

## SLMM

### Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission MEMORANDUM - LTTE THURSDAY 29 APRIL, 2004

Time:1055-1150 hrs

Place: LTTE Peace Secretariat

Participants (7):

Maj Gen Trond Furuhovde Mr. Hagrup Haukland Ms. Agnes Bragadottir Mr. Erik Vollen Mr. Knut Gundersen HOM SLMMDHOM SLMMPPIOADC SLMMLO Mr. S.P. Tamilselvan Mr. George Mr. Bavan HeadTranslatorAsst.

Topics:

Welcome notes Meeting:

Welcome notes

SPT

Mr. Tamilselvan was pleased to see HOM and his party after a long time. This is our first meeting since the new government. I understand we need to discuss the CFA, status quo and what is ongoing. Mr. Tamilselvan said that there are certain actions that have made us suspicious. He asked straight away if HOM had a long agenda.

HOM

HOM said that he did not have a long agenda. He continued to say that it was nice to be back again. SLMM stayed away during the elections and also the Karuna-split deliberately. We wanted that the two Parties should have space to act. I met recently the President together with the Norwegian Ambassador.

The President emphasized that she will stick to the CFA and that SLMM should work as up to now. I asked for a statement about her commitment to the CFA. I had in mind a written statement, but she said that she had expressed her views of the CFA in the media. HOM will work as normal until there are any changes. Any changes or amendments to the CFA have to be based on negotiations between the two Parties.

I have not met the new Prime Minister. I have met the President as President and Defence Minister, but I have not met the Prime Minister. Another element we have to discuss is the function of SCOPP. SCOPP is a point of contact (POC) as the Peace Secretariat is a POC. We will probably have to wait a bit before SCOPP is functioning very well. My working situation is rather unclear. I was in the beginning dealing only with SCOPP, and then with the Def Sec. To be sure that all messages came through I had to telephone them both.

We have looked into our tasks in the future: 1) Monitor the CFA as it is.

2) Resolving disputes between the two Parties. 3) Support and defuse tension. 4) Protecting the CFA. I will elaborate the last point more by referring to all accusations from the press that SLMM is not doing their job. I do not know if this is according to a plan or not. I have urged the Def Sec to be more active to the press to get this under control.

In the beginning of SLMM I issued statements from time to time. This is something we have discussed again, and I have decided to start again to issue statements/press releases. We will do a small change. I will let the two Parties see the statements before they are made official.

Recently there was a letter addressed to me, from Mr. Tamilselvan, on the Tamilnet. Readers of the Tamilnet could see the letter before I was able to know its content. This is something I find annoying, that other people can see it before me.

SPT

Mr. Tamilselvan was sorry about that. He regretted that there had been a mistake, but probably because the letter was sent out in the afternoon. LTTE will give a days grace for later.

HOM

Another point in this is to inform the part is to give time to meet the press, in case there is a need for that. SLMM is ready to act as a buffer and a safety valve. SLMM will take the pressure. However, give us some kind of credit from time to time, to lower the pressure on the safety valve. I have explained for the Def Sec exactly the same. I feel that to support you on the ground we need good contacts. We have to refresh the contacts after the last period with reorganisation. We need to get the things to function before we can work with external elements. I will deeply express my concern about the sad killings. We were on the spot as soon as we were informed. Your people seemed to be a bit concerned and very careful to give us necessary information. We need better cooperation. They hesitated to give us information. That was slowing our work, and it worked counterproductive.

That was only mentioning one incident. Also in Ampara we need better contact. If we do not have good contacts it will be easy for the other part to take advantage of this. We can slow down a bit, but we need to have the contacts.

SPT

We have been through a period of situation and we need to institutionalise the organization to make it functioning. HOM I understand that Ramesh has new leaders, but we want to meet them. We understand that it will take some time. However, when we agree upon a meeting we have to meet. Lately there have been meetings cancelled or postponed. We have to stick to the meetings we have appointed. I would appreciate if Mr. Bavan can make it possible for us to have contacts in Ampara. There have been a lot of discussions that SLMM does not do their job. Our power is our contact with the two Parties. We are not policing the Parties. We will not interfere in the Parties`ED responsibilities. We will not expand our organisation. When we discuss with the two Parties we can point out our views and findings. It is unique that we can point out things in this way. About my statement I will finally say that we need support to function as meant in the CFA. We are prepared to

take all the pressure and to keep the confidence, and to build the confidence.

## 2. Air strip

HOM

The Def Sec wanted to convey a message to you that they know that you have an airstrip east of the tank nearby. I will at the same time say that I had nothing to do about it when we left Kilinochchi last time and the pilots without any reason brought me that way `Ecto show`EE me the airstrip. I will underline that I will do the utmost to follow the regulations we have agreed upon concerning the transport by helicopter to and from Kilinochchi. GOSL wants just to convey that they know about it.

SPT In the same way that you convey message from the Def Sec, I want to convey a message to the Def Sec that we congratulate him that they officially know about the airstrip. I will also add that we are not naive, but we do not tell everything we know. (???) We want to discuss a connected subject. We understand what the technical experts say about the UAVs, but in any way we see it as a violation.

HOM It is considered to be a breach of the CFA. RPVs can be used offensive. In the military operational view it cannot be considered as a friendly action.

SPT I want to emphasize that we look upon it as violations. The consequences with these actions can never be predicted.

HOM They sent us a letter about the RPVs. I say, that the RPVs are for offensive operational use. That is not open for discussion. Full stopp. SPT Since we are in a process of a dialogue with our people outside Vanni. They need frequently to come to Vanni, and they need transport. We need to find arrangements to make these movements without delays.

HOM I want you to send a letter explaining the situation. It is not to refer to our discussions today, but to explain everything in detail. In the

letter you should ask SLMM to find a solution. GOSL have had for a period 7-10 days. That is not possible to live with. There are several points to be discussed. For some time we were dealing with only 48 hrs. SLMM only need the time for our people to get there.

SPT Yesterday we had cadres on our way to Trinco. They were feeling frustrated because they could not cross. They wanted to go individually so that their journey could not be interrupted.

HOM The Def Sec has agreed upon 5 days notice. In all fairness we have to take up the discussion to get an agreement about this. I do not know if this discussion has been a part of the Peace Talks earlier. That is something that we in SLMM does not participate in. Nobody has informed me if that is the case.

SPT Our leader want to convey the message that there are two aspects where people with limbs have lost their limb due to acts of cowardness. It is inhuman. It was a shock for our national leader. It is a serious breach.

This is an urgent problem to be solved, whoever it was, Karuna or SLA, or if they came jointly or singly. Let me put it this way: What if someone came to Colombo to commit murder and then went to seek refuge in Vanni. We look upon this as an attempt from the government to divide the LTTE. We know that external elements of paramilitary groups are prohibited. The previous government has had a lack in confidence building. We are losing confidence. The Peace process should improve the confidence.

HOM Please convey to your national leader that we will do our utmost in our inquiries about these killings. I want also to reiterate that SLMM need to get all information from your people. You say you will provide us with it. We cannot guess. We need to know everything to get close to the truth.

SPT ??? That point is clear.

HOM The Police should do their job. We need support from some ???. Thank you.

SPT About the transportation by sea, earlier we had an agreement of arrangements for sea movements. Suddenly it was rejected. COS That might have been due to circumstances prevailing.

SPT Both Parties should get to an agreement to find arrangements.

HOM We have technical arrangements. There has never been a political agreement. When you make this letter concerning the need for transportation; do not mention the sea movements. The subject should be only movements by road. COS There is only one page that has been updated in the arrangements for movements by sea. It was the page with the vessels.

HOM I am a pragmatic optimist. This weekend there will be people (Helgesen and Solheim) coming from Oslo. That will take a lot of pressure from SLMM. Hopefully it will make life easier for SLMM. We will do our utmost to arrange your needs. I am trying to motivate my monitors to do their very best. We have gone through a process with the people from Oslo. We have been in a dialogue to inform about requirements and how to select new monitors. Some of the monitors have not been well prepared when they have arrived the mission. We had a meeting in Colombo last month where we discussed how the issue, and also how to make the organization as effective as possible. Do you have any expectations from us after two years of experience. I am sure you have not been happy all the time?

SPT We are not without appreciation. SLMM has had a difficult time, with ups and downs. SLMM has effectively managed this. However, we have some concerns. In the future we see clouds. It will be a test.

HOM Next time we visit you it would be nice to have better time to see more of the area. Hagrup and I commented when we came by helicopter all the improvements since we came here the first time. The people have a better life. The roads are improved. It is amazing.

SPT We have heaps of political problems for those discussions.

END