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In the wake of the July attacks, commercial shipping merchants have refused to go to Jaffna and northern Sri Lanka without a naval escort. Press reports say the government has committed to providing such escorts for all civilian vessels delivering to the area, a decision that benefits the LTTE:

- The escort requirement diverts the Navy's attention and resources from offensive operations against the Sea Tigers.
- The number of trips by civilian ships to the region will decline, effectively reducing the government's ability to resupply its military and take care of the civilian population.

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Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—July 1997

This description of incidents and situations is not meant to be a detailed accounting of all domestic terrorist incidents, but rather to provide an overview of indigenous terrorism worldwide.

Africa

South Africa

A gasoline bomb exploded on 14 July in a residence-based Jewish book center in a Cape Town neighborhood where several US Consulate employees also reside. The blast caused damage but no injuries. No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but a previously unknown group, *Muslims Against Global Oppression*, had demonstrated in front of the vacant Israeli Embassy on 12 July.

Asia

India

On 1 July in Machareddy Village, Andhra Pradesh, *People's War Group* guerrillas detonated a land mine, killing four persons and injuring five others. The victims were in the last vehicle of a convoy carrying political activists to a party convention.

An explosion on 8 July destroyed a passenger train in Punjab, killing 34 persons and injuring 67 others. No group claimed responsibility, but Kashmiri or Sikh militants are suspected.

Japan

On 14 July a bomb exploded in the garage of a transport ministry official's home in Tokyo, causing damage but no injuries. No group claimed responsibility, but police suspect leftist radicals who oppose the expansion of the New Tokyo International Airport Authority.

Sri Lanka

During the inauguration of a school building on 5 July in Trincomalee, suspected *Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)* guerrillas assassinated a Tamil member of parliament, also killing his body guard and four others, and injuring at least 15 persons in a grenade and firearms attack.

Also in Trincomalee, suspected *LTTE* gunmen ambushed a jeep on 20 July, killing a United National Party deputy, a police constable, a labor department employee, a school principal, the driver and his four-year-old son.

Europe

Spain

On 9 July two bombs detonated at beaches along the Mediterranean coast of Lloret de Mar, causing minor damage but no injuries. A third device was found and destroyed by police. The *Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)* is believed responsible.

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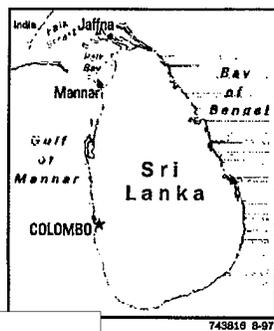
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Asia

Sri Lanka



LTTE Interdicting Commercial Shipping [redacted]

The naval wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—the Sea Tigers—are increasing their attacks on commercial vessels in their war with the Sri Lankan Government. In July, the Sea Tigers hijacked three ships in the waters off Sri Lanka. The Tigers are utilizing this relatively new tactic while continuing their longstanding and fairly successful efforts to destroy Sri Lankan naval vessels:

- On 1 July, the LTTE boarded the vessel “Misen,” a privately owned passenger ferry used to carry refugees between Mannar and Jaffna, according to press reports. The Tigers abducted the nine-member crew—no passengers were yet aboard—and set fire to the ship. The Captain and another crewmember—both Indonesian—were released three days later, according to press reports.
- On 7 July, Tamil Tigers stormed the North Korean cargo ship “Moran Bong” after it delivered a shipment of food and other goods for civilians on the Jaffna Peninsula, according to press [redacted]. During the takeover, one of the vessel’s 38 North Korean crewmembers was shot and killed. The remaining North Koreans were freed four days later. In late August, the LTTE agreed to return the ship to North Korean authorities, according to press reports.

In a statement issued on 15 July, the LTTE said it had “no choice” but to consider supply ships “legitimate military targets,” warning of future attacks of such ships off the Jaffna Peninsula. The Tigers contend that the Sri Lankan Government uses humanitarian deliveries in the northern portion of Sri Lanka to disguise military shipments to government troops engaged in a ground war with the LTTE.

- The Tigers control all land routes to Jaffna, forcing the Sri Lankan Government and humanitarian organizations to transport all supplies to northern Sri Lanka by sea or air. A rash of transport air crashes—some due to LTTE anti-aircraft fire—over the past year has made the government even more dependent on ocean transport. [redacted]

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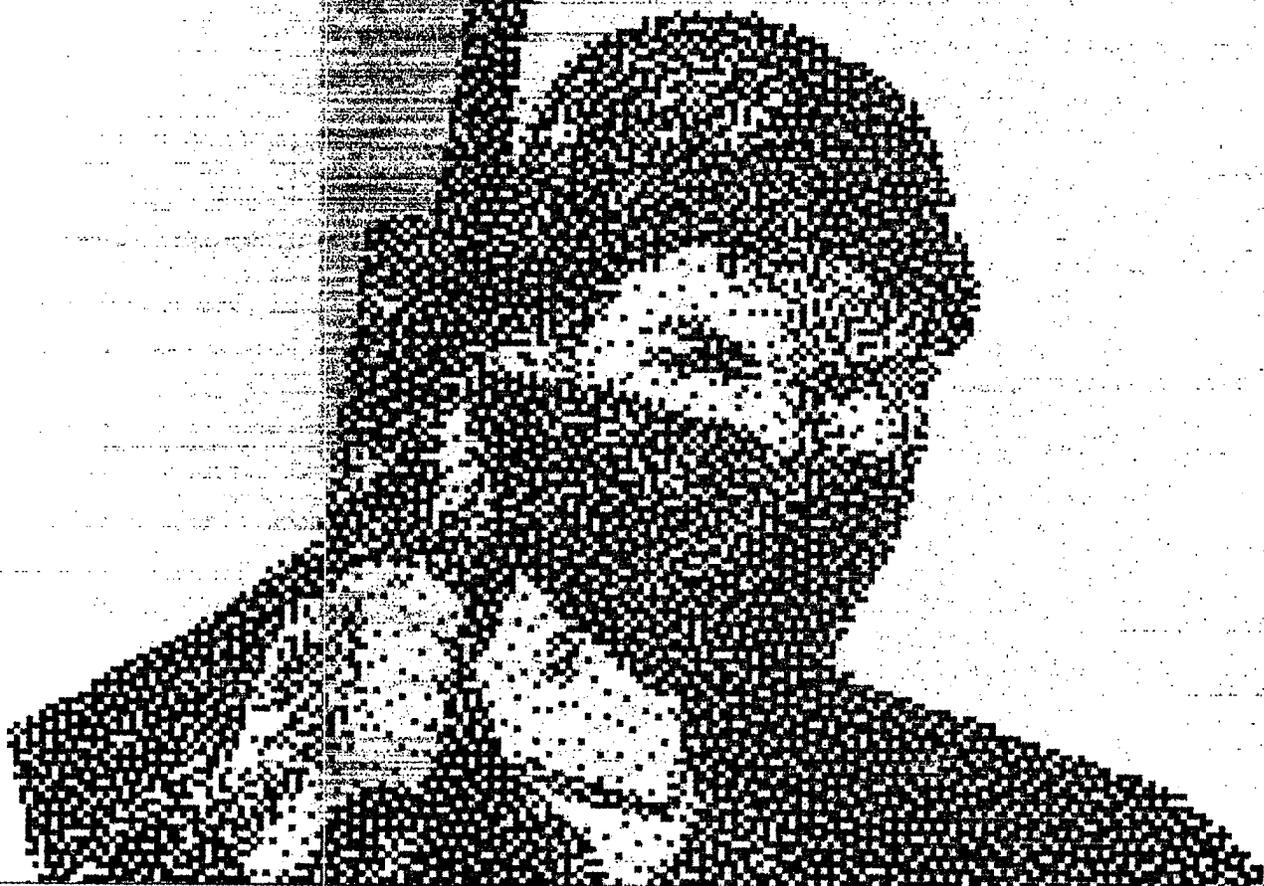
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

COUNTERTERRORIST CENTER

TERRORISM REVIEW

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