

No proof of mercenaries in Tiger attack on Pooneryn. (1993, November 20). *Daily news*.

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Highly placed military officials were yesterday wary about making any official comment on foreign mercenaries being involved in the LTTE attack on Pooneryn last week, following the reports of two injured army officers, captains Premal de Soysa and J. Mahindasiri who told the media that they had seen fair complexioned men among the attackers.

While Defence Secretary Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe and army commander Lt. Gen. Cecil Waidyaratna were not available for comment, highly placed officials who had de-briefed the two captains said there was insufficient evidence to take any foreign involvement seriously.

"We had the same sort of stories from the besieged of the Mankulam army camp in 1990. It was found to be complete nonsense," one official said.

Another official said that if there was

a foreign presence, it was unfair to jump to the conclusion that it was Israeli, as reported in some newspapers (not ours).

"If there was a foreign presence, it could have been anyone, including those who are known to have trained some LTTE cadres in the mid-1980's. But there is no evidence at all to involve anyone", another senior source commented.

"It must have been Mrs. Anton Balasingham!" another official said jokingly.

Daily News readers will recall that on September 24, we exclusively reported that Interpol had alerted intelligence officials here about a foreign rebel group and its activities, suggesting that there might be such a link with the LTTE.

However, subsequent local investigations did not reveal any foreign presence among the LTTE.