

EPRLF team urges PM for solution to N-E issue

By Ananth Palakidnar

A three-member delegation of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) has urged Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to present a political package to find a plausible solution to the North-East issue and to isolate the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The delegation headed by EPRLF General Secretary and the Jaffna District Parliamentarian Suresh K. Premachandran met the Prime Minister on Friday afternoon in his office in Parliament. The others in the delegation were EPRLF MP of Vavuniya District Raja Kuganeswaran and the EPRLF politburo member Loganathan Ketheeswaran.

Mr. Premachandran told the *Sunday Observer* that his party was the first Tamil party to meet the new Prime Minister.

According to Mr. Premachandran the delegation emphasised to the Prime Minister the seriousness of the North-East crisis and the LTTE terrorism. "We told the Prime Minister that the North-East problem cannot be dragged on, and a political package must be worked out to restore democracy in the North-East and to isolate the LTTE," he said.

He also said that they had discussed the security situation in the North and the

Prime Minister positively responded to the discussion.

Mr. Premachandran said that the Prime Minister was very much concerned on the North-East issue and he emphasised that the minority issues such as the Muslim problem in the areas must be settled before arriving at an overall settlement. "The Prime Minister also assured that he would have discussions frequently to work out a settlement to the North-East issue," he said.

Meanwhile, according to reports from Jaffna, the LTTE has increased its Police force with more stations in the peninsula. The reports said that the Tiger Police Force was active round the clock with at least about 1,500 men and women mobilised in it.

The LTTE Police stations have been set up in Palai, Chunnakam, Velvettiturai, Chankanai and Point Pedro in addition to the one in Jaffna, reports said.

The ranks in the LTTE Police Force goes up to the Inspector of Police beginning from the constable. A cop is said to be paid around Rs. 2,000.

An ex-constable of the Sri Lanka Police, named P. Nadesan is in overall charge of the LTTE Police Force and he is popularly known as the IGP in Jaffna, according to reports.