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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

84-2183

## Congress of the United States

## Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

May 22, 1984

Mr. Claire E. George  
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. George:

The Subcommittees on Asian and Pacific Affairs and on Human Rights and International Organizations would like CIA and INR to testify at a closed intelligence briefing on the situation and outlook in Sri Lanka at 1:30 pm. on June 14 in Room 2172 Rayburn House Office Building. We want you to focus the briefing primarily on the background, evolution and prospects for Singhalese-Tamil relations, and on the effects of the conflict between these two groups on the outlook for the country.

In your prepared testimony, we would like you to address the following issues:

1. Describe briefly the background of the Singhalese-Tamil conflict -- its history, causes and manifestations.
2. What are the principal aims -- and fears -- of each group? How united -- or divided -- are each group in their goals and tactics? In particular, how large a proportion of the Sri Lanka Tamils favor an independent state, and support (or condone) terrorism as a means of achieving this or other goals? How large a proportion of the Singhalese are opposed to any significant concessions to Tamil aspirations for autonomy in Tamil majority areas? Has there been any discernible trend in the views of people in either groups toward more extreme -- or more conciliatory -- positions in recent decades?
3. What role do the Indian Tamil estate workers play in the conflict? What is the view of the island's other ethnic and religious groups toward the Singhalese-Tamil struggle?
4. Describe briefly the size and causes of the various outbreaks of Tamil-Singhalese violence in recent decades. Were the 1983 outbreaks the worst the island has experienced in terms of the magnitude of the killings, the breakdown of law and order, and the destruction of property. What effect did this have on the economic situation and outlook? Has the Tamil-Singhalese conflict caused aid donors, including international institutions, to consider reducing their aid to Sri Lanka? If not, are they likely to do so if no solution to the problem is reached?

5. What is the human rights situation for Tamils in normal times? Are they subject to systematic discrimination or harsh treatment at the hands of the government?


6. What steps has the government taken over the years to try to meet Tamil desires for federalism or local autonomy? What do you see as the main issues in dispute in the All-Parties Conference, and what is the outlook for this or any other forum to work out a solution acceptable to a substantial majority of each community?

7. What is the ethnic composition of the police and military forces? Has this changed substantially in recent years? If so, in what ways? How disciplined are the police and military in terms of acting impartially in times of trouble between Tamils and Singhalese?


8. There have been numerous reports in the press and charges by Tamils that the police and military have retaliated indiscriminately against innocent Tamils following violent acts by Tamil terrorists. The government, on the other hand, has said that most violence by the police and military occurs in response to specific attacks against government installations or personnel rather than hours or days after terrorist acts. How would you describe the events of the past year -- and of the past month or two in the Jaffna area -- in this regard? How has the Prevention Against Terrorism Act been used in the recent conflicts? How would you describe prison conditions for those arrested in connection with communal violence?

9. What role has India played in the conflict, both diplomatically and in terms of providing safe haven and training for Tamil terrorists.

Please submit copies of your testimony -- including page-sized maps, if possible -- in writing 48 hours in advance of this briefing.



STEPHEN J. SOLARZ  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Asian  
and Pacific Affairs

Sincerely,  
  
GUS YATRON  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Human  
Rights and International  
Organizations