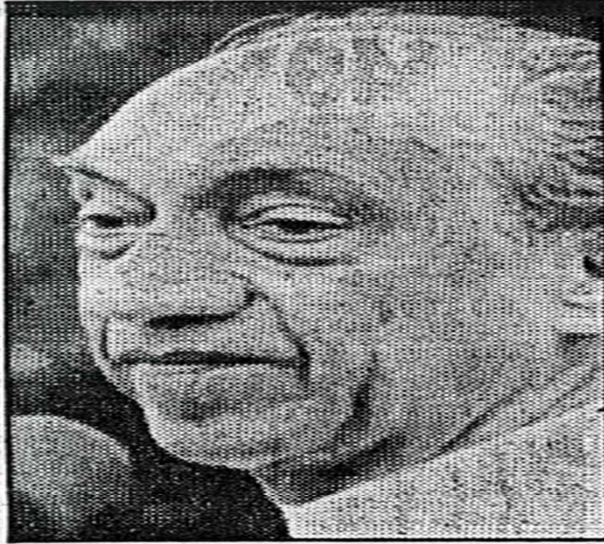


Tamil demand granted. (1988, September 12). *The gazette.*

*e Gazette*, Montreal, Monday, September 12, 1988



**J. R. JAYEWARDENE**  
Merges two provinces

# Tamil demand granted

**New York Times**

**COLOMBO —** President J. R. Jayewardene has by executive order merged Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern provinces, meeting a major demand of ethnic Tamil militants fighting for a homeland.

The move also clears the way for provincial elections in those regions, where Tamils have been waging a guerrilla war for five years.

The Sri Lankan government is now expected to release the remaining prisoners, thought to number about 500 to 600, arrested in connection with the Tamil insurrection.

The merging of the two provinces has been strongly opposed by many of Sri Lanka's majority ethnic Sinhalese.

Tamils dominate Northern province, but share Eastern province with the Buddhist Sinhalese and Muslims, neither of which want to fall under militant Tamil domination.

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