

# CID uncovers election coup

An alleged attempt by a group including military officers, to instigate violence and disrupt the General Elections in August, last year has been uncovered by the CID, top detectives said yesterday.

The group comprising retired as well as serving officers of the armed forces, cer-

tain officials and politicians had planned to storm polling booths in the Galle district, assassinate candidates and bring about a situation where the authorities would have been compelled to cancel elections, the detectives said.

The Sunday Times learns that President Chandrika Bandaranaike

Kumaratunga's decision to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to probe matters relating to the General Elections of 1994 was based on the findings of this CID investigation.

The CID probe team headed by Superintendent, Punya de Silva now head of the National Intelligence

Bureau has recorded the statements of former Cabinet Ministers, retired officers of the armed services, who were then serving as well as several Government officials.

Detectives said they had uncovered evidence to establish a well-planned attempt where even orders to some

armed forces personnel had been drafted.

G. M. S. Siriwardene, Judge of the High Court, has been appointed as one man Commission to probe matters relating to the polls. The terms of reference, announced by the Presidential Secretariat on Thursday are:

\*whether any persons in-

cluding any public officers conspired, or made preparations, to disrupt, or unlawfully interfere with, the General Election:

\*whether the services of a retired officer of the armed services were solicited by any such person, for the purposes of disrupting, or unlawfully

interfering with, the General Election:

\*whether an attempt was made by any public officer or person in authority to procure or make use of, by illegal means, the services of an officer of the armed services for the purposes of disrupting the General Election in the Southern Province.