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REPORT ON THE CONTACT TOUR WITH JARAWA & SENTINELESE
AND GREAT ANDAMANESSE TERRITORY ON 10TH FEBRUARY 1997

On February 10th, a contact party of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration consisting of Shri S.A. Awaradi, Director of Tribal Welfare, Dr. A. Dey, Medical Officer, Dr. V.R. Rao, Asstt. Dy. Director, ICMR Dr. K. Chandra, Officer-in-charge, ZSI Dr. R. Ranganathan, CIIL (Mysore), Shri K.M. Sinha Roy, Research Associate (C ultural), Shri B.V. Ravi Prasad, Senior Technical Assistant (P), Anthropological Survey of India, Shri S. Pillai, Social Worker, AAJVS, Shri Baktawar Singh, Retd. Dy. S.P. along with Armed police and photographer. The contact party started for Sentinelese Island at about 10.30 PM by M.V. Tarmugli on February 10, 1997.

On February 11th about 8 AM M.V. Tarmugli anchored near North Sentinel Island. On the shore near the Western tip the members of the contact party kept bags of coconut and iron as a gift. On the way we have seen some coconut plants, have grown up. Near the shore one abandoned hut of the Sentinelese. The habitation was situated on the shore near the Jungle and surrounded by small bushes, trees etc. The huts about ~~3 1/2 x 5~~ 3 1/2 feet in height and 5 feet in length. We saw a group of 10-14 Sentinelese including men, women and children were waiting under the bush. We dropped bags of coconuts as a sign of friendship, but the Sentinelese showed no sign of collecting the gift. After some time a few Sentinelese came towards our life boat on their canoes. The life boat then moved a little away from them. The rest of gift articles were thrown into the sea. We observed the Sentinelese collecting the gift