

More than 200 political prisoners freed. (1989, January 13). *The Ottawa citizen*.

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## SRI LANKA

### **More than 200 political prisoners freed**

COLOMBO — The government released more than 200 political prisoners Thursday after newly elected President Ranasinghe Premadasa lifted a 5½-year state of emergency in Sri Lanka, the military said. Military officials speaking on condition of anonymity said 234 political prisoners were freed after the emergency rules were lifted at midnight. The rules were imposed in May 1983 after ethnic riots broke out between the Sinhalese majority and Tamils, who are fighting for independence. Extended month by month, they empowered security forces to arrest and indefinitely detain a suspect without charge and to search houses without warrants.