

Nine Sinhalese captive released by LTTE. (1994, October 19). *The Island*.

**Nine Sinhalese captives released by LTTE** *THE ISLAND 19.10.94*

by Franklin R. Satyapalan

The LTTE, yesterday released nine Sinhalese civilians, to the ICRC in Jaffna, and are also said to have indicated their willingness to allow the five lakhs of Jaffna citizens to use their franchise at the November 9th Presidential Elections, reliably sources said.

The nine civilians were fishermen, taken captive by them.

The government last week released 18 suspected LTTEs whom the LTTE has maintained were farmers and fishermen, sources said.

They said the nine Sinhalese will be brought to Trincomalee port by the ICRC tomorrow. The Commissioner of elections Mr. R. K. Chandrananda de Silva, was at the same time preparing to hold the elections in the

North, with about 400 to 500 polling booths.

The four member initial peace delegation led by secretary to Prime Minister K. Bala-patabendi and comprising Secretary to Minister of Information, Aviation, and Tourism Lionel Fernando, Bank of Ceylon Chairman Rajan Asirwathan and Architect Navin Gooneratne briefed the Prime Minister Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike in detail on their two day deliberations with the LTTE on Sunday.

The talks which commenced on Monday the 24th of October, may lengthen to a maximum period of ten days, if all goes well, sources said.

The Jaffna citizens look forward to the appointment of a commission of inquiry into the burning of the Jaffna library in 1981, and the privatised restoration of this treasure house of knowledge to its former self soon, sources said.

On the Agenda for talks in the second stage of peace talks will be the reconstruction of the Highways the restoration of power

communciation, and ways to bring down the cost of living in the North, sources said.

To reopen a path for the smooth transport of people and goods, the LTTE delegation requested that the army withdraw from the Poonagiri area so that the Karaitivu, Sangu-piddy causeway could be used, as the army had two camps at the entry point to the North at Elephant pass and Mandathivu but it is learnt that the army needs an army observation post at this point, and not for security check on persons travelling, this would be a logistics problem that would be discussed at these talks.