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A MEANINGFUL AND SCIENTIFIC CONTACT ESTABLISHED WITH THE
SENTINELESE AND JARAWAS.

A contact expedition team lead by Smti Bimla Jindgar, Secretary (Tribal Welfare), departed from Port Blair on 29.10.1993 on its mission of establishing friendly contacts with the sentinelese and Jarawas. The team consisted of Shri S.A.Awaradi, Director (Tribal Welfare) who is himself a practising Anthropologist; Shri Sashank Kumar, Executive Secretary, AAJVS with considerable background in Anthropology; Shri Hari Gopal Das, Dy.S.P.; Dr. Shafique Quader, Chief Medical Officer; linguists Dr. Gyana-Sundaram and Dr. Ranganathan who are currently preparing primers in Onge and Andamanese languages; from CIIL, Mysore, Dr. Srinath (linguist) and Shri Bhattacharjee (Photographer) from ASI; and Shri Bhaktawar Singh, Rtd. Dy.SP with a record number of contacts with these tribals to his credit.

In the morning of 30th October, the team established two contacts with the Sentinelese, who are often called the last bastion of the Andaman Negrito, at the North Sentinel Island. Being unsure of the behaviour of the Sentinelese the contact was made from a distance. The first contact was made at around 0930 hrs which lasted for 15 minutes. Approximately 40 males, females and children came on to the beach and followed the out boat, ^{sailing parallel to the beach,} ~~about~~ for almost a kilometer to collect the coconuts which are generally given away as Gift.

As a result of their non-aggressive behaviour and a positive response during the first contact the need for a second contact was felt. The second contact was made at around 1100 hrs which lasted for almost 35 minutes. While the contact team was un-loading the coconuts into the water near the beach one of the Sentinele was quick enough to jump into the water and on to the out boat. The team members were scared by the hand axe and the dangling knife carried by the Sentinele. He managed to un-load all the bags of coconuts within seconds like a plunderer. After un-loading he jumped back into the water and went away. Thereafter the team members in the out boat