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Report on the visit of Sentinal Contact Party to North Sentinal Island to contact the Sentinelese.

The Contact Party left Port Blair by M.V. Tarmugli on 27th December, 1985 at 10.30 p.m. (full moon day), on their trip to North Sentinel Island to contact the Sentinelese on 28th December, the day after the full moon day. This time the Lt. Governor visited North Sentinel along with the party. The visiting team consisted of

1. Shri Goswami, Secretary (TW)
2. Dr. Aditya Arya, S.P.(B.P)
3. Dr . Sharfuddin, M.O
4. Shri M.K.Raha, Dy. Director, ASI
5. Subbu Krishna, Linguist.
6. Shri Bhowmick, Physical Anthropologist.
7. Shri VRU Menon, Executive Secretary
8. Shri Bhaktawar Singh, Rtd. Dy.S.P.
9. Shri Bakshi, A.D.C. to Lt. Governor.

On 28th December at 5.00 a.m. the boat carrying the team reached North Sentinel and anchored at Bay. At 6.00 a.m. the Lt. Governor and the team went to the shore in the life boat. None of the Sentinelese could be sighted on shore at first, but later on while we proceeded towards the shore a couple of them were sighted coming from a bush and walking along the beach towards the boats direction.

Three bags of coconuts and the bag containing Dah etc. were placed on the shore and the party boarded the boat and moved away from the shore. We waited in sea watching the Sentinelese. We saw them picking up the gifts. Then we moved towards the shore and stopped at a little distance from shore. Some coconuts were then thrown in water. The Sentinelese there came swimming and picked up the coconuts. Many of them came nearer in water picking up the coconuts thrown there. Two of these in shore came in dinghi to pick up these coconuts. There were 26 Sentinelese in total, comprising of 13 males, 9 females and 4 children. After giving away all the coconuts we started back to the ship at about 7. 00 a.m. The ship sailed back to Port Blair at 8.00 a.m. and reached Port Blair at 4.30 p.m.

Secretary (TW)

Executive Secretary,
AAJVS.