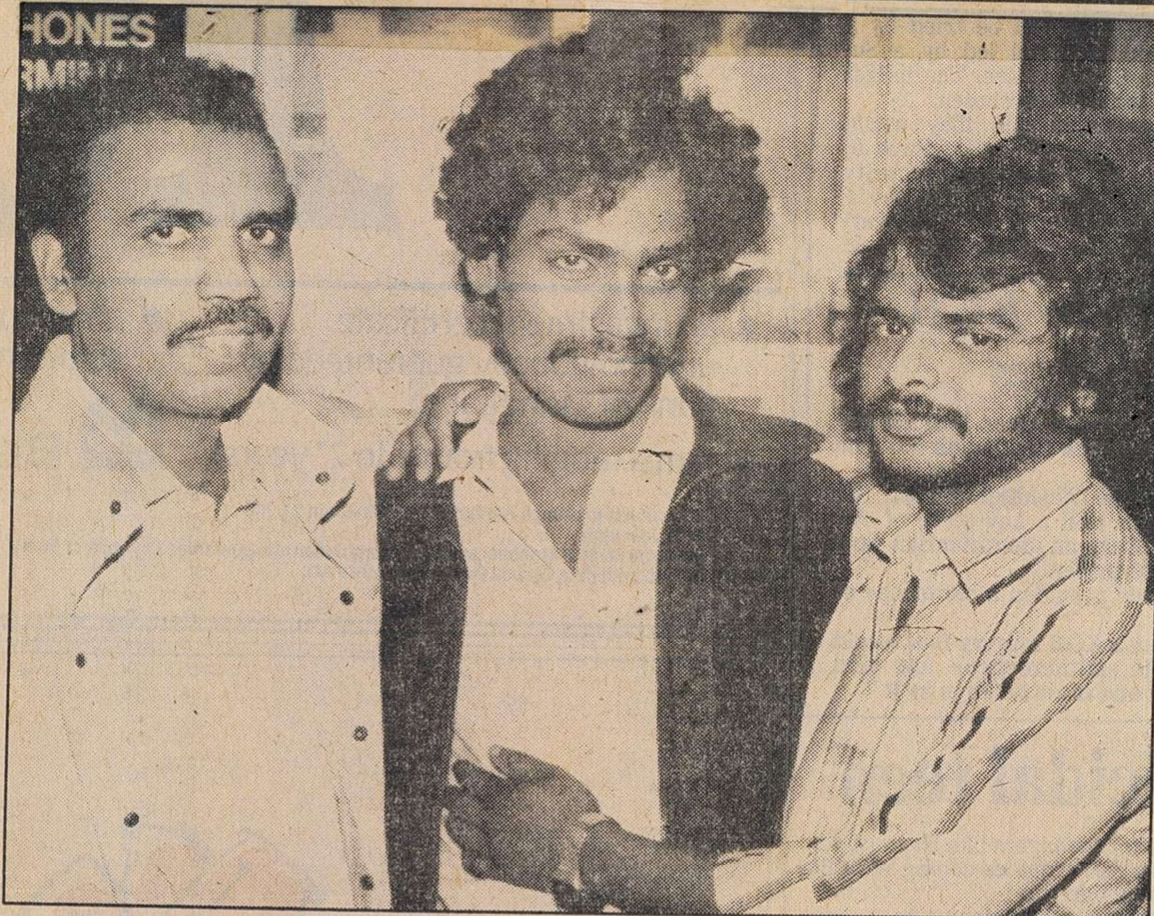


3 more Tamils arrive in Metro after cross-country bus trip. (1986, September 29). *The Toronto Star*.



BORIS SPREMO/TORONTO STAR

Family greets refugee: Ponndurai Natkunaseglan (centre) is greeted by his uncle, Sinnathamey Selvanayagam (left) and his cousin, Lingum Ramalingaw, after arriving in Metro from Vancouver last night. He is one of 83 Tamil refugees who arrived in Vancouver this month.

3 more Tamils arrive in Metro after cross-country bus trip

By Rosie Dimanno and William Clark Toronto Star

A young Sri Lankan refugee was given a joyful welcome when he arrived at the Bay St. bus terminal last night from Vancouver.

Ponndurai Natkunaseglan, 26, was joyfully embraced by his uncle and a cousin who lives in Montreal but had come to Toronto to meet him.

"We're happy, happy now," said Natkunaseglan's cousin Lingum Ramalingaw.

Natkunaseglan's uncle, Sinnathamey Selvanayagam, said the young refugee's first task in Toronto would be to learn English.

Selvanayagam, a restaurant worker, said his nephew would be living with him at his Triller

Ave. home.

The uncle said his nephew had left his mother, father and one sister behind in Sri Lanka.

Two other Tamil refugees also were aboard last night's bus. Neither spoke English, but Ramalingaw said they also had relatives and friends to care for them here in Metro.

They are among 83 Tamils who arrived in Vancouver this month and were granted refugee status. They were all given one-year permits to live and work in Canada while their case is under review.

Frederick Seevaratnam, a spokesman for Vancouver's tiny Tamil community, said about 10 of the refugees have gone on to Montreal, and a handful have remained on the West Coast.

But most of the newcomers have already made their way to Metro, where their resettlement has been handled privately by family and friends.

Seevaratnam reiterated allegations that the Tamils are coming to Canada from India where they board planes using fake passports. "These people are desperate to get out of Sri Lanka. They go to India first where they approach agencies who give them passports. At least, this is what they've told me. These agencies tell them they have to tear the passports up before they get to Canada."

Gnana Thevathasan, president of the Tamil-Eelam Society in Metro, said his group has had absolutely no contact with the newest batch of refugees.