India trained us to use SAM missiles last year — LTTE

COLOMBO, Aug. 7 — Sri Lanka's main Tamil guerrilla group said on Saturday that India trained its men in the use of surface-to-air missiles last year.

"The Indian government arranged a training programme to train our cadres in the use of SAM missiles last year," the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said in statement.

The Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, Jyotindra Nath-Divif said last week that an unidentified agency supplied the missiles to the tigers who have been fighting for a separate Tamil homeland on the island.

The statement said the training programme was set up between May and July 1987 when India and Sri Lanka signed an accord to end the Tamil separatist revolt.

Dixit had no comment on the Tigers' statement. — (Reuter)