

Breakaways from EPRLF form new party. (1993, July 10). *The Island*.

## Breakaways from EPRLF form new party

By Wilson Gnanadass

A breakaway group of the Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which formed another Tamil Political Party, yesterday demanded the implementation by government of the 13th Amendment to the constitution, in a bid to find a lasting solution to the ongoing North-East war.

The group calling itself "EPRLF (Naba-

Wing)", claiming the party fulfilled the vision of K. Padmanaba who had made selfless sacrifices to usher in socialist democracy in Sri Lanka, briefing the press in Colombo said, that the implementation of the 13th amendment would clearly prove to all Sri Lankans that it would be the ideal basis for a lasting solution to the ethnic crisis in the country.

Former Minister of Transport and Indus-

tries of the North-East Province and the new group's national organiser M. K. Abu Yoosuf addressing the conference in Colombo said that the lasting solution can be found only with the consent of the Sinhala people. For this purpose the actual devolution process should be exercised but the government is trying to dilute the 13th amendment and delay its implementation. The EPRLF's fai-

ture to demand the implementation by government of this amendment had compelled us to form a separate group to work this out Mr. Yoosuf said.

According to Mr. Yoosuf the EPRLF (Naba-wing) had already formed its national organising committee, and is in the process of planning to hold its first national congress in January

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1994 to adopt the programme, political thesis, organisational report and the constitution of the party.

"We are a national party based in the Tamil speaking areas and after the national congress elect party's central bodies to implement the decisions of the group" he said.

Government's attempt to divert the attention of all the people from the main contradiction of the ethnic crisis, namely the contradiction between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil speaking people, and projecting the crisis as one due to the contradiction between Tamils, and Muslims must be resisted by all means. A Press statement by the party stated.

Mr. Abu Yoosuf added that this contradiction was not between the Tamils and

the Muslims but it was with the Tamils and the government.

Already six members from the EPRLF, including Murali of the Military Wing and F. Deen have resigned to join the EPRLF (Naba-Wing). We can also win the confidence of the other Tamil Political parties to join our stream, and work with us. We will be also seeking the support of the radical democratic left forces in the South to look with us in our future endeavours, Mr. Yoosuf said.

He said that a meeting will be held in Ampara in the first week of August. The group's main function would be to educate the public and continue agitation until the government acceded to the party's demand. "This is not an armed group" he said.