

Tamils arriving with false documents. (1986, September 30). *The Evening Telegram*.

Tamils arriving with false documents

VANCOUVER (CP) — Several Tamils have arrived in Vancouver, but are encountering controversy over their status.

More than 83 Tamils have landed in Vancouver this month, many with falsified travel documents, or none at all.

Sri Lankan government official Sam Wijesinha said most are using the pretext of persecution to enjoy a life of luxury in Canada.

“Your leniency will create a flood,” he said. “They’ll say anything to get into Canada.”

Gerald Goldstein, a Vancouver immigration lawyer, criticizes Ottawa, saying some Tamils arrive here without proper passports.

Goldstein said Tamil refugees who arrive without identification may have criminal records, or even be guerrillas.

Officials say that 18 Tamils arrived on a Cathay Pacific flight from the Orient Sept. 20-21.

All have been granted refugee status — a one-year permit to live and work here while their cases are reviewed — because Sri Lanka is designated as a refugee-producing area by the federal government. Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, is an island country off the southern tip of India.