

Dud weapons deal cancelled in time. (1994, October 20). *The Island*.

Midnight crowds to hear PM at Tissa

Dud weapons deal cancelled in time

The crowd stayed on till near midnight to hear Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunge the PA's Presidential candidate address an election campaign meeting at Tissamaharama on Monday. She was delayed due to bad weather at Katukurunda where she addressed a rally at Weligama before going on to Tissamaharama.

Prime Minister Bandaranaike Kumaratunge told the people what her government had done in seven weeks — lowered the price of bread, diesel, kerosene and fertilizer. What is Gamini Dissanayake saying that we have only been digging graves. Yes, we responded to the people's demands to find out what happened to their loved ones who disappeared during the UNP rule. People are

pointing out to the police the places where mass graves were dug and hundreds buried. We will go on even to Nuwara Eliya in search of brutally killed bodies of our youth. We are not hunting the police or armed forces. We want to identify the politicians who ordered the killings.

Some are against a solution to the North East War which has resulted in the killing of our young boys by the thousands. There were people who are making money out of this war while the cream of the youth from the south and other areas of the country are being massacred by the LTTE.

I cancelled an arms deal where dud weapons were to be purchased for the use of our soldiers. This deal if allowed would have resulted in further loss of lives as the guns

would not have fired and our boys would have been virtually killed unarmed.

The Samurdi Movement we have just launched will place young boys and girls in our rural areas responsible for all development work in their areas. They will liaise with their officials and others and ensure the country gets the best results out of the money that is being spent by Government.

Some newspapers are saying that the N.E. war is to protect Sinhala Buddhists. I say the war is to make a few people rich at the expense of the lives of the young Sinhala Buddhists.

Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunge told the meeting how valuable government land in Colombo was to be sold for a small sum. She stopped these

sales and what do you think, friends of a certain party came to see me in my office at the Parliament and offered me 500 Lakhs to get them this one particular land. You can imagine how free they were with the Ministers of the previous government. I will be happy looking after my children and feeding them with the salary I am entitled to. I have no rogues in my Cabinet. The Ministers who do this are those of Gamini Dissanayake's party.

Placing Gamini Dissanayake in charge of Government is like placing a fox in charge of a poultry yard.

Messrs Mahinda Rajapakse, Chamal Rajapakse, Chairman of the Southern Provincial Council, Mr. Tennyson Edirisooriya, Member SPC. Mrs Nirupama Rajapakse were among the other speakers.

