

EPRLF calls for third party mediation in NE conflict. (1995, October 29) *The Sunday times*.

Diesel supplies normal soon

With new fuel stocks being shipped here this week, diesel supplies will be normal soon, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Chairman Anil Obeysekera said.

He told *The Sunday Times* there had been no shortage of diesel but only a problem in distribution. While the normal diesel consumption was 2500 metric tons a day, after the attack on the two oil storage zones at Kolonnawa and Orugodawatte a problem in distributing fuel had arisen.

Last Monday in the aftermath of the fire, 1800 tonnes of diesel had been distributed and by Friday it reached 3,100 tonnes.

Mr. Obeysekera assured that by this week diesel supplies would be normalized.

"There is no reason for panic buying and rumours of a diesel shortage are false," Mr. Obeysekera said.

EPRLF calls for third party mediation in NE conflict

The EPRLF has appealed to the government to seek mediation and assistance from a third party to negotiate and implement an agreement to settle the north-east conflict.

The EPRLF in a statement said;

"The LTTE which has lost its support among the Tamils and is isolated from the international community cannot militarily defeat the government forces and achieve its claimed goal of Tamil Eelam. On the other hand the Sri Lankan government does not have the military strength to completely wipe out the LTTE and bring an end to

this bloody war.

The LTTE has serious doubts about the intentions and the genuinity of the government to resolve the ethnic problem. The government and the military have strong suspicion on the commitment of the LTTE towards a negotiated settlement. Under these conditions of mutual mistrust and suspicion, both parties cannot initiate or engage in a meaningful and genuine negotiation.

Therefore to remove the mutual distrust among the conflicting parties and to create a favourable condition for negotiations and to guaran-

tee the implementation of whatever agreement achieved, the EPRLF believes that the assistance and mediation of a third force is necessary and the responsibility and duty to seek such assistance lies with the government.

To bring this war to an end and usher in peace with dignity to all communities we urge the government to ignore any short political gains and to take firm and courageous steps. If the present conditions are allowed to continue, the President's dream of peace will be meaningless and the country plunge into the process of disintegration."