Introduction

Dear Delegates! Please note that in the Historical Security Council, we will be debating this issue from 11th June 1990, when the massacres detailed in this report occurred. Please be aware to take the stance of our assigned nation at this period of time, not its current viewpoint!

Blindfolded, beaten and hands tied with chafing hemp rope. This is how more than 600 unarmed Sri Lankan police officials were shot in the head during the start of the Sri Lankan Civil War. As a result, more than one million people were displaced and an unverified number of civilians, officers, and army personnel killed on both sides of the war. Allegedly, more egregious war crimes were committed by both the Sri Lankan Government at the time, as well as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, with the Tamil Tigers committing the Aranthalawa massacre that killed 33 Buddhist monks.

As per the regulations of this commission, this report will be focusing on the time period before and up to 1990, from the initial commencement of the civil war in Sri Lanka to the peacekeeper intervention and mediation done by the Indian Government with the signing of the Indo-Sri Lankan Peace accords of 29th July, 1990. During this time, multiple war crimes such as the massacre of the 600 policemen led to the retaliation of the Sri Lankan government with brutal force.

The international community seems to take little notice of the conflict as a whole during the entirety of the events leading up to 1990, due to the fact that it was deemed as civil unrest. However, after India air dropped supplies to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) forces on June 5, 1987, Sri Lanka appealed to the United Nations to intervene and protect its sovereignty, which resulted in the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accords. Before this time Bhutan and Canada also played roles in the mediation of the crisis, though this did not prevent both parties from committing many human rights violations.

However, the objectives of the LTTE remained quite clear during this time. Due to the increasing ethnical discrimination of the pro-Sinhalese government with passing key laws such as the Ceylon...
Citizenship act of 15 November 1948 - which revoked the citizenship of all ethnic tamils residing in Sri Lanka - many youths in the Tamil minority of Sri Lanka had increasing nationalism to have a separate state of “Tamil Eelam” which would be governed by less restrictive laws and be open to the views of the Tamil minority instead of discriminating against them.

**Definition of Key Terms**

**War Crime**

Violations of international humanitarian law as defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the 1949 Geneva Conventions that result in individuals being held criminally responsible under international law. In terms of this issue, war crimes would be events such as the massacre of the 600 unarmed policemen, the events of Black July and more.

**Dominion Status**

Dominion status refers to nations that are under the British Crown given self-governing power to the citizens. This includes control over their laws and regulations, however their foreign affairs are under the influence of the crown. In this context Ceylon (later called Sri Lanka) was under dominion status from 1948-1972.

**Peace Accords**

These are a set of negotiation documents between two parties that agree upon a set of terms as negotiated by both parties. In the context of this issue, this would refer to the multiple ceasefire regulations as well as the prominent Indo-Sri Lankan Accord of 1987 that allowed the Indian Government to send peacekeeping forces to the country.

**Background Information**

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (informally referred to as Tamil Tigers) is a non-state armed group fighting for an independent state for Tamils in Sri Lanka. The separatist organization originated from the discrimination of the Tamils by the Sinhalese majority after gaining independence from British rule in 1948. Colonial officials in Ceylon (later renamed Sri Lanka in 1972) brought roughly 1 million Tamils from southern India to increase the workforce in the plantations. Hence, the British have established a preference towards the Tamil community, providing schools in areas concentrated with
Tamils and continuously appointed them with bureaucratic positions. Actions such as this fueled rage within the Sinhalese community and ultimately led to their discrimination towards the Tamils.

Furthermore, when ethnic representation was introduced into the national congress in 1833, it caused ethnic rivalry between the communities. The Sinhalese made up for the majority and thus should have more legislative seats. However, this was not the case, as they had a similar number of seats as the Tamils (Ceylon and Indian). This caused ethnic tension, until a reform in the constitution in 1921, basing the number of legislative seats on the territory and population. However, this caused more issues with the elite Tamil population, resulting in the formation of Tamil Mahajana Sabha (The Great Council of the Tamils) that is separate from the national congress. The formation of The Great Council of the Tamils was the first political organization based on ethnicity instead of national borders in the nation, leading to the formation of Sinhala Maha Sabah (the Great Council of the Sinhalese) in 1936.

**Situation After Independence (1948-1971)**

Ceylon was still considered a dominion of the British Commonwealth until the 22nd of May 1972, when it was renamed the Republic of Sri Lanka. Therefore, the British were significantly involved over the nation for 24 years, especially in the military. The Ceylon Independence act in 1948 established their dominion status, however, it was recognized as an independently governed state in allegiance with the British Commonwealth. The new government was dominated by the United National Party (UNP), a conservative party founded by Don Stephen Senanayake, known as the “Father of the Nation”, as he was the leader of the independence movement from the British and served as their first prime minister. However, the UNP was a business-oriented party and was in favor of the dominion status. The UNP contained many of the monoethnic political organizations including the Tamil Congress and Sinhala Maha Sabah.

Senanayake’s government’s actions intentionally discriminated against the Tamils. This includes the dominating sinhalese government passing the Ceylon Citizenship Act in 1948 which prevented Indian Tamils from receiving citizenship, resulting in a population of approximately 700,000 stateless people. The Tamil Congress left the UNP because of this and formed a splinter organization called the Federal Party (FP) in 1949. The Federal Party had a great impact on the Tamil community as it served to be the dominant Tamil political party for the next 20 years. Furthermore, it was the first to claim the north and east territory for the Ceylon Tamils igniting nationalism in the community.

The situation for the Tamil community did not get any better after the power shift in the 1956 elections. The Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP) won against the UNP in 1956 and continued the ill-treatment of the Tamils. They instigated a policy to replace the official language from English to Sinhala and Tamil to reverse the British influence in education. All political parties were in support of this, however, in 1955 sinhalese nationalists pressed the SLFP to change to the “Sinhalese Only Language
Act”. By dismissing their language and prohibiting them to join the civil service, this was seen as “an instrument of cultural oppression and as a denial of Tamil identity”. Moreover, resettlement programs sponsored by the government were set in place to move the Sinhalese to the Tamil dominated areas (specifically northern and eastern areas). This lead to a peaceful campaign encouraged by the Federal Party for Tamils. In retaliation, some in the Sinhalese community initiated violent anti-Tamil riots.

These were only a few events that contributed to the rise in ethnic tension, for more information on the time leading to the formation of the LTTE refer to the Appendix.

Formation of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (1976)

In the early 1970s, many of the youth in the Tamil community began to form protest groups to restore the culture of the Tamils and secure their rights. The Tamil Student League (TSL) was formed in retaliation of restrictions discriminating against their ethnicity in higher education institutions. Two members of TSL, Nadarajah Thangathurai and Selvarajah Yogachandran (also known as Kuttimuni), founded one of the first Tamil armed groups in 1969. Known as Thangathurai-Kuttimuni group, they committed numerous arson and political assassinations.

Vellupillai Prabhakaran was involved in both groups and used his experience created the Tamil New Tigers (TNT) in 1972. The Tamil Student League tuned into the Tamil Youth League under the Tamil United Front. The Tamil United Front (later renamed the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] in 1975) is a political party that seeks independence from Sri Lanka in the Tamil-dominated areas. The first TULF convention in 1976 passed the Vaddukoddai Resolution in which states “The Tamil Nation in general and the Tamil youth, in particular, to come forward to throw themselves fully in the sacred fight for freedom and to flinch not till the goal of a sovereign state of Tamil Eelam is reached.” After joining forces with another miniature armed group, the TNT became the LTTE, vowing to uphold the Vaddukoddai Resolution.
The LTTE was very diverse set of militant groups with branches dedicated to law, international communications and intelligence to name a few. Primarily, the LTTE was lead solely by Velupillai Prabhakaran, the founder of the LTTE. Prabhakaran was advised by a central command of experts and loyalists known as the Central Committee. Together, the Central Committee and Prabhakaran would make all of the decisions on funding, laws and the general military strategies used.

By far, the Military Division of the LTTE was the most well funded and diverse out of the departments. This included all the normal departments of the army, with additions such as the Black Tiger Wing and the Research Wing. The Black Tiger wing was a group of highly trained suicide bombers that gained notoriety for their assassinations of Ranasinghe Premadasa and Ragiv Gandhi, among other ministers of parliament. The Research Wing was also an interesting choice for the LTTE as no other organised terrorist group rigidly had funds set aside for the purpose of enhancing weaponry and thus is indicative of the vast amounts of wealth that they had, that they could spend it on researching new weapons.

The political wing dealt with the judicial facet of the LTTE. As the LTTE established its own control and autonomy over the areas it captured, the political wing would be responsible for keeping order and lawful action from the time of capture.
The LTTE also had a very extensive sea going fleet and so developed a very extensive network of black market shipments as well as a very solid mode of income. While this raised revenue, its public relations department would also create charities and nonprofit organisations in different countries, the main non-profit organisation being called the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) that would divert money given as donations in the Western societies to enhance the capabilities of the LTTE.

**First Eelam War (1983-1987)**

By 1983 the LTTE had been involved in a multitude of bank robberies and assassinations. However, it was a scale ambush of the Sri Lankan Army that initiated the beginning of the civil war. The ambush took place on 23 July 1983 in the Jaffna Peninsula, a Tamil dominated area, and resulted in the death of 13 soldiers. The incident was in response to the murder of one of the founding members of the LTTE, Charles Anthony. Furthermore, the ambush acted as a catalyst to anti-Tamil riots starting exactly the day after the event, spreading across Sri Lanka. This was known as the “Black July” riots, resulting in an estimated 2,000 deaths of the Tamil community. In their distraught many of the youth turned to militant groups for protection. The ethnic tensions between the two communities were higher than ever and the population was divided between the government and the Tamil militant groups. The Sri Lankan Civil War had begun.

**The Thimpu Talks (1985)**

In an attempt to resolve the conflict in a peaceful manner the Sri Lankan government was first to initiate negotiations with the rebel groups. Numerous of the Tamil militant groups were present, including LTTE and TULF. The peace talks were initially intended to be a platform for the Sri Lankan government to propose various negotiations to transfer power to satisfy the monoethnic organizations. However, instead the Tamil parties took advantage of the conference and presented the government with a list of demands for them to abide by before any of the peace talks commence. Only four demands were presented:

a. “The recognition of the Tamils as a Distinct Nationality;

b. The recognition of the right of the Tamils to an identified Tamil Homeland;

c. The recognition of the right of self-determination of the Tamil Nation;

d. The recognition of the right to full citizenship of all Tamils living in Sri Lanka”

The fourth condition was the only one that was in process to be fulfilled. However, without the acceptance of the other three the peace talks began to collapse. Instead the period of ceasefire was used for the militant groups to develop their arsenal. The events that followed established the LTTE as the dominant Tamil militant group. This included their occupation of the Jaffna Peninsula, and violent breakdown of other groups through assassination of their leaders.
Furthermore, international contracts ratified in the Thimpu Talks allowed the LTTE to purchase its first ship in 1986, opening up their international shipping network.

**Indo-Lanka Accord (1987)**

The Indo-Lanka Accord was another attempt to settle the Sri Lankan Civil War through the direct involvement of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF). The Accords allowed the devolution of power to the provinces in Sri Lanka. This would be done through demilitarization of the Sri Lankan Army in the north, in the conditions that the Tamil armed groups would surrender their arms to the IPKF. The demilitarization was agreed to be simultaneous, however, the Tamil groups were not present in Colombo to agree to these conditions. The LTTE refused to disarm, introducing an internal conflict between the LTTE and IPKF rather than peace.

**Second Eelam War (June 17th 1990 - 1995 )**

The Second Eelam War began with the deterioration of talks between the Sri Lankan Government at the time and the LTTE. During May 1990, the Indian peacekeeping forces that were battling against the LTTE were recalled to India as a concession by the Sri Lankan government on the part of the LTTE and a sign of goodwill to aid in peace talks. Unfortunately, this led to the LTTE just emassing and redistributing its strength during this time, which only lasted briefly until the massacre of the 600, after which all out war ensued.

**The Massacre**

On the 11th June 1990, the LTTE, unsatisfied by the negotiations brokered by the Sri Lankan government, decided to surround several police stations and ordered the personnel to leave the district immediately. When orders came from the president at the time: Ranasinghe Premadasa by way of Inspector General Ernest Peera, to surrender to the LTTE, the police personnel did as asked, as the government had been promised that the personnel would be returned without harm.

However, in the ensuing days, the LTTE cadres took the detained policemen to the dense jungles of Tirukkovil where they were blindfolded, lined up in rows and shot in the head with machine guns. This marked one of the most brutal displays of the LTTE for a long period of time and is still regarded as one of the bleakest moments in the Sri Lankan Police history.

Intriguingly, international condemnation, and even national aggression against the LTTE after this event was far and few between, due to the government’s insistence to carry out peace talks to negotiate a ceasefire with the LTTE during this time. However, after this event, the government declared an all out war against the LTTE and the second Eelam War began in June of 1990.
Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Republic of India

India has had a consistent role in the Sri Lankan War leading up to the massacre of 1990. Considering Southern India and Sri Lanka’s ethnic relations date back over 2 millenia, the conflict was one that concerned the country. In 1983, when the ethnic tensions between the Tamil and sinhalese erupted, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi proposed to mediate a settlement. However, the Indian province of Tamil Nadu, was acting as a host for Tamil militant training camps. Providing a foundation in which LTTE grew into what is known as the most sophisticated and organized insurgent groups. India became involved in this conflict out of fear of separatism of their own province of Tamil Nadu. Their aim was to force the Sri Lankan government to ease their treatment of Sri Lankan Tamils through concessions and allow the militant groups to accept these concessions. However, once news of India arming and training Tamil militant groups broke, the relations between the two nations deteriorated.

India intervened once more in 1987, similarly for their fear of secessionist movements in Tamil Nadu and the continuous wave of refugees coming into the country. Thus, under the Indo-Lankan Accords, the Prime Minister Ragiv Gandhi sent the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) into the Jaffna region. However, the IPKF was not effective in mediating the conflict and demilitarizing the LTTE and resulted in a 2 year battle between them. Approximately 1,200 indian soldiers were killed in combat.

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)

The JVP is a radical pro-Sinhalese group that tried to overthrow the J.R Jayewardena government through armed conflict during the 1970s and more importantly; with respect to the time frame of this report, in the 1980s when it caused civil unrest and attacked multiple weaponry stores to enmass enough firepower to topple the government. This time period was also linked with a surge in Sinhalese Nationalism as it was around this time period that India signed the Indo-Sri Lankan peace Accords with Sri Lanka. This led to many believing the government was being too soft towards the Indians and the LTTE, with which it had yet again entered into peace talks in 1989. The JVP was always radical in its ways and a sizeable number of people within the Sinhalese community secretly supported its actions against the government, due to the passive stance taken by the JR Jayewardena government at that time.

While the JVP unrest did not lead to any major shift in the government stance in the civil war, the revolt served to show the government and India that the Sinhalese people were angry at the subversion of their sovereignty and became more radicalised as the civil war continued.
Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP)

The SLFP is a monoethnic political organization in favor of the sinhalese majority, and contributed to the escalation of ethnic tensions after gaining power in the 1956 elections. The party was an advocate for sinhalese nationalism and proceeded to alienate the Tamil minority. They did this through means of nationalizing universities, and disregarding the Tamil language. The establishment of quotas in universities lead to preferences of the sinhalese youth, making it difficult for the Tamil to enter university. These actions can have repercussions to the entire future of the community, causing the youth to resort to protesting. Ultimately leading to the formation of multiple militant groups including LTTE. In the constitution of 1972 establishing the Republic of Sri Lanka, the SLFP also dismissed the demands of the Tamil community that were voiced through the Federal Party. This provoked the leader of the Federal Party, S.J.V Chelvanayakam to introduce the idea of a separate independent state for the Tamils. Thus, SLFP was the catalyst to the ideology the LTTE and other Tamil militant groups represent.

Kingdom of Bhutan

Bhutan being an inherently peaceful country, led the mediations in July-August 1985 between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government before India’s intervention in 1987. While many believe that the Thimpu talks of 1985 where a golden chance for the LTTE to reform and gather munitions, some headway was made in the talks that laid the foundations for the LTTE to come back to the table in 1987 with Indian mediation. Significantly, Tamils were granted full citizenship in Sri Lanka, which seemed to ease the anger of many Tamil civilians living in Sri Lanka, at least for a while until the peace talks began to fall apart. Interestingly, the fact that Bhutan volunteered to intervene in the conflict before India emphasises the peaceful nature of Bhutan, as well as marking the first international interest in the Sri Lankan civil war shown by a foreign party.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)

The UK was the colonial power which ruled Sri Lanka before it gained its independence in 1948. Intriguingly, the UK chose to remain silent in the Sri Lankan conflict, even though it elected Tamil nationals to power during its reign over the island. This disparity in power seems to be the root of the civil animosity between Sinhalese and Tamil people in Sri Lanka, yet the UK failed to address the issue publically. Furthermore, the fact that Sri Lanka was a commonwealth country during this time may deem it necessary for the UK to take a more active role in the civil war occurring in one of its member nations, yet the UK also respected the privacy and Sovereignty of the Sri Lankan people and feared that western intervention may spark anger towards western powers interfering in the dealings of the newly decolonised nations.
Key Players

Junius Richard Jayewardena

J.R. Jayewardena was the president of Sri Lanka from 1978 to 1989, during which many prominent events occurred, including the massacre of over 1000 tamil civilians in black July. J. R. Jayewardena was often criticised for ignoring the tensions between the Tamil and Sinhalese people in Sri Lanka, as well as taking a passive stance towards the very blatant and violent attacks of the LTTE on the civilian population. Furthermore, Jayawardena was charged by the Tamil population and later by the Sinhalese majority, with exacerbating the violence during Black July in 1983, when mobs of Sinhalese people killed up to 8000 tamils in retaliation to the deaths of 13 Sri Lankan soldiers in the east of the country at the hands of the LTTE. Jayawardena only addressed the Sinhalese casualties during this time and completely disregarded the Tamil deaths. Many external parties such as the BBC conclude that the lack of effort taken by the government to stem the violence in Black July was the cause for the civil war to take such a bloody, terrible course to finish.

Ranasinghe Premadasa

R. Premadasa was only president of Sri Lanka for a short period of time between 1989 to 1990, as concerned by this report, yet he played a vital role in much of the conflict. Crucially, he asked the Indian government to recall their peacekeeping forces in the North as a gesture of good will towards the LTTE in 12 March 1990 and in hopes that the peace talks between the two parties would go better this way. However, in doing so, Premadasa just opened the doorway for the LTTE to resume its terror attacks on the Sri Lankan people from 11th June 1990, as it gave time for the LTTE to regroup and led to major massacres such as the 600 policemen and the Aranthalawwa massacre of Buddhist clergy happening under his presidency. Premadasa was a more aggressive president towards the issue of the LTTE as well, especially after the massacre of the 600, after which the government of Sri Lanka declared all out war with the LTTE, though it was also under his personal orders that the 600 policemen surrendered to the LTTE before they were killed. While Premadasa did not openly collaborate with the LTTE, reports from local news channels claim that Premadasa provided munitions and weapons to the LTTE to fight the IPKF, which would in the end lead to the re-emergence of the War on 17th June 1990 with the massacre of the 600 unarmed policeman.

Interestingly, Premadasa was also one of the most prominent political figures assassinated by the LTTE on May 1 1993 and led to the LTTE Black Tigers division to gain notoriety as a dangerous suicide group, as well as being one of charges that lead to the LTTE becoming listed as a terrorist organisation. Other crimes included narcotics smuggling, use of child soldiers, war crimes and disruption of democracy.
Velupillai Prabhakaran

Velupillai Prabhakaran founded the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, what started as a small movement to become a relentless insurgent group supported by networks of arms and money. His influence over the Tamil community was strong and inspired many to follow him. Prabhakaran was seen as a savior, after the “Black July” riots. However, other than a devoted leader, his followers also describe him as a “power-hungry maniac with no regard for human life”. Moreover, he had a barbaric side even towards his own following, a former Tamil Tiger, Colonel Karuna Amman stated "If someone was against him, he never gave them a chance, he ordered them killed".

Rajiv Gandhi

Rajiv Gandhi was the prime minister of India from 1984-1989. Initially, he was not meant to be the successor of his mother Indira Gandhi (Prime Minister 1980-1984). His brother was a respected political figure that was assumed to take the role, Rajiv was not involved in politics until the death of his brother in a plane crash. He assumed the role of prime minister after the assassination of his mother in 1984. Rajiv Gandhi's main role in the Sri Lankan civil war was his act in sending the IPKF to end the war. However, this only increased conflict and the IPKF were withdrawn the same year of his resignation.

Timeline of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February, 4th, 1948</td>
<td>The Independence of the dominion Ceylon</td>
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<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>sinhalese was made the official language of Ceylon in the “Official Language Act No. 33 of 1956”, informally known as the “sinhalese Only Language Act”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>The alienation of the Tamil community provoked riots between the two ethnic groups. The rising number in casualties drove thousands of Tamils to relocate north, some even migrating to India.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>A new constitution renamed Ceylon to The Republic of Sri Lanka.</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>The start of the Tamil Movement composed of the Tamil Student League and led by Velupillai Prabhakaran.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>The assasination of the mayor of the Jaffna province, introducing violence to the campaign.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>The first TULF convention producing the goal of an independent state named Tamil Eelam. Thus inspiring the formation of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.</td>
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The killing of 13 soldiers by the LTTE rising ethnic tensions and erupting riots between the sinhalese and Tamils. Marking the start of the Sri Lankan Civil War.

1983

The first attempt for peace talks known as the Thimpu Talks, between the Sri Lankan government and militant groups. Failed because of the demands presented were not fulfilled.

1985

The intervention of India to demilitarize the country by the Indo-Lankan Accords. Leading to a 3 year internal conflict between LTTE and IPKF. After the conflict between IPKF and LTTE a moment of ceasefire was declared. This opened to peace talks between LTTE and newly elected president Ranasinghe Premadasa. These Talks resulted in compromising with various of the LTTE’s demands such as removal of several army camps. In an attempt to engage in the peace talks the IPK F was orders to leave the country.

1989

June 11th, 1990

The LTTE massacre 600 unarmed police officers in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

As of 1990, the UN has yet to take action in the Sri Lankan civil war and no resolutions have been passed by either the General Assemblies, Human Rights Councils or Security Councils. The only ratified document that the United Nations recognises at this time is the Indo- Sri Lankan peace accords that allow India to intervene in the conflict.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Thimphu Peace Talks

The Thimpu Peace Talks was the first attempt to reach a solution to the civil war. However, the parties were not on the best negotiable terms. Both parties had separate agendas and proposals to their own benefit. The Tamil insurgent groups rejected everything the Sri Lankan government proposed on July 12th 1985 and presented their conditions of negotiation the following day. A coalition of Tamil insurgent groups agreed to four demands that would tackle the discrimination towards the tamil community. On July 13th 1985 in a joint declaration stated the terms as well as justification: “We have demanded and struggled for an independent Tamil state as the answer to this problem arising out of the
denial of these basic rights of our people. The proposals put forward by the Sri Lankan government delegation as their solution to this problem is totally unacceptable.”.

The Thimpu Talks allowed the government of Sri Lanka understand the other side of the war and was willing to compromise with the demands in the second phase of talks in August 1985. This included giving regional autonomy to all the provinces. However, Prabhakaran was not satisfied as regional autonomy to the northern and eastern provinces dominated by Tamils was not enough. The demands were not met as the establishment of an official Tamil homeland was not done. Prabhakaran wanted the the united northern and eastern province to be recognized as a “state within a state”. This is unacceptable for the Sri Lankan government as the unification of the northern and eastern provinces would compromise 60% of the country’s coastline and pose as a security threat. The government was mainly concerned with the port of Trincomalee, in which serves an important role in the country’s economy and security as its strategic location has been a military advantage for sea battles.

Therefore, a consensus was not reached and the talks only set up opportunities for LTTE to expand and grow under ceasefire. Thus, more harm than good was done.

**Indo Lankan Accords**

The Indo-Lankan peace Accords was a legal document which tasked the Sri Lankan military to stop the offensive against the LTTE group and hand over the governance of the Northern part of Sri Lanka to a provisional council that would have the aid of an Indian Peace Keeping Taskforce, which would help to disarm and maintain peace in the area. Many people in the Tamil community viewed the IPKF as a much needed respite from the aggression of both the LTTE and the Sinhalese Majority armed forces, and could be seen as a successful instigation during the beginning of its term of occupation. The IPKF coupled with the provisional councils helped to disarm the LTTE, though animosities between the LTTE and the IPKF grew until the LTTE refused to disarm which resulted in conflict between the IPKF and the LTTE. Disregarding this, the provincial councils which were instigated by the Indo-Sri Lankan Peace Accords also helped to bring back the way of life which the Tamil people had before the civil war began.

Unfortunately, this did not last as the Sinhalese majority grew to dislike the intrusion of the Indian government, fueled by the nationlistic sentiment of the JVP riots. Furthermore, reports of human rights violations and malpractice by the IPKF also soured their image among the Tamil community. This resulted in the Premadasa government of 1990 asking the IPKF to leave the country, leading to the massacre of the 600 unarmed soldiers in 11 June 1990.

Arguably, the IPKF just allowed the LTTE to regain ground it had lost to the Sri Lankan armed forces as well as allow the LTTE to emass weapons which it used to restart the war in all stead in June.
1990 with the killing of 600 unarmed policemen. In that respect, the IPKF did fail to disarm the LTTE, which was one of its mandates that were agreed upon in the Indo-Sri Lankan Peace Accords. Furthermore, the actions of the IPKF could have linked to the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Ragiv Gandhi, which would mean that the IPKF actually had a negative outcome on the whole situation as it just created a pathway by which the LTTE could gain a foothold in Indian soil.

Possible Solutions

As Historical Security Council is mimicking the situation that would have occurred in the real Security council in 1990, this council will also be allocated the same powers administered to the Security council of that time. However, delegates must keep in mind that these powers would only be in effect should all of the P5 member nations: France, USSR, USA, UK and China would have to come to a consensus as the use of a veto by any of the permanent members would have resulted in the clause calling for the action to be struck out from the resolution as a whole. To combat this, many of the dealings of the Security Council was made 'behind the seat or before the council came into session, thus allowing minimal vetoes to be passed.

Negotiation

This is the authority by which the Security Council can open up an investigation or an inquiry into a specific issue of its choice to gain more knowledge and incite into the details of the issue before making a resolution to combat certain aspects of the issue to protect global safety and peace. This would have been a very prominent tool to use in issue of humanitarian distress in which governments or other parties have conflicting details as to the number of people affected and how these people are affected. In the case of the Sri Lankan Civil War, inquiries could have been repeatedly opened to discuss the issue of humanitarian distress and the plight of the Tamil and Sinhalese civilians who are affected by the civil war, yet the issue was never brought before the Security Council to be debated.

Mediation

This would be when the Security Council encourages all parties involved in the conflict to meet each other in an effort to find a non-violent method of resolving the conflict. These talks would be overseen by an unbiased third party, usually a panel appointed by the Security Council or a member state that volunteers to mitigate the issue. For the Sri Lankan Civil War, efforts were made by India and Bhutan to hold such peace talks, though these were done without the involvement of the United Nations, and leads one to wonder whether they would have been more successful should the Security Council would have pressured the Sri Lankan Government to attend those peace talks.
**Arbitration**

This is when the Security Council would refer a certain aspect of the issue to the International Criminal Court (ICC) or the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the judicial bodies would take binding action that to maintain global peace and dignity of the human race, in accordance to international law. During the civil war, claims of genocide ran rampant within the Sri Lankan government claiming the LTTE committed heinous acts of unneccessary violence, such as the massacre of the 600 unarmed civilians. The LTTE however, retaliated by claiming the Sri Lankan government committed war crimes as well such as the events of Black July. Having the ICJ or the ICC take a non-aligned view on the issue would have greatly helped to put an end to such baseless claims being made from either side of the conflict and could have lead to much more decisive action being taken in the issue.

**Military Intervention**

The most powerful and arguably the most contested of the powers of the Security Council, the right of military intervention is when the Security Council would pass a resolution which sends a peacekeeping force to maintain security within a certain area or region. This is quite a controversial measure as it seems to subvert the sovereignty of the member state and thus most of the time, the affected member state is asked and agrees to the peacekeeping measure. This task force would be providing protection to humanitarian aid groups and international officials as well as maintain an overall peaceable environment. However, when the Sri Lankan Civil war arises, the peacekeeping taskforce was still in its infancy, with less than twenty peacekeeping task forces being commissioned. Furthermore, the fact that most of the peacekeeping forces were from nations such as India and USA would not have been very accepted by the Sinhalese or Tamil communities, due to the strong sense of nationalism and patriotism in the country at that time.

**Guiding Questions**

- **This issue was not introduced into the security council at the time. As delegates of historical security council you must think as to how discussing the issue will impact the conflict and result in a different outcome?**
- How can the nation reach complete demilitarization for the Sri Lankan Army and LTTE when the LTTE is supported by a network of trade and arms?
- Considering the nature of the topic and the attempted peace talks, what other peaceful methods that can be done to solve the issue that the LTTE will be willing to participate in?
- Can compromises be made to meet the four demands of the Thimpu talks, or do you think LTTE previous actions have shown that they cannot be trusted?
The ethnic tensions of the sinhalese and Tamils can be traced back to when Sri Lanka was Ceylon. It is their internal conflicts that is the root of the Sri Lankan war and therefore a needed solution. What action is needed to overcome the social indifferences of the two communities in order to reach a sustainable solution?

Bibliography


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