

LTTE stronghold collapsing. (1995, October 29) *The Sunday times.*

LTTE stronghold collapsing

The LTTE in its grip over the civilian population of Jaffna and some of the hardcore members have fled as troops advanced into the northern capital, Tamil party sources said over the weekend.

They quoted civilians in Jaffna as saying that some of the hardcore members of the

LTTE had fled Jaffna along with civilians to the Kilinochchi district.

At least 10,000 persons had fled their homes due to the current offensive 'Riviresa' (sun rays) and LTTE efforts to prevent the civilians leaving the Jaffna peninsula have failed.

The sources said there were reports that LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran had fled to the Mullaitivu jungles in the wake of the offensive in which troops have been able to advance after inflicting heavy casualties on the LTTE.

With the information that the LTTE chief had moved

from the north some of the cadres of the LTTE also had left for Kilinochchi despite the LTTE issuing orders about a 'fresh recruitment drive.

The military confirmed reports that 29 Tamil civilians had been killed by the LTTE on allegations that they had provided information to the

security forces. The execution had led to protests from civilians in the north.

The offensive so far has put over 2000 LTTE cadres out of action.

The figure includes more than 500 LTTE cadres who have been killed in the offensive which enters its 13th day today.

According to the military officials about 120 soldiers also have been killed in the offensive so far.

Meanwhile the Sri Lankan government has been keeping the international community informed of the ongoing offensive in the north. President Chandrika Kumaratunga briefed several world leaders including Indian Prime Min-

ister Narasimha Rao on the situation.

In Colombo, the Acting Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte briefed the heads of diplomatic missions on the offensives in the north. The government also spelt out measures taken to restore civil administration in areas captured by the security forces.