

We anchored about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the southern coast of Sentinel Island. It was around 6.00 A.M on 20.10.'84. Even as the life-boat was being lowered, we saw some movement near the shore. Peering through the binoculars, it seemed as if there were two canoes with a few people in them. However, they soon passed out of view because a small island came in our line of vision.

After lowering the life boat and loading the gifts we set off for the island. Even as we neared the coast, we saw a number of people running towards us. We stopped the engine about 50-60 yards off the shore as we wanted to assess their reaction. By now about 8-9 persons had collected and couple of them had conical baskets with them. One of them was carrying bows and arrows but he has placed it on the ground. They started dancing keeping the baskets in front of them and going up and down on their knees. A few of them were pointing in an easterly direction as if they wanted us to go that side. However, the boat crew pointed out that it was ~~quite shallow~~ and not safe to go in that direction as it was quite shallow and rocky. We instead turned the boat westwards towards the area where we had spotted two different camps in our visit in May, 1984 and where we had left the gifts then. It was about 2 kms. westwards and we reached it within a few minute. We saw a hut built a little inland and later two outrigger- canoes kept on high ground, just above the beach. We beached at this point, off-loaded some of the gifts including coconuts, iron implements and a bunch of bananas. We then moved the boat about 25 yards off the shore and presently saw a few Sentinelese reaching the spot. They quickly collected the gifts and put them at a sufficiently high place so that it would not be affected by the high water. We moved further west, dropped almost all the remaining gifts and again moved away from the coast in the general direction towards the place where we had first left the gifts. By now a very large number of Sentinelese had collected on the shore. They included not only children but also women ~~which~~ with infants in their arms. They seemed quite excited and vociferous. A few of them were repeating their dancing while others were making different gestures. This included the waving of an adze above the head, swinging it from behind the head to in front of it. They also wanted more gifts, so it seemed from their movements. In fact one Sentinelese picked up one of his coconuts and threw it in our direction. Taking a ~~cue~~ cue from it, we started throwing the remainder of coconuts in their direction. The coconuts fell in the water at various distances from the shore. Seeing this 3-4 Sentinelese ran and pulled their outrigger-canoe into the water. They then paddled