

Bracing for monsoon showdown. (1995, September 10). *The Sunday times*.

Bracing for monsoon showdown

As government troops withdrew more soldiers from the East for an imminent major offensive in the North Tamil rebels stepped up a massive recruitment drive and launched a new "defence fund," reports said.

LTTE Chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran in a personal appeal had called for contributions for the fund saying that they urgently needed to get prepared for a major offensive by the security forces before the monsoon sets in.

The LTTE chief had said that the movement needed funds to purchase weapons and also for the welfare of the cad-

res. He said the LTTE intended to raise upto Rs. One billion.

In a related development the LTTE stepped up its propaganda to recruit cadres to the movement while warning the public in the North that within the next two months they would have to face a major offensive.

The LTTE also had restricted the movements of civilians from the North in an effort to prevent information about LTTE plans leaking out to the security forces and avoid the kind of situation which led to the LTTE debacle in Welioya two months ago. The LTTE suspected that informa-

tion about the attack had leaked to the military in advance.

Meanwhile the military preparing for a major offensive has handed over security to the Police and STF in certain parts of the Eastern sector enabling the movement of troops to the North.

Military officials in Colombo declined to comment on the removal of certain Army posts in the East.

As the security forces were prepared for a major confrontation with new stocks of military hardware the LTTE fired mortars at the Palaly Airport from long distance range.