

# LTTE denies Gandhi's charge

MADRAS — The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has questioned the statement of the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in Madras on Aug. 4 that "the LTTE have gone back many a time on their promises". It said the statement was "without any proof".

In a statement issued here today, the LTTE's political committee said it would like to remind the Government of India what the LTTE leader, Mr. V. Prabhakaran, told the Government of India's representatives when India applied pressure on the LTTE and tried to thrust on the LTTE "unreasonable" solutions: "You may make people, who value their lives and are after comforts, to toe your line. But don't want to live bereft of ideals".

The LTTE said the Government of India had announced that it had seized a surface-to-air missile (SAM-7) from the LTTE in Naljur in Jaffna. The Government of India had also expressed concern

that "foreign agencies" which were interested in prolonging this "unnecessary war" and destabilising the situation in Sri Lanka were helping the Tigers.

The LTTE said "To apply pressure on us, the Government of India seized our weapons in Tamil Nadu before our leader (Prabhakaran) was invited to the negotiations in Bangalore about a year and a half ago. Then also, SAM-7s were seized from us. The missiles were later returned to us. Besides, the Government of India trained us on how to fire the SAM-7s after the Sri Lankan Government's "Operation Liberation" in the Vadammarachi area of the Jaffna peninsula".

"During that period, it is not known whether the Government of India was worried about which foreign agencies supplied us with these missiles. The Government of India had thought that it could use us as mercenary outfits for its own interests. The greatest worry of

India is that we will not resile from our rights and function as the mercenary outfits of the Government of India", the LTTE said. "We are fully aware of the nature of the foreign help. A good example is the killing of the people by India here. We are confident that we will win our independence with our people's support and without any foreign help", the LTTE added.

The LTTE also said it had never made public many instances of the Government of India's treating it shabbily. "But we are duty-bound to explain our standpoint to our people when the Government of India, which calls itself the biggest democracy in the world and also its Prime Minister, twist incidents to justify their actions, keeping their interests in view".

— *The Hindu*



Major-General Hamilton Wanasinghe who will assume duties as commander of the Sri Lanka Army on August 15. Maj-Gen Wanasinghe succeeds the present Army chief Nalin Seneviratne.