

All-Party Conference 1984

The 1984 All-Party Conference convened by President J.R. Jayewardene to discuss devolution after Black July; collapsed without agreement.

Convened in January 1984 in the aftermath of the July 1983 pogrom, the All-Party Conference was the post-Black-July attempt at a domestic political settlement. It produced a draft framework proposing district development councils with limited devolved powers. The conference collapsed in December 1984 without agreement. It is one of several Tamil-side resolution attempts that exhausted in the run-up to the Indo-Lanka Accord.

§1 What was on the table

The draft proposals — known as Annexure C — offered devolution at district rather than provincial level, with the unitary character of the Sri Lankan state preserved. Tamil parties pressed for a Northern-Eastern provincial unit; the Buddhist clergy and Sinhala-nationalist parties opposed both the merger and the broader devolution package. President Jayewardene withdrew the proposals.

§2 Where it sits

The 1984 collapse is one of three post-1972 federal-route foreclosures (with the 1965 Dudley-Chelvanayakam Pact and the 1987 13th-Amendment non-implementation) that, together, made the international-mediation route — Indo-Lanka Accord 1987, Norwegian-facilitated talks 2002, UNHRC resolutions 2009 onwards — the only remaining channel.

Sources

- wilson-1988
- welikala-cpa-2012
- icg-srilanka

What this is not

- This page does not name individual delegates or assign blame for the collapse.
- This page does not endorse any subsequent armed turn that followed.