

RESTRICTED

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FM COLOMBO 030855Z SEP 84

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 406 OF 3 SEPTEMBER

INFO ROUTINE MODUK (FOR DI4C) AND NEW DELHI

INFO SAVING WASHINGTON (FCO PLEASE PASS)

SRI LANKA : INTERNAL SECURITY

1. MY DA HAS ALREADY REPORTED ON THE DEFENCE NET THE AMBUSH OF A POLICE CONVOY ON 1 SEPTEMBER AND SOME OF THE REACTIONS OF THE SECURITY FORCES. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THESE REACTIONS FROM A TAMIL JOURNALIST WHOM WE CONSIDER RELIABLE AND WHO VISITED POINT PEDRO ON 2 SEPTEMBER.

2. TEN CIVILIANS WERE SHOT DEAD BY POLICE COMMANDOS WHO CAME FROM THEIR CAMP AT PALALY ON HEARING OF THE KILLING OF THEIR COMRADES AT TIKKAM. THERE WAS RANDOM SHOOTING AT POINT PEDRO TOWN. AN ARMY UNIT LATER SET FIRE TO 30 MEDIUM SIZE SHOPS AND 25 SMALL BOUTIQUES IN POINT PEDRO TOWN AND ALSO SET FIRE TO THE NETS AND THE HUTS OF FISHERMEN ALONG THE COAST OF TIKKAM. THE ARMY ALSO SET FIRE TO AND COMPLETELY DESTROYED HARTLEY COLLEGE LIBRARY AT POINT PEDRO. A LARGE NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN TIKKAM HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES.

3. OUR SOURCE SAYS THAT TODAY, 3 SEPTEMBER, JAFFNA TOWN IS BACK TO NORMAL: SCHOOLS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND PRIVATE BUSINESSES ARE OPEN.

4. IF THE SECURITY FORCES CONTINUE TO REACT IN THIS UNDISCIPLINED WAY EVERY TIME THEY ARE AMBUSHED, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO LOSE OUT IN THE PROPAGANDA BATTLE.

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

NICHOLAS

LIMITED

SAD

SCU

DEFD

PUSD

RES D

CONS D

CCD

NEWS D

PLANNING STAFF

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR WHITNEY

PS/MR RAISON

PS/PUS

SIR W HARDING
MR BOYD

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