

arranged by the IPKF for the Tamil militant groups to hand over their arms. However, the Tamil militant groups have continued to press for an independent state and have not handed over all of their weapons.

The conflict resulted in allegations of the violations of human rights against both the Sri Lankan military and the Tamil militant groups. The Sri Lankan government denied that such activities took place as a matter of policy but stated that when they happened, it was a result of indiscipline and lapses of control by the security forces. Over 3000 prisoners have been released by the Sri Lankan government since the signing of the accord.

The Tamil militants were accused of killing individuals who did not support their cause and Sinhalese settlers who encroached on traditional Tamil lands. As well, young men were forcibly inscribed into the organization. There have also been allegations of human rights abuses by the IPKF since the beginning of its operation against the LTTE. Although civilians have been killed during the Jaffna offensive, most in crossfire situations, there has not been any evidence of a policy of attacks on civilian targets.

The World Bank held a meeting on December 10, 1987, to consider the funding of reconstruction projects. It has been estimated that the fighting caused a minimum of over US\$700 million damage to the infrastructure and caused a loss of over US\$2 billion to the economy of Sri Lanka prior to the fighting between the IPKF and the LTTE. Canada will be providing special assistance over and above the present level of aid to assist in the reconstruction of the country. Discussions are being held with the Government of Sri Lanka, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Bank and the Red Cross in regard to projects.

#### CANADIAN POSITION:

Canada considers that the best hope for restoring peace in Sri Lanka is through the implementation of the peace accord signed by India and Sri Lanka which provides for a measure of regional autonomy and appears to meet most of the demands of the Tamil people. Canada will be providing assistance for the reconstruction of the infrastructure of Sri Lanka, especially in the war-ravaged Northern and Eastern Provinces.

#### OTHER GOVERNMENTS POSITION:

The international community welcomed the signing of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord and the prospect that it would bring peace to the island..