stop the violence.

Attacks by guerrillas from the Tamil ethnic minority have claimed about 200 lives since Tuesday night. This week's violence is the worst since the Sri Lankan government on July 29 signed a peace plan sponsored by neighboring India aimed at ending the 4-year-old Tamil insurgency.

Sinhalese, who are Buddhists, control Sri Lanka's government and military and comprise about 75 percent of the country's 16 million people.

Tamils, who account for 18 percent of the population, say they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese. The Tamil rebels are seeking an independent nation on the northern and eastern parts of the island.

A bomb exploded Friday in the office of a labor union backed by Sri Lankan President Junius R. Jayewardene's governing United National Party, killing two persons and injuring six. Responsibility for the bombing was claimed by the People's Patriotic Movement, a nationalist Sinhalese group.

Nine Villagers Hacked to Death, Rebel Arms Depot Destroyed

Sri Lankan military officials said nine Sinhalese were killed Friday night in Gantalawa, about 140 miles northeast of Colombo. The victims included women and children, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Between 110 and 150 militant Tamils have been arrested in raids that started Wednesday night, said Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit, whose position is equivalent to ambassador.

Sri Lankan military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, have put the number at more than 200.

During today's raids in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, Indian troops destroyed a large arms depot, seized broadcasting equipment used by the rebels and closed two Tamil newspapers, Dixit said.

End of Document

Over 40 dead as Delhi and Tigers take the war east: Muslims stage protests in Colombo as the conflict shifts from Jaffna

The Guardian (London)

December 4, 1987

Copyright 1987 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 414 words

Byline: From JOHN RETTIE and agencies

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

The focus of the war between the **Tamil Tigers** and the Indian army has shifted decisively to eastern Sri Lanka following the death of about 40 people in the fiercest clash for several weeks.

Civilians bore the brunt of the violence, with more than half the victims from the village of Ottamawadi, near the east coast town of Valachenai in the Batticaloa district.

The trouble erupted when two platoons of the Indian peace-keeping force were returning from a road-clearing operation - mainly clearing landmines. They were trapped in a Tiger ambush while crossing a bridge over a narrow lagoon from Valachenai.

Nine Indian soldiers, including the major commanding one of the platoons, died when the Tigers fired mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms from Ottamawadi.

The Indians returned the fire, and some of their mortars hit the flimsy houses in the village, killing civilians as well as Tigers. The Indians say 24 civilians died, including a woman and two children, as well as between five and 10 tigers. More than 20 were wounded.

Sri Lankan officials said that soon after the ambush, the remaining men in the Indian convoy burned a mosque and 50 houses in the village and looted 75 other shops and houses. 'The Indians went to town after the soldiers died,' one official said.

Seventeen bodies, including five **women** and three children were found in the mosque. The Indian soldiers later returned to the village and burned a second mosque, removed all **women** and children from houses and burned more buildings, the official said.

Four more bodies were recovered and about 100 residents were injured, they said.

Sri Lankan military officials have also confirmed reports that Indian forces, following the Tigers' ambush, halted a bus from Colombo in the Batticaloa district, ordered all 15 passengers off and shot them. Eleven of the passengers died, while two were wounded and two escaped.

A 36-hour curfew has been imposed on the district, and the Indian commander for the Eastern Province, General R. P. Singh, visited Valachenai from his headquarters in Trincomalee.

Over 40 dead as Delhi and Tigers take the war east: Muslims stage protests in Colombo as the conflict shifts from Jaffna

The ambush came in a largely Muslim area, and more than 600 Muslim families have fled the area. The incidents have brought angry protests from Muslim leaders in Colombo, and were raised by the Opposition in Parliament.

But the Indians say the Tigers were to blame, by deliberately launching their attack from the heart of Ottamawadi village, knowing that Indian fire would be directed at their positions.

Load-Date: June 13, 2000

End of Document

Hundreds of civilians killed in fighting in northern Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 12, 1995, Wednesday, BC Cycle 11:29 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 561 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

An estimated 160 civilians including women and children were confirmed killed and more than 100 others injured in three days of fierce fighting between government troops and Tamil rebels in northern Lanka, independent sources said Wednesday.

Siva Sithaamparam, leader of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), quoting international aid agencies and government officials in the north, said that most of the civilian casualties occurred during a direct hit on a Roman Catholic church that was providing shelter to displaced persons.

Those killed included a large number of women and children, he said.

Siva Sithaamparam, who said he was in telephone contact with officials in the battle-torn north, added that between 25,000 and 50,000 civilians were also displaced since the army offensive against the rebels began last Sunday.

Rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) however claimed that 210 civilians have been killed and over 300,000 displaced since the army offensive began.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) meanwhile said in a statement that the Roman Catholic church of St. Peter and Paul in Navalai which is presently under rebel control was hit by the air force shortly before dusk on Sunday, killing 65 people and wounding 150 including women and children.

ICRC officials who visited the devastated church reported that many bodies were still buried under rubble.

The ICRC has called upon all parties involved in the conflict to respect civilian lives, property places of refuge and to refrain from attacking medical facilities.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe confirmed the church had been hit but could not say who was responsible, adding that the shrine was some three kilometres away from the operational area.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga has called for an immediate inquiry into the incident.

Government forces meanwhile recommenced their offensive against Tamil rebels for the fourth consecutive day at daybreak Wednesday.

Military officials said that troops moving in columns were pushing their way further towards the rebel stronghold of Jaffna in the northern peninsula amidst resistance.

Hundreds of civilians killed in fighting in northern Sri Lanka

The ground forces were being supported by the navy and the air force, they said without giving further details.

The offensive which involves some 10,000 troops and artillery is the biggest ever against the rebels since Kumaratunga was elected to office in November last year.

At least 18 soldiers have been killed and 110 injured including officers since the fighting began four days ago. Rebel casualties could not be confirmed, although the military believes that a large number would have died in the ongoing onslaught

The government meanwhile has set up an emergency task force to look into the wants of the people currently displaced in the fighting.

Government ships loaded with food and other essential items that includes medicine were scheduled to leave the capital Colombo to the north on Wednesday evening.

The **LTTE** has waged a bloody and protracted war against the government with the aim of carving out an independent homeland for the minority Tamils living in the north and east of the country.

An estimated 33,000 people, mainly civilians, have died and thousands more displaced in the ongoing 12-year conflict. dpa da ba ct

Load-Date: July 12, 1995

TAMIL REBELS BLAMED FOR MASSACRE

COURIER-MAIL

October 11, 1988 Tuesday

Copyright 1988 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 203 words

Byline: COSTELLO D

Body

Tamil rebels blamed for massacre COLOMBO._ Suspected Tamil separatists butchered 45 Sinhalese villagers while they slept in north-central Sri Lanka yesterday.

QNP Military officials said it was the worst attack against civilians in 18 months. The massacre in Ullukulama village, about 3km from a Sri Lankan Army post, came as Sinhalese militants forced a one-day general strike protesting against elections in the north and east. The attackers cut the throats of the Sinhalese villagers and shot them, killing 44 people instantly, officials said. The victims included 14 men, 13 women, nine girls and nine boys. "A search for the killers is now on," one official said. "Our men are also looking for wounded survivors in the nearby jungles. We think the toll could go up." Six people wounded in the attack, including three children and two women, were brought to Anuradhapura Hospital, hospital sources said. A military spokesman here said the killings appeared to be the work of the most powerful rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has carried out similar attacks in the area. The attack coincided with the first anniversary of an Indian Army offensive against the group. Agence France-Presse

Load-Date: September 20, 2003

Rebel landmine kills three soldiers in Lanka attack

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 11, 1998, Wednesday, BC Cycle 14:25 Central European Time

Copyright 1998 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 204 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Tamil rebels set off a powerful land mine under an army bus carrying 40 soldiers in eastern Lanka, killing three of them and injuring 25, military officials said Wednesday.

The explosion was set off at Ventharamullai, in the Batticaloa district, 309 kilometres from the capital as the bus was carrying soldiers on leave to their homes.

Military officials said the bus had not received the full impact of the explosion and casualties would have been much higher if the vehicle had been hit fully.

In another incident, the Sri Lankan Air Force and military artillery units attacked a suspected rebel mortar position in northern Sri Lanka. Military claimed that rebel transmissions revealed that they had suffered heavy casualties, but details were not available.

The suspected mortar position was bombed in the Mankulam area, 302 kilometres from the capital on Tuesday.

Rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) claiming to be fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils have been trying to infiltrate the forward defences in the area of Mankulam in the past few days.

On Tuesday in a separate incident in the same area three rebels including two **women** cadres were killed. dpa da ct vc

Load-Date: February 12, 1998

Twelve refugees dead as boat capsizes in north Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 6, 1997, Monday, BC Cycle 05:54 Central European Time

Copyright 1997 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 205 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Twelve Tamil minority refugees returning back to a military controlled area in northern Sri Lanka were drowned after their boat capsized at midsea, local news reports said Monday.

The civilians including women and children were making their way back to their homes in the northern Jaffna peninsula from the north western Mannar district where they had been living as refugees for the past several months, the 'Island' newspaper reported.

The newspaper said only one person had survived the boat tragedy which had taken place last Friday. He had escaped by swimming ashore while his wife and three children on the same boat had drowned.

Thousands of civilians who fled the northern Jaffna peninsula as military launched a major offensive to capture the area late 1995 have now began to return with the situation gradually turn to normal. Small groups arrive by boat daily.

According to reports from the north some 100,000 civilians originally from the northern Jaffna peninsula are still living in areas under the control of the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the areas south of the peninsula.

More than 500,000 civilians are living in the Jaffna peninsula under military control. dpa ad rg

Load-Date: October 6, 1997

A HASTY BURIAL FOR THE BOMBING VICTIMS WITH NO NAMES

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 29, 1987 Wednesday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 17

Length: 496 words

Byline: DEREK BROWN Source: The Guardian, Agence France_Presse

Body

COLOMBO, Tuesday: The last 21 victims of last week's Colombo bombing have been buried, identified by none but mourned by many.

The mangled and all too evidently decaying bodies were first laid out, in coffins of rough planks, in the courtyard of the morgue. Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim clergy prayed for their souls, while mortuary attendants sprinkled their mortal remains with chemicals.

It would have been a dignified ceremony had it not been for the stench from the loose-lidded coffins - just 17 of them - and for the fear of an uglier remembrance.

In 1983 there was savage rioting in the city after the night-time burial of 13 soldiers killed by Tamil guerillas. The subsequent slaughter of Tamils launched the present bloody wave of terrorism, mass killings and counter-strikes by the Sri Lanka military.

On Monday, the streets around the morgue were tightly sealed by police. They were also out in strength around the main city cemetery about a kilometre away.

There, crowds of several hundred had gathered to watch the 17 coffins arrive, stacked in the back of two fast-moving cars. The bodies were whisked to a far corner of the vast multi-denomination graveyard and hastily interred without final farewells or obsequies.

Back at the morgue, a blackboard carried the final death tally from the blast: 111 dead, of whom 101 were men, nine were women, and one was a child.

These precise figures may not tell the final story. Monday's edition of the English-language Sun Daily said 45 people had been reported missing since the bombing. All were believed to have been in the vicinity of the crowded bus stand where the bomb exploded without warning.

Bazaar gossip in Colombo has convinced many people that the real death toll was 400. That potent rumour has provoked fears that the anger of the Sinhalese majority may once again be unleashed.

With attention here firmly focused on deteriorating security, there was little reaction to the announcement by the President, Mr Jayewardene, that parliamentary elections would be held only after the final defeat of terrorism.

A HASTY BURIAL FOR THE BOMBING VICTIMS WITH NO NAMES

Two militant Tamil groups accused of staging the Colombo bombing have welcomed an aid package from the Indian State of Tamil Nadu.

The State will provide aid worth \$A4.54 million, to be sent through relief organisations of Sri Lankan Tamils based in Madras, the State capital.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), the dominant separatist group, said the decision to "support and promote our freedom movement is a turning point in the history of our struggle".

Its ally, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (Eros), described the aid as "timely help".

Tamil Nadu chief minister Ramachandran said Sri Lankan Tamils needed assistance on humanitarian grounds, and called the separatist guerillas freedom fighters.

The **LTTE** statement added the assistance at this critical stage was a great victory to the Tamil Eelam liberation struggle.

All five Tamil militant groups have offices in Madras.

Graphic

Illus: Buddhist monks pray for the souls of the dead during a funeral ceremony for unidentified people killed in the Colombo bus station bomb last week. Picture by REUTER

Load-Date: July 20, 2007

End of Document

SRI LANKA-CONFLICT: WAR-WEARY SRI LANKANS SUE FOR PEACE

IPS-Inter Press Service

January 5, 1998, Monday

Copyright 1998 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 944 words

Byline: By Feisal Samath

Dateline: COLOMBO, Jan. 5

Body

War widows and disabled soldiers lent their voice at a peace convention here, urging belligerents to stop a civil war which has claimed 50,000 lives and cost the Sri Lankan economy billions.

They appealed to government troops and Tamil rebels to stop fighting and start negotiating a peaceful settlement because the country is "slowly bleeding to death."

"Don't wage war on our behalf," said a joint resolution adopted to thunderous applause from more than 1,500 delegates at the National Peace Delegates Convention yesterday.

Organizers said the resolution reflected the "voice of the voiceless masses who have been either ignored by politicians and the mass media or their views have not been taken into account."

That claim was corroborated by moving speeches made by simple folk from poor, war-torn areas of this island nation. The audience included diplomats and priests but, significantly, no politicians.

Speakers appealed to the combatants to consider the human cost of the war. "My fervent prayer is that this war ends in 1998," said Chandrani Kumari, a Sinhalese woman whose soldier-husband was killed by rebels in October 1995 when she was one month pregnant.

Kumari said she has led a very difficult life since then, sharing a hut with her poor parents in the north-central district of Anuradhapura.

Sri Lanka has been torn by 14 years of fighting between government troops and Tamil rebels demanding an independent homeland, called Eelam, in the north and east of the country.

More than 50,000 people -- including civilians and combatants from both sides -- have died in the war while thousands more have been left disabled. Billions of rupees have been lost in damaged property while billions more are being spent to finance the war.

Peace talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) guerrillas -- the main protagonists in the crisis -- by governments, present and past, have invariably failed. Mediation efforts by unofficial groups have also met with little success.

SRI LANKA -CONFLICT: WAR-WEARY SRI LANKANS SUE FOR PEACE

Yesterday's meeting was organized by the National Peace Council (NPC), the country's only non-governmental organization working solely towards peace. Its national organizer, Ajit Rupasinghe, said the convention was the result of five months of hard work in mobilizing grassroots organizations across the country.

Few at the convention were convinced that the war needs to go on. In a reference to the politicians, Chandra Ratnayake, a 34-year-old Sinhalese mother of two said: "Our tragedy cannot be understood by the people in Colombo. Various things take place in the name of war and peace."

Ratnayake, who lost a brother in the war and whose husband is also in the army, said away from the capital, Colombo, women weep for their dead sons or husbands and children for their fathers.

A common complaint is that residents in the capital are oblivious to the fighting in the war zones and are an uncaring lot. "Merry-making goes on in Colombo. Dances and concerts take place without a fuss and hotel discos are filled with youngsters whose pockets seem to be filled with money," said one Tamil delegate.

Worse, Colombo residents have become inured to the suffering and hardly glance at siren-blaring ambulances carrying wounded soldiers from the war front.

Ratnayake, who comes from a farming community near Anuradhapura, said they are unable to cultivate their rice fields because farmers fear rebel attacks.

"We were the traditional farmers of the north central province; we were kings in ancient times. Now our lives are uncertain," she said.

The Sinhalese account for about 75 percent of Sri Lanka's population of 18 million people. The balance consists of the Tamils (18 percent), Moslems (about seven percent) and other ethnic groups.

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, who hopes that 1998 will usher in peace, said in a message to the convention that the "loss of lives and the escalating costs of the war can be stopped only if the armed conflict is brought to an end."

"I hope that their (delegates') cry to end the war will resonate and have an impact to bring about conditions necessary to negotiate an honorable peace," she said.

Kumaratunga believes 1998 will be a turning point for the island nation as it marks its 50th year of independence from British rule.

The resolution said that the war had led to political assassinations and gross violations of human rights, including arbitrary arrests, abductions, rape and torture by the state, as well as by the LTTE who are also accused of targeting civilians in border areas.

Recounting the horrors of war, Tamil delegates from war-torn areas appealed for an end to the senseless killings.

M. Sathianandan, a teacher from Killinochchi, spoke of how military warplanes bombed villages suspected of harboring rebels.

"Once I saw this little girl wearing a school uniform who was bathed in blood when a government plane dropped bombs on a rice field. This we are told is war," the teacher said, his anger shrouded by emotion.

He said residents, fearing their homes were targets, took shelter under trees despite the rains which brought malaria as an added misery. "Our minds have been destroyed. We are devastated. We live in fear."

But M. Sithambaram, a lecturer at the University of Jaffna, home of the rebels and the seat of Tamil power, said that the war had been forced on the Tamils. "Tamils are not fighting for privileges but their rights," he said.

A Tamil aid worker from the eastern town of Batticaloa said rice, sugar, kerosene and other essentials were not reaching people because of an uneven balance of power in the district.

SRI LANKA -CONFLICT: WAR-WEARY SRI LANKANS SUE FOR PEACE

"Areas controlled by government troops becomes LTTE terrain by night," he said.

Load-Date: January 7, 1998

End of Document

Landmines indispensable to a modern army

THE AUSTRALIAN

October 3, 1997, Friday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 10

Length: 488 words

Byline: JOHN DARGIE, ASOKA SUBHAWICKRAMA, PHIL HERD

Body

WHAT sanctimonious twaddle the Democrats' spokeswoman, Vicki Bourne, writes about landmines (Letters, 1/10).

Landmines, like all other weapons of war, are nasty instruments and designedly so.

Similar breast-beating, from my reading, attended the large-scale introduction of automatic weapons in the Boer War. It didn't stop machine-guns then and it won't stop landmines now.

MATP

Used properly, that is, clearly marked on a map, covered by weapons fire and lifted after action, landmines are an indispensable part of a modern army's defensive arsenal, including that of the Australian army. Does Vicki Bourne want Australian soldiers to die because of her half-baked notions. This would happen when they went against unscrupulous enemies who hadn't read her letter. As to using Australian soldiers in some feather-headed mine-clearance scheme, that is neither their role nor a risk to which they should be exposed. Senator Bourne should stop sounding profoundly naive on foreign policy and defence issues.

JOHN DARGIE Sydney, NSW

SENATOR Vicki Bourne (The Australian, 1/10) is correct when she philosophically says that landmines are used by countries no longer functioning democratically and where there is no rule of law.

On the other hand, Greg Sheridan is right (The Australian, 30/9) when he says modern landmines used by responsible nations (in their efforts to save democracy and the rule of law) are no more indiscriminate or immoral than any other weapon. Crude landmines easily made by terrorists and buried in haste without any record for future retrieval cause mayhem among innocent civilians.

Take the case of Cambodia where the Khmer Rouge terrorists indiscriminately sowed millions of landmines throughout the country decades ago.

Then, now and into the indefinite future these repugnant weapons will kill or maim hundreds of thousands of men, women and children.

The Sri Lankan Tamil Tigers resort to worse evil. Not only do they use this weapon effectively against government forces but also to drive terror into the hearts of the civilian population.

Landmines indispensable to a modern army

Hundreds of thousands of tiny "Batta" anti-personnel landmines strewn in the jungles, fields and footpaths not only kill humans but even wildlife. Crude but highly powerful anti-vehicle mines deliberately planted on public roads continue to take thousands of innocent non-combatant lives every year. These terrorists are accountable to no institution or agreement. Senator Bourne's recommendation that deploy our soldiers in landmine-clearance operations would be most welcome by the hapless potential victims of the world.

ASOKA SUBHAWICKRAMA Clayton, Vic

THE next occasion Australian troops are in a defensive position facing superior numbers without the protection of landmines, they should be ordered to withdraw and their places should be taken by the Vicki Bournes of this world, along with as many federal politicians as possible.

PHIL HERD East Kangaloon, NSW

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

Explosions Hit Naval Ships as Truce Apparently Broken

The Associated Press

April 19, 1995, Wednesday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 493 words

Byline: By DEXTER CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Divers recovered the bodies of 11 sailors and four Tamil rebels Wednesday, hours after explosions sank two gunboats in a naval harbor in northeastern Sri Lanka.

Navy officials said earlier that 11 sailors were killed and 22 wounded in the attack, which was blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels.

The **Tamil Tigers**, who are fighting for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils, had given the government until Wednesday to make concessions in peace talks, threatening to end a truce that began Jan. 8.

"Four bodies believed to be those of Tigers have been recovered from the wreckage," said Cmdr. Terrence Sundaram, the navy spokesman. Two of the victims were **women**.

The explosions came just a few hours after Sri Lanka had put its armed forces on high alert following a letter from Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran to President Chandrika Kumaratunga informing her that they were breaking off the truce.

"I don't know the details of the letter, but Prabhakaran definitely said in it that the cease-fire is being called off," Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar told The Associated Press.

Ms. Kumaratunga called an emergency Cabinet meeting to discuss the incident.

Initial reports indicate the simultaneous explosions came from underwater mines, said Rear Adm. Cecil Tissera, the naval chief of staff.

Naval sources identified the vessels as the SLNS Sooraya and the SLNS Ranasuru.

Tissera said damage to both ships was extensive. Other gunboats were evacuated from Trincomalee harbor, the navy's largest base, 160 miles northeast of Colombo, Tissera said.

The military was ordered onto "maximum alert and to retaliate if attacked," military officials said on condition of anonymity, adding that leaves were cancelled and officers were ordered back to their bases.

Earlier, the newspaper Eelanathan, published in the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna, reported the Tigers were dissatisfied with the latest government position and were preparing to resume their campaign.

Explosions Hit Naval Ships as Truce Apparently Broken

The rebels, claiming systematic discrimination against Tamils by the Sinhalese-dominated government, have been fighting since 1983 for independence or an autonomous Tamil zone in the north and east of the country. More than 34,000 people have been killed.

It was the second time since the cease-fire took effect that the armed forces have gone on alert. Last month, the Tigers also threatened to suspend the peace process, but later relented.

In the only other serious truce violation, two soldiers were shot and killed April 8 in their camp on the Jaffna Peninsula.

After a fourth round of peace talks with the rebels, the government allowed unimpeded fuel supplies into the Jaffna Peninsula for the first time in four years and lifted some restrictions on fishing for Jaffna residents.

But it has rejected guerrilla demands to remove a military base that blocks free access to the peninsula, and has accused the rebels of bad faith for refusing to begin substantive talks on a political settlement.

Load-Date: April 19, 1995

End of Document

Guerilla leader dies in Sri Lanka war

United Press International

November 14, 1995, Tuesday, BC cycle

Copyright 1995 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 483 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Nov. 14

Body

A ***female*** Tamil guerrilla leader suspected of plotting the 1991 assassination of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has been killed in the Sri Lankan army offensive on the rebel stronghold of Jaffna, reports said Tuesday. The Tamil rebel leader, known only by her nom de guerre Akila, was head of the ***women's*** wing of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The guerrilla organization has fought for 12 years to create an independent state for Sri Lanka's 3 million ethnic Tamils, a rebel press statement said. Indian officials had earlier requested the extradition of Akila to India to face charges of helping plot Gandhi's assassination. The late Prime Minister was killed on the campaign trail in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu by a ***female*** suicide bomber who detonated plastic explosives strapped to her waist as she placed garlands around Gandhi's neck. Indian authorities believe the Sri Lankan Tamil rebels wanted to kill Gandhi to avenge India's 1987 military intervention in the island's Jaffna peninsula in support of the Sri Lankan military. Following the assassination, Indian authorities identified 41 Tamils living in India and Sri Lanka, including Tamil Tiger leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran, who they wanted to put on trial in conjunction with the slaying. Of the suspects, 26 are in Indian custody awaiting trial and 12 have been killed. But authorities said Akila, Prabhakaran and the ***Tamil Tigers'*** intelligence chief Pottu Amman were the prime suspects. Sri Lankan authorities said Akila's death indicates Tamil rebels have been hard hit by an on-going government offensive on the Jaffna peninsula.

Last month, Sri Lankan government troops launched a massive operation to wrest control of the peninsula from the Tamil rebels, who have been running a de facto government there. After several weeks of combat, Sri Lankan forces came within four 2.5 miles of Jaffna town before they were stopped by minefields planted by retreating rebels. During a week-long delay in fighting, government troops cleared the mines while several hundred thousand Tamil refugees fled the city. Units of the Sri Lankan army and air force resumed their march forward Friday and had advanced to within a 1.2 miles of the outskirts of the city. Officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross said they expect Sri Lankan troops to make a final push to take control of the town in the next few days. Meanwhile, ICRC officials said the first shipment of humanitarian supplies was being unloaded in Port Pedro, a small fishing village in the north part of the peninsula. Two more ships bearing aid for the refugees are expected next week, officials said. However, the Sri Lankan government has so far refused to let United Nations organizations distribute aid to the Tamil refugees because it does not want the Sri Lankan civil war to be viewed as an international concern.

Load-Date: November 15, 1995

'We just want fighting to end': Widow returns to Sri Lanka after burying husband

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

December 17, 1996, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: COMMUNITY; Pg. B4

Length: 447 words

Byline: WALLIE SETO; FREELANCE

Body

As a member of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka, Phavamanihevi Paramasivananthan knows about the perilous effects of ethnic nationalism.

"It's terrible, really terrible. I've lost more than 75 friends and relatives because of the war between the government army and the **Tamil Tigers**," she said.

Since 1983, more than 40,000 people have died in the bitter civil war between the Sinhalese majority government and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the country's north and east.

"There's shelling all the time," Paramasivananthan said. "I don't even feel secure just walking down the street."

Paramasivananthan's family lived in a village near the Tamil capital, Jaffna.

About a year ago, she tried to go to the Canadian High Commission in Colombo, about 500 kilometres away, in an attempt to emigrate to Canada. With the civil war raging, it took her a year to get to the Sri Lankan capital and she was forced to stay in a government camp for six months along the way.

The family had a plan. To escape the violence, her husband, Paramasivananthan Somasundaram, would flee Sri Lanka as a refugee.

He would work to earn enough money to build his own business, then bring the rest of the family to Canada. However, those plans took a tragic twist six weeks ago when Somasundaram fell in his bathroom and died. He had just begun the process of applying to bring his family over.

The Canadian High Commission in Sri Lanka, fearing Paramasivananthan and her three daughters would seek asylum, refused to give them visitor's permits to attend Somasundaram's funeral. In their Hindu religion, a funeral is incomplete without the presence of the widow.

Community activists and Eleni Bakopanos, the MP for the St. Denis riding where Somasundaram lived, lobbied for weeks until Immigration Minister Lucienne Robillard granted Paramasivananthan a special permit to come to Montreal. She could stay for two weeks to attend the funeral and settle the estate; the three daughters, age 21, 18 and 15, would have to remain in Sri Lanka.

'We just want fighting to end': Widow returns to Sri Lanka after burying husband

"It was extremely frustrating," said Ramani Balendra, a social worker at the South Asia Women's Community Centre. "We tried everything. We sent a petition with about 600 signatures to Ottawa. We even went to the United Nations. Finally, we had to guarantee that she would leave after two weeks."

This month, Paramasivananthan returned to Sri Lanka, where the civil war continues without an end in sight.

She never did seek asylum as the government feared, but before she left, she spoke with apprehension about returning to her homeland.

"We're all tired," Paramasivananthan said. "We all want the fighting to end."

Graphic

Photo: PHIL NORTON, GAZETTE / Phavamanithevi Paramasivananthan, with social worker Ramani Balendra, holds photo of husband.

Load-Date: December 18, 1996

--International NewsWatch--

Broadcast News (BN)

November 14, 1995 Tuesday

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Section: GENERAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

Length: 494 words

Body

(U-S-Shutdown) White House aides sit down with Republican lawmakers again this morning to discuss an emergency spending bill.

The U-S government's spending authority expired at midnight, paving the way for a partial government shutdown.

About 800-thousand federal workers have been directed to report for work today, but for many, it could be a short day.

The could be sent home, beginning this afternoon. (APB) (Shuttle)

The space shuttle "Atlantis" is ready for tomorrow's rendezvous with the Russian space station "Mir."

Earlier today, Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield and the other astronauts used the shuttle's robotic arm to manoeuvre a five-metre docking tunnel into place.

The tunnel is to be left behind on "Mir" to make future dockings easier. (APB) (Nigeria-Democracy)

Nigeria remains under siege from the international community over its execution Friday of nine minority-rights activists.

More countries are recalling their top diplomats from Lagos -- the latest being Brazil and Venezuela.

In tit-for-tat retaliation, Nigeria's military regime yesterday recalled its ambassadors from abroad.

The executions drew worldwide anger and Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth. (Reut) (Russia-Yeltsin)

President Boris Yeltsin says he's still in charge despite his heart trouble.

Speaking from his Moscow hospital room today, Yeltsin said he's holding and controlling "the wheel of this large boat which is Russia, and I have my finger on the pulse."

The 64-year-old Yeltsin was rushed to hospital on October 26th after his second heart attack in less than four months.

He dismissed reports that he'll need surgery, saying he's on the mend. (Reut) (Sri-Lanka-Capture)

Sri Lankan forces have captured the main political headquarters of the **Tamil Tigers** outside the guerrilla stronghold of Jaffna.

--International NewsWatch--

Tamil residents from Jaffna say the army is now occupying the Kondavil-based headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. (Reut) (Bosnia-Talks)

Bosnian peace talks have reached what a U-S State Department spokesman calls the "intensive stage."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher will spend the day at the negotiations in Ohio before flying to Japan for an international economic conference. (APB) (Serial-Killer)

Glen Rogers goes before a Kentucky judge today to face fugitive charges.

The 33-year-old drifter from Ohio was arrested after a car chase yesterday.

He's a suspect in the murders of four women in four states. (APB) (Species)

A new U-N sponsored report says human beings are wiping out the world's plant and animal life at "an alarming rate."

The Global Biodiversity Assessment, to be released today, is the first deep look at human impact on plant and animal life.

Scientists say more than 30-thousand species are dying out because of mankind's actions.

The report says things like population growth and pollution mean the rate of extinctions may be one-thousand times what it would've been without people. (AP) ---

(International NewsWatch by Karen Rebot)

Load-Date: October 10, 2002

End of Document

Sri Lankan rebels kill 41 as fighting spreads

The Scotsman

March 25, 1996, Monday

Copyright 1996 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 8

Length: 470 words

Byline: Paul Harris

Body

THE SRI LANKAN army has taken its most serious casualties since last year's offensive on the Tamil strongholds in the Jaffna peninsula.

The military confirmed yesterday that 41 soldiers had died and 15 were injured following an attack by the *Tamil Tigers* at Vantharamoolai, north of the eastern town of Batticaloa and on the main supply route to the east of the country.

An army patrol entered the jungle to investigate reports of guerrilla presence and was ambushed by an estimated 300 Tigers, including many *women*, according to reports.

In a firefight lasting more than an hour, the army fought a losing battle until the Sri Lankan air force brought in two of its newly imported Russian Mi-24 helicopter gunships. Only then did the Tigers abandon the attack. Military claims that around 50 terrorists were killed are unsubstantiated.

The significance of the body count in the attack, which is a matter of considerable dismay in military circles here, has to be considered against the background of a seriously deteriorating security situation in eastern and northern Sri Lanka.

The victory against the Tigers in the north, in which their stronghold of Jaffna was finally taken last December, is now overshadowed by successful Tiger guerrilla attacks against the Sri Lankan army comprehensively encircled in the Jaffna peninsula and supported by a tenuous air and naval bridge.

Last week, two successful Tiger attacks were mounted in the area: 13 soldiers died in a land mine blast and five died in an attack on a jungle base.

These attacks demonstrated the ability of the Tigers to infiltrate an area occupied by the vast bulk of the Sri Lankan army: between 50,000 and 70,000 soldiers are pinned down in the Jaffna area.

After last year's offensive, many of the Tigers fled to the east of the country, where Saturday's attack took place. A previously quiet but predominantly Tamil region, it is now thoroughly destabilised - to the extent that military personnel will not travel there except in convoy, and train services and bus connections have been suspended.

In an interview in yesterday's locally published Sunday Times, the deputy defence minister, Anuruddha Ratwatte, promised to hit back hard against the terrorists.

Sri Lankan rebels kill 41 as fighting spreads

He had previously promised to eradicate them by the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year - just three weeks away. That promise now seems quite impossible to make good.

The army, under-strength and plagued by resignations and desertions, has no answer to terrorist activity now clearly out of control.

Still Mr Ratwatte claimed yesterday: "We are in control of the east. Just the fact that terrorists are carrying out attacks here and there should not mean that they are in control. Terrorists are in the jungles and resort to hit-and-run tactics." But those tactics are proving increasingly effective.

Load-Date: March 26, 1996

End of Document

After Big Victory, Sri Lankan Says She'll Resume Rebel Talks

The New York Times

November 11, 1994, Friday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 6; Column 3; Foreign Desk ; Column 3;

Length: 444 words

Byline: By JOHN F. BURNS,

By JOHN F. BURNS, Special to The New York Times

Dateline: NEW DELHI, Nov. 10

Body

After overwhelming her opponent in Sri Lanka's presidential election by a margin of more than two million votes, Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said today that she would resume talks with the **Tamil Tigers** rebels to try to end the country's 11-year-old civil war.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, 49, became President-elect when results from elections held Wednesday showed she had 62 percent of the vote. Her principal opponent, Srima Dissanayaka, won 35 percent. Mrs. Dissanayaka took over the United National Party candidacy from her husband, Gamini, who was killed with 54 others in a suicide bombing on Oct. 24.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who will be sworn in on Friday, suspended talks with the rebels after the election rally bombing. Sri Lanka has sought help from Britain, which is assisting with forensic tests, and from India, whose former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, died in a similar suicide bombing by the Tamil Tiger group in May 1991.

The presidential vote was the second popular mandate Mrs. Kumaratunga, leader of the coalition People's Alliance, has won in three months. But her margin of victory among the 7.5 million voters far surpassed the narrow victory that installed her as Prime Minister in August, when she won a one-seat majority in Parliament, ousting the United National Party after 17 years in power.

A pledge to seek peace with the rebels was the centerpiece of Mrs. Kumaratunga's campaign in both elections. At a news conference today she called her victory a mandate to resume the peace negotiations. But opponents criticized as naive her insistence on early signs from the Tiger leaders that they were negotiating in good faith.

"We will forge ahead with talks, but it will be a negotiated peace, not peace at any cost," she said.

Before the election bombing, the Tigers had responded to the Government's peace moves with an ambiguous strategy. While welcoming Government negotiators at their stronghold in the northern city of Jaffna, the rebels staged a series of attacks on Government military bases and naval vessels in the Jaffna region, including a suicide mission by **women** fighters in fast-running dinghies that sank a naval patrol boat and killed more than 50 sailors.

After Big Victory, Sri Lankan Says She'll Resume Rebel Talks

Mrs. Kumaratunga, whose father and mother both served as Prime Ministers, had no government experience when she won the August election. Her opponents quickly accused her of jeopardizing the interests of the ethnic Sinhalese majority in her approach to the rebels. Resentment against Sinhalese domination is widespread among the Tamil minority, especially among Jaffna Tamils who held many positions of importance under British colonial rule, which ended in 1948.

Load-Date: November 11, 1994

End of Document

Travel: Red Channel

The Independent (London)

August 1, 1998, Saturday

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Section: FEATURES; Page 22

Length: 221 words

Body

Trouble in paradise: warnings from the State Department about Indian Ocean islands

Sri Lanka: The 14-year-old armed conflict between the government of Sri Lanka and a Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**), continues.

Sri Lankan defence regulations restrict travel in much of the island's northern area. Travellers are advised not to travel to the north, east and far south east of the country. Sri Lankan law requires all persons, including foreigners, who are guests in private households to register in person at the local police station. Individuals who stay in private households without registering may be temporarily detained for questioning. This does not apply to individuals staying in hotels or guest houses.

Seychelles: Petty crime is common. Violent crime against tourists is rare. Travellers who keep valuables in hotel safes and close and lock hotel windows at night are less likely to be at risk. It is dangerous, particularly for **women**, to swim alone at isolated beaches.

Comoros: Comoros has experienced frequent strikes and civil unrest since early 1997, which have sometimes resulted in violent clashes between police and demonstrators. Foreign residents and visitors have not been targeted, but the potential for further outbreaks of civil disorder in urban areas remains high.

Load-Date: August 3, 1998

MASSACRE OUTRAGE : Revenge attacks fear after slaughter

Herald Sun

October 17, 1992 Saturday

Copyright 1992 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 472 words

Body

COLOMBO - Fears are growing that outraged Moslems may launch revenge attacks after Tamil separatists butchered 164 innocent villagers in Sri Lanka.

The orgy of killings was the worst ever carried out by the **Tamil Tigers** in their nine-year campaign for self-rule.

Heavily armed troops yesterday stepped up security in a bid to prevent retaliatory attacks against civilians.

Security forces intensified patrols in multi-ethnic townships and deployed extra troops near Moslem mosques.

The Government blamed the Tamil Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for a pre-dawn attack on four villages in which 145 civilians and 19 security men were killed in a house-to-house slaughter.

But the Sri Lanka Moslem Congress party blamed the Government for not providing proper protection for the villages.

"If they had agreed to our demand to set up a Moslem brigade this would not have happened," said spokesman Abbu Kalam.

He said Moslem home guards, a paramilitary force under the police, were not adequately armed.

The Government has rejected all Moslem party demands to set up a separate Moslem unit within the army to fight the Tigers.

In the past, Moslem home guards have been accused of killing innocent Tamil civilians to avenge Moslem deaths.

Police said: "Tigers surrounded the villages while the residents were asleep.

"First they finished off two guard points and then systematically went from house to house shooting men, **women** and children." The attackers torched more than 100 houses in the villages before fleeing into the jungle, police said.

The massacre of civilians came despite government claims that it was steadily driving out Tiger rebels from the east.

It was the second biggest attack on Moslems since August 1990 when Tigers slaughtered more than 200 worshippers in two mosques.

The Tigers have accused Moslems of siding with security forces and the majority Sinhalese and have vowed to drive them from the north-east and set up a separate state for Tamils, Sri Lanka's largest ethnic minority.

MASSACRE OUTRAGE : Revenge attacks fear after slaughter

A reporter for The Island newspaper described the scene as a "ghastly sight with bodies scattered all over and surviving men, **women** and children weeping over their dead".

"It was senseless murder, bloody butchery," said a local politician.

Asia Watch, a US-based human rights group, called the attack a "blatant violation of humanitarian law".

Moslems comprise Sri Lanka's third largest community after the Sinhalese and the Tamils.

A few Sinhalese lived at Agbopura, one of the four villages raided. The other two were Ahmedpura and Pamburuwa.

The Tigers want Moslems and the Sinhalese living in the north and the east to support their demand for a separate state or to leave the area.

More than 25,000 people have died in the rebel campaign since 1983.

REUTER

END OF STORY

Graphic

A woman screams with grief over her dead husband, a victim of the Tamil massacre.

Load-Date: September 27, 2003

End of Document

Premadasa Says Settlement Possible as Gov't Gains in Fighting

The Associated Press

June 23, 1990, Saturday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 483 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

President Ranasinghe Premadasa said Saturday he has not given up hope for a negotiated settlement with Tamil Tiger rebels despite almost two weeks of fighting that has left at least 1,400 dead.

Government forces reported gains Saturday as troops fanned out from military camps in the north and east, destroying Tamil rebel hideouts and bunkers, military officials said. About 30 rebels and 11 soldiers have been reported killed in fighting since Friday.

Also Saturday, the military acknowledged it erroneously reported a day earlier that separatist guerrillas massacred 62 Moslem men, women and children.

Military officials said troops discovered only three Moslems men were killed when rebels looted a village in eastern Sri Lanka. The officials reported that residents earlier said 100 rebels looted and "hacked to death" 62 Moslem men, women and children in Nintavur, 25 miles south of Batticaloa.

"Having reached the village late Friday, troops found only three Moslems killed," one official said. "The villagers panicked and in the confusion exaggerated the killings."

Premadasa, the architect of last year's peace overtures to the rebels that led to a 13-month cease-fire, said he has not given up hope for peace.

"I must say I have not given up my policy of conference, consultation and consensus to resolve all problems," he said at a public meeting in the central city of Kandy.

The Tamil Tigers, claiming discrimination by the predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese who dominate government, have been waging a 7-year-old insurgency to set up a separate state in the north and east where the mainly Hindu Tamils are in the majority.

The latest fighting flared up on June 11 when the rebels abrogated a 13-month-old cease-fire by attacking police stations after a Tamil civilian complained he was manhandled by Sinhalese police.

Tamils make up 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, while ethnic Sinhalese comprise 75 percent of the population.

Premadasa Says Settlement Possible as Gov't Gains in Fighting

Rebel forces were on the defensive Friday and Saturday as government forces advanced from the eastern coastal village of Kiran to Batticaloa town, a flashpoint in the war.

By late Friday, troops had moved four miles destroying five rebel bunkers and clearing land mines, military officials said on condition of anonymity.

In another incident, rebels killed six soldiers when they blew up a jeep with a remote control device in northeastern Sri Lanka, officials said.

They said the incident occurred when the soldiers were traveling from Padawiya to Pulmoddai in northeast Trincomalee district.

Four soldiers were also killed and eight wounded when troops destroyed four rebel hideouts on the outskirts of northern Vavuniya district Friday, officials said.

Unconfirmed reports said 15 Tigers were killed in the fighting.

Fifteen more rebels were reported killed Saturday when navy gunships destroyed a guerrilla boat off Jaffna peninsula in the north, officials said.

End of Document

Official: Rebels Murder Fellow Tamils For Meeting With Indian

The Associated Press

December 15, 1987, Tuesday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 455 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Separatist Tamil rebels in eastern Sri Lanka killed six fellow Tamils for meeting with senior Indian army officers, a government official said Tuesday.

All the victims, whose bodies were found early Tuesday, were killed Monday night by a bullet to the head, said the official, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

Pinned on their bodies were pieces of paper with the word "Traitor" written in English and Tamil.

The bodies were found in Palukamam village about 13 miles west of Batticaloa, the main eastern town, the official said, adding that the victims had met with the Indian officers in the village early Monday.

Rebels periodically assassinate moderate Tamils.

More than 25,000 Indian troops are in Sri Lanka to enforce a peace accord aimed at ending the four-year civil war waged by Tamil extremists who demand a separate homeland on the island where they are an ethnic minority.

India sponsored the July 29 peace accord because of its position as a regional power and the sympathy for the rebels of its own 60 million Tamils.

The largest rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (homeland), renounced the accord in early October and has since been battling Indian troops. India says at least 319 of its soldiers have died in the fighting while more than 1,000 rebels been killed.

Tamils comprise 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. They claim they are discriminated against by majority Buddhist Sinhalese, who control the government and the army.

Also on Tuesday, a Tamil newspaper reported that six Indian soldiers had been convicted by a magistrate's court of raping Tamil women in northern Sri Lanka.

The soldiers raped the seven women on Nov. 15 in Kondavil, about 190 miles north of Colombo, according to the newspaper, Virakesari.

Indian army Major H. V. Singh told the magistrate that the convicted soldiers would be thrown out of the army and deported to India, the paper said.

Official: Rebels Murder Fellow Tamils For Meeting With Indian

A spokesman for the Batticaloa Citizens Committee said six Indian soldiers and a Sri Lankan policeman were seriously injured Monday night when rebels attacked a police station at Eravur, 6 miles north of Batticaloa.

The spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the attack was repulsed but there were no reports of rebel casualties.

He also said there were reports of a civilian exodus from Valaichchenai, about 10 miles farther north, as Indian troops began massive search operations.

"Valaichchenai has been turned into a ghost town," the spokesman added. "There are no people there, only search operations by Indian troops and sporadic gunfire and explosions."

Tamil Tigers are now reported to be based mostly in eastern Sri Lanka after Indian troops seized their traditional stronghold in the north last month.

End of Document

INDIA: TROOPS WILL USE FORCE TO END SRI LANKAN VIOLENCE

IPS-Inter Press Service

October 7, 1987, Wednesday

Copyright 1987 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 481 words

Dateline: NEW DELHI, Oct. 7

Body

India will use "all force at its command" to end violence in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, a government spokesperson said here today.

In a strongly-worded condemnation of the killings yesterday and today of at least 130 members of Sri Lanka's Sinhalese community by Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the Eastern Province, the spokesperson said the Indian peace-keeping force on the island had been instructed to "take all necessary measures" to restore peace.

Referring to the "wanton and brutal killings of innocent men, **women** and children," the spokesperson said the **Tamil Tigers** seemed determined to prevent the implementation of the July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

He said India would not hesitate to use the "strongest of measures" to deal with all those seeking to undermine the agreement.

Meanwhile, reports from Colombo say the Indian force began an operation today in the Eastern Province, aimed at recovering weapons retained by the Tigers in defiance of the terms of the treaty.

Residents of the provincial capital, Batticaloa, where the worst overnight massacres took place, were quoted as saying the Indian troops were out in the streets in full combat gear.

The move follows mounting demands in Colombo for Indian military action against the Tigers, who last week backed out of an agreement on the composition of an interim administrative council for the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Diplomats here suggest the group's action was because it wanted to dominate the council "to the exclusion of almost all other Tamil groups."

The official Indian spokesperson said the Rajiv Gandhi government had made "every possible attempt to get the Tigers to renounce violence and to adopt democratic means to insure the well-being of the Tamils which they claim to represent."

He said the peace agreement was "designed to meet the legitimate aspirations of Sri Lankan Tamils fighting for autonomy and equal citizenship rights."

Under the agreement the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka, where most Tamils live, will be linked into one administrative unit with a degree of regional autonomy.

INDIA : TROOPS WILL USE FORCE TO END SRI LANKAN VIOLENCE

This arrangement falls far short of Tiger demands for a separate state, but is seen as the furthest the Colombo government can go in the face of widespread Sinhalese opposition to the accord.

Pointing out that the accord "expressly acknowledged" the pluralistic character of Sri Lankan society, the spokesperson said the Indian and Sri Lankan governments were not willing to "chop and change their plans to suit the Tigers' whims."

He said the decision to empower the Indian troops to use force had been taken after day-long Cabinet consultations, adding that the strength of the peace force would be increased as and when the need arose.

The Indian authorities were in constant touch with their Sri Lankan counterparts, and all steps would be taken in cooperation with them, the spokesperson added.

End of Document

AP Photo COL1

Associated Press International

September 11, 1998; Friday 12:03 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 635 words

Byline: GEMUNU AMARASINGHE

Dateline: JAFFNA, Sri Lanka

Body

Tamil Tiger rebels on Friday bombed the city hall of their former stronghold, killing the Tamil mayor, the area's military and police chiefs and 17 others and making it clear that they won't be sidelined in the government campaign to end Sri Lanka's ethnic war.

The explosion destroyed much of the mayor's office, flinging parts of the tiled roof 100 meters (yards) away.

Among the victims was a **female** Tamil architect, Mallika Rajaratnam, who was attending the meeting called to streamline the city's traffic system.

"I saw bodies that were really mutilated," said Mr. Ananda Sangaree, vice president of the mainstream Tamil United Liberation Front, which now governs Jaffna. "You can't recognize them. I also saw badly wounded people in the hospital."

Twenty persons were injured, three of them critically, officials said.

"It must have been a very powerful bomb. The scars are everywhere," Sangaree said referring to the mood in Jaffna, a city dotted by sandbagged military checkpoints and bullet poked buildings. The city's streets were deserted as the war-scarred residents retreated into their homes, fearful of further violence.

Military officials in Jaffna said two Claymore mines had been placed on the tiled roof of the one-story building, which was a temporary office since the old Town Hall had been badly damaged during the civil war.

Only one of the mines went off. The other was found in tact, with about five kilograms (11 pounds) of TNT explosive in it, and was defused. It was not immediately clear how the mine was detonated.

Local residents and officials speculated that the mines may have been placed when the building was being readied to be used as a municipal office.

The rebels seized Jaffna in 1990 and proclaimed a government for the 1 million people, mostly minority Tamils, who live in the north.

The army retook the city in 1995 after a 50-day offensive and ruled there until local elections were held last year in a bid to restore normalcy.

Rebels continue to attack Jaffna from surrounding jungles.

Militants among the 3.3 million Tamils are fighting for 15 years for a Tamil homeland that they say will prevent discrimination from the Sinhalese majority.

The government is willing to grant autonomy, but will not allow secession.

In Colombo, Defense Ministry spokesman Brigadier Sunil Tennekoon said initial investigation confirmed that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE, carried out the attack.

"This will not deter us from fighting the terrorists. In fact, this attack clearly showed that the LTTE is getting desperate and targeting civilians," Tennekoon said.

But military analysts say the attack may set back the government's plan to hand over Jaffna's administration to a political party and redeploy 10,000 soldiers stationed there.

"This attack is a crippling blow to the government's plan to ease the military out," said Harry Goonatilleke, a military analyst. "Civilians won't come forward to take on political posts, and the military will be tied down."

Tamil rebels carried out the attack to show that they can still be devastatingly effective even in heavily guarded Jaffna and that the government cannot undermine their influence over the region.

They targeted Mayor Ponnuthurai Sivapalan, a 46-year-old lawyer-turned-politician who was trying to restore a civilian administration after his predecessor, Sarojini Yogeswaran, was assassinated in May.

Mrs. Yogeswaran was elected in the first vote in 15 years in Jaffna, a once bustling cultural center 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of Colombo.

The government hoped to crush the rebels with a 2-phase plan: capture Jaffna and flush out the guerrillas from the northern jungles.

The first stage was completed in May 1996. The second started a year later, with nearly troops advancing up the region's main highway.

Load-Date: September 11, 1998

Sri Lanka Government Sentences Guerrilla Leader in Absentia

The New York Times
November 1, 2002 Friday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

Length: 476 words

Byline: By AMY WALDMAN

Dateline: NEW DELHI, Oct. 31

Body

The leader of the guerrilla army that has waged a 19-year war in Sri Lanka was sentenced in absentia to 200 years in prison today, even as a second round of peace talks began between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the government.

The High Court convicted Velupillai Prabhakaran and four others in absentia for their roles in a suicide bombing that blew up Sri Lanka's central bank in 1996, killing nearly 100 people.

"They should be taken into custody immediately," Judge Sarath Ambeyepitiya of the High Court said, according to a Reuters report.

The Tigers have been waging a struggle for a Tamil homeland in the country's north and east since 1983, saying the Tamil minority, which is Hindu, has been discriminated against by the country's Sinhalese majority, which is Buddhist. More than 64,000 people have been killed in the conflict in the former Ceylon, which is off the southern tip of India.

A cease-fire has been in effect in Sri Lanka for 250 days, but it remains to be seen whether the judgment will have any immediate effect on the peace talks.

Mr. Prabhakaran remains an essential part of the process, not least because he is one of the signers of the cease-fire. Norwegian mediators recently met with him to discuss arrangements for the talks, which are being held in Thailand.

This round of talks is expected to focus largely on setting up a joint task force to oversee the rehabilitation of the war-torn north and the resettlement of those displaced by war. Both sides are eager to be able to take advantage of an aid conference for Sri Lanka that Norway has planned for Oslo on Nov. 25.

The government and rebel delegations flew on the same plane from Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, to the peace talks, and Mr. Prabhakaran's chief negotiator, Anton Balasingham, told reporters en route that Mr. Prabhakaran was "determined" to pursue peace, Sri Lanka's Daily News reported.

Mr. Balasingham said confidence in the Sri Lankan government had grown since their first formal meeting at a Thai naval base six weeks ago.

Sri Lanka Government Sentences Guerrilla Leader in Absentia

But the court ruling today showed that the past will not be so easily dispatched. The attack in question targeted the country's central bank in downtown Colombo, using a truckload of explosives. More than 1,400 people were wounded in addition to those killed.

Mr. Prabhakaran, 47, a high school dropout, molded a formidably armed and dedicated rebel army that honed the use of suicide attacks as a guerrilla tactic. Many of his army's human weapons were women.

His group has been accused of killing a Sri Lankan president, opposition political leaders, government ministers, generals and more.

India has charged Mr. Prabhakaran with plotting the assassination of the Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. India, along with the United States and Great Britain, has labeled the Tigers a terrorist organization.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Tamil Tigers guerrilla army. (Agence France-Presse)

Load-Date: November 1, 2002

End of Document

Peoples' Alliance claims to have support for new government

The Associated Press

October 12, 2000, Thursday, BC cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 501 words

Byline: By DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

After failing to win enough parliamentary seats to form a government on its own, President Chandrika Kumaratunga's party labored Thursday to assemble a coalition government.

Her seven-party Peoples' Alliance claimed late Thursday to have won support from two minor parties for a joint government. Kumaratunga was to be sworn in as prime minister Friday, spokesman Sripata Suryarachchi said.

The People's Alliance won 107 of the 225 Parliament seats, but fell short of the 113 needed for a majority.

The opposition United National party won 89 seats in Tuesday's election, one of Sri Lanka's most violent and contentious ever.

On Thursday, two smaller parties holding eight seats and one independent member-elect of Parliament agreed to back the alliance, Suryarachchi said.

"We have worked out the numbers and we are going to form the government," he said. Parliament is scheduled to convene Wednesday.

Kumaratunga's ability to carry out a pledge to end 17 years of civil war hinges on her success with a new coalition government.

She campaigned on a promise to stabilize the government and bring an end to war with separatist **Tamil Tigers** who are seeking an independent homeland for minority Tamils. Some 63,000 people have died and 1 million have been displaced by fighting.

The president - who lost vision in one eye in a Tamil Tiger suicide bombing on Dec. 18 - has sought to push through a new constitution granting more autonomy to the provinces to placate Tamils and sideline rebels.

Her coalition, with a one-seat majority in the last Parliament, was prevented from passing the constitution. She saw Tuesday's ballot as a referendum on the measure.

The People's Liberation Front won an unprecedented 10 seats. The Marxists, who twice waged deadly armed rebellions against the government, announced in 1998 that it was reorganizing to win power through election not gunfire, and campaigned on a pledge to improve workers' rights.

Peoples' Alliance claims to have support for new government

The mainstream ethnic Tamil party, the Tamil United Liberation Front, won five seats. A former Tamil rebel group, Eelam People's Democratic Party, won four seats.

Final results were delayed because of allegations of voting irregularities, including claims of vote-rigging by both the ruling People's Alliance and opposition parties.

The elections were also marked by violence, with 71 people killed during the five-week campaign and on Tuesday. A bomb exploded minutes after voting ended, injuring 32 people. Two of Kumaratunga's supporters were beaten to death on the eve of elections.

The streets of Colombo were quiet Thursday, a Buddhist holiday. Armed soldiers and police stationed at checkpoints stopped and searched cars in the capital.

Several roads were closed to traffic as officials prepared to transport the body of Kumaratunga's mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, to Parliament. Bandaranaike, the world's first **female** prime minister, died shortly after casting her vote Tuesday.

On the Net:

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

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

Graphic

AP Photos COL101-103

Load-Date: October 13, 2000

TAMIL SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 12 AT PREMIER'S OFFICE

The Independent (London)

January 6, 2000, Thursday

Copyright 2000 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 466 words

Byline: K J M Varma In Colombo

Body

A TAMIL TIGER suicide bomber blew herself up yesterday on the doorstep of the office of the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, killing herself and 12 others.

Mrs Bandaranaike, 83, who in 1960 became the first elected **female** prime minister in the world, had not been in the office recently because of an illness.

At least 23 people, most of them security personnel and passers-by, were injured in the attack in the capital, the second such incident in three weeks.

Soon after, a gunman killed Kumar Ponnambalarn Jnr, a pro-rebel politician and a vocal supporter of the minority Tamils' demands for self-determination.

Police said that Mr Ponnambalarn, a wealthy lawyer and the general secretary of the All Ceylon Tamils Congress, was shot twice in the neck when he stopped his car to talk to someone in a Tamil enclave of southern Colombo.

Yesterday's bomber, from the ranks of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**Tamil Tigers**) and who was believed to be in her late twenties, blew herself up when personnel at the lightly guarded entrance of the Prime Minister's office checked her identity.

Mrs Bandaranaike's daughter, Chandrika Kumaratunga, who is the Sri Lankan President, escaped assassination but was partly blinded when a **female** Tiger suicide bomber attacked an election rally in Colombo on 18 December. Mrs Kumaratunga, 54, was re-elected with a narrow margin in the 21 December poll.

Yesterday's bomb attack was made minutes before Mrs Kumaratunga chaired a cabinet meeting at her well-guarded residence, a few kilometres from the Prime Minister's office.

The blast has plunged the nation deeper into the ethnic violence in which it has been mired for 17 years.

Hopes of peace rose after Mrs Kumaratunga, who is from the majority Sinhalese community, promised, soon after her election victory, to hold talks with the elusive Tiger leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, despite the attack on her.

Yesterday's events also dampened hopes of a settlement that had risen with the announcement in Oslo that the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Knut Vollebaek, would be visiting Colombo on 15 January to mediate between the Sri Lankan government and the Tigers.

TAMIL SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 12 AT PREMIER'S OFFICE

Parliament is to meet today to debate an extension to the country's long -running state of emergency.

Leaders of the 3.2 million members of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority have been waging the civil war for a homeland in the island's north. Since 2 November the guerrillas have overrun a number of army-held towns and claim to have killed hundreds of soldiers.

Experts said the recent attacks could lead to a surge in killings. "It could be a sign that the war will escalate," said C A Chandraprema, a political analyst. "This may not be totally bad, because then those in power will have to make clear decisions to end the crisis."

Graphic

A soldier outside the Prime Minister's office in Colombo after yesterday's suicide bomb attack by a **female** Tamil separatist AP

Load-Date: January 6, 2000

End of Document

Peoples' Alliance of Sri Lanka going for coalition government

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

October 12, 2000, Thursday

Copyright 2000 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 501 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka -- After failing to win enough parliamentary seats to form a government on its own, President Chandrika Kumaratunga's party labored Thursday to assemble a coalition government.

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Peoples' Alliance of Sri Lanka going for coalition government

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On the Net:

Tamil rebels: www.eelamweb.com

Sri Lankan government: www.priu.gov.lk

Load-Date: October 12, 2000

End of Document

Sri Lankan governing party leads in parliamentary vote: President's mother, world's first female PM dies a day after vote

The Ottawa Citizen

October 12, 2000, Thursday, FINAL

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Section: News; A11

Length: 458 words

Byline: Dilshika Jayamaha

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka -- President Chandrika Kumaratunga's governing party appears poised 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 90 per cent of the vote from Tuesday's elections counted, Ms. Kumaratunga's People's Alliance was leading with 88 seats, or 48 per cent of the vote.

The opposition United National Party had 72 seats, or 39 per cent. But election officials said the final count would not be complete until today.

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 People's 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. 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, Ms. 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**.

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

The death of Ms. Kumaratunga's mother, former prime minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, cast a pall over the vote. The 84-year-old Ms. Bandaranaike, who in 1960 became the world's first **female** prime minister, died of a heart attack shortly after casting her vote Tuesday. A state funeral will be held Saturday.

Sri Lankan governing party leads in parliamentary vote: President's mother, world's first female PM dies a day after vote

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

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

Graphic

CP Color Photo: Pawel Kopczynski, Reuters / Sri Lankan mourners pay respects to former prime minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike at her house in Colombo yesterday. The 84-year-old died after casting her vote in parliamentary elections Tuesday.

Load-Date: October 12, 2000

End of Document

Sri Lanka rebels accused of plotting bombings, recruiting children

Associated Press International

July 13, 2000; Thursday

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Section: International news

Length: 216 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Five Tamil rebels suspected of plotting a suicide bombing of the capital have been arrested, police said Thursday.

Two women and three men were taken into custody during an all-night search of Tamil neighborhoods in Colombo, an officer said.

They are suspected of plotting bombings for "Black July," the anniversary of the July 23, 1983, riots in which more than 1,500 Tamils were killed and their homes looted by Sinhalese mobs.

Also Thursday, the U.N. Children's Fund said Tamil Tiger guerrillas had not kept a promise made in 1998 to U.N. representative Olara Ottunu not to recruit children for combat.

"The LTTE have not taken any steps to prevent the recruitment of children under 17 to their ranks," UNICEF representative Colin Glennie said Thursday at the launch of the agency's Progress of Nation's report on children worldwide.

The allegation comes a day after a Sri Lankan human rights group made up of Tamil intellectuals accused the militants of forcing boys and girls as young as 10 to join the guerrilla group, and torturing those who wanted to return home.

The guerrillas, fighting to carve out a homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.2 million minority Tamils, have been accused in the past by Amnesty International and other human rights groups of forcibly recruiting children to fight the war.

Load-Date: July 13, 2000

World

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

November 12, 1999, Friday

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Section: NEWS IN BRIEF; Pg. 24

Length: 533 words

Byline: Compiled Robert Kilborn and Elisabetta Coletti

Body

Following the admonition of their fellow Tamils to evacuate, more than 15,000 people escaped from government-held Vavuniya, Sri Lanka, as guerrilla ***Tamil Tigers*** prepared to attack the northern town. The rebels invaded 10 military camps in the northern jungle last week, saying they killed 1,000 government soldiers. Members of the Tamil minority hope to establish an autonomous homeland in the north and east parts of the country.

Structural problems were apparently responsible for the collapse of a six-story apartment building in the southern city of Foggia, Italy. One of 16 known survivors reported hearing "creaking noises" in the complex seconds before the collapse. As the Monitor went to press, 17 of the building's estimated 71 residents were confirmed dead and search efforts were continuing. In December of last year, 27 people were killed when an apartment block in Rome crumbled.

Shouting "We'll be back!" scores of Jewish settlers struggled violently with Israeli soldiers dragging them out of Havat Maon settlement. The military was following orders from Prime Minister Ehud Barak to remove the squatters from their illegal hilltop enclave in preparation for a handover of 5 percent of West Bank settlements to Palestinians Monday - part of a larger land-for-peace deal. Settlers had previously agreed with Barak to vacate 12 sites, including Havat Maon, in return for the government sanction of the remaining 30. These zones have been occupied since the 1967 Six-Day War.

In its first admission of wrongdoing since it began attacks on Chechnya, a Russian official spoke of the country's "moral responsibility" for mistakes. As refugees continued to flood the border of neighboring Ingushetia in hopes of fleeing continued Russian attacks. President Yeltsin's deputy chief of staff Igor Shabduraulov ruled out independence for the breakaway province, saying the fighting would not necessarily cease if and when talks begin. Approximately 200,000 Chechens have fled their homes since September.

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif could face trial on hijacking and kidnapping charges for the Oct. 12 diversion of a plane carrying General Pervaiz Musharraf. The flight carrying the general and 200 civilians was allegedly denied landing rights at Karachi airport until only seven minutes of fuel remained. Musharraf overthrew Sharif hours later in a nonviolent coup. Critics of the current government fear the former leader will face a mock trial. Both the hijacking and kidnapping charges carry the death penalty.

World

Representatives of France and Britain are scheduled to meet in Brussels today in a last-ditch effort to resolve their dispute over British beef. France has refused to lift its embargo against the product, citing the alleged threat of so-called "mad cow disease." The European Union lifted its ban Aug.1, but France did not follow suit.

Correction: An item in this space Nov. 3 failed to list Iran as one of the Persian Gulf states that allows women to participate in electoral politics. The item should have said that Oman and Qatar are the only Arab states in the Gulf where women have that privilege.

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Load-Date: November 11, 1999

End of Document

--Sixth NewsWatch--

Broadcast News (BN)

December 6, 1995 Wednesday

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Section: GENERAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

Length: 472 words

Body

(Unity-BC) (Audio: 04) Some British Columbia Liberal M-P's appear to be turning against their government's unity plan.

Ted McWhinney is one of those advancing the notion that B-C deserves a separate constitutional veto from the rest of western Canada.

The Vancouver M-P says he's optimistic because of the friendly reaction in the Liberal caucus.

Even Revenue Minister David Anderson admits British Columbians are upset over the veto plan. (6) (Water-Cancer)

Drinking and bathing in chlorine-treated tap-water is being linked to the development of cancer.

Researchers at Queen's University say one in ten cases of bladder and colon cancer in Ontario may be caused by decades of using chlorinated tap-water.

But they add it's still much safer to use chlorinated water than to use untreated water.

The scientists also say tap water can be made safer by storing it in the fridge for 24 hours. (6) (Gun-Control) (Audio: 05)

Ottawa's controversial gun control bill is now law after it received royal assent.

Final passage came just one day prior to today's sixth anniversary of the Montreal massacre.

The outcry following the murder of 14 women at the University of Montreal was a major factor in Ottawa's passage of the bill.

The main section calls for mandatory registration of the estimated seven-million guns in Canada. (6) (Blood-Inquiry) Canadians undergoing surgery could soon face operating rooms where almost no blood is used. A New York blood expert told the Krever Inquiry in Toronto transfusion medicine has undergone a revolution in the last 10 years. Doctor Richard Spence says many surgeons now recycle blood by pumping it back through the patient. (6) (Coat-of-Arms)

The Reform party is up in arms over a change to Canada's coat-of-arms. The Liberal government has added, in Latin, the words "They desire a better country." Reform is angry there was no public discussion of the change, which was approved months ago but not made public until yesterday. (6) (Nfld-Cuts)

--Sixth NewsWatch--

Newfoundland's public sector may not have seen the last of the budget cuts. Premier Clyde Wells warns there may be more to come. The province is currently eliminating 475 civil servants -- 390 of them by layoff. (6) (Sri-Lanka)

Tamil Tigers are hitting back at the Sri Lankan government after the army drove them out of their traditional stronghold. The rebels today killed 23 police commandos -- most in an ambush of their bus. The Tamils are fighting for a homeland in northeastern Sri Lanka. (6) (Fergie-Jewels)

A baggage handler at New York's Kennedy Airport is under arrest for allegedly stealing jewelry belonging to the Duchess of York. Sarah -- better known to many as Fergie -- wore the diamond necklace to the White House on Sunday. It was taken from an aide's luggage, and is reported to be worth more than 400-thousand dollars. (6) ----

(NewsWatch by Troy Reeb)

Load-Date: October 10, 2002

End of Document

New wave of attacks as rebel war hots up

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

March 21, 1996

Copyright 1996 South China Morning Post Ltd.

Section: Pg. 17

Length: 517 words

Byline: GASTON DE ROSAYRO in Colombo

Body

Sri Lanka's ethnic war began to hot up in the northeast as separatist rebels launched fresh offensives against government troops resulting in heavy losses on both sides, defence sources said yesterday.

A wave of attacks by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has left more than 78 troops dead and scores more wounded in the space of a week. The military claimed that at least 40 rebels had been killed in the assaults.

The guerillas appeared subdued over the past few months after the military consolidated its positions in the north and east.

The Navy had claimed partial success in preventing rebel cadres from using the Palk Strait, the narrow strip of water between Sri Lanka and India, to ferry supplies for its forces in the embattled north and east while the Air Force continues to pound guerilla positions in the eastern jungles.

Meanwhile, the **Tamil Tigers** recalled its "Baby Brigade", comprising children, which it had earlier withdrawn from the battlefield, according to intelligence reports from the northeast.

The Baby Brigade has been detailed alongside hardcore fighters to slow down advancing government troops in the eastern sector, military officials said.

The Baby Brigade, including children as young as nine, had been earlier deployed in areas north of Jaffna and had been detailed to handle the rebels' supply divisions.

The rebels elite Charles Anthony Brigade has reportedly been ordered to disrupt the civil administration in the eastern Batticaloa district reports from Jaffna said.

For the past five years or so, most of the Tigers fighting machine has comprised cadres drawn largely from young **women** and school children.

A few months ago, hundreds of children belonging to the Baby Brigade were killed, while defending their positions against government troops in the eastern Weli Oya district.

The rebels recent offensive began with the killing of 23 policemen belonging to the elite Special Taskforce, including four officers in Batticaloa.

New wave of attacks as rebel war hots up

A subsequent assault on a combined army-navy sea patrol resulted in the deaths of eight personnel in the seas bordering the Mannar district. Six sailors and soldiers have been reported missing following the strike in which three fibreglass boats were destroyed.

Analysts said the fresh wave of rebel strikes may have been prompted by a recent government statement announcing plans to crush the rebels before the Sinhala-Tamil New Year in mid-April.

A military spokesman said that 21 military personnel had been killed in the Vavuniya district when a tractor in which they were riding hit a rebel pressure-mine.

The military conceded that the fresh wave of attacks was causing concern to the Joint Military Command.

"We expect more attacks. Troops have repeatedly been cautioned to tread extremely lightly in uncleared areas. But we are prepared for any eventuality. We will not allow the rebels to wrest the initiative from us," one officer said.

Security officials believe the rebels are attempting to regroup in the east after suffering heavy casualties in the Jaffna peninsula.

Load-Date: March 22, 1996

End of Document

Nine including women soldiers killed in Sri Lanka explosion

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 2, 1997, Thursday, BC Cycle 12:14 Central European Time

Copyright 1997 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 219 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

A bomb that went off as soldiers were searching an abandoned building Thursday killed nine persons in the north of Sri Lanka.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said the dead comprised three women soldiers, three male soldiers and three civilians.

The government troops were conducting a search operation and entered an abandoned building in the Thirunalveli area of the northern Jaffna peninsula, 400 kilometres north of Colombo. The bomb, described as a "mine", had been left on the roof of the building.

Only one other woman soldier had ever been killed before in Colombo's 13-year-old war against rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The LTTE is fighting in the north and eastern parts of the country for an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

Last year a woman soldier was killed when rebels attacked the forward defences of a village in the same Northern province. Women are fighting on both sides in the war.

There have been no major battles in the three days of a government offensive around the Batticaloa district so far, but Colombo said 21 rebels had been killed.

On New Year's Day a military helicopter carrying dry rations was shot at by the rebels, but the pilot had managed to make a safe landing in Ampara district despite severe damage to the aircraft. dpa ad jbp

Load-Date: January 2, 1997

INDIA: GANDHI'S KILLERS EVADE CAPTURE BY COMMITTING SUICIDE

IPS-Inter Press Service

August 20, 1991, Tuesday

Copyright 1991 IPS-Inter Press Service/Global Information Network

Length: 524 words

Dateline: NEW DELHI, Aug. 20

Body

India's largest ever search operation ended early today when "Sivarasan," the Sri Lankan Tamil rebel who is believed to have masterminded the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, killed himself as the police stormed a hideout near the southern city of Bangalore.

Sivarasan and his ***female*** accomplice "Subha," who have been eluding arrest since Gandhi's assassination on May 21, committed suicide by swallowing cyanide capsules that the separatist Sri Lankan guerrillas wear around their neck to evade capture.

Security forces also found five other unidentified bodies including that of a young girl in the house, 12.4 miles outside Bangalore, the capital of Karnataka state.

The police who raided the house after a gun fight yesterday had hoped to flush out the militants alive from the hideout.

Ironically, the two killed themselves on Gandhi's forty-seventh birthday.

Sleuths have been on the trail of Sivarasan for almost three months since vital clues revealed the Tamil militant, known as "one-eyed Jack," had plotted the complex conspiracy to murder Gandhi.

The killing was reportedly ordered by the Tiger chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran last year. The guerrillas feared Gandhi's return to power could setback the armed struggle for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in northeast Sri Lanka.

Sivarasan was believed to be among the core group of four aides -- one of whom was arrested in June by Indian sleuths -- selected by Prabhakaran to execute the assassination.

According to reports, a rebel in police custody told sleuths that 500 Sri Lankan Tigers had landed in southern Tamil Nadu state shortly before Gandhi's murder on a mission to eliminate other political leaders opposing their cause.

Indian investigators have so far apprehended alive and dead some 50 ***Tamil Tigers*** during the hunt for Sivarasan and Subha in Karnataka and coastal Tamil Nadu state.

Newspapers reported yesterday that 12 Sri Lankan militants swallowed cyanide as police closed in on hideouts in Karnataka's Mandya district.

Five militants were, however, saved by doctors who accompanied security forces on the operation. The militants were reported to have fled here after police stormed their hideouts in Bangalore last week.

INDIA : GANDHI'S KILLERS EVADE CAPTURE BY COMMITTING SUICIDE

On Aug. 2, two Tigers, holed up in a house in Bangalore, avoided arrest by swallowing cyanide. However, the city police captured a militant alive the next day.

The raids on safehouses in both states have unearthed a rich haul of sophisticated communications systems, arms, explosives and money that was being used by the militants.

According to reports police say many of the rebels, who are between 18 and 20 years old, were in India to treat serious injuries suffered in combat with the Sri Lankan army.

The south Indian city of Coimbatore has earned notoriety as a major center where Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas are brought for medical treatment.

Police claim that they have wiped out major Tiger hideouts in Tamil Nadu, a state which has for long been the base in India for Sri Lankan guerrillas.

Indian Tamils are ethnic cousins of Tamils in Sri Lanka, a relationship that the Tigers have exploited to their advantage in the past.

Load-Date: August 22, 1991

**Presumed brain behind Gandhi killing comes to a farcical and bloody end:
Derek Brown in New Delhi describes the last stand in a suburban house of
the Tamil leader One-Eyed Jack and his suicidal band of accomplices**

The Guardian (London)

August 21, 1991

Copyright 1991 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Length: 470 words

Byline: By DEREK BROWN

Body

INDIA'S most wanted man, suspected of masterminding the May 21, assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, killed himself yesterday morning after being cornered by the police.

Sivarasan, nicknamed One-Eyed Jack, was one of seven suspected members of the Tamil Tiger separatist group from Sri Lanka surrounded in a quiet suburb of the southern city of Bangalore on Monday night.

After a brief but fierce exchange of fire with police, the group committed collective suicide. Sivarasan shot himself in the head, and the others bit glass phials containing cyanide. Suicide rather than capture is a Tamil Tiger trademark.

Since the end of May, the huge but clumsy police search for the killers of Rajiv Gandhi has produced a handful of arrests, and no less than 24 suicides. Sivarasan - whose nickname derived from the loss of an eye in a terrorist operation in Sri Lanka, and who had a reward on his head equalling pounds 25,000 - was the prime target of the search.

Said to be the Tigers' intelligence chief, he is believed to have planned and witnessed the murder of Mr Gandhi by a young woman who detonated a bomb strapped to her waist at an election rally near Madras.

The ***Tamil Tigers*** have consistently denied responsibility. But they alone had the means, the experience, the fanatical zeal and above all the motive to kill the Indian leader who sent troops into Sri Lanka in 1987 where they became embroiled in a bloody and inconclusive campaign against the guerrillas.

The Indian investigation of the Gandhi assassination was regularly punctuated by false alarms until this week. On Sunday, however, raids on two villages in the south Indian state of Karnataka took two groups of Tiger activists by surprise. Twelve militants died by swallowing cyanide.

On Monday evening, the state police moved into the Konanakunte suburb of Bangalore, capital of Karnataka, and surrounded a house rented by a group of strangers earlier this month. There followed a series of blunders, dramas and moments of pure farce. At dusk, as crowds gathered to enjoy the spectacle of a large police operation, a lorry got stuck in mud. The shouting and activity, as plainclothes police helped to shift the mired vehicle, evidently alerted those inside the house. They fired a furious and indiscriminate volley of shots, and the police returned fire.

Presumed brain behind Gandhi killing comes to a farcical and bloody end: Derek Brown in New Delhi describes the last stand in a suburban house of the Tamil lead....

A wait ensued of some 11 hours for reinforcements from the elite paramilitary National Security Guard, better known as the Black Cat commandos. Soon after dawn yesterday, the Black Cats stormed the house. They met not resistance, but corpses.

Sivarasam lay dead with a bullet through his right temple. Six others, including two young women - one of them said to be One-Eyed Jack's main accomplice, Subha - had killed themselves by poisoning. They died on what would have been Rajiv Gandhi's 47th birthday.

Load-Date: June 9, 2000

End of Document

50 killed in guerilla massacre

Sunday Mail (SA)

September 19, 1999, Sunday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 159 words

Body

COLOMBO: Suspected Tamil Tiger guerillas went on a pre-dawn rampage in eastern Sri Lanka, massacring at least 50 civilians and a paramilitary home guard.

Members of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam stormed Punchisigiriya village, in the district of Ampara, attacking civilians with knives and swords. Officials said victims were still in their beds when the attack began.

Military reinforcements sent to the village after the attack recovered the bodies of seven children, 17 women and 23 men, officials said. They said the attackers, believed to be mainly women cadres of the LTTE, had killed two children and a paramilitary home guard as they retreated after the massacre.

The massacre came after 21 Tamil civilians were killed in an air force bombing raid in the north-eastern district of Mullaitivu on Wednesday. Officials in the district of Ampara, 350km east of here, said they believed the village massacre could be a revenge attack by the Tamil Tigers.

Load-Date: March 7, 2002

50 killed in guerilla massacre

End of Document

Female suicide bomber kills 3 in bomb blast

Associated Press International

March 16, 1999; Tuesday 08:45 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 230 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

A suspected Tamil rebel exploded a bomb strapped to her body in a Colombo suburb Tuesday, killing herself, an accomplice and one other person, police said.

The suicide bomber exploded the bomb when a vehicle of a senior police officer was passing by a crowded bus stand in front of the police station at Mount Lavinia, 12 kilometers (eight miles) south of Colombo. The police officer escaped with minor injuries.

Police blamed the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the blast.

While one accomplice died in the blast, police said another escaped. The third victim was not identified. Fourteen other people were injured in the blast.

Three bomb explosions in Colombo last week killed one civilian and injured 12 others.

The Tigers, fighting for a separate state in the Tamil-dominated north and east, often use suicide bombers. Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a **LTTE** suicide bomber in 1991.

Sri Lanka's 16-year-old ethnic war is mainly fought in the Tamil-dominated north and east, but the rebels often target Colombo and other southern areas to focus attention on their campaign.

The rebels want a separate homeland in the north for Sri Lanka's 3.3 million Tamils, accusing the 14 million Sinhalese of discrimination, a charge the government denies. Over 57,000 people have died since the insurrection began in 1983 in this country off

ndia's southern coast.

Load-Date: March 16, 1999

Rebel mine attack kills 11 in Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 1, 1999, Tuesday, BC Cycle 02:37 Central European Time

Copyright 1999 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 239 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Tamil rebels set off a powerful claymore mine and opened fire at a passenger van killing nine civilians and two soldiers in the northeastern part of Sri Lanka, police said Tuesday.

The van was carrying more than 25 people after a musical show when they were attacked at Kiri-ibbanwewa, a remote village in the Welioya area, 284 kilometers from the capital late Monday night, police said.

Among the civilians killed were six men, while the two soldiers caught in the attack were in civilian clothes returning from the musical show. Initial reports said the victims belong to the majority Sinhala community.

The attack was blamed on the Tamil rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) and was seen as a renewal of its campaign against civilian targets.

The area where the incident took place is under the control of the military, but the army has warned against night travel as rebels move about in the area in darkness.

Tamil rebels who claim to be fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and eastern parts of the country previously attacked civilian targets, mainly of the majority Sinhala community. But in recent years the rebels had reduced the attacks in view of the adverse publicity they gained from such incidents.

Police said the injured, which include several **women**, have been removed to the hospital and a search operation by the army was in progress Tuesday. dpa da ps

Load-Date: June 1, 1999

LETTERS

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

June 7, 1995 Wednesday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; LETTERS; Pg. 16

Length: 1286 words

Body

COP CAR CAM TAPES

The latest exposure of police corruption has predictably prompted journalists and other commentators to reach for the tired cliché of "police culture" as if this by itself offered an adequate explanation of the problem. It is time to recognise and highlight the underlying causes that allow this police culture to thrive unchecked.

The root causes may be sought in a deep-seated systemic failure, by no means confined to the police force, although its manifestation there achieves a far greater shock value. One is entitled to inquire into the obvious failure of a promotional process that regularly permits the appointment to senior positions of corrupt and incompetent officers and a hierarchy that seems unable to exercise adequate controls.

Blaming "police culture" begs the question and lets off the hook the politicians, the Police Board, the legal fraternity, the justice system and the Police Union who must all share in various degrees the responsibility for the poor profile that, unfortunately, law enforcement seems to have among the public generally.

Massimo Iesu,

June 6 Blaxland.

What horrifies me most, after seeing the police inquiry videotapes, is not the corruption, but the fact that two such inarticulate and foul-mouthed detectives had been promoted through the force by interviewing panels who presumably found them to be the best for the job. What can the other candidates have been like?

Caroline Leighton,

June 6 Oatley.

Monday's "Cop Car Cam" revelations certainly have confirmed how deeply rooted in the police culture(?) certain expletives are.

Scott Austin,

June 6 Lane Cove.

SHAKOMETER

LETTERS

On the TV news Carmel Niland demonstrated to MPs the acceptable one/two handshake to avoid a sexual harassment charge.

Obviously a new market has been opened up for a wristwatch-size device to automatically record the handshake time. A computer chip, designed to give a warning beep 1.5 seconds after hand contact, fitted to a designer wrist strap would be worn on the right wrist (left for Scouts). The deluxe model would use a chip capable of recording date and time of handshake, which is downloaded each day onto a personal computer. This provides proof in the event of a subsequent harassment charge. The market is not confined solely to MPs but to anyone open to a harassment charge. By lobbying for similar sexual harassment legislation overseas there could be a worldwide market.

B. A. Jobbins,

June 4 Beacon Hill.

PAP SMEARS

The article written by your medical writer entitled "Pap Smears fail to stop half cervical cancer cases" (Herald, May 26) contains statements which are potentially dangerous to women and place an incorrect perspective on the work of Australian gynaecologists. The articles and reports quoted in this piece do not infer that half the cervical cancers slip past the Pap Smear net - it is dangerous for your paper to draw this inference, because the women who read it may well assume that this most useful screening test is not worthwhile.

Dr Wain's survey, which you quoted, was a scientific attempt to make the Pap Smear better. While the survey was independent, the information it contains will be assessed by the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, as part of its Education Program. This program has received international acclaim and assures Australian women that their gynaecologists are as good and as up to date as any in the world. It is trite to use Dr Wain's excellent article to imply the contrary.

Brian Spurrett,

Senior Vice-President,

The Royal Australian College of

Obstetricians and Gynaecologists,

May 29 East Melbourne (Vic).

TAMIL TIGERS

The attempt to demonise the Tamil leadership by describing Tamil leader Vellupillai Pirabakaran as Sri Lanka's Pol Pot and Saddam Hussein makes Lindsay Murdoch's article read like a Sri Lankan Government propaganda pamphlet (Herald, June 5).

If indeed you must compare our leader Pirabakaran to someone, may we suggest that you take a leaf from Sri Lankan Cabinet minister, Mr S. Thondaman, who in a recent interview given to the Indian newspaper Hindu compared Tamil leader Pirabakaran to India's Baghwat Singh and Subash Chandra Bose - two prominent Indian freedom fighters.

Unfortunately for the Sri Lankan Government, its decision to increase expenditure on "defence" from 20 per cent to 27 per cent of the national budget, the Deputy Defence Minister Mr Anuradha Ratwatta's announcement of his readiness to don uniform to fight the Tamils, President Mrs Kumaratunge's statement that "a determined government with a well-equipped army can certainly win the war" (interview given to French newspaper Le Monde in January), the Government's unwillingness to lift the economic blockade (imposed since June 1990) and its

LETTERS

refusal to dismantle an army camp established for the sole purpose of mounting attacks on the Jaffna peninsula were not entirely lost on the **Tamil Tigers** - the Tamil freedom fighters, who took on the Sri Lan

kan regime before it could unleash the next bout of State terror.

Ana Pararajasingham,

Secretary, Australasian

Federation of Tamil Association,

June 5 Enfield.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and your correspondent in Colombo Lindsay Murdoch for understanding the truth and showing it to the world by publishing the article "Sri Lanka's Pol Pot in new reign of terror" (Herald, June 5).

I hope you will continue to support the civilised world to wipe out terrorism from the world.

A. Balasuriya,

June 6 Meadowbank.

CHARMING MISS MUIR

News of the death in London of the British fashion designer Jean Muir recalls the amazing contribution she made to the bicentennial celebrations here in 1988.

Miss Muir was one of 11 leading international designers who came to the Opera House to pay tribute to the Australian wool industry at the Bicentennial Wool Collection.

She was invited to the event on the basis of her extensive use of Australian wool in her designs and her close working relationship with the International Wool Secretariat.

I was involved in the project and found Miss Muir by far the easiest and most agreeable of the 11 designers to work with. While several of them had massive egos and argued over which model was to wear which garments, and threatened to go home if they didn't get their way, Miss Muir was an example of professional discretion and personal charm.

Her talents were equal to the best, yet she was embarrassingly modest.

She followed the directions of producer Ric Birch admirably and presented garments that reflected the colourful character of the Australian environment.

She visited wool-growing properties while she was here and returned to London, she told me, even more dedicated to working with "this wonderful fibre".

Vincent Matthews,

June 2 Sorrento (Qld).

HAPLESS INQUIRER

Strangely, the full figures for the March election of the NSW Legislative Council will not be available for quite some time yet - and then at a cost of \$20 per inquirer.

The "results" for the "elected" have been published and these have received full official approval, but nothing is available about the "also rans". There is still checking of results going on, the full extent of which is not known; but

LETTERS

only when all figures are firm will the results be placed before Parliament and the way cleared for the hapless inquirer - with \$20 - to get the story.

John Lloyd,

June 2 Kincumber.

SPENDING OUR MONEY

I thought politicians were our servants - we, the people, pay their salaries, so I find it strange that they can spend our money on furniture, bathrooms, kitchens and trips etc.

Isn't there a watchdog on finances?

Isn't there someone in charge who has to pass their requests for the goodies they want?

I would like to know.

Audrey Cohen,

June 2 Darling Point.

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

End of Document

India to Halt Military Operations for 48 Hours

The Associated Press

February 28, 1988, Sunday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 502 words

Byline: By PATRICK CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

India will halt its military operations in eastern Sri Lanka for 48 hours because it wants to persuade two Tamil women to give up a death fast, a senior Sri Lankan government official said Sunday.

The women, Anamma David and Nesamma Vadivel, have been fasting inside a Hindu temple in eastern Batticaloa city for the past nine days and are reported to be in a serious condition.

The women have threatened to commit suicide unless India declares a cease-fire and Tamil separatists agree to discuss a settlement in their five-year civil war with the majority Sinhalese.

A statement by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful rebel group, meanwhile, said it was prepared for "unconditional talks" with the Indian government.

The Tamil statement, issued in the southern Indian city of Madras and addressed to the fasting women, said "We accept your appeal in toto and with immediate effect."

There was no immediate reaction from the Indian government.

The Sri Lankan government official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the halt in Indian military operations in the east would go into effect at midnight Sunday.

A spokeswoman of the Indian High Commission said she had no information on the cease-fire but added that India had scaled down operations since the beginning of February.

More than 45,000 Indian peacekeeping troops are battling Tamil militants in northern and eastern Sri Lanka to enforce an Indian-sponsored peace pact.

The pact was signed last July to end the Tamil separatist war in the island nation but it has been rejected by the Tigers.

The peace accord grants some autonomy to Tamil-dominated areas in the northern and eastern provinces, but Tamil rebels want a separate nation.

Jyotindra Nath Dixit, the Indian High Commissioner, last week appealed to the Tamil women to give up their fast. He said they were being used and "instigated" by the rebels to pressure India.

India to Halt Military Operations for 48 Hours

Dixit said the Tamil Tigers had the habit of using old women to fight their battles.

The Sri Lankan official said arrangements had been made by both governments to halt the offensive and save the lives of the women. He said that efforts also were underway to contact Tiger Leader Velupillai Prabhakaran to persuade him to begin negotiations.

"His response is awaited. This is a joint Indo-Lankan move and it is part of the contacts both governments have been making with the Tigers," he said.

President Junius R. Jayewardene on Sunday reiterated his general amnesty offer to both Tamil and Sinhalese extremists, who have opposed the peace accord.

"I am prepared to grant all terrorists amnesty provided they give up violence," he said at the opening ceremony of a pagoda at Ampara, 126 miles east of Colombo.

The predominantly Hindu Tamils make up 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. They say they are discriminated against by the Sinhalese Buddhists, who control the government and the army.

India, predominantly Hindu, intervened in the conflict largely under pressure from its own large Tamil minority.

End of Document

50 killed in guerilla massacre

Sunday Mail (SA)

September 19, 1999, Sunday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 159 words

Body

COLOMBO: Suspected Tamil Tiger guerillas went on a pre-dawn rampage in eastern Sri Lanka, massacring at least 50 civilians and a paramilitary home guard.

Members of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam stormed Punchisigiriya village, in the district of Ampara, attacking civilians with knives and swords. Officials said victims were still in their beds when the attack began.

Military reinforcements sent to the village after the attack recovered the bodies of seven children, 17 women and 23 men, officials said. They said the attackers, believed to be mainly women cadres of the LTTE, had killed two children and a paramilitary home guard as they retreated after the massacre.

The massacre came after 21 Tamil civilians were killed in an air force bombing raid in the north-eastern district of Mullaitivu on Wednesday. Officials in the district of Ampara, 350km east of here, said they believed the village massacre could be a revenge attack by the Tamil Tigers.

Load-Date: March 10, 2002

50 killed in guerilla massacre

End of Document

Female suicide bomber kills three in bomb blast

Associated Press International

March 16, 1999; Tuesday 09:57 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 245 words

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

A suspected Tamil rebel exploded a bomb strapped to her body in a Colombo suburb Tuesday, killing herself, an accomplice and one other person, police said.

A third suspected rebel committed suicide after the bombing by swallowing a cyanide capsule to avoid capture, police said.

Another suspected rebel escaped. The third victim was not identified. Fourteen other people were injured in the blast.

The suicide bomber exploded her device as the vehicle of a senior police officer was passing by a crowded bus stand in front of the police station at Mount Lavinia, 12 kilometers (eight miles) south of Colombo. The police officer escaped with minor injuries.

Police blamed the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the blast.

Three bomb explosions in Colombo last week killed one civilian and injured 12 others.

The Tigers, fighting for a separate state in the Tamil-dominated north and east, often use suicide bombers. Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a **LTTE** suicide bomber in 1991.

Sri Lanka's 16-year-old ethnic war is mainly fought in the Tamil-dominated north and east, but the rebels often target Colombo and other southern areas to focus attention on their campaign.

The rebels want a separate homeland in the north for Sri Lanka's 3.3 million Tamils, accusing the 14 million Sinhalese of discrimination, a charge the government denies. Over 57,000 people have died since the insurrection began in 1983 in this country off India's southern coast.

Load-Date: March 16, 1999

Police detain five Tamil suspects for suicide bombing attack

Associated Press International

October 20, 2000; Friday

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Section: International news

Length: 1530 words

Byline: DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Police on Friday detained five Tamil men for questioning for suspected involvement in a suicide bombing that killed three people and wounded 21 others a day earlier, police said.

Police carried out a night-long search for suspects in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, said Bodhi Liyanage, the deputy inspector-general of police. "We detained the men and they are undergoing interrogation."

A suicide bomber blew himself up on Thursday just before a new Cabinet was sworn in by President Chandrika Kumaratunga. Those wounded included three American women.

Thursday's bombing was the 13th suicide bombing attacks in Sri Lanka in the past 10 months. The president survived an assassination attempt in December but was blinded in her right eye in the explosion.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE, are fighting to establish a homeland in the north and east for the minority Tamils. The 17-year civil war has killed some 63,000 people.

At least 167 people, including a government minister, a politician, a retired military officer and a senior police officer, have been killed in suspected rebel attacks this year.

The guerrillas appear to be missing their targets more often these days. They have failed in eight of their 12 assassination attempts since December, police and defense experts said.

"It is also possible the LTTE's training and commitment of cadres may be getting diluted," said Ketish Loganathan, the political and defense analyst at the Center for Policy Alternatives, an independent think-tank.

Military spokesman Brig. Sanath Karunaratne said: "The LTTE is missing its targets because our security is more vigilant, and also because LTTE leaders must be pushing their cadres too much."

—
On the Net:

Rebel site: www.eelamweb.com

Government site: www.priu.gov.lk

Police detain five Tamil suspects for suicide bombing attack

Police on Friday detained five Tamil men suspected of involvement in a deadly suicide bombing the day before, while government forces killed 20 Tamil rebels who attacked an army defense line with mortars and heavy machine guns in the Jaffna Peninsula, according to police and the government.

The army lost four soldiers in the latest fighting on Thursday at Nagar Kovil, 35 kilometers (20 miles) northeast of Jaffna city, said Luxman Perera, the deputy government spokesman.

At least 44 soldiers were wounded when rebels destroyed three bunkers at Nagar Kovil, Perera said.

Also Thursday, the navy destroyed three rebel boats off Sri Lanka's northeastern coast. Two navy gun boats were damaged in the sea battle that lasted two hours, Perera said.

There was no immediate comment by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have been fighting for a separate homeland for the minority Tamils since 1983.

On Friday, police detained the five Tamil men for questioning for suspected involvement in a suicide bombing that killed three people and wounded 21 others including three American women a day earlier, police said.

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Thursday's attack was the 13th bombing attack in Sri Lanka in the past 10 months. Kumaratunga lost vision in her right eye after a Tamil Tiger suicide bombing on Dec. 18.

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The 17-year civil war has killed some 63,000 people.

On the Net:

Rebel site: www.eelamweb.com

Government site: www.priu.gov.lk

Unidentified gunmen shot and killed a Tamil journalist in a high-security area in the northern Jaffna city, where he had reported on vote rigging and intimidation during the country's recent parliamentary elections, his colleagues said Friday.

Maylwaganam Nimalarajan, 40, who reported for the BBC's Tamil language service and worked for Colombo's Tamil language daily Virakesari, was shot at in his study while he was working on a news report Thursday night, his colleagues said.

The attackers then hurled a grenade into his house, seriously injuring three of his relatives, said Nimalarajan's colleagues, who asked not to be identified by name out of fear for their own safety.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Police in Jaffna confirmed the killing and said they were investigating.

"It was a well planned attack, right now we don't have any clue as to who committed the crime," Jaffna's Officer-In-Charge Sarath Chandra told The Associated Press.

Police detain five Tamil suspects for suicide bombing attack

Some Jaffna-based journalists say Nimalarajan's reporting on rigging and intimidation in Jaffna during the Oct. 10 parliamentary elections may have led to his slaying, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said.

Jaffna, 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of Colombo, is the center of Sri Lanka's 17-year-old civil war. The rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam want Jaffna to become the capital of their proposed homeland for the minority Tamils.

"Nimalarajan was one of the few sources of independent news from the Jaffna peninsula, where journalists are not allowed free access," the group said in a statement made available to the AP in Colombo.

"Nimalarajan risked his life to serve as the eyes and ears of the world, reporting on the consequences of the civil war from a place where journalists are regularly denied access," said Kavita Menon, the group's Asia program coordinator.

The gunmen approached Nimalarajan's home, located in a high-security zone in Jaffna, and shot him through the window of his study. They later threw a grenade into the home before fleeing, one of his colleagues said.

Nimalarajan was taken to Jaffna Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, one colleague said.

His father, Sangarapillai Mylvaganam, 65, his mother, Lilly Mylvaganam, 62, and his nephew, Jegathas Prasanna, 11, were seriously injured in the grenade explosion. They were in an adjacent room during the attack.

His wife, Periyamalar Nimalarajan, and three daughters, aged 1, 3 and 5, were in another room and were not hurt.

Government troops took control of Jaffna in 1995 after driving the rebels into the jungles. The rebels made a strong bid to retake Jaffna in May, but failed.

To visit Jaffna, journalists need defense ministry's approval.

Unidentified gunmen shot and killed a Tamil journalist in a high-security area in the northern Jaffna city, where he had reported on vote rigging and intimidation during the country's recent parliamentary elections, his colleagues said Friday.

Maylwaganam Nimalarajan, 40, who reported for the BBC's Tamil language service and for Colombo's Tamil language daily, Virakesari, was shot to death through the window of his study while he was working on a news report Thursday night, his colleagues said.

The attackers then hurled a grenade into his house, seriously injuring his father, mother and a nephew, said Nimalarajan's colleagues, who asked not to be identified by name out of fear for their own safety. Nimalarajan's wife and three young daughters were in another room and were unhurt, the colleagues said.

"It was a well planned attack," the Officer-in-Charge Sarath Chandra of the Jaffna police told The Associated Press by phone. "Right now we don't have any clue as to who committed the crime."

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said Jaffna-based journalists suspect that Nimalarajan's reporting on the country's Oct. 10 parliamentary elections may have led to his slaying.

"Local journalists suspect that Nimalarajan's reporting on vote-rigging and intimidation in Jaffna during the recent parliamentary elections may have led to his murder," said Kavita Menon, the group's Asia program coordinator.

"Nimalarajan was one of the few sources of independent news from the Jaffna peninsula, where journalists are not allowed free access," the group said in a statement.

Jaffna, 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of Colombo, is the center of Sri Lanka's 17-year-old civil war. The rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam want Jaffna city to become the capital of their proposed homeland for the minority Tamils.

Police detain five Tamil suspects for suicide bombing attack

Government troops took control of Jaffna in 1995 after driving the rebels into the jungles. The rebels made a strong bid to retake Jaffna in May, but failed. Journalists who want to visit Jaffna need approval from the defense ministry.

E. Saravana Pavan, the managing editor of another Jaffna-based Tamil daily Uthayan, said reporters in the peninsula are facing increasing danger.

"We have been facing fear and bombs from 1985, but now it is becoming worse," Pavan said. "The last three months, I have compelled my staff to lie low."

Pavan accused a former rebel group, the Eelam People's Democratic Party, of intimidating reporters in the peninsula. The group couldn't be immediately reached for comment.

The EPDP won control of four seats in the Oct. 10 parliamentary elections in the peninsula and its leader, Devananda, who uses one name, was included in the new Cabinet as the Rehabilitation Minister for the north.

Load-Date: October 20, 2000

End of Document

High-tech infrastructures vulnerable to New Terrorism

United Press International

October 30, 2000, Monday

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Section: GENERAL NEWS

Length: 2744 words

Byline: By MARTIN WALKER

Dateline: WASHINGTON, Oct 28

Body

This ran separately as a three-part series on Oct. 28. The British government has announced sweeping new powers to compel law firms, banks and financial institutions like credit card companies to help stop money laundering and financial transactions that could finance Northern Ireland terror groups.

Launched this week, the new 'follow the money' offensive is to be run by a task force of top officials from MI5 counter-intelligence, Scotland Yard's organized crime directorate, the customs service, the national criminal intelligence service and the controversial Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's police. The new organization is matched by a British government pledge to establish a new Confiscation Agency charged with the seizure of assets on suspicion that they have been illegally financed, despite strong objections from civil liberties groups.

The new measures, aimed at the financial base of terrorist groups in Northern Ireland and what British officials called their Mafia-style sub-culture, reflect a mounting international concern at a phenomenon dubbed 'the New Terrorism'.

In the US, the Clinton administration is seeking a \$10 billion budget this year to finance its own counter-terrorism program, more than half of it to 'harden' such targets of sabotage as nuclear, chemical, biological and Internet-communications targets. Other funds are designed to build a new counter-terrorism college, to train state and federal officials in the US, and international partners.

In the United Nations, the US, Britain and France are pushing hard get full international backing for a series of cooperative rules to battle the New Terrorism by draining its financial lifeblood. They are pushing for measures like those now being adopted by the British government, and the US strategy of outlawing and heavily fining 'charitable' organizations which act as fronts and cash cows for terror groups abroad.

A vogue term that tries to embrace the decline of state-backed terrorism and its replacement by loose and flexible independent groups like Osama Bin Laden's 'Al-Qaida' network, the New Terrorism also includes that twilight zone where terrorism, organized crime and narcotics trafficking all meet and reinforce each other.

Para-military groups in Northern Ireland, leftist guerillas in Colombia, the ***Tamil Tigers*** of Sri Lanka and the new "Afghan" Arab groups like 'Al-Qaida' all participate in the drugs trade to fund their operations. The original "Afghan" Arabs were radical Islamist veterans of the war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, but the term now includes

High-tech infrastructures vulnerable to New Terrorism

guerillas who have got to Afghanistan for training by the Taliban, the Islamic faction that controls 90 percent of that country.

"Bin Laden's organization operates on its own, without having to depend on a state sponsor for material support. He has financial resources, often through narco-trafficking or the use of legitimate front companies", said the US government's new Counter-terrorism chief, Ambassador Michael Sheehan. "Bin-Laden and other non-state terrorists also benefit from the globalization of communications, using encrypted email and Internet websites to spread their message, recruit new members and raise funds".

Old-style terrorists, in the words of veteran terrorism expert Brian Jenkins, "wanted a lot of people watching - not a lot of people dead". They wanted to bomb and intimidate their way to the negotiating table, not to blow up the negotiations. New Terrorism is widely regarded as simultaneously more dangerous and harder to detect and infiltrate.

The new terrorists, whether loners like the Unabomber or the new networks of independents like Osama Bin Laden, do not seem to have 'rational' political objectives. Bin Laden, for example, claims that he is fighting to prevent "Greater Israel" from taking over the entire Arab peninsula and its oil-wealth. In an interview on US Public TV's 'Frontline' last year he declared "The whole Muslim world is the victim of international terrorism, engineered by America at the United Nations".

The second problem is the prospect of what Walter Lacquer of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC calls "mega terrorism". Author of the new book 'The New Terrorism', Lacquer claims "the consequences of aggressive madness in an age of high technology and the era of weapons of mass destruction may well be beyond our imagination".

Anthony Lake, former National Security Adviser to President Bill Clinton, agrees. In his own new book 'Six Nightmares', which details the way the Clinton administration responded to the emergence of New Terrorists like Osama Bin Laden and the Oklahoma City bombers and the Aum Shinrikyo sect that put nerve gas into the Tokyo subway system, Lake paints the darkest of pictures.

"We have crossed the threshold to the era of high-tech terror, including the use of weapons of mass destruction", Lake says. "And as modern societies become more dependent on integrated, highly technical infrastructures - the systems that run our banks, our airways, our telecommunications, our utilities - we become more vulnerable to new forms of attack, especially cyber-terror". The suicide bombers who moored alongside the USS Cole to explode a gigantic hole in the destroyer's side were the worst nightmare of the West's counter-terrorism experts. Logic suggests that there are few ways to defend any target against a terrorist prepared to die in order to fulfill the mission.

"We have nothing except the weapon of martyrdom. It is easy and costs us only our lives", declared Ramadan Shalah, secretary-general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. "Human bombs cannot be defeated, not even by nuclear bombs". But counter-terrorist agencies are rejecting this counsel of despair. Israeli officials, who faced suicide bombers during the Hamas offensive of 1994-96, argue persuasively that the threat can be countered by stressing the fact that no suicide bomber acts alone.

The suicide bomber needs a parent organization to spy out the target, to assemble the explosives and get them and him into the target zone. The organization itself, its training camps and its communications networks, its fund-raising and recruitment systems, are all obvious and important targets.

"The actual weakness of suicide bombers is that they are nothing more than the instruments of terrorist leaders who expect their organizations to gain tangible benefits from this shocking tactic. The key to countering suicide bombers, therefore, is to make terrorist organizations aware that this decision will incur painful costs", says Ehud Sprinzak, dean of Israel's Lauder School of Government, Policy and Diplomacy.

"Political and economic sanctions against the terrorists' community, combined with effective coercive diplomacy against their foreign patrons, may help reduce or end suicide terrorism", Sprinzak continues, in a widely-cited article

High-tech infrastructures vulnerable to New Terrorism

in the October issue of 'Foreign Policy' that stresses the need to focus on the back-up organization rather than the individual bomber.

"Governments do not have to invent entirely new tactics when waging a war against suicide terrorists. Instead, they must adapt and intensify existing counter-terrorism strategies to exploit the vulnerabilities of suicide bombers".

Israeli experts have been at the forefront of researching and investigating the phenomenon since the early 1980s, when their own forces in Lebanon became targets for suicide bombers. At the same time, 241 American troops and 58 French paratroopers from the multinational peacekeeping force in were also killed in Beirut by suicide bombers driving trucks laden with explosives into their respective compounds.

Ariel Merari, a psychologist at Tel Aviv University, put together a psychological profile of the suicide bomber, based on researching a total of 50 such volunteers in the Hezbollah, Amal and PIJ groups. Although most were young male high school graduates who usually had lost close family members in the struggle, Merari found that there was no simple key, and no easily definable characteristic to the suicide bomber.

It is not even necessarily an Islamic phenomenon, despite the promise of an afterlife in paradise for those who die fighting for the faith. The terrorist group with by far the bloodiest record of suicide bombings is the Tamil Tigers, whose community usually practices Buddhism. Of 286 recorded suicide bombers around the world since 1983, the elite 'Black Tigers' contributed 171 of them, well over half. Among their targets were Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and Sri Lanka President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993.

Nor is suicide bombing necessarily a male phenomenon. The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) mounted fifteen suicide bombing operations between 1995-99 and eleven of them were carried out by women. They were less likely to be searched, especially when their explosives were disguised as the bulge of a pregnancy. The Tamil Tigers also deployed women.

Israeli researchers have also identified marked differences in the ways that suicide bombers are recruited and trained. The Tamil Tigers draw their suicide bombers from their elite commando units, the Black Tigers, who are also used on dangerous but not necessarily lethal military missions.

In the Middle East, Hamas and the PIJ do not seek volunteer 'shahids' (martyrs), according to Boaz Ganor, director of Israel's International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism. Instead, they count on religious teachers to identify potential suicide bombers from among their pupils. If deemed suitable, the 'shahids' are put through an intense military training and ideological preparation, including the promise of generous funds and accolades for their families.

The final recommendation from the Israeli counter-terrorism experts is that common sense counter-measures, like X-ray machines at airports and surveillance and cement blocks outside potential targets to deter truck bombers, are essential. Moreover, by being seen to be taking steps against the threat, governments can help their own people withstand the real objective of the suicide bombers, to instill a morale-sapping psychology of terror among the target population.

The final piece of advice from the Israeli experts is that suicide bombers are few enough to be a precious resource, whose masters will not usually waste them on hardened targets. This may need some revision, after the attack on the USS Cole, which was an armored target under orders to mount security watches while in what was clearly a potentially difficult neighborhood. The bottom line of the Israeli advice is that suicide bombers are always going to win some battles, but there is no need to assume that they can win a war. There was one small nugget of good news buried deep inside the tragedy of the bombing of the USS Cole in the port of Aden. And it relates, ironically, to what may have been the deeper tragedy of an intelligence failure.

Kie Fallis, a highly-rated Defense Intelligence Agency analyst, resigned the day after the October 12 attack on the destroyer claiming that warnings he had sounded had not been properly heeded. Formerly in the US Army, and a fluent Farsi speaker, Fallis is an associate with the Terrorism Research center with an impressive reputation in the field.

High-tech infrastructures vulnerable to New Terrorism

Whether his warning was vague (as the Pentagon implies) or precise, and properly assessed or not (and the Senate Armed Services Committee is still pondering the evidence) the Fallis resignation was a public indication of a fact that is now widely known among counter-terrorism officials. There is a large and growing body of information and intelligence now available.

The fact is that international cooperation among counter-terrorism agencies has grown dramatically over the past five years. It is far from perfect, and it has yet to match the degree of US-European cooperation. But the sharing of intelligence by Arab states with the US, and even with Israel, has improved significantly in the 1990s. Indeed, one of the problems faced by analysts like Kie Fallis is picking the jewels from the 'noise', the vast flood of rumors, hints and false leads.

"Many Middle East governments - with some notable exceptions - have strengthened their counter-terrorism policy and improved international cooperation", US counter-terrorism czar Michael Sheehan told the US Congress last July.

Israeli officials even acknowledge the help of the Palestine Authority in its campaign against the Hamas suicide bombings of Israeli buses. One reason for this is that some of the new Islamic fundamentalist freelance groups threaten Arab regimes, in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt. "We expect for the rulers of Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) the same fate as the Shah of Iran", Osama Bin Laden warned last year. "They shall all be wiped out".

This cooperation is far from perfect, and US and Israeli officials suspect that some of Bin Laden's funds come from junior members of the large Saudi royal family. And the breakdown of the Arab-Israeli peace process has put many intelligence-sharing links in jeopardy.

The second important development has been the decline in state-sponsored terrorism since the end of the Cold War. East Germany, which used to provide documents and safe havens for terrorists, has disappeared. Russia faces its own problem with the Chechens, and with other Islamic groups. And although the former 'rogue states' (now called 'states of concern') are not cooperating with international efforts, Syria stopped giving safe haven to the Kurdish guerilla leader Abdullah Ocalan and Libya surrendered its two suspects for trial on the Lockerbie bombing of Pan-Am jet 007.

The terrorist threat remains huge. The US State Department has identified 130 international terrorist groups who pose an 'unconventional weapons threat', which means they could try to deploy Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Of these, 55 have an ethnic agenda; 50 a religious agenda, 20 a left-wing agenda and 5 a right-wing agenda. Those with an ethnic agenda are assumed to be unlikely to use WMD, which would wreck their hopes of gaining their political goals.

The counter-terrorism community remains sharply divided over the threat of terrorist WMD. Some take it very seriously; others, including Israel's Ehud Sprinzak, see it as 'overheated rhetoric' which is used to boost budgets and bureaucratic turf. At a conference of experts organized last year by the Center for Global Security Research at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratories, a key research base for the US nuclear weapons program, most took a balanced view.

"As a general prospect, an apocalyptic breakdown in the US or Europe should not be expected" argued Paul Schulte of Britain's Ministry of Defense. Others noted that the steady increase in computer hacking skills was ironically provoking the industry to build and improve its own defenses. But as Microsoft showed this week, when it called in the FBI to help deal with a serious hacker attack, even the biggest corporations can be vulnerable.

Part of the problem is that governments, even when they cooperate, can no longer assume that they have the technological edge. Electronic surveillance, which is a US and British specialty, has been challenged by widely available commercial encryption programs. The global computer networks makes it easier for the new, flexible networks like Bin Laden's al-Qaida, to communicate and organize without building a vulnerable central HQ.

"Their tradecraft and technical skills are good. Many volunteers come with technical training, typically in computer science or engineering", notes Steven Simon, a former official at the US National Security Council, currently with

High-tech infrastructures vulnerable to New Terrorism

the International Institute of Strategic Studies. He suggests the loose organization of groups like Al-Qaida "represents a challenge to traditional US intelligence resources and methods".

The best response is "to attack their logistical support", or as Michael Sheehan puts it "drain the swamps where they live". This means international cooperation. But Steven Simon goes further. The level of precaution that may be needed might have to match the level established in the past to face nuclear war.

"There will probably be attacks attempted on US soil. The US may not be able to deter such adversaries, given the religious passion driving their violent behavior", he maintains. "Renovation of a national civil defense program and the protection of critical infrastructure is therefore necessary."

Load-Date: October 31, 2000

End of Document

Sri Lankan rebels, government seek to avoid violence in ongoing peace effort

Associated Press International

November 25, 2002 Monday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 517 words

Byline: SHIMALI SENANAYAKE; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: OSLO, Norway

Body

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels pledged to try to avoid conflict after facing strong U.S. demands to renounce terrorism and violence as a key step in ending the 19-year war in the south Asian island nation.

The rebels and Sri Lankan government officials were at a meeting of 20 donor nations Monday, seeking economic and political support for a peace effort that has already brought a cease-fire and promising talks between both sides.

The one-day meeting adopted a declaration on the need for economic and political support for the peace process in a statement that marked the first time the rebels and the government made a joint declaration.

Between US\$60 million and US\$70 million was committed to Sri Lanka, with more money expected at a larger donors conference next year in Japan. Sri Lankan government sources said the United States pledged US\$6 million for child protection and rehabilitation, and US\$2.3 million for peace promotion and good government. Britain pledged US\$4.1 million.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told the nearly 100 delegates that **Tamil Tigers**, suspected of 160 bombings, will remain on America's terror list until they can prove the killing has stopped.

"We urge the Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam to ... make a public renunciation of terrorism and violence, to make it clear to the people of Sri Lanka and indeed the international community that the LTT has abandoned its armed struggle for a separate state," he said during the meeting.

Anton Balasingham, a key rebel leader, responded with the group's strongest promise yet to "avoid all possible conditions of conflict and pursue the path of peace."

The fighting between the Tigers and the government has claimed at least 64,500 lives.

Later, Balasingham questioned the U.S. demand, noting that the Tigers have stopped fighting.

"Both parties have been involved in an armed conflict and by signing a truce we solemnly pledged to a cease-fire," he told reporters. "This has been amply demonstrated."

Sri Lankan rebels, government seek to avoid violence in ongoing peace effort

The Tigers, complaining of discrimination against 3.2 million minority Tamils, have fought for an independent homeland since 1983, but are willing to accept autonomy within Sri Lanka, a nation of 18.6 million of mainly ethnic Sinhalese people.

Even though the Sri Lankan government has lifted its own ban on the Tigers, they are still listed as a terror group by the United States, India, Britain, Canada and Australia.

Both the Sri Lanka government and the Tigers, hoping for badly needed economic aid, assured delegates that they have no intention of resuming a war suspended by a Norwegian-brokered cease-fire in February and two rounds of peace talks to be held in Oslo next month.

Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said neither side would "give it all up to return to their own volition of the pain and trauma of war."

The conference came a day after the highest-level meeting yet between the government and the rebels, when Wickremesinghe had an hour long talk Balasingham in Oslo.

Both sides called for help in returning displaced persons, helping women and children and clearing anti-personnel mines.

Load-Date: November 26, 2002

End of Document

Mass murder not the Islamic way

The Australian

September 26, 2002, Thursday

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Section: FEATURES-TYPE- REVIEW-COLUMN- VIEW, THEMEDIA; Pg. B24

Length: 582 words

Byline: Nigel Wilson

Body

Cutting Edge: Human Bombers

8.30pm, SBS

IN a world that is still trying to get to grips with suicide martyrs who deliberately use innocent people to make a political point, this is a timely program.

Correctly, it should be called "Suicide Bombers" because the thesis is that the perpetrators of these acts are convinced they have no life on earth and therefore they are prepared to take their lives because they are promised something better in the hereafter. It's a nonsense, if only because this program is essentially a thinly veiled rationale for suicide bombings in Israel.

MATP

Yes, it does look at other human bombers -- the *Tamil Tigers* of Sri Lanka, for instance, with their horrendous attacks on their fellow countrymen. But references to IRA hunger strikers of the 1980s or the Kamikaze pilots of World War II don't disguise the fact that this program is essentially about Islamic suicide bombers and more particularly the increasing bombing campaign in Israel.

Looking back nearly 20 years to the Iraq/Iran war, it is hard to remember that Iran's leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, encouraged children as young as 12 to give up their lives so that professional soldiers could be saved to fight again. He and his followers did this by brainwashing the children, presumably with the support of the children's parents, that there was a higher calling than living on earth.

The justification was, of course, that Iran's military needs outweighed the moral issue of children being co-opted as active participants in armed conflict.

The idea of anyone, never mind young children, being used to detonate minefields can scarcely be contemplated by civilised people yet Iranians would claim to be one of the most sophisticated and cultivated societies in human history.

This program explores and, thankfully, rejects the argument that some of its participants put -- that suicide and murder are justified in the Islamic faith.

Mass murder not the Islamic way

In Islam, scholars tell us, suicide is forbidden. The taking of life is allowed only by way of justice (for instance, the death penalty for murder), but forgiveness is better.

In pre-Islamic Arabia, retaliation and mass murder were commonplace. If someone was killed, the victim's tribe would retaliate against the murderer's entire tribe. This practice was forbidden in the Koran.

The Koran admonishes those who oppress others and transgress beyond the bounds of what is right and just. Harming innocent bystanders, even in times of war, was forbidden by the Prophet Mohammed. This includes women, children, non-combatant bystanders, and even trees and crops. Nothing is to be harmed unless the person or thing is actively engaged in an assault against Muslims.

This program acknowledges that in the Palestinian territories, those who support suicide bombings claim it is merely a tactic of war in defence of their land and homes, and it makes a point that was often used to explain the terror in Northern Ireland -- the young have grown up with terror and therefore see no other way out.

Living under siege, and without the superior weaponry of their opponent, some Palestinians see human bombings as martyrdom, not suicide.

What this program does not highlight is that Muslims around the world condemn attacks against innocent civilians, while recognising the Palestinians' right to continue their struggle against occupation.

This is not a program to contemplate straight after dinner, but it does challenge some of the more simplistic views of the Middle East situation.

Load-Date: September 25, 2002

End of Document

English rugby league officials attempt to salvage Australian tour

Associated Press International

October 10, 2001 Wednesday

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Section: SPORTS

Length: 519 words

Dateline: LONDON

Body

English rugby league officials Wednesday attempted to persuade Australia to reconsider pulling out of its tour of England.

Australian players, who were to tour England for the first time in seven years, voted not to travel Tuesday because of safety fears in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and the subsequent bombing in Afghanistan.

English rugby league director Greg McCallum said he would write to Australian Rugby League chief executive Geoff Carr and chairman Colin Love proposing to scrap the four club games and only play the three tests.

"I'm appealing for them to consider the wider views," McCallum said. "They said it's all or nothing but I'm asking them to reconsider the impact. I think they'll wake up in Australia in the morning with a bloody nose.

"I'm not criticizing the decision. I know there are significant emotional circumstances involved. I'm asking them to consider the impact of the decision. There are widespread implications of this decision that affect men, women and children here."

The Australian team was scheduled to leave Saturday, with the first test scheduled for Nov. 3 in Huddersfield, England.

The cancelation could spell financial disaster for the British Rugby Football League, already saddled with about dlrs 1.5 million in debts from last year's World Cup. Officials had expected the series to produce a 1 million pounds (dlrs 1.4 million) windfall.

"Some of the implications are very serious for both the Rugby Football League and the international game," League chairman Sir Rodney Walker said.

"I do hope that the Australian game as a whole is fully aware of the impact this decision will have on the game outside their country.

"While we can understand to an extent their players' concern about the world situation, we have sought to assure them that life in Britain is carrying on normally and that the security situation both here in the UK and the rest of Europe is stable."

English rugby league officials attempt to salvage Australian tour

McCallum said Britain's match against France in Agen on Oct. 26 would go ahead as would the England Under 21 tour to South Africa next month.

"None of our players have indicated that they have a concern with traveling or anything," McCallum said. "It's business as usual."

The decision to pull out was criticized by respected newspaper The Times.

"The Australians are building up quite a history of ducking out of their obligations at the first hint of trouble," it said.

"Their cricket team failed to play in their matches in Sri Lanka in the 1996 World Cup because the **Tamil Tigers** had been getting a bit active."

It said Australia and the United States tended to see the world outside as a benighted wilderness: "here be dragons, here be savages, here be bad plumbing."

"The least appealing thing about both countries is their shared feeling that everything offshore is likely to be unpleasant, dangerous and second-rate," it said.

"We don't really want sport in times of trauma - in the weeks after September 11, for example. But in times of mere trouble, sport cheers us all up, gives us something trivial to worry about and get pleased about and get disappointed about."

Load-Date: October 11, 2001

End of Document

Letters

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

August 14, 1998, Friday

Copyright 1998 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: OPINION/ESSAYS; READERS WRITE; Pg. 16

Length: 661 words

Byline: Dr. Sri M. Sri-Jayantha, Christina Mann, Florence Klem, and Dave Russell

Body

Propaganda and the War in Sri Lanka

The article "War in Sri Lanka Feeds on Itself" (Aug. 12) on the Sri Lanka conflict is an excellent summary. I know the ground-level situation through many visitors from Jaffna and Batticalloa, Sri Lanka, and for the first time I am able to read an article in the press with some respect. So far the propaganda by the Sri Lankan government military machine has been so overwhelming that even the basic facts about the Tamil conflict have not been brought to the surface. The article tactfully and effectively brings out the core issues of the conflict without painting a simplistic picture that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are terrorists.

All self-respecting Tamils admire and bless LTTE. Singhalese leaders do not enjoy even an iota of trust among Tamils any more. Pacification of Jaffna Tamils will be seen in the future as a temporary drama. Forty years of deception against Tamils cannot be mended by a few strokes of economic tricks. Tamils want to be free as much as Americans wanted to be free from the British.

Dr. Sri M. Sri-Jayantha

Ossining, N.Y.

General Secretary for the Association of Sri Lankan Tamil in USA.

Teach abstinence

"Against Abortion? Family Planning Can Stop It" (Aug. 4) lacks important information:

(1) Access to contraceptives and sex education has not kept our teenagers healthy. Most teens lack the maturity to use contraceptives correctly and consistently. (2) Many resources now exist to assist pregnant teens to carry their babies to term, continue their education, and avoid abortion. (3) Women like Aunt Ruby have a birth-control alternative which is as effective as the pill: the sympto-thermal method. (4) Pro-life members of Congress who

Letters

support a bill to stop drug plans from refusing to cover contraceptives would have a difficult time explaining their position, given that such a bill would force drug plans to subsidize the cost of the pill, which is an abortifacient.

It is possible to provide a comprehensive sex-education program that includes the risks and benefits of all the contraceptive methods while still emphasizing and encouraging the only choice that keeps our teens healthy: abstinence. Abstinence education is not about "punishing Louise," and is very much about helping her avoid sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy.

Christina Mann

Olympia, Wash.

Sparing a quarter

I just read "Can you Spare a Quarter?" (Aug. 7), and it took me back many years to the day I was waiting for a bus in Newark, N.J., when a poor, old bum approached the group I was in and asked for a quarter for a cup of coffee. I tried to look away but he approached me and I was forced to look into his face. So I gave him a quarter and was immediately berated by my companion for encouraging him.

But I was going home to a warm house and a cooked meal, and if a quarter could buy a bit of comfort, I couldn't deny it. Besides, what about our daily lessons on helping the poor. I still feel sorry for a wasted life and hope there is redemption.

Florence Klem

Whiting, N.J.

Spoiling the romantic mood

I'm truly sorry to destroy your romantic mood about Home Depot in "Soft Lights and Hardware" (Aug. 12), but I just couldn't let one thing pass. The TriSodiumPhosphate you went shopping for was a phony. TSP, or what they are calling TSP, is not really TSP. The problem is that the phosphate had to be removed years ago when everyone joined in the phosphate ban. The result: TSP is now probably a sodium silicate compound plus some small quantity of detergents.

Sorry to spoil the romantic mood.

Dave Russell

Lilburn, Ga.

The Monitor welcomes your letters and opinion articles. Because of the volume of mail, only a selection can be published, and we can neither acknowledge nor return unpublished submissions. Mail letters to 'Readers Write,' and opinion articles to Opinion Page, One Norway St., Boston, MA 02115, or fax to 617-450-2317, or e-mail to oped@csps.com

Load-Date: August 18, 1998

Letters

End of Document

Sri Lanka extends emergency rule, detains 19 in bombing

The Associated Press

June 8, 2000, Thursday, AM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 569 words

Byline: By LAURINDA KEYS, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

Police detained 19 men Thursday in a suicide bombing that killed 23 people, and Sri Lanka extended nationwide emergency rule for a month and placed more soldiers at checkpoints in its jittery capital.

The bomber with explosives strapped to his body chose Sri Lanka's first War Heroes Day to strike, killing himself, Industrial Development Minister Clement V. Gooneratne, his wife and 20 others in Ratmalana, an industrial suburb on Wednesday.

No one has claimed responsibility, but the government blamed the bombing on separatist rebels fighting for a homeland for the Tamil minority. Mobs on Wednesday threw stones at Tamil-owned shops in Ratmalana.

Parliament members extended nationwide emergency rule for another month, then adjourned 45 minutes early to rush home in their cars before heavy evening traffic posed more security risks in the capital, Colombo.

Emergency rule gives police and soldiers wide powers to detain people, seize property and shut down newspapers.

More reinforcements, wearing green capes against the monsoon rains, appeared at bunkers and checkpoints Thursday to increase security in Colombo.

Police detained 19 men as suspected accomplices.

Four of the men were seized in a cafe near the bomb site and 15 were taken at dawn from apartments and houses in the same area, police said.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who lost an eye during a December assassination attempt, appealed for calm and asked people not to retaliate.

She said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the rebels' formal name, were trying to "inflame communal passions by provoking the people."

"I appeal to all Sri Lankans to consider this earnestly and act with patience to maintain peace at this hour," Kumaratunga said.

Half of the 60 injured people admitted for treatment in the bombing remained hospitalized, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena said.

Sri Lanka extends emergency rule, detains 19 in bombing

The death toll rose to 23 Thursday when Gooneratne's wife, Shyama, died from injuries suffered in the bombing.

Police said the bomber was a man, although in the past women have cut their hair and posed as men in suicide bombings. Public officials are barred from providing information to the press under a strict code of conduct imposed in February.

The rebels have a suicide unit, the Black Tigers, known for targeting government officials and politicians.

Suicide bombers have assassinated several high-ranking politicians, including President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993 and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

The Tamil Tigers denied they killed Gandhi and have never commented on Premadasa's death.

War Heroes Day, on which the bomber chose to act, was declared to raise war funds and boost the morale of 40,000 troops holding off a rebel assault on the northern city of Jaffna.

The government Information Department said Thursday that eight rebels had been killed and five wounded Wednesday when the army shelled a rebel vehicle after a mortar exchange, and attacked a guerrilla bunker in the Jaffna Peninsula battle zone.

On Thursday, a police officer in Vavuniya, the last government stronghold before Jaffna, said a remote-controlled Claymore mine exploded on the town's outskirts, killing three members of a civilian security patrol and wounding four.

The rebels have been fighting since 1983 to establish a homeland in the north and east of the island nation for the country's 3.2 million Tamils, accusing the Sinhalese majority of discrimination in education and jobs.

Graphic

AP Photos COL101

Load-Date: June 9, 2000

**BLAST IN SRI LANKA KILLS 21 AND BOMBER A CABINET MINISTER WAS
AMONG THE DEAD AS THE NATION CELEBRATED ITS WAR HEROES. NO
ONE HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JUNE 8, 2000 Thursday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A06

Length: 466 words

Byline: Laurinda Keys, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Body

A suicide bomber shattered Sri Lanka's War Heroes Day, killing a cabinet minister and 20 other people yesterday during a fund-raiser for the families of slain soldiers.

Minister for Industrial Development C.V. Gooneratne was slain as he walked among supporters in his parliamentary district in Ratmalana, an industrial suburb of the capital, Colombo.

Gooneratne and 20 other people were killed along with the bomber, said the director of Kalubowila Hospital, Dr. W.G. Gunawardena. The doctor said that the minister's wife was among seven people seriously injured and that 53 other people were treated at the hospital.

There was no claim of responsibility for the bombing. But it was similar to past attacks by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which has been fighting for 17 years to create a separate homeland for minority Tamils.

The rebels have a suicide unit, the Black Tigers, that is known for targeting government officials and politicians.

A government statement said the bomber's motive was to mar "a day that was specially meant to pay tribute to the war heroes battling to maintain the . . . territorial integrity of the nation." War Heroes Day was declared to boost the morale of the 40,000 troops fighting the rebels in northern Jaffna peninsula.

Before the bombing, all traffic in the capital stopped and people were told to observe two minutes of silence as President Chandrika Kumaratunga said in a televised speech: "This is the most sacred moment for the nation."

After the bombing, mobs began attacking homes in Ratmalana belonging to minority Tamils, a government official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

BLAST IN SRI LANKA KILLS 21 AND BOMBER A CABINET MINISTER WAS AMONG THE DEAD AS THE NATION CELEBRATED ITS WAR HEROES. NO ONE HAS TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY.

The government imposed a curfew on the bombed neighborhood and two adjacent suburbs. The army's rapid-deployment force surrounded a low-cost housing area in the neighborhood and searched for suspects, a member of the force said.

A survivor said the bomber had hopped out of a taxi and greeted the minister before detonating the bomb in an intersection.

G.A. Yohan, another survivor who had an injured arm and was having trouble hearing, said: "I was walking beside the minister's entourage when the explosion took place. All I remember is falling on the ground."

Police dragged one man from the scene. Later, officers said he was being investigated.

About half of the Tamil rebels are believed to be women, many recruited as children, and women are often suicide bombers.

The gender of the bomber could not immediately be determined. The disfigured head had close-cropped hair like a man, and there were trousers on the body.

The Tamil Tigers, outlawed in the United States, Sri Lanka and India, have been fighting since 1983 to create a homeland for the 3.2 million Tamils, who make up about 18 percent of the 18.6 million population. The war has left 62,000 people dead.

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO

C.V. Gooneratne (right), Sri Lanka's minister for industrial development, attends a ceremony marking the first-ever War Heroes Day in Colombo, the capital. Later yesterday, he and others were killed in a bombing. (GEMUNU AMARASINGHE, Associated Press)

Load-Date: February 4, 2002

AP Photos COL102,3

Associated Press International

November 09, 1999; Tuesday 03:58 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 534 words

Byline: DILSHIKA JAYAMAHA

Dateline: VAVUNIYA, Sri Lanka

Body

Sri Lankan troops have lost significant ground and thousands of villagers have fled their homes, the president admitted Tuesday, as the military and separatist rebels fought a fierce artillery duel along the northern front.

With the army facing its worst rout in a 16-year civil war, President Chandrika Kumaratunga made her first public statement since the rebels began an assault a week ago that dislodged the army from territory it took months to capture at huge cost.

The president said the fighting "has resulted in the loss of control by the army of some areas in Wanni district."

She said: "Approximately 4,000 civilians are reportedly displaced as a result of these confrontations. I have directed the relevant authorities to provide all welfare facilities to the displaced."

About 2,500 refugees from the battlezone were being put up in classrooms near the town of Weli Oya, a few kilometers (miles) from the northeastern warfront. Many refugees complained that they had little to eat, and denounced the government, saying it should have ended the war long ago.

"Tell the president to come and see our plight," said B. G. Senehewathie, surrounded by dozens of other **female** refugees who wept and shouted complaints. "The president has been saying she would provide a solution and has been saying so for so many years, but nothing has happened."

In her statement, Kumaratunga said she had ordered a shakeup of commanders and an inquiry into the setbacks.

The president, who has called an early election scheduled for next month, put the military casualties at 101 dead and 743 wounded, and dismissed reports of what she called "grossly exaggerated" figures. The rebels lost more than 150 troops, she said in the statement.

The government imposed censorship on the local media last week. Before the fighting began, Kumaratunga announced presidential elections would be held next month, nearly a year ahead of schedule.

Tamil Tiger rebels claim to have killed 1,000 troops in the fighting, and said they cremated more than 400 bodies found in the towns and army bases they overran last week.

On the northern front, the army and rebels continued to exchange artillery and mortar fire outside the strategic garrison of Vavuniya, 210 kilometers (130 miles) north of the capital, Colombo, and the northeastern town of Weli Oya, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of Vavuniya.

In fighting around Weli Oya, five rebels and two civilians were killed, police officer G. Dharmadasa said. The **Tamil Tigers** were just a few kilometers (miles) away but the military would not budge, he said.

Streams of trucks rushed reinforcements to the front at Omanthai, 15 kilometers (10 miles) north of Vavuniya, where the army had dug in, determined to halt the rebels' thrust south.

Driving toward the battle in an open-bed truck with about 40 other soldiers, Sgt. A. Udayakumar insisted the army would hold its ground. "We are not retreating, we're trying to build new defenses," he said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils since 1983, saying they face discrimination from the Sinhalese majority. More than 58,000

people have been killed in the conflict.

Load-Date: November 9, 1999

Wounded President wants answers

The Australian

December 20, 1999, Monday

Copyright 1999 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 7

Length: 527 words

Byline: IAN MacKINNON * Colombo

Body

SRI Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga last night ordered a top-level inquiry into the security lapse that saw her narrowly escape an assassination bid by a woman suicide bomber.

Ms Kumaratunga was recovering in hospital after undergoing surgery to injuries sustained in the blast at her final presidential election campaign rally on Saturday night.

The bombing left 21 people dead, including the bomber who was believed to be a member of the Tamil Tiger rebel group.

Media and Telecommunications Minister Mangala Samaraweera said the President had appointed a three-member panel of senior police officers to probe the breach in security measures that had been devised to prevent such an attack.

The panel was told to provide a report within four days.

Stringent security measures were imposed across the capital yesterday after the bombing.

A second blast, also detonated by a **female** suicide bomber within minutes of the first explosion on Saturday night, killed 12 people and injured 45 more at a rally in support of the President's key rival, Ranil Wickremasinghe.

While no group claimed responsibility for the blasts, few doubted they were the work of the **Tamil Tigers** who have waged a bloody 16-year separatist war in the north of the island and regard President Kumaratunga as their biggest target. In the early hours of yesterday morning, the President's spokesman went on state-run television to explain she remained in hospital with minor injuries and had appealed to her countrymen to remain calm.

However, a curfew was imposed throughout the night across Colombo after the attempt on her life at 9.20pm on Saturday. Police and army road-blocks curtailed movement and armoured cars cruised the streets as a senior army officer warned of further attacks in the days ahead.

There was no suggestion yesterday that voting among the country's 11.5 million electorate in tomorrow's snap presidential poll would be delayed by the blasts which may earn the President a sympathy vote.

Ms Kumaratunga had just left the stage after delivering an hour-long address to 3000 followers who had waited for hours in a monsoon downpour in the grounds of Colombo's town hall.

Wounded President wants answers

As she prepared to get into her armoured Mercedes limousine parked near the stage, the bomber, who somehow evaded the high security, began to scale railings more than 20m from the dais. Police believe she was wearing a jacket packed with explosives which were detonated when she was 10m from the car. Ms Kumaratunga fell to the ground, but was saved when the car between her and the bomber took the force of the blast.

Colombo's police deputy inspector-general was caught by shrapnel and died, while three government ministers -- Alavi Mowlana, professor Gamini Peiris and Kingsley Wickremeratna -- were being treated in intensive care.

Lake Kodituwakku, Colombo's police chief, inspected the grim aftermath but was unable to explain the security lapse. "There was a huge security presence (but) it was raining (and) in the night it is difficult for security persons."

A similar breakdown in security allowed a suicide bomber to claim the life of then president Premadasa Ranasinghe in May 1993.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

36 villagers reported dead in rebel attack in northern Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 26, 1995, Thursday, BC Cycle 13:38 Central European Time

Copyright 1995 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: International News

Length: 258 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

Tamil separatist attacked a village in north central Sri Lanka before dawn Thursday, killing 36 civilians in an apparent effort to divert the security forces, military officials said.

A military spokesman, Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, said in Colombo that by noon 23 bodies had been recovered, including those of women and children.

The attack by rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) took place in the north central Anuradhapura district, which borders the northern and eastern provinces.

The village was only lightly guarded by a paramilitary unit assisted by police.

The attack was the fifth by rebels since last Saturday, since when a total of 86 civilians, almost all belonging to the majority Sinhala community, have been killed.

The rebels are reported have been placed under heavy pressure from the Lankan security forces who are continuing a major offensive in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The military claims to have killed more than 500 rebels and wounded over 1,500 others in the offensive which entered its 10th day on Thursday. The military has lost 127 soldiers.

Munasinghe said rebels have also executed 29 Tamil civilians over the past few days in the northern part of the country for alleged links with the security forces. But there has been no independent confirmation.

A Colombo-based western diplomat who wanted to remain anonymous said that the rebels could even step up their attacks in Colombo in an effort to divert the efforts of the security forces from the north. dpa ad ur

Load-Date: October 27, 1995

--International NewsWatch--

Broadcast News (BN)

July 4, 1996 Thursday

Copyright 1996 Press News Limited, All Rights Reserved

Section: GENERAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

Length: 574 words

Body

(Netanyahu-Sharon) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has found a cabinet post for former general Ariel Sharon.

Netanyahu is going to ask the cabinet tomorrow to create a new ministry of infrastructure for Sharon, thereby heading off a possible political crisis.

Foreign Minister David Levy publicly threatened to quit unless a post was found for Sharon before Netanyahu's trip to the U-S on July 9th.

Sharon was the architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon and a Jewish settlement boom in occupied land in the early 1990's. (Reuter) (Suicide Bomber)

A suicide bomber killed at least 21 people in Sri Lanka today.

The defence ministry says a woman suicide bomber belonging to the **Tamil Tigers** blew herself up, killing troops and civilians in the island's war-torn north.

The explosion wounded 50 others, including Sri Lanka's housing minister, who suffered minor injuries.

The minister (Nimal Siripala de Silva) was visiting the area to assess war reconstruction needs. (Reuter) (Becket-Remains)

A 12th-century reliquary believed to have held the remains of St. Thomas Becket was sold today for the equivalent of 8.2-million dollars.

That's almost three times its estimated value.

Sotheby's had expected the blue-enamelled copper casket, made in Limoges, France, would sell for 3.1-million dollars.

London's Victoria and Albert Museum tried to buy the piece, but lost out to an unidentified bidder.

Becket was archbishop of Canterbury when was murdered in his cathedral in 1170. (AP,Reuter) (Family Massacre)

A family of 11 was massacred today in northern Pakistan.

The family, including four **women** and three children, was killed outside the town of Faisalabad.

--International NewsWatch--

Police are investigating whether the family was involved in a feud.

Faisalabad is 260 kilometres south of Islamabad, the capital. (AP) (Iran-Poisoning)

About 400 students at an Iranian university got sick after eating dinner at the cafeteria.

More than 300 of the students at Tehran University's Water and Electricity College were taken to hospital suffering from fever and muscle aches.

A University official says it's believed the students were poisoned by sausages served at the school cafeteria Monday.

About 30 students were treated in hospital for severe poisoning. (Reuter) (Australia-Euthanasia)

A cancer-stricken Australian man is threatening to starve himself to death if he loses his bid to commit suicide.

Dr. Philip Nitschke says his patient, 65-year-old Max Bell, is just days away from death and wants to end his pain as soon as possible.

Bell wants to die using the world's first voluntary euthanasia law, which came into force in Australia's Northern Territory Monday.

Bell is being blocked by the lack of approval from any local cancer specialist in Darwin.

Each assisted suicide application must be approved by two doctors and a psychiatrist. (Reuter) (Panda Loan)

China will lend a pair of its giant pandas to the San Diego Zoo for a breeding research program.

Beijing has approved an application by the China Wildlife Conservation Association to send the pair on a long-term reproduction research program to the U-S.

China has also agreed to a request from the United States to allow the pandas to visit Atlanta for three months on their way to San Diego.

It's not yet clear whether the giant pandas will arrive in Atlanta in time for the summer Olympic Games.

About one-thousand giant pandas survive in the wild in China. (Reuter) ---

(International NewsWatch by Jim MacDonald)

Load-Date: October 4, 2002

Letters

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

August 13, 1998, Thursday

Copyright 1998 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: OPINION/ESSAYS; READERS WRITE; Pg. 16

Length: 661 words

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Letters

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I'm truly sorry to destroy your romantic mood about Home Depot in "Soft Lights and Hardware" (Aug. 12), but I just couldn't let one thing pass. The TriSodiumPhosphate you went shopping for was a phony. TSP, or what they are calling TSP, is not really TSP. The problem is that the phosphate had to be removed years ago when everyone joined in the phosphate ban. The result: TSP is now probably a sodium silicate compound plus some small quantity of detergents.

Sorry to spoil the romantic mood.

Dave Russell

Lilburn, Ga.

The Monitor welcomes your letters and opinion articles. Because of the volume of mail, only a selection can be published, and we can neither acknowledge nor return unpublished submissions. Mail letters to 'Readers Write,' and opinion articles to Opinion Page, One Norway St., Boston, MA 02115, or fax to 617-450-2317, or e-mail to oped@csps.com

Load-Date: August 13, 1998

Letters

End of Document

Tamil Tigers look for an exit strategy from jungle hide-outs: Leader is hopeful of having peace talks, write Edward Luce and Amal Jayasinghe:

Financial Times (London, England)

April 11, 2002 Thursday

London Edition 3

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Section: BACK PAGE - FIRST SECTION ; Pg. 20

Length: 823 words

Byline: By AMAL JAYASINGHE and EDWARD LUCE

Body

A heavily fortified hide-out in the jungles of Sri Lanka yesterday provided the setting for a step towards ending a bitter civil war that has cost more than 64,000 lives.

Velupillai Prabhakaran, the elusive leader of the Tamil Tiger separatist movement, said he was willing to give up arms to gain autonomy within Sri Lanka.

The ***Tamil Tigers*** have conducted a campaign since 1983 for a separate homeland for the Tamils in the island nation of 18.2m off the southern coast of India, who complain of domination by the Sinhalese majority.

Speaking from his hide-out inside Tiger-controlled territory, Mr Prabhakaran took questions for about two hours from about 300 journalists.

Despite a willingness to communicate his desire for a peaceful solution to a war that has torn Sri Lanka apart, Mr Prabhakaran was clearly nervous of assassination attempts. The leader, much feared by some of his enemies, is probably the world's leading pioneer of suicide terrorist bombing.

Journalists who undertook the 12-hour journey through rugged jungle terrain to attend the press conference were asked to come 24 hours early and were subjected to extensive body searches. The security checks, carried out by male and ***female*** Tiger guerrilla fighters took more than eight hours. Few journalists recalled having had their toes or inner ears frisked before.

"Unfortunately the Sri Lankan government has in the past used deep penetration (commando) groups to assassinate dozens of senior Tiger leaders," Mr Prabhakaran told journalists. "It (the tight security) does not indicate an authoritarian system."

Mr Prabhakaran, who instructs his 10,000 "cadres" to wear cyanide capsules around their necks, arrived at the secret location flanked by dozens of heavily armed Tigers.

Eight bodyguards sporting identikit moustaches and wearing dark glasses stood around the Tamil leader throughout the two-hour press conference. Seated next to Anton Balasingham, the London senior "theoretician" of the ***LTTE*** (the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam), Mr Prabhakaran answered questions in Tamil.

Tamil Tigers look for an exit strategy from jungle hide-outs: Leader is hopeful of having peace talks, write Edward Luce and Amal Jayasinghe:

The main thrust of his message was clear. "We are seriously and sincerely committed to peace," he said. "It is because we are serious that we called a unilateral ceasefire four months ago."

With the assistance of Mr Balasingham, the 47-year-old high school drop-out and widely admired military commander set out the broad outline of a possible political settlement to the conflict.

Under the terms of a ceasefire agreed between the government and LTTE last month, the two sides will hold "talks about talks" in Thailand next month. "With mediation by the Norwegian government, I believe this process will succeed this time," said Mr Prabhakaran.

But he stressed there would be no talks unless the government lifted a ban on his group, which has been declared a terrorist organisation in six countries, including the US. The preliminary talks could result in an interim council to administer the majority Tamil areas in north and east Sri Lanka pending a permanent solution to the conflict.

De-proscription of the LTTE is an essential condition for holding talks," he said.

The Tamil leader also said talks would not proceed far unless Colombo recognised the Tamils' right to self-determination. This, he implied, could fall short of full independence.

The civil war, launched by Mr Prabhakaran after the massacre of hundreds of Tamils by the Sinhalese in 1983, has revolved around the LTTE's demand for "Tiger Eelam", or the creation of an independent Tamil state. Yet, despite his military successes against the Sri Lankan army, Mr Prabhakaran's guerrilla forces have been unable to dislodge troops from significant Tamil towns. Jaffna, probably the most important Tamil town, was captured by the Tigers in 1990 but lost to government forces in 1995.

Yesterday, the Tiger leader said Norway's mediation effort - Norwegian officials will be chairing the Bangkok talks - was among new factors that made prospects for peace talks more positive this time. The LTTE had strong confidence in the "sincerity" of Ranil Wickremesinghe, whose party gained power last December on a pro-peace mandate.

But in this jungle outpost, it seemed unlikely Mr Prabhakaran - with his separatist philosophy - could easily reach a negotiated settlement with people against whom he has sent suicide bombers.

When asked if he would be prepared to show good faith by instructing Tiger soldiers to remove their cyanide capsules, Mr Prabhakaran looked flummoxed. "When a political settlement has been reached we will consider removing the cyanide capsules," he said. "We are not a terrorist organisation, we are a liberation movement."

Mr Prabhakaran's appearance yesterday was hailed as a big step towards possible peace. But observers said it might take a lot more for the Tamil leader, who is surrounded by adoring supporters many of whom worship him as a demi-god, to be coaxed out of the jungle.

Load-Date: April 10, 2002

Defense case in landmark sexual enslavement trial gets off to rocky start

Associated Press International

July 4, 2000; Tuesday

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Section: International news

Length: 1999 words

Byline: JEROME SOCOLOVSKY

Dateline: THE HAGUE, Netherlands

Body

After months of testimony by sobbing Muslim women who fingered three Bosnian Serb fighters as their rapists, defense lawyers Tuesday admitted to an international judicial tribunal that rapes took place but denied their clients were guilty of war crimes.

The attorneys opened the defense case before the U.N. criminal court without directly addressing the allegations that Dragoljub Kunarac, Radomir Kovac and Zoran Vukovic participated in gang rapes and beatings of Muslim women as young as 12 years old.

But they denied the assaults against dozens of female detainees in the southeastern Bosnian city of Foca at the outset of the 1992-95 ethnic war entailed anything more than isolated incidents.

"Even though there were serious crimes, we cannot call them atrocities," said Kovac's lawyer, Momir Kolesar. He said evidence would be presented to show the assaults "cannot be considered an all-embracing and systematic case of rape."

Prosecutors are trying to prove that the women were victims of a systematic sexual assault as part of an "ethnic cleansing" campaign aimed at intimidating the Muslim population into fleeing areas conquered by Serb forces.

Sixteen rape victims have testified since the trial began on March 20. It is the first case of wartime sexual enslavement before an international court.

The defendants, former paramilitary fighters, are charged 32 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity including charges of rape, torture, enslavement and outrages upon personal dignity. On Monday, the court rejected a defense motion to have the torture charges dismissed.

Tuesday's session got off to a rocky start when judges repeatedly scolded defense attorneys for trying to turn the proceeding into a Balkan history lesson.

Australian Judge David Hunt's anger peaked when Kunarac's lawyer Mara Pilipovic ignored his reminders that the tribunal's jurisdiction begins with the disintegration of Yugoslavia in 1991 and sought to begin her presentation Slav settlement of the Foca region in 1363.

"We are not concerned with what happened in the 14th century!" Hunt exclaimed. "Do you understand?"

Defense case in landmark sexual enslavement trial gets off to rocky start

After tempers cooled, lawyers described their clients as ordinary soldiers who had been maligned by the prosecution.

"Zoran Vukovic is not the kind of man that the prosecution has painted him to be," said his counsel, Goran Jovanovic.

Kunarac, also charged with commanding troops who raped women, took the witness stand and insisted he was just a volunteer fighter.

His title of lance corporal was given to him informally, he said, because of his training as a Yugoslav army mine expert. He denied he possessed anything more than operational control of units of fewer than 10 men.

"I was a rank-and-file soldier like all the other soldiers," Kunarac testified. "It was on the basis of my expert knowledge that I gained the so-called rank of lance corporal. I had no command authority."

(js)

Just three days after Sri Lanka's Supreme Court ordered the government to halt censorship of the news media, the government reimposed the restrictions on war reporting, aiming to maintain control of news about its war with Tamil separatists.

The government reimposed censorship Tuesday on both the local media and Colombo-based foreign journalists. Any news that could be detrimental to national security or the preservation of public order and the maintenance of essential services would be covered under the new restrictions, said Ariya Rubasinghe, the government spokesman and chief censor.

"We have reimposed some restrictions again, as we felt that in the interest of the nation, there should be some restrictions on news reporting," Rubasinghe said. "News that will affect our war efforts against terrorists will be censored. About other news, we leave it to journalists to use their own discretion about what to write."

President Chandrika Kumaratunga invoked an emergency decree to impose the new restrictions.

The Supreme Court's ruling against censorship on Friday boiled down to a procedural misstep by the government. The court ruled that the media censorship imposed by the government in May was illegal because parliament didn't approve the chief censor's appointment.

The government is expected to seek parliamentary approval of Rubasinghe's appointment within a week.

The media restrictions were first imposed as security forces suffered losses on the battlefield against the Tamil Tiger rebels, who have been fighting for an independent homeland for the minority Tamils since 1983.

The government has shut down three newspapers for publishing war-related stories without showing them to the chief censor. But the Supreme Court ordered the reopening of the newspapers. Two of them reappeared on the news stands over the weekend.

Since 1983, more than 62,000 people have been killed in the island nation's civil war.

The Tamils accuse the majority Sinhalese of widespread discrimination in education and jobs. The Sinhalese control the government and the military.

Government troops shot and killed 12 Tamil Tigers rebels in the north and repulsed a guerrilla attack on an army camp in the east, the government said Tuesday.

The soldiers attacked four Tamil Tiger bases on Monday near Jaffna, a city which the rebels have been trying to retake in a major offensive launched in May, government spokesman Ariya Rubasinghe said.

Twelve guerrillas were killed and three soldiers were wounded in the fighting, Rubasinghe said.

Defense case in landmark sexual enslavement trial gets off to rocky start

In the east, the troops repulsed a rebel attack on an army camp. One government soldier was killed in the assault, Rubasinghe said.

The rebels are fighting for a separate homeland for the country's minority Tamils who comprise 3.2 million of Sri Lanka's 18.6 million people.

The Tamils accuse the majority Sinhalese of widespread discrimination in education and jobs. The Sinhalese control the government and the military.

More than 62,000 people have been killed in the fighting since 1983.

Meanwhile, Pakistan assured Sri Lanka of continuing support to combat the guerrillas, the state-run Daily News said Tuesday.

Pakistan has supplied multibarrel rocket launchers to the Sri Lankan army that greatly helped in stopping a Tamil rebel assault on Jaffna.

"We will continue to support Sri Lanka," the newspaper quoted Pakistani military ruler General Pervez Musharraf as saying.

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Meanwhile, police went on a high security alert Tuesday as they suspected at least 25 Tamil Tiger rebels had entered the Sri Lankan capital on suicide bombing missions.

Police expect the guerrillas could strike on Wednesday the 13th anniversary of the day a guerrilla drove an explosive-packed truck into an army camp and killed 39 soldiers.

Police believe at least 25 suicide bombers, including 10 women, have already arrived in the Sri Lankan capital, a police officer said on condition of anonymity. Police information was based on questioning of several people arrested in the north, the main theater of the 17-year-old civil war.

In the latest bomb attack in the Sri Lankan capital, Industrial Development Minister C. V. Gooneratne was assassinated last month during a public parade.

Just three days after Sri Lanka's Supreme Court ordered the government to halt censorship of the news media, the government reimposed the restrictions on war reporting, aiming to maintain control of news about its war with Tamil separatists.

Defense case in landmark sexual enslavement trial gets off to rocky start

President Chandrika Kumaratunga invoked an emergency decree empowering the chief censor to block any organization from reporting news that could affect Sri Lanka's sovereignty and national integrity.

"We have reimposed some restrictions again as we felt that in the interest of the nation there should be some restrictions on news reporting," government spokesman and chief censor Ariya Rubasinghe told The Associated Press.

On Friday, the Supreme Court ruled that censorship measures imposed in May were illegal since parliament has not approved Rubasinghe's appointment. The government is expected to seek parliamentary approval for Rubasinghe's appointment within a week.

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On Tuesday, government troops attacked and destroyed a rebel bunker in the northern Jaffna peninsula, killing at least 23 militants, said the government spokesman.

The operation was launched in the Nagarkovil area, about 35 kilometers (21 miles) northeast of Jaffna city. Soldiers recovered the bodies of 23 guerrillas, said government spokesman Rubasinghe. On the government side, two soldiers were killed and 37 wounded.

The report followed another attack by troops on four Tamil Tiger bases near Jaffna city on Monday, in which 12 guerrillas were killed and three soldiers were wounded. Also Monday, soldiers in the east repulsed a guerrilla attack on their army camp. One soldier was killed in the assault.

The army offensives follow a lull in fighting. The rebels have in recent weeks closed in on Jaffna city, their former capital, in a series of assaults.

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Load-Date: July 4, 2000

End of Document

EDITORS:

Associated Press Worldstream

November 13, 1994; Sunday 06:03 Eastern Time

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Section: International news

Length: 594 words

Body

These are among the top news stories at present from The Associated Press. Story movement times are approximate and may be affected by computer routing conditions in individual areas. Stories carry "i" category code, or "f" category code for financial topics.

The Associated Press World Service editors in charge in New York are Leslie Shepherd and Joe Coleman. The AP International Desk telephone number is (1) 212-621-1650.

INDONESIA-APEC MEETING:

DILI, Indonesia Thousands of East Timorese rampaged through the streets Sunday, looting shops, burning cars and smashing windows in protests against Indonesian rule.

Slug Indonesia-East Timor. Has moved, developments will be expedited.

By Geoff Spencer.

Also moved: APEC-Indonesia-Journalists, Indonesia-APEC-Notebook, DARWIN, Australia Australia-East Timor.

JAKARTA, Indonesia U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor says he doubts that a deal can be struck in time to allow China to join the World Trade Organization by the Jan. 1 target date.

Slug US-China GATT. Has moved.

By Marcus Eliason. AP Photo XJAK117.

MANILA, Philippines President Clinton honored American and Filipino troops who died defending "freedom's last foothold" in World War II, then turned his sights on expanding trade with modern Asia's powerhouse economies.

Slug Clinton-Asia. Has moved, lead expected within the hour.

By Tom Raum. AP Photos MLA115, 117.

Also moved: Philippines-Clinton-Protest, Philippines-Mrs. Clinton.

SWEDEN:

STOCKHOLM, Sweden Swedes decide in a referendum whether to join the European Union.

EDITORS:

Slug Sweden-EU. Has moved. Polls close at 1900 GMT.

By Thomas Ginsberg. AP Photo STO104 of Nov. 12.

YUGOSLAVIA:

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina Serbia, which cut off most ties to Bosnian Serbs and left them hurting for war supplies, is moving closer again to its former allies, a Bosnian Serb leader says. He says the U.S. pull-out from efforts to monitor the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina is the reason.

Slug Yugoslavia. Expected by 1400 GMT.

By Robert H. Reid.

ANGOLA:

LUANDA, Angola Slapping a roughly tattooed "HUAMBO" on his bicep, 16-year-old Joao Volodia grunts and sweats as he trains in a refugee camp for army duty in his hometown, freshly conquered by government troops. Volodia, who left Huambo on foot two years ago, doesn't know what awaits him on the front, but he can't wait to get home.

Slug Angola-Home to Huambo. Expected by 1600 GMT.

By Christopher McDougall.

SRI LANKA:

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka The leader of the rebel **Tamil Tigers** announces a unilateral week-long cease-fire just hours after the inauguration of Chandrika Kumaratunga as Sri Lanka's first **female** president.

Slug Sri Lanka-Rebels. Has moved, developments will be expedited.

By Dexter Criez.

UNITED STATES:

MARIETTA, Ga. In the suburbs north of Atlanta that make up Newt Gingrich's district, voters have listened to him rail for years about the "welfare state" and the need to renew American society. Now that he's going to lead a Republican-controlled House of Representatives, they want action.

Sluy US-Voter Voices. Has moved.

By Dan Sewell. AP Photo WX117 of Nov. 11.

MIDDLE EAST:

HEBRON, West Bank The Bab Al-Zawiya checkpoint blocks a key intersection in the twisting streets of Hebron's old center, cutting the city in half. Avoiding it requires a six-mile (10-km) detour, but passing through can be lethal.

Slug Death Checkpoint. Expected by 1400 GMT.

By Neil MacFarquhar. AP Photo JRL112.

(PROFILE

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(REG:EURO;)

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EDITORS:

(REG:SCAN;)

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(REG:AFRI;)

(REG:INDI;)

(REG:ENGL;)

(REG:ASIA;))

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Load-Date: November 13, 1994

End of Document

International News Briefs By The Associated Press

The Associated Press

June 3, 1993, Thursday, PM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 550 words

Dateline: BOGOTA, Colombia

Body

A brother in law of Pablo Escobar, the head of crumbling empire of the Medellin cocaine cartel, was kidnapped by 25 armed men, CMI television news said.

Carlos Henao and an unidentified man accompanying him were kidnapped Wednesday afternoon when the two were getting into a car to leave the Medellin airport, CMI said.

No one claimed responsibility.

Medellin police would not comment on the report. Police are reluctant to draw attention to themselves by talking with newsmen because more than 350 of them have been murdered by the Medellin cartel in the last four years.

A clandestine group believed to be headed by a rival drug cartel had killed about two dozen Medellin cartel operatives until a month ago, when it said it was dismantling.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - President Ranasinghe Premadasa's assassin ferreted out information from a palace valet using two old tricks: wine and women.

Premadasa was killed May 1 as he led a cycle rally through Colombo's streets. The suicide bomber identified as Kumarasingha Weerakumar detonated more than two pounds of explosives strapped to his body. The valet, who was standing next to the president, was also blown up.

Amarasena Rajapakse, director of the criminal investigation department, said Weerakumar befriended the valet and provided him with "wine and women, but no song."

Police have accused the Tamil Tigers of masterminding the attack. The rebels deny the charge.

PARIS (AP) - A court has ended the controversy over "Le Baiser de l'Hotel de Ville" - and much of the mystique surrounding Robert Doisneau's celebrated photograph of young lovers.

The court on Wednesday rejected claims by a retired couple that they were the subjects of the 1950 photo - the title in English is "The Kiss at City Hall."

International News Briefs By The Associated Press

The oft-reproduced black-and-white shot shows a young couple kissing on a Paris street, apparently oblivious to the crowd around them. It had come to symbolize spontaneous romance, but Doisneau revealed during court proceedings that he had paid two models to pose for the picture.

In their law suit, Jean-Louis and Denise Lavergne, ages 66 and 64, campaigned to show they were the young lovers and sought \$ 92,600 in damages.

As the case gathered steam, one of the models, Francoise Bornet, emerged and sued Doisneau for \$ 18,500 and a percentage of the photograph's sales. The court said Ms. Bornet's features were not sufficiently clear in the photograph for her to claim damages.

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel has disclosed that a major in army intelligence was convicted of spying six years ago.

Dedi Zucker, the chairman of parliament's law and constitution committee, said details of the case were revealed Wednesday under a new policy of publishing the identities of Israelis imprisoned for security offenses.

The Haifa district court sentenced Maj. Yossi Amit to 12 years imprisonment in March 1987 for espionage, contacting foreign agents and attempting to contact foreign agents, the army statement said.

It was the first time an intelligence officer and an officer in active service was found guilty of espionage, Israel radio said.

The army did not say which country Amit spied for or what information he traded. But Israel radio suggested that Amit, who was captured in 1986, may have been employed by the United States.

The CIA refused to comment.

End of Document

Commission blames withdrawal of elite bodyguards for Gandhi slaying

United Press International
December 23, 1992, Wednesday, BC cycle

Copyright 1992 U.P.I.

Section: International

Length: 568 words

Byline: BY BRAHMA CHELLANEY

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India

Body

A judicial commission blamed the withdrawal of elite bodyguards for the 1991 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by a **female** suicide bomber, according to the inquiry's report released Wednesday.

The commission's finding echoed the criticism of Gandhi's Italian-born widow, Sonia, who in her recent book held responsible the withdrawal of the commandos by an opposition-led government for the slaying.

Prime Minister Vishwanath P. Singh, who succeeded Gandhi as prime minister following national elections in late 1989, removed sharpshooters belonging to the Special Protection Group from Gandhi's security entourage.

The elite group was established for the prime minister's protection by Gandhi after he succeeded his assassinated mother, Indira Gandhi, in 1984. Mrs. Gandhi was killed by two of her Sikh bodyguards in reprisal for an Indian Army assault on Sikh extremists holed up inside Amritsar's Golden Temple.

In her book titled, "Rajiv," Sonia Gandhi said that after escaping two assassination attempts, her husband had become the No. 1 target of "a dozen major terrorist outfits" by 1989.

"The new government was well aware of it. Yet it withdrew Rajiv's specialized security cover and replaced it with a force not trained for this specific task," the widow wrote.

Releasing the inquiry report in Parliament, the federal government said it disagreed with the commission's major findings. The alternative security provided to Gandhi was adequate for any high-level threat, the government said.

"The government finds it difficult to share the perception of the commission on the lapses attributed to the central government and the Intelligence Bureau," the official statement said.

The inquiry, headed by Justice J.S. Verma of India's Supreme Court, called the substitute security provided to Gandhi as deficient.

The report severely criticized India's Intelligence Bureau and police in the southernmost state of Tamil Nadu, where the assassination occurred, for lack of coordination and failing to plug security holes.

It contended that the "assassination could have been averted" but for the security lapses.

Commission blames withdrawal of elite bodyguards for Gandhi slaying

Gandhi, 46, was blown to pieces in May 1991 when a young Tamil woman detonated plastic explosives she was wearing around her waist while garlanding him at an election campaign rally.

The slaying, which occurred after the first round of a three-phase balloting, generated a sympathy wave that helped his Congress party to narrowly win the national election.

The victorious party elected P.V. Narasimha Rao, a Gandhi loyalist, to be India's prime minister. Rao, 71, however, has been politically weakened by the recent nationwide sectarian violence, triggered by the militant Hindu destruction of a disputed 16th-century mosque.

The commission was set up to probe security lapses and recommend ways to improve security for the prime minister.

The inquiry was not asked to identify the group or individuals responsible for the killing.

Government investigators have blamed the assassination on the **Tamil Tigers** for Tamil Eelam, the underground group fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka. The investigators claim the slaying was designed to avenge the 1987 Indian military intervention in Sri Lanka on behalf of its government.

The Tigers, who are among the world's best-trained guerrillas, have strongly denied their involvement in the Gandhi killing.

Tamils massacre 28 as tension rises before poll

The Times (London)

November 15 1988, Tuesday

Copyright 1988 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Issue 63239.

Length: 577 words

Byline: From EDWARD GORMAN, Colombo

Body

Tamil separatist guerrillas massacred at least 28 people and wounded two others when they ambushed a bus early yesterday, about 25 miles west of Trincomalee in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

Police and army sources said the attack happened at about 8am as the privately owned bus was travelling between Gomarankandawala and Horowupotana.

The sources said that the bus was ambushed by gunmen lying in wait on both sides of the road. Although details were unclear last night, it is thought the gunmen opened fire, killing the driver, and then either ordered the passengers out and massacred them or shot them as they tried to flee.

The victims included **women** and children. A policeman and a soldier, also killed, were travelling on the bus as guards.

Police say all the dead and injured were of the majority Sinhalese community, and blamed the main Tamil separatist group, the **Tamil Tigers** for the atrocity.

The massacre is the worst killing in the north and east since 45 Sinhalese villagers were shot and stabbed to death in an attack on a village near Vavuniya, also blamed on the Tigers, on October 9.

Observers say yesterday's killings were intended to disrupt elections due on Saturday for a new 71-member council for the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

The elections are being supervised by the 50,000-strong Indian Peacekeeping Force, backed up by police flown from the Indian mainland this week, and represent the latest attempt by the Indians to implement an accord signed with administration of President Jayewardene in July last year.

The council, to be based in Trincomalee, is designed to end the five-year insurgency by the separatists, granting limited devolution under a provincial Chief Minister.

The Tigers, however, remain opposed to the scheme and are boycotting the elections. They want Indian troops to leave and are insisting on a fully independent state.

The Indian response has been to back rival militant groups, in particular the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, whose candidates will be elected unopposed in the Northern Province. In the Eastern Province,

Tamils massacre 28 as tension rises before poll

there will be at least a semblance of an election as Front candidates compete with those put up by the minority Muslim Congress and the ruling, predominantly Sinhalese, United National Party.

With the Front leadership enjoying Indian military protection and taking the opportunity to launch attacks on the Tigers (attacks which Indian troops have participated in), the chances of the council leading to peace in the north and east are virtually nil.

Most independent observers believe yesterday's massacre signals the first stage in what is expected to be a mounting campaign of violence by the Tigers, first against the elections, and after Saturday against the council itself and its members.

Elsewhere in Sri Lanka yesterday, the campaign of violence and strikes by the Sinhalese nationalist JVP, or People's Liberation Front, continued with demonstrations in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa.

A bus driver was shot dead in Kurunegala and in many areas of the south shops were closed, with electricity and transport disrupted. Police said a soldier was among nine people killed by suspected JVP activists in separate assassinations over the weekend.

Reports from Hambantota last night on the island's south coast regarded as a JVP stronghold said activists had taken possession of tea, coconut and rubber plantations and were handing out title deeds to the workers.

Load-Date: September 22, 2000

End of Document

Death Toll Rises to 173 in Tamil Attack

The Associated Press

August 13, 1990, Monday, PM cycle

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Section: International News

Length: 556 words

Byline: By DEXTER CRUEZ, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: ERAVUR, Sri Lanka

Body

White flags of mourning today fluttered above Moslem homes in five fishing villages where Tamil gunmen massacred 173 residents with machine gunfire and machetes.

Military officials raised the death toll as families brought in more bodies from the stricken villages after the Saturday night massacre.

It was one of the worst eruptions of violence in this island nation's escalating ethnic conflict, which pits Tamil separatists against the Sinhalese-dominated government.

Although Moslems claim neutrality in the 7-year-old civil war, the government says Tamils suspect them of siding with the army.

Elsewhere in Sri Lanka, military officials said rebels suspected of being Tamils ambushed a truck in the northeastern Trincomalee district at dawn today and killed 15 Sinhalese.

On Sunday, at least 15 Tamil Tiger rebels, four Moslems and six government soldiers were killed in separate incidents.

A Tamil politician said Saturday's attack on Moslem villages was in retaliation for the killing of 33 Tamil villagers by Moslems earlier the same day. The People's Front of Liberation Tigers, the main Tamil rebel group, denied involvement in the massacre.

At least 538 people have been killed on Sri Lanka's east coast in the past 10 days. The victims include 363 Moslems, 100 Tamils and 75 Sinhalese, military officials and politicians say.

In Eravur, tension lingered as the military lifted an overnight curfew and stepped up patrols. Victims were given a mass burial.

Brigadier Upali Seneviratne, the top army officer in the eastern province, said at least 40 Tamil gunmen attacked the villages.

"They broke into three groups and shot at everybody in sight," he said. He said the dead included 29 women and 31 children, one of whom was a 9-day-old girl.

Death Toll Rises to 173 in Tamil Attack

After a 90-minute raid on Eravur, the gunmen moved to adjacent villages, the officials said. The villages are clustered on the east coast, 125 miles east of Colombo.

On Aug. 3, gunmen raided another eastern village and massacred 140 Moslems in two mosques. The incident set off a chain of vengeance killings.

On Sunday, Sri Lankan police shot and killed 15 Tamil rebels after the guerrillas killed four Moslem farmers in Sammanturai, officials said. Six soldiers died in a rebel attack in northeastern Talaimannar on Sunday.

The government blames attacks on Moslem and Sinhalese civilians on the **Tamil Tigers**, the militia fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and east.

The Tigers said Saturday's killings were carried out by pro-government Tamil agents to discredit their organization.

"Why should we attack Moslems?," said Lawrence Thilakar, a Tamil Tiger leader, from the group's press office in London.

"We need the fullest cooperation of the Moslem people," he said. "This dangerous game being played by the government will not last long, very soon the truth will come out."

Tamil separatists, seeking an independent nation, resumed fighting the Sinhalese-dominated government on June 11, breaking a 13-month cease-fire.

At least 3,200 combatants have been killed since June. Hundreds of civilians have also been killed.

Tamils say they are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese. Tamils make up 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, while Sinhalese comprise 75 percent and Moslems are 7 percent.

In all, 14,000 people have died in the civil war, which began in 1983.

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Sri Lankan military court begins probe into massacre of civilians

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 15, 1996, Thursday, BC Cycle 08:48 Central European Time

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Section: International News

Length: 261 words

Dateline: Colombo

Body

A military court of inquiry in Sri Lanka Thursday began a probe into a massacre of at least 31 civilians in the northeastern part of the country allegedly carried out by a group of soldiers in a retaliatory attack.

Major General, E.H. Samaratunga has been appointed by the Defence Ministry to probe the massacre which took place in the Killiveddi and Kumarapuram villages, 235 kilometres northeast of the country in Trincomalee district last Sunday after two soldiers were killed in a rebel attack.

An unspecified number of soldiers allegedly involved in the incident have also been placed under military custody.

A Tamil politician who visited the villages, S. Thangathurai, said that most of those killed and wounded were women or children. He said persons in military style uniform had called out residents and shot them at point blank range, according to eyewitnesses.

The politician said all those killed or injured were minority Tamils. Earlier reports spoke of troops firing mortar rounds into the village.

The two soldiers were killed in Sunday evening when troops on a route clearing patrol were attacked by rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The attackers escaped into the jungle.

The incident is expected to have adverse reaction to the government's international campaign stressing that it is battling "terrorists" and not minority Tamils as a whole.

In reaction to Sunday's incident the government said it would "under no circumstances condone any indisciplined behaviour on the part of its armed forces". dpa mb

Load-Date: February 15, 1996

Tamil rebels retreat from military onslaught in northern Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

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Dateline: Colombo

Body

Separatist Tamil rebels under assault from government forces are on the retreat from their positions in northern Sri Lanka, offering little or no resistance, a military official said Thursday.

Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe told reporters in Colombo that government forces had captured 78 square kilometres of rebel-held territory and were consolidating their positions.

Government forces have so far captured a dozen small rebel-held towns since the offensive began on Sunday, Munasinghe said. The advancing government troops are currently banked at Aralay, some six kilometres west of rebel-controlled Jaffna town.

Some 10,000 men backed by sea and air cover are involved in the offensive named "Leap Forward", the biggest against the rebels since Chandika Kumaratunga was elected president last October.

The military says the main objective is to liberate the people from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**) to pave the way for a political settlement to the ethnic crisis in the north and east.

At least 23 soldiers have been killed and 125 injured in the operation.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of Sri Lanka urged the government to avoid attacks on civilian targets.

The Catholic bishops were reacting to an aerial attack on a Catholic church in the north which housed displaced noncombatants, killing at least 160 people including a large number of **women** and children.

The army said it was not aware who was responsible for the attack since the church is situated in a rebel-controlled area. Kumaratunga has ordered an inquiry. dpa ad vc ct

Load-Date: July 13, 1995

Revenge fears hang over Colombo funeral

The Guardian (London)

April 28, 1987

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Length: 578 words

Byline: By DEREK BROWN

Dateline: COLOMBO

Body

The final 21 victims of last week's Colombo bomb outrage were buried yesterday, identified by none but mourned by many.

The mangled and decaying bodies were first laid out in coffins of rough planks, in the courtyard of the judicial morgue. Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim clergy prayed for their souls, while mortuary attendants sprinkled their remains with chemicals.

It would have been a dignified ceremony, had it not been for the stench from the loose-lidded coffins - just 17 of them - and for the fear of an uglier remembrance.

In 1983, savage rioting broke out in the city after the night-time burial of 13 soldiers killed by Tamil guerillas. The subsequent systematic slaughter of Tamils launched the present bloody wave of terrorism, mass killings, and counter-strikes by the Sri Lankan military.

Yesterday, the streets around the morgue were tightly sealed by police. They were also out in strength around the main city cemetery three quarters of a mile away, where crowds of several hundred had gathered to watch the coffins arrive, stacked in the back of two fast-moving estate cars.

The bodies were whisked to a far corner of the vast multi-denominational graveyard, and hastily interred without final farewells or obsequies.

Back at the morgue, a blackboard carried the final tally of death from the April 21 blast: 111 dead, of which 101 were men, nine were women, and one was a child.

These precise figures may not tell the final story. Yesterday's edition of the English-language Sun Daily reported that 45 people have been reported missing since the bombing. All were believed to have been in the vicinity of the crowded bus stand where the bomb exploded without warning.

Bazaar gossip in Colombo has convinced many people that the real death toll was 400. That kind of potent rumour, now that the night curfew has been lifted, has provoked fear that the anger of the Sinhalese majority may once again be unleashed.

With the attention here firmly focused on the deteriorating security situation, there was little reaction yesterday to President Junius Jayawardene's announcement that elections would be held only after the final defeat of terrorism.

Revenge fears hang over Colombo funeral

The President's announcement, to a ruling party meeting in the southern town of Karadeniya, appeared to confirm opposition charges that the Government was planning to sidestep the general election due in 20 months' time.

President Jaywardene said that to hold the election could weaken the Government and aid the terrorists. If the problem was not solved in time, he would instead call a referendum to extend the life of the present United National Party Government.

This was the device used in December, 1982, to extend the Government's term by six years. The UNP was elected to power in 1977, and there has been no election since.

The 1982 poll produced a decisive majority for the Government, but there were fierce complaints about pollrigging by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and other opposition groups.

Meanwhile, eight government soldiers were killed by a landmine explosion in the Northern Jaffna district, according to reports reaching Colombo last night. The blast was almost certainly the work of the **Tamil Tigers**.

According to the Government, some 400 Tiger guerrillas have been killed in air force strikes in the past seven days. The claim is being treated with some scepticism by observers and according to travellers from the north, casualties in the air strikes have been limited.

Load-Date: June 9, 2000

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