

Citizens in North and East want a political solution, says ossie.  
(1992 Oct. 13). *Daily News*.

DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY OCTOBER 13, 1992

## Citizens in North and East want a political solution, says Ossie

(Kamburupitiya correspondent)

"In the North and East they are to-day carrying on a fascist political struggle and Prabhakaran is not at all ready for a political solution for this conflict.

"On the other hand people in the North and East who are tired of this war are asking for a really democratic political solution to this problem.

"It is the duty of all nationals living in this small country to get together and build a united Shri Lanka while protecting the people of the North and East" said Mr. Ossie Abeygunasekera, leader of the opposition of the Western Provincial Council.

He was speaking at a seminar sponsored by the Shri Lanka Mahajana party's Matara District organisation and held at the Uyanwatta stadium, Matara recently.

Ven. Wellawatte Gnanabhiwansa Thera presided.

He said an expenditure of Rs. 400 lakhs has to be spent for a day for the North East war and a sum of Rs. 200 million is to be allocated from the next budget for the same purpose.

He said that no political party had taken any interest to solve the ethnic problem and both the SLFP and the UNP were to be blamed for this.

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike and Mr. S. J. V.

Chelvanayakam signed a pact with the intention of solving the problem through a federal system. But it did not materialise and the whole problem became a mess up.

He said that leaders in the North at that time had the confidence of the leaders in the south. The Communist party was strong in the North during this period. This problem could have been easily solved if the left had a clear political aim. Even the 1966 Tamil Language Special Provisions Act did not bring any result.

Mr. Abeygunasekera said that the Shri Lanka Mahajana Party had tried to solve this issue since the beginning of the crisis and its former leader, the late Vijaya Kumaratunga went to the North and held discussions with the rebels.

The Provincial Councils should be given more powers to build up a united Shri Lanka and bring about inter racial harmony. It is the duty of all political parties to help the people in the North to find a truly democratic political path.

Mr. D. P. Wimalagune also spoke.