

Cong (I) MP arranges LTTE meeting with Rajiv: Defence. (1993, June 27). *Sunday Observer*.

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MADRAS June 25 (PTI) — The Defence Counsel in the trial case assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi Friday said a Congress (I) member of Parliament from the Eastern Indian State of Bihar, Jayapal Singh, had arranged a meeting between the Sri Lankan militants Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and Rajiv Gandhi in March 1991.

The meeting, followed an unsuccessful bid by the LTTE to establish contacts with the then Prime Minister Chandrasekhar through the spiritual Hindu leader Sankaracharya of Kanchi Peetam.

Continuing his arguments on the discharge petition of the accused before presiding Judge S.M. Siddick, Defence Counsel quoting the witness statement of an important LTTE leader, said it desperately started looking for help after former Chief Minister of the

southern Indian State of Tamil Nadu, M. Karunanidhi stopped all assistance to LTTE following strong criticism over its activities in the state.

The LTTE then tried to establish contact with former Prime Minister Chandrasekhar, meeting the Sankaracharya in January 1991, for help.

After exhausting all avenues, Ramadoss said, the LTTE established contacts with Rajiv Gandhi, who was then the Opposition Leader, through Jayapal Singh with the help of his wife, Jagannara, a Jaffna born Tamil and settled in India.

Conveyed

Seethapalam reportedly conveyed at the meeting arranged in Gandhi's office in Delhi, the LTTE's wish to patch up with Rajiv and a broader dialogue, the counsel quoting witness said.

The LTTE leader and the prosecution witness, now in detention under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA) subsequently met Rajiv Gandhi on March 15 and held detailed discussions with him on the establishment of communications between the LTTE and the Indian Government. LTTE's goal of achieving eelam and extension of

medical help to the injured LTTE cadre.

The meetings of LTTE emissaries with Gandhi clearly established that the LTTE had no motive in conspiring to kill Rajiv Gandhi, that too when they worked out an agreement, he said.

Ramadoss also denied that prime accused in the case, Sivarasan, human bomb Dhanu and alleged stand by assassin, Subha were of LTTE cadre. He said the prosecution had not produced procured any evidence to suggest

that they belonged to the LTTE.

The so called letters from the brother of Sivarasan and father of Dhanu did not establish any links with the LTTE. Also the main object of evidence, Sivarasan's diary had the name Sivareaih, on the cover, which the prosecution had interpreted as Sivarasan. The diary had only addresses and notings. It was nothing but a forged document he said.

The judge put off trial for July 6.