

100 feared killed as reservoir bursts (1986, April 21)
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AROUND THE WORLD

100 feared killed as reservoir bursts

Associated Press

COLOMBO

A huge reservoir hundreds of years old burst its earthen embankment yesterday, and police said they fear 100 people were killed. The state radio said as many as 20,000 families were left homeless. K. D. P. Perera, Irrigation Department director, told a reporter for the English-language Daily News that a crack in the embankment was reported two months ago and was being investigated. The embankment burst at 4 a.m., sending a wall of water rushing through the town of Kantalai, about 200 kilometres northeast of Colombo, the capital. State radio estimated 18,000 to 20,000 families were left homeless but gave no death toll. Daily News reporter K. D. D. Jayasekera said police told him they feared 100 people were dead, but no bodies were recovered.