Dokumentation

Analyse

Information

Tigers storm B'caloa train. Ten soldiers kille Abduct 24 passengers

in Kalmunai Ten soldiers were killed 700 Tamil youths taken

been overrun, reports reach

ilgers grab Rs. 24 m

Tigers take Point Pedro Police

LTTE cadres yesterday ordered out police person.
nel from the Point Pedro police station and took
charge of it.
Some policemen from the KKS police station were
also being questioned by LTTE cadres, reports said.

3,000 troops rushed

'Govt will not tolerate criminals seizing control through power of the gun' Violence erupts in Kalmunal in Kalmunal

The LTTE had removed Rs. 24 m. belonging to the People's Bank and the Bank of Ceylon which had been kept at the Batticalea police Station for Security purposes.

Security sources said the LTTE suffered heavy family sources and the LTTE suffered heavy army camps. Forces harnessing land-sea-air

624 students in custody German tourist

German tourists missing

PFLT accuses security forces, Unprovoked gunfire by Lankan Police, says PFLT of killing civilians

Alle Ausschnitte aus den srilankischen Zeitungen 'Island', 'SUN', 'Daily News' in der Zeit zwischen 13. und 18. Juni 1990.

In den beiden folgenden Artikel befassen sich die Autoren kritisch mit der aktuellen Situation in Sri Lanka. Der Beitrag 'Eelam War II' wurde von einem tamilischen Mitarbeiter des Südasienbüro in Sri Lanka geschrieben, 'Nothing for the Tamils'? schrieb ein Sinhalese, der seit Jahren den Kampf der Tamilen für Frieden, Selbstbestimmung und Gerechtigkeit beobachtet und unterstützt.

## FELAM WAR II

The fighting erupted on June, 12th, between the LTTE and the Government forces. This also indicates that the ethnic conflict is not resolved. In July 1987, the acceptance of the principle of regional autonomy for the Tamils by the Sri Lankan Government and the agreement by most of the Tamil groups to participate in the democratic process, brought some hope for a political solution.

Provincial Councils were set up as a means of devolution of power to the regions, but, there was inordinate delay on the side of the Government, in implementing even the limited package of devolution laid out in the legislation. The basic problems such as security, land, language rights etc. were not dealt with satisfactorily, thereby, thrusting Tamil people into a mood of pessimism and dispair, which pushed the Tamil groups which had come forward to help a democratic process to be evolved into an uneasy position. This has provided the space for the growth and expansion of the LTTE:

The Sri Lankan Government at one time favourably welcomed the Chief Minister of the North-Eastern Provin-

## Youngsters empty their tills to 'Help the Forces'

A well ring of goodwill for the armed services and police from any in the northern and eastern provinces has been monstrated by contributions coming in to the 'Hell ce Forces Fund's set up by the Associated Newspa of Ceylon Limited.

Yester T. N. Gokula Shantha Rodrigo, a grade

13 studes Thurstan College Colombo, donated the

ten thouse rupees he had collected in his savings account the past few years to the ANCL fund. He was lowed by 18-year-old Thushani Champika of Nama, Kiribathgoda, who came in with her till. It comed ed Rs. 511 which she has intended to spend on klace for herself. But it was her duty to give what sand for those fighting the war, she said, and she primit that peace would soon be restored to Sri Lanka.

A Colom mirline executive wrote: "We watch from the side in dazed disbelief that our country, which has give much happiness, is being torn apart once mor at sanity will prevail before it is

He sent a cheque from as "a token towards the goal of peace in of

"Mere words cannot expess the admiration we feel for our security forces who are once more called upon to shoulder the responsibility of maintaining stability in our country", he said.

The fund monies will be used for the welfare and comfort of the men in the frontline. The collection now stands at over Rs. 800,000.

Cheques should be made in favour of the ANCL Help the Forces Fund and sent to the Secretary, ANCL, Lake House, Colombo.

Following are the contributions received up to 3 pm on Wednesday:

Associated Newspapers of Ceylon	
Limited	100,000.00
Lions Club of Colombo (Host)	10,000.00
Mr. M. S. S. Amarasinghe,	
Borella	500.00
Mr. J. S. Perera. Colombo	
	5 500.00
Acroflot Soviet Airlines	4,005.87

Mr. S. Weerasinghe, Colombo14

Mr. Dexter Nicolle and Family

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## Lung damage in poison gas victims

Two of the 25 soldiers who were victims of the LTTE's poison attack on the Kiran army camp last Monday were brought to the army hospital Colombo on Wednes-

300.00

5,000.00

cial Council and later started to attack him since he demanded the powers for the Council, pushing him so much that he depended solely on the Indian Government and the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF).

The Premadasa-Government and the LTTE joined together in Mai 1989 on their common opposition against the presence of the IPKF but forgetting the different nature of their opposition to the presence of the IPKF. Whereas the Governments opposition was on the ground of the Indian Governments demand of proper devolution of the powers to the Tamils the LTTE opposition was on the ground of their demand to be the sole representatives of the Tamil people. However, both parties were able to ignore these differences to get together on an anti-IPKF move. This alliance went to the extend of confidential negotiation between them without disclosing the contents involved.

The Governments activities went as far as to remove the forces which had helped it to restore democratic institutions in the Nordeast. It even than permitted and facilitated the LTTE's assumption of control in the region subsequent to the withdrawal of the IPKF in March this year. This has given some legitimacy of the LTTE's claim if being the sole representative of the Tamil people. This action of the Government also resulted to marginalised all democratic and nonpartisan shades of opinion from the main stream of political process and thereby grant supremacy to the extremist and armed groups. The LTTE occupied the areas vacated by the IPKF without delay allowing the

Sri Lankan forces to occupy the area too as there seemed to be an agreement with the Government to this effect.

The year long negotiations between the LTTE and the Government has failed to address the real issues of devolution. It seems to be that there are two areas of agreement:

- to repeal the 6th amendment to the constitution and
- to dissolve the North-Eastern Provincial Council. Though the first could be considered to be a step to recognize the right of self determination of the Tamils, both these agreements do not deal with the issues of devolution directly. Whereas the LTTE made use of this opportunity of negotiations to mark the time to build up its force and strength the Government further delayed the implementation of the devolution package.

There are several reasons for the commencement of yet another round of fighting between the Government and the LTTE:

- The LTTE knowing the attitude of the Government, made more preparation to face a confrontation than to find a negotiated settlement - even while the negotiations were going on, it has openly demonstrated the intension of no compromise with the Eelam demand.
- The LTTE expecting a military confrontation with the

Government and therefore thought to start fresh fighting before the Government forces could build up its strength.

- The Sri Lancan Government initially gave a recognition to the LTTE but, at a later stage made the preparation to negotiate with other Tamil groups (EPRLF) and by that antagonized the LTTE. It than demanded from the LTTE the surrender of arms as a precondition for further steps in political resolution of the conflict.
- The Government made no proper attempt to devolve the powers to the Northeast regions, but seems to have campaigned the opinion for a possible military confrontation.
- In absence of a proper political process for a settlement, the military conflict again commenced.

Both parties must be blamed for this present situation. Ever since the fight started, the Government seems to enjoy a good support from the opposition parties (including the SLFP and the Left) and the LTTE is being isolated and blamed for starting the fight.

The events which developed in the south with the commencement of the military conflict clearly indicates status of ethnic relations and the anti-Tamil tension in the area. The state control media and the other media – praising the LTTE for some time – returned to the old fashion of racially inflamatory style of reporting. The Government and the Assiciated News

Papers Ltd. has started to call donations to the national defence fund, publishing stories of small children, who can hardly understand what is going on, donating their collection of money to the fund to defend the nation, displaying banners all over the south saluting the security forces for the courage to defend the nation (against the tamils of course) etc. These happenings which were started around the mid 1980's were not to be seen when the security forces were fighting with the Sinhalese-JVP in the South. The reason for this might have been the fear of the guns of the JVP or because the JVP is a Sinhalese force.

These propagandas deny the presence of moderate Tamil opinion in the country against the LTTE and by that suspecting the entire Tamil community of colluding with the 'Tigers'. In fact there occured a number of incidents of assault on Tamil people in the South but in an isolated manner — so far.

Will there be a solution? Can the Government eliminate the LTTE by purely military means. The rational political observers feel that the Government has the key to the solution. The Government must first of all declare its genuiness in devolving the powers to the Tamils – not by words but by pratical means of formulating necessary structures etc. and eliminate the political climate in which groups like the LTTE can survive and grow. The condition must be created for the restauration of democratic rights of the Tamil people before dealing with military means. Any further delay will only aggravate the crisis and will further create confusion.

## Nothing for the Tamils?

The crisis in Sri Lanka – with intense fighting breaking out between Sri Lankan state security forces and the militant separatist 'Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam' (LTTE), in most parts of the North-Eastern province in June – seemed to be a clear pointer of things to come.

The casuality figures seem to be around 2,000 combatants from both sides either dead or wounded, togethir with an unspecified number of civilians caught in the Cross fire. There are an estimated 100,000 refugees fleeing the North-Eastern region, with around 10,000 from Trincomalee town alone.

Following the execution of a large number of around 800 prisoners by the 'Tigers', the Sri Lankan security forces have followed suit — with the Deputy Minister of Defence Ranjan Wijeratne claiming that the security forces have killed over 600 militants belonging to the LTTF

The Sri Lankan authorities have also reported that the 'Tigers' have been using chemical weapons, in the form of mortar rounds fired upon the 'Kiran Kulam' Sri Lanka Army (SLA) camp in the Eastern provice and elsewhere. And in turn, the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) has been using helicopter gunships and light aircraft

to strafe and bomb 'Tiger' held positions, while the artillery of the SLA has also been used similarly. This has caused untold hardships to the civilian population trapped in the cross fire.

While this ... "all out war by government security forces in the North-East" (according to Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, on record in Parliament) is going on, the 'Tigers' have carried out a bloody act of political fatricide by brutally murdering 15 leading members of another leading Tamil militant organisation, the 'Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front' (EPRLF), in the capital of the state of Tamil Nadu in India, Madras.

Among the 15 dead are: the Secretary General or leader of the EPRLF - K. Pathmanaba, the Finance Minister of the North-Eastern Provincial Council and EPRLF Polit Bureau Member for the Eastern Province - Periyathambi Kirubakaran, EPRLF Member of Parliament for Jaffna and former representative in London - G. Yogashangari, two women cadres, and three Indian supporters from Tamil Nadu.

When looking back at the evolution of the Tamil militant struggle against the authoritarian Sinhala-Buddhist dominated Sri Lankan state, K. Pathmanaba in particular, as well as others from the EPRLF have