

Moslem candidates gain tie with Tamils on regional council (1988, November 21). *The globe and mail.*

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1988

## Moslem candidates gain tie with Tamils on regional council

Reuter

COLOMBO

Moslem candidates tied with Tamils in Sri Lankan elections for a regional council designed to let Tamils run their own affairs, officials said yesterday.

But seats previously filled mean that Tamils will have a majority on the council, which is being established to try to end a Tamil separatist revolt in the north and east of the country.

Elections official W. D. Perera said the Moslem Congress and the Tamil Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front each got 17 of 35 seats in Eastern Province in Saturday's election.

The United National party, which is led by President Junius Jayewardene and dominated by Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese, won only one seat.

A 71-seat council with semi-autonomous power to administer the north and east was the last hurdle in implementing a pact aimed at ending strife between Tamils and Sinhalese. Tamils took all 36 seats in elections last month in Northern Province.

In southern Sri Lanka, rebels were blamed for the fatal shootings of nine supporters of the United National party hours before Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa was due in the area to woo voters.