

PRABAKARAN APPEALS FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE FUND

In an urgent appeal to Tamils of Eelam and abroad, Mr Prabakaran, leader and military commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, has requested funds for a national defence programme. He emphasised the urgency and necessity of protecting the civilian population during phases of a war of national liberation. The L.T.T.E., he said, has mooted a National Defence Fund for the purpose of implementing the programme of civil defence.

Following is the text of Prabakaran's statement:

"We are facing the most critical phase of the history of our national struggle. The Government has imposed a tyrannical military rule on our people. The Sinhala state has unleashed a barbarous form of military violence to crush by violent means the political aspirations of our people. The objective of the Government seems to subjugate our people at the point of gun. The heightening of State sponsored terrorism has plunged our people into great suffering and despair.

The arrests, detention, torture, mass murders, massive destruction of property have made life intolerable. Our people are living in constant fear and anxiety. Yet they have not lost their hope. They begin to realise that such condition of existence is inevitable in a national liberation struggle. The oppressor in his inability to contain a revolutionary upheaval resorts to intensifying armed violence as his ultimate means. Yet, his objective in subjugating a people by armed violence never succeeds. The more the people are subjected to oppression the more they become committed to liberation and the horizon of their national consciousness widens. The Sinhala chauvi-



nism oppression has thus spread the fires of revolution all over Tamil Eelam.

It is our revolutionary movement, the Liberation Tigers that has become a challenge to the Sinhala state and its paid agent, the armed forces. For the last ten years, our movement has been fighting effectively and resolutely, an armed revolutionary struggle against State terrorism. Today, we are expanding into a mass movement and have become the embodiment of the aspirations of our people. Unable to contain our armed struggle our enemy is unleashing his resentment against the innocent people causing them tremendous suffering. Their devious strategy is to turn the public against the freedom fighters.

We are aware of the treacherous designs of the enemy; we do not ignore the suffering of our people. At the sametime it will be absurd to lay down our arms and give up our struggle as our enemy demands. If we relax, the enemy will stabilise his military hold in our homeland. We should not allow the enemy to relax. We should continue to strike, strike hard enough to destroy his morale. We must impress upon the enemy that he cannot crush the aspirations of our people by armed violence. While we intensify our armed revolutionary struggle, we must be able to protect and defend our people. Therefore our freedom struggle must incorporate a programme of defence. Such a civil defence programme necessitates enormous funds. In view of this national emergency we have organised a national defence fund. This fund will be collected in Tamil Eelam and abroad. Representatives of our movement will approach the Tamil public with proper identity cards issued by us. I appeal to all patriots and freedom lovers to contribute generously to this national fund at this time of great national crisis to protect our people from genocidal assault.

I am calling upon the people to prepare themselves for a national liberation war aimed at the emancipation of our nation. Since it is a people's war of liberation, the participation of the masses is vital. The whole Tamil nation must be mobilised to fight against the State. Our liberation army will be the vanguard of the struggle. We call upon the other liberation organisations to join us in this war of liberation. I am sure that the conditions of the struggle will compel us to unite against the common enemy.

PLEASE SEND THE CONTRIBUTION TO LONDON TAMIL MANRAM, 51, SELBORNE GARDENS, HENDON, LONDON NW4 4SH.

I AM SENDING A SUM OF.....POUNDS (.....) TO LONDON TAMIL MANRAM FOR THE NATIONAL DEFENCE FUND.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

