

Tamil MPs pledge support for PA govt.. (1994, September 08). *The Island*.

Tamil MPs pledge support for PA govt.

THE ISLAND

9.9.94

by Prasad Gunewardene

All Tamil members of parliament representing various parties pledged their fullest support for the People's Alliance government led by Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunge on Monday night political sources said yesterday.

The meeting with the premier held at the Sri Jayawardenepura parliamentary complex, lasted nearly two hours.

Leaders representing Tamil political parties in parliament were also present and attended the discussion.

At the talks which followed the government

Parliamentary Group meeting, Prime Minister Kumaratunge outlined certain plans that she intends to take to resolve the ethnic problem and the current war situation in the Northern and Eastern sectors of the country.

All Tamil political party leaders were satisfied with the disclosures made by the prime minister and expressed their confidence and fullest support to make the intentions of the premier a reality.

Leader of the EPDP told the prime minister that the LTTE was not the sole representative of the Tamils and stressed the need for the

LTTE to genuinely enter the democratic path".

Mr. Douglas Devananda told the premier that her government should also be careful in dealing with the LTTE as done earlier as the Tigers may use the period of 'negotiations' to rebuild their military power.

When the prime minister brought up the matter of the state of the emergency and said that she wanted to lift it in areas other than the North East, all Tamil leaders agreed and indicated that they were in favour of the proposal.

The Tamil party lead-

ers thanked the prime minister for partially lifting the embargo to supply essential food items to the people in the Jaffna Peninsula.

The prime minister had briefed the Tamil leaders on her plans to have the remaining police and armed forces personnel held captive by the Tigers released soon.

At this point, the leaders informed the premier that nearly three thousand Tamils and Muslims were also being held captive by the Tigers.

She assured them that all steps would be taken to secure their release.