

From New Delhi by Susan Maitra

War declared against Tamils

The Tamils have finally produced the result they wanted: a bloodbath to justify their cause.

In the week of Aug. 3, the crisis between the Sinhalese majority of Sri Lanka and the Tamils, who are pressing for a separatist state, has escalated step by step into a declaration of bloody war between the Tamils and the government. On Aug. 3, a bomb went off in the Madras airport, killing 32 people. The explosion was the work of the Tamil separatists. It is believed that the explosive device, a time-bomb hidden in a suitcase, was supposed to be placed aboard a plane headed for Colombo, Sri Lanka. Instead, the suitcase was left behind, and exploded in the arrivals area of the airport.

Four days later, on Aug. 7, the Sri Lankan navy shelled Tamil majority towns along the northern coast, razing up to 1,000 towns and killing 100 people, most of them women and children.

This drastic action was taken, said the Colombo government, in order to crack down on smugglers going between the coast and southern India. But the following actions show that the Sri Lankan government has cordoned off entire areas of the north, where the Tamil minority is concentrated, and the Sri Lankan army is now patrolling the streets of the region.

This repression comes not unwelcomed by the Tamil extremists, who have been wishing to provoke it in hopes that it would produce an uproar in India and Indian government intervention for the establishment of a separate Tamil state. Indeed, during the parliamentary discussion of the action, six south Indian deputies stormed out in rage at the Indian government's

inaction. India will not intervene, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi told the nation. "This is not the Punjab; this is not Bangladesh in 1971." While she deplores the killing of innocent people and urges that a political solution be found for the representation of the Tamils in Sri Lankan decision-making, India is committed to not interfering in a matter the Sri Lankan government must itself resolve.

Not only are the Tamils of southern India predisposed to pressuring the Gandhi government to intervene. The Soviet-backed Communist Party of India is charging that the Tamil crisis is the work of a Pakistan-Chinese-Israeli-U.S. axis against India. The CPI newspaper, the *Patriot*, has featured interviews with Tamil terrorists spouting this line and citing the fact that the Israeli intelligence agency, the Mossad, has been invited into Sri Lanka to help in the crackdown against the Tamils.

There is no question that the Tamil-Sinhalese problem in Sri Lanka is being exploited by the "foreign hands" who want to destroy the subcontinent. The Soviet Union must be numbered among the hands. In the last two years, the minority Tamil group has moved right into the Marxist-led extremist front seeking a separate "nation" through violence. All of the major Tamil extremist groups have a Marxist litany to mouth and Soviet backing to show. Inside Sri Lanka, these extremists have resorted to mindless terrorist acts designed to provoke the type of reaction the Sri Lankan government

delivered on Aug. 7.

Over the last year or so, the Tamil terrorist organizations have consolidated their base and spread their tentacles abroad. Tamil residents abroad, most of whom are wealthy professionals, have joined the "cause" to mobilize finances and political muscle to support their fellow Tamils in Sri Lanka.

In July, overseas Tamils held a conference in Nanuet, New York, to mobilize international support for a separate Tamil nation. A "Tamil international" with a five-man executive task force was set up, to be based in London, to develop the rationale for a separate Tamil nation. Tamil Nadu politician P. Nedumaran is prominent in the executive group.

This effort is being supported, according to one Tamil operative, by the National Council of Churches, and Sens. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), and William Proxmire (D-Wisc.).

The Tamil terrorist campaign also has the blessings of the Christian missionaries of Somerville, Massachusetts, where there is a sizable Tamil exile community. The flag of the "independent Tamil nation" was brazenly displayed in the state capital of Massachusetts.

As with the Sikh secessionists operating abroad against India, the Tamils are seeking financial power, as well as arms, from terrorist nations controlled by the Switzerland-based Nazis and the British. Just as two top Sikh leaders—based in London and formal office bearers of the self-proclaimed "Republic of Khalistan"—visited Libya and met with Colonel Qaddafi to seek the support of his international terrorist network and oil money, the Sri Lankan terrorists are also obtaining arms from Qaddafi and from the radical left wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization.