

Tiger tactics to save Jaffna. (1995, September 24). *The Sunday times.*

# Tiger tactics to save Jaffna

By Our Military Analyst

The Tiger Movement has alerted its 20 odd offices in North America, Europe and in Asia to intensify its propaganda stating that the Sri Lankan military under President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Deputy Defence Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte is planning to commit "genocide".

The Tigers believe that international pressure will be able to thwart the strike into the Tamil heartland - Jaffna. The Tigers believe that losing Jaffna will cripple their hold on the Jaffna public which is so central to their rule.

The Tigers also have announced through their European offices, that Trincomalee is the capital of Tamil Eelam. They have also announced that Mankulam will soon be declared as the capital of Northern Tamil Eelam. They also plan at a future date to declare Karadiyanaru in Batticaloa as the capital of Southern Tamil Eelam.

It also appears that many of the Tiger offices overseas are now increasingly focusing on the LTTE's economic rather than its political or military agenda. Whether this is done to paint a picture that the LTTE is not militarily active in those countries is too early to tell.

The LTTE economic agenda is largely based on a plan prepared in Jaffna. A team of dons from the University of Jaffna has been asked to draw up detailed plans to develop Tamil Eelam's infrastructure. Based on an earlier plan somewhat preliminary in nature the Tigers have drawn up a budget and requested their international representatives to raise the money in the countries they represent.

The international representatives of the LTTE - some 20 in number - functioning under Lawrence Tilagar who is based in Paris, the LTTE is planning a number of campaigns to raise funds. According to the Tiger infrastructure, the northeast has been divided into "Manilangal" or administrative regions. They claim that the "present districts were constructed for the convenience of the Government of

Sri Lanka and as they are not suitable for the future requirements, growth and development," the LTTE had decided to form their own regions.

The infrastructure plan tapped the brains of so many Tamil intellectuals but basically it was conceived by the Internal Development Section of the economic and research wing of the LTTE. The economic wing known as ROOT (Research Organisation of Eelam Tamils) is now known as the Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR). The economic and research wing has received international and domestic assistance from the Government of Germany. There were two criteria, the LTTE used to determine the area and boundaries of states.

"First, the new states should be able to get equal and smooth growth and therefore to compensate the differences between them, the resources (sea, agriculture and industry) should be available to all the states."

"Second, in the determination of states and boundaries, priority should be given to the geophysical aspects (rivers, lakes, channels and lagoons)."

"Third, the national priorities of Tamil Eelam should be considered in the determination of states."

According to this plan the LTTE has proposed twenty states - they are Varani, Karachchi, Poonakari, Mullaitivu, Mankulam, Manthai, Madhu, Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Kuchchaveli, Muthur, Batticaloa, Vakarai, Vellaveli, Akkaraipattu, Pottuvil, Aruvaakkaddu, Puttalam and Chilaw.

Interestingly the district of Puttalam, which is included in the Tamil Eelam map, has been divided into three states.

The LTTE also selected a city each in each state. This was done on the basis of existing and potential resources. The LTTE states that Jaffna is the city for Nallur. They claim that Jaffna has enough facilities for internal construction.

Kodikamam has been selected as the city for Varani. This is the centre for Point Pedro,

Chavakachcheri, Pallai and Vadamarachchi East. The LTTE also states that there is vast land for further development. Professor P. Balasuntharampillai, a professor of Geology was consulted by the LTTE in this regard. The professor's literature on Kodikamam has been cited in the LTTE's detailed study, which is yet to be released.

Kilinochchi has been identified as the city for Karachchi. The LTTE claims that it has enough material for construction.

The LTTE had decided to have Poonakari as the best choice for the city in the Poonakari state. The LTTE further claims that the Chankupitty-Keratthevu bridge (Mahatheva-bridge) and transportation provide significance to Poonakari. It is desirable that the administrative centre of this state is being located at Poonakari.

The LTTE has decided the Thanneerootu will be the city for the Mullaitivu state because, Mullaitivu is already a town. The LTTE further claims that the Mullaitivu town will be developed into a harbour town. Mankulam which has been identified as the capital of northern Tamil Eelam, has been subjected to close study by the LTTE since 1991. The LTTE infrastructure plan states, "As it was feared that the location of the capital can lead to deforestation and the shortage of water supply, there were suggestions, that the capital should be at Murukandi or Kikkavil".

As the Mannar town is in the Manthai area, the mainland has not been developed. The Manthai state has natural resources in abundance. The LTTE therefore claims that Yullunkulum will be the city of Manthai.

The LTTE reasoned out that Madhu should be the city of the Madhu state. But subsequently they changed their decision. The LTTE has since then decided to establish the city on Madhu Road. The explanation they have given for this revised decision is of interest. "Madhu is a forest area. An establishment of a city will lead to deforestation. Further, the Madhu church is a holy shrine. If it is selected as a city, the calmness required for a religious shrine can be damaged."

The LTTE also decided that Omanthai is the best place for a city in Vanni state. The LTTE claims, "The present Vavuniya town will be included within Omanthai in the future".

In the state of Kuchchaveli the LTTE decided to have Thiriyaya, an ancient town as the city.

With regard to the city in the state of Trincomalee the LTTE states, "Thampalakaamum is the suitable place for development in Trincomalee. The present Trincomalee town and the Koneswaram temple, should be preserved as a historical asset. It has already been decided for a major development project called Trinco Industrial Park for this area. All these inclusive will be called as Greater Trincomalee."

The LTTE also decided that the cities for the states of Muthur will be Kilivetti, for Vaakarai it will be Mankani, and for Akkaraipattu it will be Paalamunai.

The LTTE also decided that as the Batticaloa town cannot be expanded further, the city of state of Batticaloa will be Karadiyanaru.

Pottuvil will be the city in the state of Pottuvil and Pomparippu will be the city of Aruvaakadu state, states the LTTE.

