

# Pottu Amman in a jam. (1995, October 01). *The Island*.

Exclusive report from LTE Hq.

## POTTU AMMAN IN A JAM

by Our Defence Corr.

**P**lace: LTE headquarters in a tobacco plantation under a Palmyrah grove somewhere in Vadamarachchi.

**Vellupillai Prabhakaran the Tiger Supremo** "Asia's latest terror master is holed up in his bunker gobbling a Thosai and sipping plain tea while licking a piece of Palmyrah jaggery. Velu barebodied with his verti tucked up to mini skirt level is visibly annoyed.

**Ennappa engai Pottu?** he mutters under his breath to a six year old deadly freedom fighter carrying an AK 47. Ena Pottu wangai (call Pottu) he barks at the kid.

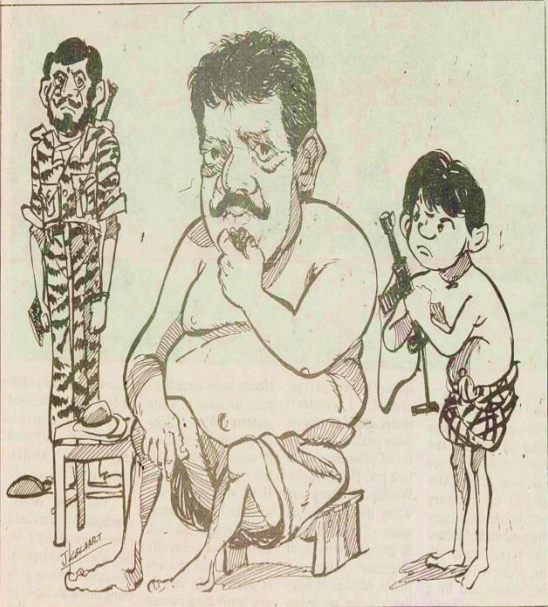
LTE's reputed Intelligence Chief, Pottu Amman most wanted man by the research and Intelligence Wing of India walks in with jungle fatigues and is eyeing Velu's thosai with envy. Poor Pottu looks starved the food embargo having him in the stomach despite claims in Colombo by the Commissioner General of Essential Services that there is enough food in the North.

Enna da, whaat is happening? Where are the daily intelligence reports? I haven't been receiving them for the last 10 days, Madayan, growls the Supremo

Pottu is shivering in his foamtread rubber slippers smuggled in at great cost and confesses: his sources had dried up.

Velu: Enna? What happened to the sources we had in Colombo? We had them at every... and they supplied us regularly. Do you think we have a spy in the ranks? Is it Janakapoura again?

**Pottu:** Supreme Commander I swear by Vishnu Siva, Muruga and Ganesh that we have all of them in place but my regular and most



dependable sources have dried up.

**Velu:** In the name of all our comrades who have valiantly sacrificed their lives for our just and noble cause I will give you two seconds to name the sources we have lost...and pulls out a Magnum .45 from under his verti.

**Pottu:** Supreme Commander in the name of all the gods sacred to both of us I tell the truth. They were crime reporters from "The Island" newspaper.

**Velu:** Nalla Kadavul (Good God) you mean you got these Sinhala madayan to get confidential information from the top most sources and pass it on to you wrapped up in cigarettes? Little wonder they say you are world class.

**Pottu:** Lord and master those fellows are absolute Sinhala racists. Attacks even Indians who are helping them. They didn't give me any information.

**Velu:** Enna Pottu Paithyam? (Gone off your top). These reporters were your sources and you say they didn't give you information?

**Pottu:** Sole leader and saviour of the Tamils. Please don't shoot me. My intelligence was collected from what they wrote in the papers — their front page reports.

**Velu:** Angry and rising dropping his verti to a decent level) Who the hell is stealing our money? You say you can't afford to buy a copy of *The Island* and get it across to our headquarters?

**Pottu:** No, it's not that. They have imposed censorship on military and security matters and these papers can't publish secret stuff as they did earlier.

**Velu:** I knew it. These Sinhala madayans don't have the brains for that. The CIA or RAW would have advised them.

**Pottu:** Forgive me master. I don't know who gave the advice but I hear one diplomat is the chief censor one Jayasinghe chopping off the vital stuff these Island fellows are writing.

**Velu:** Who is this fellow Jayasinghe? Does he belong to the Research and Intelligence Dept of the Ministry?

**Velu:** Looks a diabolical type Sir. Not clean shaven like you. Has a goatee just like Lenin Trotsky and Ho Chi Minh had. Done well with all the governments Sir United Front, UNP — JR, Premadasa and DBW and now with CBK.

**Velu:** Adde Appa. He must be good as Kautilya Machiavelli and John Foster Dulles put together to have survived all those regimes.

**Pottu:** Was a great advisor of Hameed Sir, the UNP's Metternich.

**Velu:** Never Mind Hameed — his time I thought was the golden era of the Baggage Boys Brigade. Pottu, what about other papers? Foreign news broadcasts are they censored?

**Pottu:** Not the Fake House papers sir. As usual their reports are being censored by their Chairman.

**What about BBC, AP, UPI, AFP, Reuters, CIA, Raw and all that?**

**Pottu:** Not reliable Sir as the Island reports. I wouldn't launch an operation without *The Island* reports.

**Velu:** Have a thosai Velu and consider it your last before you get to meet our scared warriors in Kailasa — if you don't get that censorship cancelled and get *The Island* reporters to write freely.