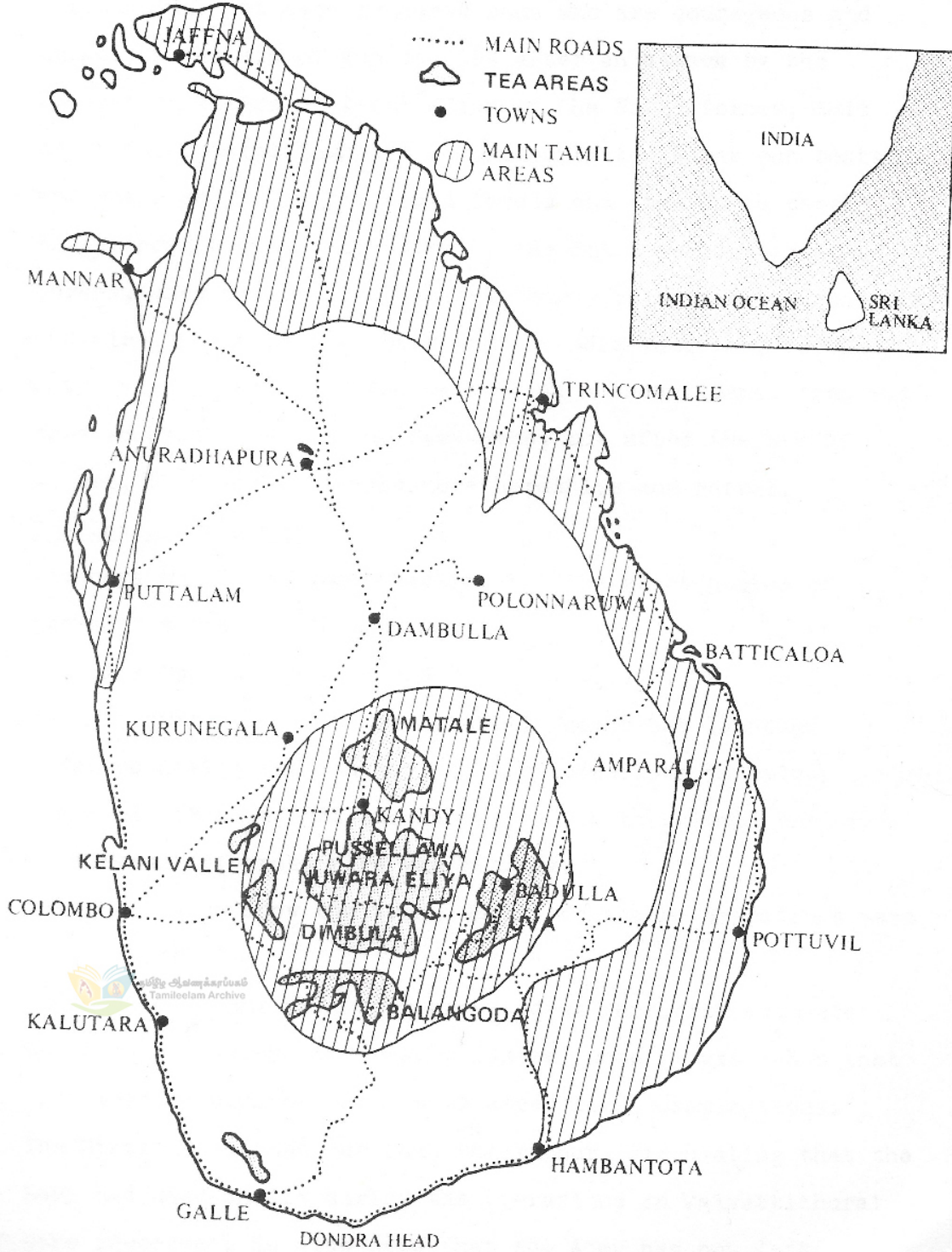


5/9/84 Press conference at
 35 Wellington Street
 WC2
 at 10.00 am

SRI LANKA



Valvettithurai Encounter

Valvettithurai:- This beautiful coastal town in the north of Sri Lanka, full of natural beauty, but this peaceful surroundings had also produced sons who are courageous and brave. On the 4th of August 1984 after an attack by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam on the Naval forces, this beautiful coastal town was bombarded by the Naval gun boats and mortar shells of the armed forces and the Tamil people experienced brutal oppression by the Sri Lankan Security forces, once more. This peaceful, hardworking fishing community had already experienced barriers to their vocation, as the Navy had declared the sea near-by as a surveillance zone and created hardships for the fishermen, but after the 4th of August, they were to taste more hardships and terror.

Sri Lanka T V News:-

Vavuniya has also been attacked, but the exact number of casualties is as yet unknown.

Security forces had launched a

The Minister said that the Security forces has launched a major counter operation against the terrorists in Valvettithurai.

The Minister said that the damage caused to private property as a result of cross fire was minimal.

These pictures show the area, where the search operations were carried out.

About 300 persons have been arrested as terrorist suspects but a large number have been released, when it was known that they were candidates for the advanced level examinations.

The Minister pointed out that the rumours circulating that the Navy had used Shells during the operations in Valvettithurai were incorrect. He also said that the Army has now left Valvettithurai.

(2)

Valvettithurai Encounter - The Facts:-

Pictures of the devastation.

Pollikandy - The soil where the Sons of Tamil Eelam launched their struggle against the Dictatorial Sri Lankan state by beating off a naval patrol. The patrol had come there to seize the boats used by the fishermen, where the guerrillas made a surprise attack and drove them back them into the sea.

These scenes of devastation and terror of innocent civilians tell their own tale, disproving the lies of the State controlled Mass Media, which attempted to hide the facts.

Interview with a local man and woman:

From where are you? I am a frightened woman from Polikandy

Has your children been arrested or shot? Yes many have been arrested & Taken away

Did anything happen to your family? My son aged 19 years was shot by the Army.

Why did they shoot him? He was returning from work and he was shot for no reason.

Is he a Fisherman? Yes, Yes.

Slides of the armed forces - Trucks, Jeeps, Armoured cars etc

As usual the Sinhalese army patrols the streets to subdue the Tamil Peoples thirst for liberation. On the 5th of August a combined convoy of Police Commander unit and Army were bombed by the militant youths.

Though the Minister of National security stated that Valvettithurai was not affected in anyway and that no cannons had been used by the Navy, the following Scenes show the truth:.

The gaping holes in the walls and roofs show that cannons had been used by the Navy.

The Houses, Cottages and Shops of the area have been reduced to ashes.

They went through the Streets, Bylanes ^{and alleys} looting the Houses at will

As usual, the Army did not forget to attack the Cooperative Stores and Shops of the area, so that the Civilians will be starved of their provisions and thereby suffer.

These are the few of the fragments of the Shells fired by the forces collected at the scene of the incident.

About 50 Boats have been set on fire by the forces. Most of them were costly fibre glass boats, bought on the hard earned money of the Fishermen. Many boats were sized by the Navy, which they took away with them.

As fishing is the sole vocation for generations of people of this area, now without these boats, they face a dismal future

In some of these houses, fans, sewing machines and bicycles

have been heaped together and burnt. This shows that the Arson was deliberate and calculated.

These Refugees who have lost their houses, clothes and other belongings are now gathered in Community Centres, Temples; seeking shelter from the brutality of the Armed Forces.

It is significant that the youth are missing from their families. The sons and brothers of these families numbering more than 500 have been arrested and charged of being terrorists.

When interviewed, even Mothers showed a surprising spirit of Militancy in their old age, in which one could not expect any emotionalism or idealism.

One Mother says - "The only solution to the crisis is the establishment of Tamil Eelam" another says - She is ready to sacrifice her life, if and when the need arises.

Interview

Two weeks ago some atrocities took place at Vavettithurai, what is your attitude towards these atrocities? We want to live as independent people and not be slaves and therefore, we want a separate State. Even if we were to die, we want Tamil Nadu. We do not want to be humiliated by these fellows any more. We prefer to die.

After an attack on a armoured car in Jaffna, the State Controlled News Papers, reported that 24 terrorists had been killed by the Army. These are the terrorists, which the Army killed or injured:-
Mothers and Old Men.

But the actual competence, who died took their own lives, being arrested, as they uphold their noble code of not dying in the hands of the enemy, they consumed cyanide and took their own lives. The following are the names of heroic martyrs of Tamil Eelam :-

1. Amalathas from Gurunagar 24 years old
2. Bagin alias Selvam from Mandatheevu 25 years old
3. Ragupathy alias Raguman from Vavuniya 26 years old
4. Anaandaraja alias Steven from Annalatheevu 25 years old
5. Capt Ganendara Mohan alias Lalaranjan from Pt Pedro 25 years old
6. Morris alias Sinna Kannadi from Koiya Thottam 24 years old
7. Manivasagam alias Vasan from Nedum Theevu 24 years old

In the latest series of attacks by the Tigers to drive out the Oppressive State Forces from the occupied territory of Tamil Eelam, the following attacks took place:-

Pollikandy - On the 4th of ~~May~~ 1984, the Guerrillas made a lightning attack on the Naval Forces and killed 6 men, a few sustained injuries

Valvettithurai - On the 5th of August in a bomb blast attack on a convoy a jeep was completely destroyed, but the coordinating Officer was killed instantaneously.

Keradavil - On the same day, when the soldiers attempted to arrest one of the comrades, he opened fire and killed one soldier and returned to the base safely.

In Jaffna - Freedom Fighters ambushed an armoured car and killed the machine gun operator on the spot.

Ottisuttan - After 25 minutes of firing on the Police Station, 2 Policemen were killed and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were seized.

In Jaffna - Again on the 9th day of August, the guerrillas attacked the Army patrol, two armoured cars were burnt down.

Mannar - In Mannar on the 12th of August, an Army convoy was attacked at Moondampitt, 2 jeeps were demolished and 16 soldiers were killed.

Valvettithurai - At Valvettithurai again the Police station was attacked from 3 directions and was badly damaged.

Sri Lanka TV News:- In the North today & 2 such attacks that occurred in the early hours of today were effectively repulsed by Police. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, who described the incidents at a Press Conference this morning gave the details of what happened, referring again to the Chunnakam incident, the Minister refuted claims made by the separatists that prisoners inside the Police Station died when the building was blown up. He ~~saw~~ said that according to one foreign press report, the Police had blown up their own station and pointed out the absurdity of this report. If there had been any prisoners inside the Police Station at the time it was blown up, there should have been bodies under the debris. He sighted this as an example of disinformation spread by the terrorists. According to Police information the number dead was 11 and by the time the Police went back, there have not been any bodies lying around. The terrorists have taken away the bodies.

When the Police evacuated the Chunnakam Police Station on the 11th of August, they set a bomb there. The bomb went off bringing down the whole building. About 22 bodies of civilians have been recovered.

The 2 comrades who died there were Magesanathan alias Kugan Sanjavee 24 years old from Mailati, S Meekathanan alias Bega Nimalan 25 years old from Chunnakam.

Later the Army shot at innocent civilians of the Chunnakam area. You can see some of the victims including Old Men in the Tellipalai General Hospital.

At Chunnakam, the Army had killed a middle aged bystander and later hoisted him on the pillar in a public well nearby, and the Army was enjoying a joke at the cost of his life. His body was also supposed to be a warning to the Tamils, but for the oppressed people of Tamil Eelam, this act only reminds them of 30 years of racial discrimination and State Terrorism. Unless there is an armed struggle to liberate the Tamils from such terrorising acts of State Machinery, there will be annihilation of the Tamil Race.

Tamil Front boycott talks on crisis

By IAN WARD in Colombo

THE Tamil United Liberation Front, the political party representing Sri Lanka's 2,500,000 Tamil minority, will boycott today's discussions on a second legislative chamber to solve the island's communal crisis.

Tull members said last night they had no intention of taking President Jayewardene's invitation to send two delegates to a special session of his assembly conference to examine the second chamber might constitute.

Joining the Tull boycott will all the other Opposition parties, including the Sri Lanka Freedom party which is led by Mrs Bandaranaike, former Prime Minister.

Mr Jayewardene proposes to the second chamber to gain greater representation for the minority, in particular the Tamils. It will comprise two elected representatives from each of the nation's 24 electoral districts, and a further 24 nominated members, making a total of 72.

Consensus row

One of the main Opposition objections is that the nominated members would ensure the President's ultimate control of the new chamber.

The 76-year-old Sri Lankan Premier is anxious to push ahead with the second chamber idea. In respect of the Opposition's objections. Last Saturday, he indicated there was a consensus during its establishment.

Because of this consensus, he said, the question of acceptance or rejecting the idea need not be debated. He merely intended to explore during today's session the mechanics of creating the new chamber.

Opposition circles insist that no consensus exists, it is purely in the government's ranks. Political observers believe today's special session will finish inconclusively. The focus will be still on the plenary session at the all-party conference

which is due to begin immediately after the special discussions.

Tull has proposed the setting up of regional councils which would ensure a certain amount of autonomy for the Tamils in the North and East.

The government is opposed to the idea of regional councils because it fears these would place an element of responsibility for defence on these bodies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shelling in Sri Lanka

From Dr R. Niththyananthan

Sir, The report of the shelling of the Tamil fishing village by the Sri Lankan Navy in *The Times* of August 8 gives little idea of the devastation caused by the attack. Reports reaching the Tamil community in London indicate that the loss of life may be greater than at first feared. In addition, 5,000 people have been rendered homeless and three refugee camps have been set up in Jaffna.

This terrible retribution was inflicted on the defenceless fishing community for allowing their port to be used by Tamil guerrillas travelling between Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu in south India. It is a measure

of the savagery and sheer barbarity of the methods the Sri Lankan Government is prepared to use in its undeclared war on the Tamil minority in the island.

The ruthless and indiscriminate shelling is reminiscent of the warfare conducted in less civilized times, when entire communities were wiped out on suspicion of harbouring wanted men.

This latest atrocity is one the whole world must condemn forcefully and unequivocally if there are to be no repetitions in the future.

Yours faithfully,

R. NITHTHYANANTHAN,
The Kudil,
179 Norval Road,
North Wembley, Middlesex
August 8.

14 *The Daily Telegraph*, Tuesday, August 21, 1984

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conflicts that cannot be compared

SIR—You suggest in your leader of Aug. 16 that the conflicts in northern Sri Lanka and Ulster are comparable. With respect, this is wrong.

In Ulster there are two communities in conflict in a situation of constant physical proximity. The British Army is an external neutral presence which has as its objectives the suppression of terrorism and the separation of the combatants. A final fact is that the Protestants in the South, in Eire, are relatively safe amid the Catholic majority.

Contrast this with northern Sri Lanka. The population there is almost exclusively Tamil with Hinduism as the major religion. The Army which is ostensibly present to maintain law and order is overwhelmingly Sinhala-Buddhist and even speaks a language different from that of the local civilian population. It has been proved to be emotional, vengeful and undisciplined.

To complete the contrast, there is a sizeable Tamil population permanently settled in the Sinhala areas to the South which has been the target of mob violence at regular intervals from 1956 onwards, hostages of Sinhala extremism. It is no exaggeration to say that these Tamils live in a state of insecurity and fear.

We do not condone the use of violence against security forces carrying out their legitimate activity of maintaining law and order. We do condemn the uncontrolled and indiscriminate violence

against innocent and unarmed civilians and their property.

P. R. NAYAGAM
Sec. Human Rights Council,
Standing Committee of Tamils,
London, W.C.1

Terrorist offensive

SIR—May I commend *The Daily Telegraph* for balanced reporting from the land of my birth—Sri Lanka. These are indeed hard times for Sri Lanka—Tamil terrorists are murdering members of the Armed forces and innocent civilians.

Terrorists have embarked upon a massive offensive and it is a relief that Government forces have repulsed these attacks. The current campaign by Tamil terrorists must be dealt with carefully otherwise isolated incidents—for example when armed forces overstepped their limits in Mannar—will become only too frequent.

It is through development, tolerance and dialogue that Sri Lanka could solve the ethnic problem; we would appeal to the British Government and the far-sighted British public to stand by Sri Lanka in the fight against terrorism. Mr Azahim Mohamed, President of the United National Party in the United Kingdom, himself a Muslim, has appealed to the 50,000 Sri Lankan community in Britain to keep calm; the armed forces this time are concentrating on the terrorists in northern Sri Lanka and innocent Tamil civilians in the south have not been harmed.

IVAN COREA

Sri Lanka incidents


From Mr Ivan Corea

Sir, Please permit me to correct an inaccurate statement by Dr Nithyananthan (August 21). The town of Vellvatithurai was never shelled by the Sri Lankan Navy - the navy does not possess a ship that could shell any coastal town.

What the gentleman has omitted is the fact that Sri Lanka is fighting a war against terrorism. Tamil terrorists are robbing banks and murdering members of the armed forces and innocent Tamils themselves. Quite recently some Christian workers were gunned down: their only weapons were Bibles.

Violence and terrorism will not solve the problem: the majority community needs to have a dialogue with the minority communities for a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem and that is why it is vitally important to give the All-Party Conference convened by President Jayewardene a chance. But the terrorists are not interested in democracy or dialogue.

Yours sincerely,

 IVAN COREA, Editor,

New Sri Lanka,

United National Party Central

Organisation,

9 Janson's Road, N15.

August 21.

TIMES 24-8-84