

Report on Jarawa Contact Expedition
organised on 18th/19th November, 1994

In the last meeting of the Executive Council of Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti(AAJVS) held on 13th August, 1994, it was, inter-alia, decided to make the contact expeditions to the Jarawas more frequent. Accordingly, a contact expedition was made on 29th/30th September, 1994 which was led by the Hon'ble Lt. Governor himself. Thereafter, another contact expedition was organised on 18th/19th November, 1994 with the prior approval of the Chief Secretary.

The contact team comprised the following officers:-

- 1) Shri Rajinder Singh, Secretary(TW)
- 2) Shri K.K. Jindal, Director(TW)
- 3) Shri Biswas, Senior Social Executive, AAJVS
- 4) Dr Dey, Medical Officer
- 5) Dr Bathia, Assistant Anthropologist
- 6) Dr Sreenath, ASI
- 7) Shri Parwaiz Ahmed, Deputy Supdt. of Police(HQ)
- 8) Commodore Ratan Lal, Chief Port Administrator.

Since our boat, MV Tarmugli, was reported to be still under repairs, the Chief Port Administrator had arranged for another vessel, namely, 'M.V. Dering'. The team left Port Blair on the evening of 18th November, 1994 at about 1630 Hrs and reached Lakra Lungta by 0500 Hrs on 19th November, 1994. The Jarawas could not be sighted till 0700 Hrs. Then the contact team decided to go along the western coast towards northern side to look for the Jarawas. Accordingly, some of the members of the contact team boarded the engine dinghi and left for Foul Bay. After sailing for about an hour or so, some Jarawas were sighted at Yadita Point of Middle Andaman around 0800 Hrs. Then a wireless message was given to the Captain of the vessel, MV Dering, to come towards Foul Bay where the engine dinghi was waiting for her. The vessel reached the said Point around 0900 Hrs. Then the coconuts, bananas, square nails and red cloth were off-loaded from MV Dering to the engine dinghi and then the