

population, nothing concrete has been achieved. EROS, which in the beginning attempted to play a mediatory role in the conflict by becoming a line of contact between the LTTE and the state, withdrew its MPs from Parliament on the 23rd July and has remained outside the process from that point on.

A general overview of the situation at the end of July, 1990, would lead us to the conclusion that there is growing polarisation between the Sinhala and Tamil communities, as well as between the Tamil and Muslim communities, in all parts of the island; there is no sign of any halt to

the actual conflict; Sri Lankan security forces are engaged in a multitude of operations in the North and East to gain control of territory that is now outside their purview; the LTTE for its part seems also to want to continue fighting; there seem to be no overtures from either side towards any form of a negotiation or ceasefire; the displacement of persons goes on, with the numbers approximating 50,000; a general 'war hysteria' prevails. In short, August 1990 seems to contain more of the same - human misery and suffering - for the Sri Lankan people.

LANKA
GUARDIAN

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Statements on Sri Lanka

U.S.

In Sri Lanka, the welcome winding down of the bloody insurgency by the revolutionary JVP has tragically given way, in recent weeks, to renewed fighting between Sri Lankan security forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. We laud the Sri Lankan government's offer to resume talks to end the fighting and encourage the Tigers to accept it. We have long believed that minority grievances must be addressed by peaceful means within the framework of a sovereign Sri Lanka.

Mr. Chairman, the second key U.S. regional objective I would like to highlight is encouragement of democratic government. Democracy has a strong base in the Subcontinent. India and Sri Lanka have enjoyed forty years of representative government. Pakistan rejoined their ranks 18 months ago; its new democratic polity has already shown resilience under stress. And, as I testified recently before Chairman Solarz's subcommittee, the winds of democratic change that have swept the world these last twelve months have reached Nepal.

Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka are all faced with the gravest test confronting democratic governments: maintaining public order in the face of often violent dissent without undermining the very democratic values for which they stand. The balance is a difficult one.

U.K.

Mr Wyn Jones in the commons on 2 July asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department has made any representations to the Government of (a) Sri Lanka and (b) India concerning the recent escalation of violence in Sri Lanka and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Sainsbury: The British High Commission in Colombo is in

regular contact with the Sri Lankan Government, and we have also made contact with the Indian Government. We are deeply concerned by the renewed fighting in Sri Lanka and by the suffering and loss of life this is causing. We are dismayed by the decision of the Tamil Tigers to break off negotiations with the Sri Lankan Government and resume fighting.

E.E.C.

Mr. Mario Sammartino, Charge d' Affaires of Italy as the representative of the current President of the EEC, Italy handed over the attached declaration, states the Foreign Ministry.

The declaration states: "The Twelve wish to express their deep concern at the current deterioration of the situation in Sri Lanka. They deplore the refusal of the LTTE to continue negotiations and its decision to renew fighting in the North and East of the country which both causes great suffering among the civilian population and leads thousands of people to seek refuge in other areas.

In conformity with President Premadasa's appeal for consultation, compromise and consensus, they hope that a peaceful solution will be found to the domestic problems of the island with the object of safeguarding the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Sri Lanka.

Australia

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans, today condemned the actions of the Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in breaking the ceasefire with the Sri Lankan Government.

"Whatever the frustrations of the negotiating process in which the LTTE have been engaged until this point, it cannot justify abandoning peaceful negotiations in favour of a return to the killing and destruction that has caused such misery throughout Sri Lanka in recent years," Senator Evans said.

"By resorting to violence, the LTTE has not only destroyed a real chance of a return to peace in Sri Lanka, but it also ensures that the Tamil people - the very people whose rights the LTTE claims to protect - will be the main losers as their homes again become caught up in the fighting".

There were already clear signs that the grotesque cycle of massacres and reprisals was starting up again, with the consequent death of civilians, including children, being used by each side as propaganda.

"There can be no winners from the conflict which is now taking place. The Australian Government urges both sides to act with restraint and resume their dialogue for the sake of all the people of Sri Lanka, regardless of their ethnic origin", Senator Evans said.

The LTTE has been waging a military campaign against the Sri Lankan Government in an attempt to realise its aim of a separate state, called 'Eelam', in the north and northeast of Sri Lanka.

Senator Evans said it was especially distressing that this latest round of fighting had come at a time when the Tamils had achieved most of their aims, short of a separate state, and needed only to complete the final negotiations to bring about a Tamil-controlled Northeastern Province.