

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Conference on Jaffna Security

A Conference on the security situation in the Jaffna District will be held at the Jaffna Secretariat on 2nd April at 10 a.m.

District Secretary and Govt. Agent, Jaffna, Devanesan Nesiah has summoned the Confer-

ence "to establish a forum at which leading representatives of the population and the various arms of government responsible for maintaining law and order may meet and express their views." About twenty invitees are expected to participate.

Vol. 2 No. 13

March 26, 1983

ARSON AT PANKULAM

Government officers armed with clubs and batons and claiming to act on the orders of the Asst. Govt. Agent recently burnt down sixteen huts housing hill country Tamil refugees in Pankulam, in the Trincomalee area.

According to affidavits signed by Gandhiyam volunteers T. Vijeyakumary, K. Shanthi and K. Rubakanthan who were eye-witnesses to the incident, Grama Sevaka Kanaganayagam and five other government officers attached to the Pankulam AGA's office—Upali, Senanayake, Wijeratna and two others whom the volunteers can identify—had come to

with household utensils inside, were burnt down. The occupants were away at work at the time while the children were at the Centre's pre-school.

Following a complaint lodged by the hut-owners at the Uppuveli Police Station the next morning, three police officers and G. S. Kanaganayagam went to the Centre on 16th March, questioned the 3 volunteers and a few vil-

lagers and recorded statements. Apart from questions about the activities of Gandhiyam, they had also asked Rubakanthan about the Tiger movement: he replied he had nothing to do with any movement other than Gandhiyam.

On 17th March five police officers led by S. I. Luise had gone to the Centre, searched it and taken charge of the pre-school children's register,

and some other documents. After questioning the two female volunteers, Vijeyakumary and Shanthi, the Police ordered them to report at the Uppuveli Police Station that evening.

They then questioned Rubakanthan about the activities of Gandhiyam, accused him of lying and assaulted him with a rifle and hands. He was dragged to the jeep, pushed on to its floor and assaulted

again. He was then taken to the Uppuveli Police Station and locked up till 10 p.m. that night, where he was stripped and assaulted once again.

Vijeyakumary and Shanthi were warned at the Police Station that evening not to have anything to do with Gandhiyam.

Some of the arson victims who went to the

(Continued on page 12)

Viewpoint

Anyway why all these outpourings? What are they in aid of? Just this: two journalists have been brutally assaulted by some Policemen.

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Gandhiyam volunteer Rubakanthan pleaded with them not to do so as these families had come as refugees from south Sri Lanka and been settled in Pankulam for some time. The Grama Sevaka replied he was acting on the orders of the AGA Pankulam and moved towards the huts around the Centre. While the five government officers stood guard round him, the GS then set fire to the huts. Altogether 16 huts,

Centre's pre-school.

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Viewpoint

The SUN and moonshine!

Look who is talking now! The Great Defender of Police and Army terror in the North, the Eelam panic merchant, the wholesale dealer in "northern terrorism"—our dear garrulous newspaper sister of easy virtue who plies her trade from Gunasena Mawatha, Colombo—the SUN of course. And what does she say? Promise not to laugh, but she is talking of POLICE TERROR! We nearly fell off the chair reading this nasty headline over the SUN editorial of March 23! Why is our dear, dear sister, who is so, so, friendly with the Police, so, so devoted to Police methods of terror and torture in Jaffna, so very sweet and understanding when it comes to Police assaults on the Tamil bastards, why is she getting hot under her petticoats? Why all these editorial jazz about "brute force", "boorish officers", "nauseating and boorish incivility"? She even gets carried away by her rhetoric to the point of saying: "Lanka is a free country where torture is a crime". What does that make the Gurunagar Army Camp in Jaffna, the Elephant Pass Army Camp. Panagoda and the Fourth Floor—citadels of that freedom?

Anyway why all these outpourings? What are they in aid of? Just this: two journalists have been brutally assaulted by some Policemen.

But let us not kid ourselves, even that is deceptive. If two journalists in the North happened to be the victims do you expect sister SUN to gnash her teeth so much? Would that have been considered Police terror? Would there be debates in Parliament, Presidential inquiries and District Ministers claiming that assaulting a journalist is as serious as assaulting an M.P.? No Sirs, not a hope. In fact, the present Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Amirthalingam was once manhandled by an ordinary Ralahamy in the bazaar area in Jaffna in full view of people in the area. Sister SUN did not write an editorial, no District Minister breathed a word, and that was that. The moral for the Tamil people is clear. On page 9 of this issue, readers can read a letter written by a Tamil who was peacefully waiting for an early bus to go to work, and what happened to him. Policemen at the point of guns ordered six law-abiding citizens to jump into the sea, and fired a shot in the air for good measure. To whom can they complain?

Sister SUN can of course take the position that it was NOT Police terror. It was Police Sport! Surely the hard-worked Policemen in the North need some recreation too?

**Saturday
Review** SRI LANKA

C.M.U. calls out 1 - week strike

The Ceylon Mercantile Union called out a one week strike of its membership commencing Monday 21st March to express solidarity with the strike of the Union membership of Ceylon Cold Stores Limited which has

continued for over three and a half months. The strike is also in protest against the failure of the company to a settlement with the Union on the important issues involved in the strike, as well as the failure of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon and the Commissioner of Labour to put forward any specific proposals for a settlement.

The strike of Ceylon Cold Stores commenced on 16th November, 1982 consequent to the summary dismissal of 8 members of the Union by the Company without any inquiry.

BUILDING LAND FOR SALE

No. 15 Eachchamoddai — Beach Road, Jaffna, about eight (8) lachams with built well for immediate sale to highest bidder. Bids entertained for entirety of land or for individual surveyed lots. Title particulars from: W. S. Senthilnathan, Attorney-at-Law, Kasturir Road, Jaffna. Bids to: C. Thuraijasingham, 'Katpaha', 325, Columbuturai Road, Jaffna.

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Tamil poets to be honoured

Two Tamil Poets from the East and North, Neelavan and Kalvayal V. Kumaraswamy will be honoured at a meeting to be held on Sunday, 27th March at 6-00 p. m., at the Colombo Tamil Sangam Hall. Professor S. Ramakrishnan from Tamilnadu and Novelist Rajam Krishnan will be special speakers on this occasion.

Mr. R. Sivagurunathan, President of Sri Lanka Working Journalists' Association will preside.

Jaffna Ratepayers meeting

The Jaffna Municipality Rate Payers' Association holds its Annual General Meeting on Monday the 28th at 9 a.m., at the Trimmer Hall, Jaffna. Mr. S. C. Mahadeva, President of the Association will pre-

side. Important decisions are expected to be taken at this meeting, according to the Association's Honorary Secretary, Mr. M. Mahalingam.

Mannar U.N.P. man beaten up by Army

A prominent UNP supporter of Talaimannar, Mr. G. Peter Maruthine was himself beaten up by army men as he was walking along the main road. In his complaint he has stated that six army men who came in a jeep had assaulted him with hands and rifle barrels.

Army raid on studio

Army personnel raided a studio at Vasavilan on Saturday morning and took away some 'negatives'. The studio owner later handed over an empty cartridge—presumably left behind by the search party—to the Palaly Military Police.



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3 years ago on March 24, Archbishop Romero was gunned down in San Salvador city

As night was descending on the gloomy crisis—born city of San Salvador, on the 24th of March, 1980, a small gathering of Christians was celebrating mass in the Cathedral. In the calm and quiet atmosphere inside the Cathedral it was Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero who was presiding at the altar. Suddenly gunshots rang out, and in front of the congregation's terrified eyes the 63 year old Archbishop slumped to the ground.

There was no doubt in the minds of the congregation that the gunmen who were rushing out of the Cathedral were members of the right-wing death squad called "ORDEN". The Archbishop had been a constant and fearless critic of the inhuman government of El Salvador.

Impassioned

plea to soldiers

The ruling oligarchy—a combination of big landowners and powerful businessmen—had not only exploited the peasants and workers of the country economically, but was also using the Armed Forces to mercilessly crush any signs of protest. Ironically, it was on the very day of his death that in an impassioned address to the soldiers the Archbishop had pleaded: "You don't have to comply with the orders of your superiors if they oppose God's laws. I implore you to cease repression". It was with gunshots that the soldiers replied!

Sermon for the troubled times

Even the very funeral service of the Archbishop was disturbed as soldiers started shouting into the crowds. Thereafter for a few days, with cries of "Viva Monsignor Romero," there was spontaneous rioting by the people inflamed by the murder of the Archbishop. But the soldiers ruthlessly suppressed it, leaving forty people dead.

The oligarchy certainly knew what a threat the Archbishop was for its future. In an intensely Catholic country, whose culture and traditions are deeply rooted in Christianity, the church and priests enjoy a commanding position. When the church itself started denouncing the injustice of the government this became a rallying call for the already impoverished masses. The Bible became a symbol of protest, and priests became leaders of struggle, in the eyes of the exploited people.

The Archbishop's sermons are models of what a good sermon should be in the troubled modern times. They don't have the airy—fairy, abstract, rambling and boring features associated with the usual sermons. In his Epiphany Sermon just two months before he was murdered, he said 'I address

the ministers of the government, the Junta, which is presently together with the Armed Forces, the ruling force in El Salvador. There must be greater clarity regarding your objectives. The duty of all authority is to be a moral force which forges the different groups to work together for the common good, respecting the freedom and plurality of the people.

The specificity of the words, the deep relevance to the immediate situation, the courage with which the unjust authorities are denounced, the humane sympathy for the victims, all make this an unusual "sermon". Those words contain, in short, all the values the Archbishop lived and died for.

But March 24th certainly comes into conflict

trodden and denounced the hypocrisy of the Pharisees who were the economically and politically powerful class of the time. Christ's followers too shared their possessions and defied the Roman imperialists who strove to suppress this religion.

Today the priests in the Third World suffering under the yoke of American imperialism, and living

which should complement its spiritual richness.

Meanwhile, two years after the Archbishop's death, El Salvador is intensely aflame with revolution. At the moment Reagan, the President of a so-called Christian country, is trying to persuade the Congress to sanction increased military aid to the oppressive regime that has already wrought enough havoc in this poor country. Though 82 million dollars were given in 1982, and the Congress agreed to cut the 1983 figure to only 26 million dollars, Reagan insists on 60 million dollars as military aid this year too. The average of 37 U. S. military advisors stationed in El Salvador each year to train and advise the Government troops on the spot, is also to be increased further. But the Reagan administration does not realise that the more the repression continues the further are the civilians driven towards the Leftist Revolutionaries.

The insurgent organization named the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) consisting of about 6000 guerrillas is doggedly battling a government troop of 22,400 soldiers. FMLN which was begun in the early 70's named after Farabundo Martí the Salvadoran Communist Leader who rose against the upper classes in 1932, boasts of many youth from the

A Christian martyr for a Marxist cause!

"To the Armed Forces: beneath many reactions of the Armed Forces to the civilian populace lies an exaggerated idolatry of the institution of the Armed Forces. One must take note, my dear friends, that every institution including the military must be at the service of the people. We say the same regarding laws and codes which become outdated, rigid and senseless. There must be adaptability to the times in which we live and to the needs of the people we serve.

March 24 and March 14

"It is necessary to continue denunciations on behalf of human rights. On December 29th military units of the Army invaded the districts of El Terrero, Conacaste, San Jose, and El Amatillo. The above military occupation lasted until December 31st after having killed many campesinos (peasants), including a child of two and another of eight. They took them to some unknown place: they destroyed dwellings of several campesinos: they killed their pigs and other domestic animals, and finally robbed their corn, beans and clothes. We demand an investigation of these actions, a sanction for those responsible, and liberty for those arrested."

Imagine those lines coming straight from the pulpit, the heart of the Church!

with March 14th. March 14th is the day Karl Marx died the thinker who denounced Christianity as reactionary, of being the tool of the unjust exploiting classes, of being dreamily

amidst the exploited peasants under the rich landlords and mudalalis, are reviving the original radical spirit of Christianity. The Peruvian priest Gustavo Gutierrez's book "Theology of Liberation" in the late sixties marked the turning point.

The Marxists themselves have not been slow in identifying this radical trend in

by Staff Writer Suresh

other-worldly. But March 24th commemorates the death of a priest who became a political victim because he dared to radically oppose the unjust authorities and stand for the exploited classes. Has Marx misunderstood Christianity? Or is it Christianity that has changed?

It was certainly true that during Marx' time Christianity was used by the bourgeoisie to subtly tame the radicalism of the working classes. The Priests—paid servants of the bourgeoisie—taught the workers that their suffering in this world will be richly rewarded in Heaven, and that as the social order with its hierarchy was created by God it should not be questioned. The bourgeoisie satisfied their conscience by giving charity—a meagre sum from all the riches they had exploited from the same working class they were giving their charity to. But Christianity was the religion of the oppressed when it began: Christ the Carpenter identified himself with the fishermen and down-

Christianity. Having personally seen the priests all over Central America who are taking up the cause of the oppressed, Cuban Fidel Castro told a gathering of Christian priests in Havana in 1977 'It is not sufficient to concern ourselves, we must collaborate in order to change the world. It is necessary to lay the bases for this collaboration before a Revolution can be brought about. We must establish an alliance, but not a tactical alliance; I say a strategic alliance between religion and socialism, between religion and revolution.'

According to Belgian sociologist Francois Hourart, about 250 priests and nuns have either died or been tortured in Latin America alone during the last twelve years. Archbishop Romero being the highest dignitary to die yet for a political cause, symbolises for the Christian community throughout the world, the social content of Christianity

Christian Democratic Party and other Catholic-led peasant unions. The insurgent forces who are well disciplined and humane are gradually winning the hearts of their countrymen. Captured government troops are not tortured but released to their families. The citizens in areas which are captured by the revolutionaries are also administered with understanding.

Already areas in Usulután, Marazan and Chalatenango provinces are under FMLN hands. Guazapa Volcano, a few miles from the capital city, is also under the control of the guerrillas. It is only a matter of months when the unjust oligarchy is toppled and a new social order born in El Salvador. As the rich landowners and big businessmen sail gaily over the blood and sweat of the peasants in El Salvador, the voice of the martyr for social justice rings out sharply and ominously:

The EDMONTON JOURNAL, Alberta, Canada, carried the following report by staff writer Agnes Buttner, in its issue of January 10, 1983:—

Eleven Sri Lankans who fled their country because of racial oppression are having a tough time in Edmonton.

The men, who hope Ottawa will grant them refugee status, are members of the Sri Lankan Tamil minority. Non-status refugees receive no aid from the federal government, although they are allowed to work.

One man in his 20s, who works as a cook, is sharing an apartment with three of his countrymen and paying all the bills. All left their homeland following violent clashes with the Buddhist majority in the former Bri-

tish colony, once called Ceylon.

Sri Lanka is ruled by the Sinhalese government. When Sinhalese was made the official language in 1956, Tamils who did not speak the language were stripped of jobs and land.

Racial violence since has resulted in the deaths of several hundred Tamils and many homes have been looted and burned, said Sam Lawrence of the Ealam Tamil Association of Alberta.

Tamil tradesmen, engineers and doctors are leaving the country, vowing they won't return until they have their own sovereign state, he said.

The refugees, who attended a weekend meeting of the association, said they left because of racial riots and oppression by the Sinhalese army.

Tamil issue in Canadian newspaper

Though willing to talk to **The Journal**, they refused to give their names because they feared chances of obtaining refugee status might be jeopardized and they fear for the safety of relatives. A 26-year-old Tamil-speak-

ing man who arrived in Canada Nov. 2 said he was arrested six times by the Sinhalese army, who believed him to be a terrorist, and was tortured while under arrest.

Lawrence told association members they should work to support their own people suffering oppression in Sri Lanka just as the Chileans and Guatemalans help their own people.

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner refutes

The above news item evoked the following reply by Sri Lanka High Commissioner in Canada, Mr. R.C.A. Vandergert, and was published in **The Journal** of February 7 under the headline "Refugee ruse used to gain sympathy:—

"Please permit me to correct some inaccuracies and misconceptions in the news item which appeared in **THE JOURNAL** of January 10, under the heading 'TAMILS SEEK REFUGEE STATUS.'"

According to your staff writer, "Sri Lanka is ruled by the Sinhalese government. When Sinhalese was made the

official language in 1956, Tamils who did not speak the language were stripped of jobs and land."

Regrettably, this is a misreading of the present situation in Sri Lanka and a distortion of the facts.

First, the present government of Sri Lanka, which is the United National Party government led by President J.R. Jayawardene, includes in its cabinet not only persons who belong to the majority Sinhala community but also Tamils, as well as representatives of other minority groups such as the Sri Lanka Moors.

Secondly, as to the claim

that some Tamils were "stripped of jobs" in 1956, the facts are as follows: When Sinhala was made the official language in 1956 all public servants were required to obtain proficiency in the official language within a prescribed period. They were also given every facility to acquire such proficiency.

While the great majority of public servants set about acquiring such proficiency, a few persons who did not, or chose not to do so, were permitted to retire. Certainly no public servant was arbitrarily stripped of his job purely by reason that he was not proficient in Sinhala when the Official Language Act was passed in 1956.

Today, there are many Tamils holding senior posts in

the public service. The Attorney-General of Sri Lanka and the chief of Police, to give but two examples, are both Tamils.

As regards the allegations that Tamils who did not know Sinhala were stripped of their lands, this is so completely ludicrous that I do not think it even merits consideration. Suffice it to say that under the constitution all citizens of Sri Lanka enjoy equal rights, which includes the right to own and acquire all forms of property.

While the vast majority of Sri Lankan Tamils are happy to live and work in Sri Lanka, there are a dissatisfied few who, for whatever reasons of their own, wish to seek fresh pastures elsewhere.

Since the current world-

wide recession has caused many countries, Canada included, to tighten up on their immigration quotas, some insubstantial Sri Lankans have resorted to spurious claims for political asylum purely as a ruse to circumvent normal immigration procedures.

It is a source of much concern to my government that these self-styled "refugees" should smear the good name of Sri Lanka to achieve their dubious ends. It is also a source of great regret that certain well-intentioned organizations and institutions in this country are unwittingly being used by these unscrupulous persons in, their attempts to whip up public sympathy for their cause.

happy to return to my former homeland.

Hundreds of Tamils, including some Christian and Catholic Priests, are held in army camps and police stations without trial. Some are tortured and others disappear in Sri Lanka. I do not expect Canada to accept all these Tamils as refugees. But I am sure that Canada can use its influence on the Sri Lanka government to reduce human sufferings.

It is also important to note that about a quarter of the three million Tamils in Sri Lanka are non-citizens in Sri Lanka. These people came from India to work in the tea plantations. The present Sri Lanka government plans to repatriate them to India. These non-citizen Tamils have worked for one of the lowest wages in the world to earn over half the foreign exchange earned by Sri Lanka.

Under these circumstances I urge the Canadian Government to reconsider its aid program to Sri Lanka.

Mr. N. Thevarajan of the Ealam Tamil Association of Alberta, has replied the High Commissioner in the issue of **THE JOURNAL** of February 14. Mr. Thevarajan says:

"Please permit me to correct the letter (**The Journal**, February 7) written by the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka,

The High Commissioner claims "certainly no public servant was arbitrarily stripped of his job purely by reason that he was not proficient in Sinhala..."

Actually, thousands of government employees were dismissed for "non-proficiency in official language." Many others are denied salary increments and promotions.

The High Commissioner also states that "all citizens of Sri Lanka enjoy equal rights, which include the right to own land and acquire all forms of property."

May I remind him of Sinhala police and Army atrocities in the Tamil city of Jaffna in 1981. The armed forces burned down a public library, the

Rebuttal by Eelam Tamil Association member

Tamil MP's house, the Tamil newspaper establishment, the public market, several other buildings and houses, and killed over 25 Tamils.

After those riots even the president of Sri Lanka said, "I regret some members of my party have spoken, in parliament and outside, words that encourage violence and the murders, rapes and arson that have been committed."

The High Commissioner also states: While the vast majority of Sri Lankan Tamils are happy to live and work in Sri Lanka, there are a dissatisfied few... But the truth is that the vast majority of Tamils voted for the Tamil United Liberation Front, which is the main opposition party in the present parliament. This party pledged to seek a separate state of Tamil Eelam.

I will not encourage an



influx of Sri Lankan refugees into Canada considering the unemployment problem here, but if there were justice and respect for human rights in Sri Lanka I would be only too

What the President himself said in 1981:

"I regret some members of my party have spoken, in Parliament and outside, words that encourage violence and the murders, rapes and arson that have been committed"

International Funding Agencies - 2

(The first part of this article appeared in the March 5 issue of SR)

One main source of IMF funds is the General arrangements to borrow, first made in 1962 and subsequently extended. G. A. B. is a line of credit agreed with the ten leading IMF members (U.S.A., U.K., France, West Germany, Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, and Italy) and Switzerland amounting to special drawing rights 6,400 m. Contributions are pledged in the lender's own currency and only the group of ten members may draw on the funds.

The group of Five comprises USA, UK, France, West Germany and Japan. Switzerland is not a member of the IMF but it holds associate status.

Finance from Saudi Arabia

After the rapid rise of oil prices as the number of countries needing large support relative to their quotas and for longer than usual increased, the IMF devised additional finance. Under the cumbersome head of "ENLARGED ACCESS TO FUND RESOURCES" it raised SDR 8,000 m from Saudi Arabia in 1981, followed soon after by a short term credit of SDR 1,300 m from the Bank of International Settlements (The Central Banker's Bank), 18 Central Banks and once again, Switzerland. The main route for Saudi Arabia to contribute is through GAB. But that would imply admitting a new member to the charmed circle of major industrial countries. It might, however, be done by giving Saudi Arabia the associate status held by Switzerland, but one wonders how all this will affect the Third World?

Guilty of 'over-borrowing'

A couple of years ago, the non-oil developing countries were running a deficit in their current account payments of the order of \$ 30,000 m per annum. About half of the jump to the \$ 100,000 m level that has occurred since is attributable to the rise in interest charges of their foreign debt and the remainder to the severe drop in export earnings which the slump in commodity prices has brought in its wake. The external payments of the Third World countries were disrupted by the 1973-74 oil prices explosion. When these

developing countries were given access to OPEC surpluses the leading Western countries wanted the business channelled through their own financial institutions. So now—with the OPEC surplus a thing of the past—the western countries are enjoying the surplus counterpart of the developing countries' enormous deficit.

In the recently held IMF/World Bank conference the unfortunate developing countries were presented as being guilty of "over borrowing", and were told that they must now be prepared to submit to a period of painful adjustment to get themselves back to financial stability. What cannot be disputed is that most of the more serious economic and financial problems now engulfing the world stem from the policies and procedures that the western countries have insisted on pursuing with a total disregard for the consequences.

No less relevant is the story of how the developing countries came to experience the severe deterioration in their external payments circumstances, which has made it difficult, if not impossible, for many of them to find the foreign exchange to service their foreign debts. The explanation lies largely in two developments, for which the behaviour of the advanced world is primarily responsible.

Jump in interest rates

The first is the steep decline in world prices of commodities precipitated by the global recession which the monetarist policies of the industrial countries have brought in their wake. Such commodities constitute a sizeable part of the developing world export earnings. As the prices of its imports of manufactured goods have continued to rise in response to the onward march of inflation, its current payments have in many cases suffered a severe setback on trade account alone, and this has been compounded by the second development.

This is the steep rise in debt serving costs arising from the spectacular jump in the interest rates charged by Foreign banking creditors. According to the Trade and Development Report 1982 issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development, the Third World's annual interest payments increase by as much as \$2000 m. For every percentage point rise in Eurocurrency interest

Aid or Loan? Who are the real winners?

rates last year (1982) the oil importing developing countries are committed to find some \$ 38,000 m more than they did as recently as in 1979. So it is little wonder they are so hard pressed to meet the bill.

Contraction in import demand, depression of terms of trade, extra output produced by subsidised farmers behind protective barriers in industrial countries, growing protectionism & abrupt interest rate rise in international capital markets constitute the mechanism for the transfer to developing countries of recession elsewhere. The developing countries are fighting back by the introduction of new austerity programmes and defensive currency devaluations. About

Africa, under the thumb of the nations controlling food supply, especially the USA. While addressing a recent World Bank Seminar, Dumont, now 78, warned the World Bank and UN officials that unless the present "senseless economic structure" was reformed and fair prices paid to developing countries for the food and mineral commodities, the people of the Third World might revolt and 'question by force' the prevailing economic system. The agricultural development policies of the past two decades, imposed by the West and carried out by the urban elite of the third world, are the main cause of malnutrition, unemployment and rising food imports in the Third World, he said. As food imports increase,

3000 calories and 65 grams of vegetable protein daily, but a third of these cereals go to feed the cows, pigs, and chickens of the rich nations! Several million tonnes of oil cakes—mostly soyabeans and peanuts—which are fit for human consumption, go into animal feed. Thus, in the fields, soya beans are ousting black beans, the poor man's protein in Africa. Sugar cane for fuel alcohol is beginning to take precedence over food crops. Even wheat, rice and maize are becoming "cash crops", as they are being grown for animal feed abroad. In the back page of 'The Times' (U.K.) of 26/11/82 was a photograph of one of America's 500 underground mountains, cold storing 400 million pounds of butter, 800 million

by

P. Varothayasingam
London

a fifth of the world's imports are accounted for by the non-oil developing countries. When they scale down their purchases in the way they are promising to do now, the advanced countries would urge the World Bank and the IMF to pull their punches in imposing readjustment disciplines on the developing countries! "CONDITIONALITY" (conditions under which the countries can borrow from the IMF) is defined as "THE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF VIABILITY TO THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (OF A BORROWER) IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF PRICE STABILITY AND STABLE RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH". So, who are the real winners?

World Bank and Food crops

The French agronomist, sometime politician and author of 35 books on agricultural development, Rene Dumont, has criticised what he calls the World Bank's relentless drive for cash crops. He says the ensuing food shortages have placed more and more developing countries, especially in

so, paradoxically, do hunger, deficiency diseases and even famine. He also warned that until a reliable food crop surplus could be guaranteed, the establishment of a modern infrastructure (markets, transport, credits) could have disastrous results. It would encourage farmers to sell their supplies for cash, leaving the countryside with no reserves when the inevitable bad harvests come. The basic problem he sees as one of distribution and prices.

Feeding the cows and pigs

To enable us to devise strategies to deal with problems we must first recognise the way of thinking and attitudes of the advanced countries. The World Bank and donor nations insist that the Third World grow export crops—at the expense of food crops—to provide primary products for them at cheap prices. They also provide the producer nations with foreign exchange for the national prestige projects, luxury goods—and food imports. Today the world produces enough cereals to provide everyone with almost

pounds of (mouldering) cheese and 1,100 million pounds of skim—milk powder as a shocking testimony of man's monumental folly and greed. How can such a vast and still growing mass of food, stored at a cost of some \$ 70 m a year and maintained by a price support mechanism admitted by the American Agricultural Secretary to be "embarrassing, unacceptable, and intolerable" be allowed to continue in the face of the devastating starvation and its attendant diseases and degrading misery in so much of the Third World? It is an affront to humanity that this disgusting and fundamentally uneconomic and unethical monster should be allowed to exist.

Another good example is the recently signed Law of the Sea Conference, after years of painstaking negotiations. For the past seven years 150 rich and poor nations have been negotiating a draft treaty which would set new territorial limits, establish rules for passage through Straits and seas, and create a regime to govern the exploration and recovery of seabed resources beyond national jurisdiction.

(Continued on page 10)

Manabharana I, a cousin and contemporary of Vickramabahu who was ruling over the principality of Dakshinadesa, had close associations with Hinduism. References to him in the Pali Chronicle suggest that Hindu influences were dominant at his court. This was to be expected on account of his Pandya descent as well as the fact that one of his consorts was a Chola princess. He had at his court a Purohita and many other brahmins versed in the Vedas and Vedangas by whom the homa sacrifice and other Hindu rites were performed.

Hindu ceremonies were conducted to mark important phases in the early life of his son Parakramabahu. The birth rites and other connected ceremonies were performed for him according to the rules laid down in the Veda. The infant prince's body marks were also examined and analysed by the purohita and other learned brahmins at the King's request. Later, the ceremony of Upanayana or initiation was also performed for the young prince.

Gajabahu and Hinduism

Gajabahu II, the son and successor of Vickramabahu, is known to have extended much support for Hinduism on account of which he attained celebrity in traditional accounts centring on the ancient Saivite temple of Konesvaram. The charge made by the Pali Chronicler that he brought heretical nobles from abroad and filled the land with the briers of heresy may also suggest that Gajabahu had strong leanings towards Hinduism. One of the inscriptions issued by him unmistakably prove that he had propitiated Hindu deities and caused Hindu rituals to be performed. An artisan, a certain Hinabi, who made images and other representations of Skanda and other gods at the behest of the King for the performance of a lakspuja applied for and obtained a land grant as a reward for his services in this connection. The Brahmadeya at Kantalay which had existed from the days of Chola rule seems to have been the recipient of some benefits from this ruler. Two Tamil inscriptions which mention the name of this ruler record the setting up of boundary stones to mark the limits of the village.

Village of

Kantalay

As it was customary in South India, in this instance the boundary was delimited by marching an elephant along a defined strip of land. One of the epigraphs specifically records that the stone marking the eastern boundary of the village was set up by the general Kilivai Apimanaraman

Hinduism in Ceylon-4

Circa A. D. 1000-1250

on the orders of the King. It is also noteworthy that Gajabahu spent the last days of his life at Kantalay.

In this connection it may be relevant to consider here the observations of Sirima Kiribamune. She writes:

"One other clue which suggests Gajabahu's leanings towards Hinduism in his retirement to Gangatataka (Kantalay) after he had come to

gth at these places had supported the cause of Vikramabahu and his son. The recently discovered Tamil inscription dated in the 18th year of Jayabahu from Mayilawewa records details which are of significance in this connection. The epigraph mentions that the dandanatha named Kanavati summoned the four units of the Velaikkara army (stationed) at Ututturai and placed

as Gajabahu II.

Traditions recorded in the **Konecar Kalvettu, Taksina kailacapuram** and other works claim that Gajabahu who was a great devotee of Siva, visited Konesvaram at a time when religious services had been interrupted there as a result of a controversy between the Buddhists and the Saivites. The King is said to have summoned the **Vannipam**, the **tanattar** and the **Varippattu**, inquired about

fully no Hindu temple the chronology of which could precisely be attributed to the reign of Parakramabahu has hitherto been recognized among architectural remains: the statements made in traditional history about Parakramabahu's construction and restoration of Hindu temples may be considered to be genuine.

Nissamkamalla was another ruler of Polonnaruwa who showed concern for the welfare of brahmins and Hindu institutions. A slab inscription found inside the Siva Devale I records that it was set up after Nissamkamalla had completed the function of lustral bathing in connection with the ceremony of (**navagraha santi**) propitiating the nine planetary gods. As the inscription which records the performance of this ritual has been found in the Siva Devale No. I it could be assumed that these ceremonies were performed at this particular shrine. At the Brahmadeya of Kantalay, referred to as Caturveda brahmapura in one of his inscriptions, there was in the reign of Nissamkamalla an alms hall called Parvati dadasala. This institution, as suggested by its name and its location, was a one designed for Hindus, and it is specifically stated that the King proceeded there to witness the distribution of alms. There he is said to have engaged himself in witnessing dancing, singing and other performances. The contents of the Kantalay Gal Asana inscription leave no doubt that the king proceeded to the Brahmin settlement of Kantalay to participate in a Hindu religious ceremony which included festivities. His concern for the welfare of Brahmins is also suggested by his establishment of charitable institutions called Brahmana Satra as stated in one of his epigraphs.

(To be continued)

by

Dr. S. Pathmanathan

terms with Parakramabahu... After a period of long and bitter fighting, Gajabahu had come to the end of the road as it were and whatever hopes and aspirations he entertained earlier had to be abandoned with the recognition of Parakramabahu as heir. The choice of Gangatataka at this stage of his career might have been prompted by religious considerations... Thus it would seem that Gajabahu II, bereft of all hope chose to spend his last days in a Hindu atmosphere, where he could devote his time to religious activities."

While endorsing with some reservations the views expressed in the above passage it may be added that considerations of moral and material support from Dravidian communities established at Kantalay and other localities in the north eastern littoral rather than religious piety induced Gajabahu to shift his court from Polonnaruwa to Kantalay. It would appear that the Tamils and other Dravidians, both Buddhists and Hindus, who were established in sufficient stren-

under their protection the Buddhist temple named Vikkrama Calamekanperumpalli.

The **Konecar kalvettu** which records the traditions and legends relating to the temple of Konesvaram describes a certain Gajabahu as a great patron of this famous shrine. The accounts of this ruler's association with Konesvaram as incorporated in this text suggest that the activities of Gajabahu constituted an important and remarkable phase in the complex institutional development of Konesvaram. Only two kings of the island had the name Gajabahu and of these the second ruler of that name who held sway from Polonnaruwa, as shown earlier, had strong leanings towards Hinduism. In view of the developed and institutionalized character of Konesvaram with which Jayabahu was associated and because of the reason that Gajabahu II who is known to have strong leanings towards Hinduism had taken up residence at Kantalay towards the end of his reign Gajabahu who is a great benefactor of Konesvaram may be identified

the affairs of the temple and had its institutions and religious services restored. On the King's initiative, it is said, brahmins were brought from abroad and appointed priests at the temple. The king is said to have made a gift of a thousand pieces of gold coins to the temple and endowed it with substantial revenues from land and other sources.

Parakramabahu I the events of whose reign have been chronicled in epic proportions chiefly on account of his patronage of Buddhism is also known to have supported Hinduism. The **Culavamsa** credits him with having made gifts to brahmins at the celebrations held in honour of the successes achieved by his armies in the Pandya Kingdom. It is further said in the same chronicle that he constructed thirteen temples for the gods and had restored seventy nine (Hindu) temples which were in a state of disrepair. In another instance the chronicle states that this king had caused to be renovated twenty four temples of gods. Although, regret-

(Continued from Page 5)

human beings; that you will leave the world better than you found it; that you will not forget about the pottery you made in the ceramics class, or the poetry you learned in Tamil and English, that you young scientists will remember that the greatest scientists in history were poets as well as technicians. (It was the artists who taught anatomy to the Italian scientists) And may you all live so that when you die, people will say, "He was born a man and as a boutique keeper sold good products at reasonable prices, contributed money to a nearby

How sad this human shrinkage...

orphanage and spent his spare time teaching the children about birds or about the stars and the planets"; or will say, "She was born a woman and died an accountant who was thoroughly honest, who exposed the corruption in a public institution, contributed her services to the women's guild; and took herself and some friends to provide music for patients in the local hospital". You do not need to be a great hero or heroine; you only need to make a difference in your village or

community, no matter how small or big.

Let me leave you all, parents and students, with a concrete example of what I have been talking about. I am told that in the whole of Jaffna there is only one school for the deaf and the blind. Why do not all of you begin to agitate and plan to set up at least two more such schools in five years? There is private wealth in Jaffna, there is also public funding; there is plenty of teaching talent

and building or architectural skill; there are doctors and medical assistance available. Is there anything to stop you except inertia and inattention, and perhaps some lingering prejudice against and fear of the handicapped person? I leave you with this challenge. What a priceless prize! I thank you for your patient attention. I wish you well and hope we can all devote ourselves to the pursuit of truth, of justice, and joy.

Prize-day address at Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai

How sad this human shrinkage!-2

We hear laments and complaints that the younger generation and the present day parents are wrapped up in making money and neglect the older virtues, and that doctors and teachers and lawyers are no longer professional but rupee-happy. Enrich yourselves, the government seems to say and everybody wants to do it. But let me ask the same complainants if they ever sat down themselves to read something significant with a son or daughter in the morning, or at night before going to bed, or took the trouble to examine with their families the value of money as compared with the value of honesty, or even if they ever discussed the consequences of giving and taking a bribe, or what it means to society when an incompetent is appointed to run a tea-estate, and what it means for the incompetent to accept a post for which he or she has no qualifications? Do you ask your children what they are learning and studying, or are you like the father just mentioned who said he left all that to the teachers.

Freedom to disagree

How can we expect to develop decent human beings if we never, either at home or at school, discuss what it means to be a decent human being, or insist that our children somehow or other confront that question. One obvious place for such an encounter is among the great works of humanity: but again, these are not to be read and recited, but to be absorbed, thought about, and discussed in an atmosphere of free interchange in which the student can respectfully disagree with the teacher and the teacher will not shout him or her down or sneer, but will take the question seriously, who will encourage your child to argue, to think, and to consider all sides of a question before making a judgment.

Rational judgement

It is precisely this ability to make rational judgments that is so essential to the effective working of a democracy. How are we to vote intelligently if we cannot sort out the rice from the chaff, the kernel of truth amid the heap of propaganda and political nonsense, to smell out balderdash and false prophets, to not confuse the pop of the popgun with the crack of doom, the noise of the firecracker with the boom of war? How is it that kindly people can be persuaded by the unscrupulous and the ambitious politician to murder their neigh-

bours? How is it that university students in Assam can kill poor Muslim immigrants and persuade others to follow their lead?

Well, perhaps a close study of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, either in English or Tamil, will be instructive, especially a close study of Mark Antony's famous speech. That speech is Shakespeare's supreme example of how a crafty politician gifted with rhetorical skill can turn a relatively peaceful crowd of Roman citizens into a raging, mindless mob of killers.

dignified is to take bribes; what is not dignified is to give or accept offices for which we have no talent or competence; what is not dignified is to yield to some irrational prejudice and begin to slander or kill our neighbours. And above all, it is not dignified to deny the dignity of those who work with their hands; as Abraham Lincoln said. "God must have loved the common people; he made so many of them".

A society that denies to ordinary people their own

When times are hard or seem to be hard and the school budget comes up for voting, almost automatically people say, well we can cut out, or cut down the music, the art the drama, the dance as though these were merely the frosting on the cake of culture or education. On the one hand they want their children to be creative and with the other they take away the sources of creativity. What will you say to a man who tells you to plant a field, but will give no seed?

You ask the government

To bring all this back to the present occasion and to sound a little less like an angry old man, I do indeed want to congratulate Jaffna College on the progress it has made as reported by the Principal; may that progress continue and may the College continue to place the arts and humanities near the centre of its curriculum, despite all the difficulties in doing so, and even if it be against contemporary fashion. May it continue to do so because if it does not, there will be one less centre of learning (not training), of Culture (not gadgetry), of attention on the whole human being in Sri Lanka, each centre of this kind is a star radiating the light of life. No such star must be lost.

The role of Jaffna College

May Jaffna College also continue and expand its role as a school that cares for, as my father once put it, "the least, the last, and the lost." For not only is it the right course to take, but as we all know, the least can often become the greatest, the last can be the first, and the lost can be found; moreover the least need not even become the greatest, or the last the first, or the lost found; they can be greater than what they are, somewhere beyond the last, and if not found, at least finding their way. Not only is this role imposed on it by the master or the guru whose way the college follows (the least of these my brethren), but the loyalty and support of all

by Professor John Walter Bicknell

A student who has studied the craft of that speech ought never to be deceived again by a political speech as diabolically clever as this one.

This is why everyone, not just those slated for A-Levels etc should be exposed to great literature and great ideas. Why should not a plumber, a welder, an auto mechanic, a farm worker, a toddy tapper, a fisherman or woman, a nurse, an accountant be familiar with the great issues and the great questions. Of course, a good plumber is worth more to society than a bad philosopher, but why should not a plumber be philosophical or artistic, or musical? We are all citizens; we must all vote and make judgments on policy. Therefore all should be broadly educated.

Or to turn it around, why should not someone who has passed A-Levels, take up some trade or craft, like plumbing or house building, or printing; the labour of our hands is honourable labour and has been so for centuries for those not blinded by foolish pride—a social convention.

The Christian Apostles were working men; the great works of sculpture and architecture were made with human hands; to work is dignified. What is not dignified is to look down on those who do. What is not

cultural heritage, the opportunity to read and think, to paint, to make music, to create is a society ignorant of irrigation. If the tank is empty the crop will rot. And in that case there will be no dignity for anyone; the rats will inherit the earth. Likewise the society which regards handwork as

for money for technical or vocational subjects and it will pile the dollars or the rupees in your hand. My President is full of plans to enlarge the military budget to a fantastic sum and also wants to balance the budget, so he is ready to cut the subsidy for the arts and the humanities—a pitifully small sum to begin with.

The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present' - Lincoln

demeaning or beneath the attention of the educated intelligent will also decline as Athens did, great as its achievement was, in part because 'practical' work was fit only for slaves. I beg you, therefore, to be ready to be creative and effective in any vocation you choose. New problems require new solutions, or different ones at least; "the dogmas of the quiet past", Lincoln told us, "are inadequate to the stormy present".

One of the dogmas I hear in my country (and here too) is that the arts are a luxury.

We are willing to spend billions fostering our ingenuity in shaping new ways of committing murder and very little to foster the creative arts of living. We seem to have become devotees of death in a way that gives point to a story about Gandhi. He was once asked what he thought of Western civilization. He answered that he thought it was a good idea and ought to be tried. I will let you answer the question—to what extent does my society misplace its money? What do we prize and for what actions do we give prizes in our adult world?

those to whom light and help is brought will be a source of strength to Jaffna College in the future as it has been in the past.

To you young people who are receiving prizes today, congratulations and may you continue your quest for excellence as your education continues and you move into your life's work. May that quest always be taken with the conviction that excellence is not only a source of personal satisfaction or comfort, but as a quality to be put in the service of your fellow

(Continued Overleaf)

LETTERS

Stop mucking the past!

P. O. Box 5902,
BAHRAIN
10th March, 1983

The Editor,
'Saturday Review'
Dear Sir,

It was very amusing to read a news item which appeared in the 'Sri Lanka News' of (3-3-83), a weekly news digest published by the Lake House for circulation abroad.

Reference has been made about the serious procedural lapses by the late Dr. N. M. Perera while printing the new currency notes and how the then Governor of the Central Bank was helpless despite the fact that the matter was brought to the notice of the then Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike.

It would be interesting to watch whether the Sri Lankan police, with their special ability (?) in establishing evidence would unearth any corrupt practice of the distant past.

Is it not more pragmatic to adopt the policy of 'Prevention is better than Cure'? Wouldn't it have helped in any way, had the Governor of the Central Bank brought

the matter simultaneously to the notice of the then opposition leader (incidentally Mr. J. R. Jayawardena) in addition to the Prime Minister? In any healthy democracy, such would have been the desirable practice and also the newspapers should have been kept INDEPENDENT and WELL MEANING to bring such irregularities to the lime-light.

Perhaps, we can learn a good lesson from the short-lived Moraji Desai's government in India which spent its time and resources in probing into the actions of the previous administration, and eventually got washed out of power by the returning tidal wave which brought them in.

Therefore rather than indulging in special commissions to probe into past omissions, the government must think of establishing DEMOCRATIC ENVIRONMENT in the true disciplines of Righteous (Dharmista?) society and thereby thwart the recurrences of serious malpractices at high levels.

Your admirer

S. K. Karunaharan

Wanni farmer & Chairman A.D.A

Vavuniya
16-03-83.

With reference to the reply by the Chairman A.D.A. in the SR of 26th ultimo to my article of 22nd January, I dealt with the following:-

1. Government Officials and their performances; 2. Impossibility of cultivating 100% of the lands; 3. Difficulties of the Highland Farmers; 4. Water problem and use of fertilisers; 5. Subsidy to the farmers compared to Fishermen; 6. Tube wells. 7. Soil Analysis. 8. Use of Bluish Green Algae, Azolla, Gypsum and the damage done by Urea. 9. Inoculants. 10. Windmill and Biogas; 11. Cattle etc. etc.

I am very thankful to the Chairman A.D.A. for having taken my letter to heart. He appears to be much worried over my criticism of his brother officials, some of whom are self-centred and have centered themselves around Vavuniya for over a decade doing enough damage. From his letter I find that he has put his heart and soul for the betterment of the poor Wan-

ni Farmers by appointing two Managers to visit the farmers and to look after their needs which most are not aware of. I feel it will be a herculean task for two officials to visit the farmers in the vast area of Vavuniya. Further, he has not revealed the 2 Agricultural Zones that he has divided and the names of the two Managers for the farmers to contact. I regret to note that he has not understood the rest of the contents of the article.

He also speaks of the overall results of the food crop during 1977/1982 which cannot be considered an achievement without reaching self-sufficiency. Out of the subjects I have dealt with he has only replied the first one.

The problems of the Wanni Farmers are numerous.

I hope the Chairman will not relax his efforts and hope God Almighty will give him all strength to make our country self-sufficient to which the farmers will always give a helping hand.

Wanni Farmer.

Neelan & the Colombo Tamil caucus: Decentralisation & UNP bona fides

No: 19, Abdul Caffoor Mawatha
Colombo 3,

The Editor
Saturday Review.
Sir,

On 3rd March the 'Island' carried an editorial entitled "Time To Talk Turkey" and relating to the nomination of Dr. Tiruchelvam as MP for Vaddukkoddai. On the 4th I submitted to the Editor of the 'Island' the attached letter entitled "Tamils and Talks". Apparently the 'Island' has not found it acceptable for publication.

I wonder whether you would consider this for publication in your esteemed newspaper; I do think it important

Your editorial of 3rd March aptly describes the TULF's "aberrant posturing" but you are unduly considerate when you attribute these to a "confusion in their own collective mind". Because the TULF NEVER HAD A MIND OF ITS OWN! When the history of 1977-86 is written perhaps from the secret memories of some cabinet Minister or Presidential Aide, it will be seen that the TULF merely danced to the tune of a Master Puppeteer.

In 1977 the TULF vowed that they were merely entering Parliament to hoist the Eelam flag! But then came pensions, free Japanese Jeeps, and duty free cars; the proverbially thrifty Northerner would surely understand the postponement of Eelam until these benefits had been duly secured. Meanwhile two of the much vaunted Tamil Triumvirate of 1977 were lured away to greener pastures. Came 1982 and the TULF—they no longer had any justification to this name, and should have properly styled themselves NDPR, "Northern Divided Profiteers Rump", but what's in a name! - again became restive. A second duty free car and a ROUND OF TALKS had the necessary soothing effect. When that Professor of History in whose hands now rests the destiny of the Tamils, eventually writes Sri Lanka's history 1977-86 whilst safely ensconced abroad, the Oxford Dictionary will deem the world 'Machiavellian' out of date and replace the world with the modern Sri Lankan 'Prince'.

Any thinking Tamil will realise that the UNP from 1977 to 1983 has by master strategy bought for itself what it most sorely needed — TIME! A placid period free of overt struggle in order to attract the massive capital loans which would never have been available if there had been the slightest show of unrest in the

country. In May 1977 the Daily Mirror published two articles entitled 'A way out of the Tamil impasse where-in I argued that the only hope for the Tamils of securing a permanent solution was to keep the 'Tamil problem' constantly "on-the-boil" - not by violence but by boycotts of cigarettes and arrack, by salt marches and satyagraha campaigns. But the Colombo Tamils who control Northern area politics — they make all their money in the South and use it to control the North — would never rock the boat in which they were very comfortably sailing.

It is a sine qua non of Parliamentary Government that an MP for an area is truly a Representative of that area; under normal election practice a claim to represent an area would have been automatically established at the hustings. When the 'abnormal' practice of the Party nominating the MP is resorted to, it is then all the more incumbent on the Party to ensure that the per-

son so nominated was truly representative of that area.

Dr. Tiruchelvam is sitting in Parliament not as MP for the Tamils—a position he is eminently qualified to hold, but unfortunately there is no 'Tamil Electorate'; he sits as member for Vaddukkoddai, and this he does under 'false pretences'. It is a matter for regret that so eminent a lawyer should have lent himself to this deception on the electors of Vaddukkoddai.

Or could it be that this is just one more TULF dance to the tune of the Master Puppeteer?

Here is the letter that THE ISLAND did not publish:

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Dr. Tiruchelvam is sitting in Parliament not as MP for the Tamils—a position he is eminently qualified to hold, but unfortunately there is no 'Tamil Electorate'; he sits as member for Vaddukkoddai, and this he does under 'false pretences'. It is a matter for regret that so eminent a lawyer should have lent himself to this deception on the electors of Vaddukkoddai.

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country. I boldly state that the Kolombo Kollo Klan will never relax their hold. During the campaign for the Referendum, the Minister of Trade & Shipping was reported to have said that he was in favour of decentralisation. Then why does not this ardent Apostle of private enterprise and free market, forthwith disband the monolithic Sri Lanka Ports Authority, set up separate Ports Authorities for Galle, Trincomalee, Kankasanturai & Jaffna with Chairmen and administrators from people of those areas, with full authority to fix their own labour rates, port charges etc? If London Port Authority can compete with Felixstowe, Bristol and other ports for shipping custom, why not in Sri Lanka?

Or will the Sri Lanka Airports Authority permit the Jaffna Coop Society as an FIAC project to develop Palali Airport, operate a Palali/Trichy air service and operate a Duty Free Complex at Palali? Not a hope in because then the Kollupitiya complex would collapse! The only industries in the North are all extractive industries - Cement, Salt, Ilmenite. What financial provision has been made from the profits of the Cement Factory at KKS to fill up and beautify the limestone craters? Or will they merely be left to breed the filaria mosquito?

Why is Elephant Pass Salt being exported from KKS involving a 30 mile road haulage, whilst a Salt based Industrial complex is planned for Hambantota? And so on

No Mr. Editor, this is no time for TurkeyTalk! The Colombo based Tamils have of course turned to their Tumbler Talk! Is it surprising that the North left with only abortive Round Table Talks and not one single fact to establish the UNP's bona fides for decentralisation, in despair now turns to Tiger Talk.

A. Ratnam

LETTERS

(Continued from page 9)

red herring to ease the discomfort caused to Mr. Ian G.

Space permitting, I would like to congratulate you on highlighting the Textile Weavers Co-op Society fiasco. We have heard of William Blake's men (Tiger, Tiger Burning bright variety) but Mr. Editor I always thought you were a paper Tiger (Chinese variety) and cannot be all that virile. How very creditable of you to have scored a bull's eye. But don't be too sure that the new Board will deliver the goods. What is required is leadership with a sense of direction - not prisoners of indecision. Let us keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best which is yet to be.

Yours Truly

Patricia Saverimuttu

Why cannot every day be a Saturday?

Jaffna.
19-3-83

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Sir,

I anxiously await Saturday to dawn to read your editorial and other articles. I sometimes wonder why every day cannot be a Saturday! Reading S.R. I am reminded of my school days learning English for my London Matriculation. Every student

must buy your S.R. to better his English. I wonder whether our guardians of law and the gallant forces read the S.R. If they do they will not behave like Don Quixotes.

Long live the Editor and the S.R.

Your Admirer,
S. Sivalogan.

Cleaning up the Co-op Societies

20, Huskison Street,
Trincomalee.
20-3-1983

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Dear Sir,

I very much appreciate your firm decision not to be swayed by the 5 page reply in respect of the news item regarding the Jaffna District Textile Weavers' Co-Op Society Ltd., sent by the President. There is absolutely no meaning in offering lengthy reports. Instead, it would be fruitful if recognition is given to the news and remedial measures taken towards progress.

The Jaffna Co-operative Union also denied the allegations in toto but subsequently sent officers on compulsory leave and called for explanations.

It is observed that the M.P.C.S. Unions and a few establishments run under the control of the TULF are not making recognizable profits or run efficiently. Favouritism, corruption and nepotism have stealthily crept into these

organizations and thus causing damage and ill-fame to the TULF. It is vital on the part of the TULF leadership to form a separate body to investigate into the malpractices reported and clean up the Societies.

The Board of the MPCS Union Ltd., Trincomalee, consisting of TULF Members was dissolved recently due to mis-management and now run by the Co-operative Department officials. The members of the Board as well as the Committee are engaged in punishing individuals on personal grudges rather than in the efficient running of the Societies.

The Co-operative movement of Jaffna was considered as a model due to the fact that the officials were learned and held in high esteem and their entire anxiety was to uplift the Societies. The present-day officials are more interested in fulfilling their private multi-purposes rather than the progress of the Societies.

It is high time for the officials of the societies to work unitedly with clean hands and make rapid progress and regain the good name.

Yours faithfully,
T. Thiagarajah.

A mass Shramadana Campaign was held on Sunday, March 20 at Vasavilan South to clear Kuttikulam Pillayankadu Crematorium. This project was organised by Mr. Arulanandam, Grama Sevaka, of the area. More than one

Frustrated Teachers

Trincomalee Street,
Kandy.
14-3-83

Editor,
Saturday Review.
Dear Sir,

Most of the teachers today are a frustrated lot. It is over two years since the Education Department called for applications from qualified teachers for appointments to Grade I special post in the Education service.

The Education Department called the candidates for interviews on a regional basis. Interviews were carried on for a number of days and nothing came out of them. A number of qualified teachers, deputy principals in Grade II of the service are awaiting their promotions to Grade I which are now overdue. In fairness to the teachers, will these appointments be given with retrospective effect as the frustrated teachers are not to be blamed for this unusual delay? The quality of teaching has deteriorated in Sri Lankan schools because of this frustration. When will the Minister of Education solve this pressing problem of the Sri Lankan teachers?

Gamini Rajapakse.



Handy P. Memorial lecture

The HANDY PERINBANAYAGAM MEMORIAL LECTURES were inaugurated by Professor John Walter Bicknell, Professor Emeritus of English, Drew University, New Jersey, U.S.A., at Kokuvil Hindu College on Wednesday, 23rd March, 1983. Professor Bicknell delivered the inaugural lecture on 'THE ROOTS OF CULTURE'.

Mr. Handy Perinbanayagam was a distinguished pupil of the Rev. John Bicknell, one time Principal of Jaffna College, and father of Professor Bicknell. Mr. Handy Perinbanayagam was later Principal of Kokuvil Hindu College.

Shramadana at Vasavilan

hundred people worked the full day in cutting shrubs and levelling ground and clearing up the grounds which remained uncared for many years. The value of the work esti-

mated at Rs. 3000/-.

More work will be done by another group of people, on a project of this nature to make the crematorium clean.

International Funding Agencies - 2

(Continued from page 7)

A treasure trove of strategic raw materials—including thousands of millions of tons of potato shaped nodules, rich in manganese, nickel, copper and cobalt lying on the ocean floor—has been declared the common heritage of mankind by the third Law of the Sea. The Conference was on the verge of completing a Treaty in 1981. It had drafted a text totalling 175 pages in 17 parts with 320 articles and eight annexes. It had reached agreement on such crucial issues as 12 mile territorial limit, 200 mile economic zones, and navigational rights. Then, in March 1981 President Reagan's new Conservative administration shocked and angered the developing countries by practically withdrawing from the negotiations. After 9 months the U. S. announced a list of radical alterations without which it would not sign. Mr. Malone, the US special representative, came to UK to enlist the latter's support.

The Treaty was finally signed last year (1982) by 119

sovereign states together with the Council for Namibia, and the Cook Islands. The United States, Britain, West Germany, Italy and Belgium were among the 22 industrialised nations that objected to the Treaty's provisions and did not sign. Incidentally these 22 countries are the major donor countries of the World Bank and the IMF. Japan did not sign but has indicated that it will do so later. The main objections to signing the Treaty are the transfer of technology used in deep sea mining to the International Seabed Authority and to developing countries and the limits established on output from deep sea mining. The main reason why the Reagan Administration had not signed the convention was that it did not give the US adequate, long-term and assured access to the strategic minerals of the seabed, principally manganese, cobalt and nickel. Another objection is that the Convention's provisions are restrictive and inhibit private enterprise. But the terms of the

Treaty are, at least in part, of American provenance and the result of a line of policy developed consistently from the days of President Ford and Dr. Kissinger through the regime of President Carter. The formula used now in the Treaty is that proposed by Dr. Kissinger.

The situation over seabed mining has all the characteristics of a classic struggle between the world's rich and poor nations. Some poor countries have made no secret of their relief that it represents a major test of their crusade for a 'new international economic order'. Their view that the seabed beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction is man's 'common heritage' has now become largely accepted as a legal concept. The Industrial Nations—the so called 'like minded' states—are considering the alternative, to formulate a mini treaty of their own. In September 1982 the US, France and West Germany signed a limited agreement to resolve conflicts between pioneer sea bed explorers. If

the rich countries were to adopt a mini—treaty of their own, and unilaterally begin mining what does not belong to them, the effect on international relations could be devastating. The military inferiority of the Third World states rules out any resort to open warfare, but anarchy would reign over virtually every aspect of maritime activity. The multinational companies of the industrialised countries know how vulnerable they would be to retaliation in the third world countries where they already have mining concessions. They also know that US, Britain, France and West Germany will certainly not be able to provide stability and security by a mini treaty comparable to that of the Law of The Sea Convention.

Six multinational consortia have already been formed. Most are led by American companies, although one is chiefly French and another mostly Japanese. These multinational companies have fur-

ther objections to the Law of the Sea Convention. These are that the authority may change the rules under which the Consortia operate; the text allows for changes in the whole deep sea mining regime 20 years after mining begins, a period which the Consortia say is too short. The world recession seems to have pushed into the distance the date when the minerals on the deep sea bed would be needed but one must take note of the argument put forward by these consortia (and the American administration) that by agreeing to the sea law convention a precedent is being set by conceding that the UN can engage in major commercial operations in its own rights on a privileged basis—a precedent which will be used in negotiations on space and even Antarctica next decade! The developing countries' answer would of course be that common heritages should be exploited in a way that is fair to all.

An application for bail on behalf of Mrs. Nirmala Nithiananthan now in custody at the Welikade Remand Prisons has been filed in the Court of Appeal.

Nirmala: Bail application

The application for bail filed by Nirmala's Attorney-at-Law, Mr. C. V. Vivekanandan states that she had been "subjected to physical assault and cruel and inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment during her period of detention at the Gurunagar Army Camp. She was interrogated by Police and Army Officers who caused her to sign a statement involuntarily. She was insulted, and vile and vulgar insinuations were made against her by the interrogators."

"On or about the 30th of December, 1982 she was transferred to the Welikade Trisons (Female Ward) and held in solitary confinement without access to her Attorney-at-Law until the Court of Appeal ordered such access on the 10th January, 1983, in the Habeas Corpus application filed by her father, Mr. Alvapillai Rajasingham."

"On 14th February, 1983, Nirmala was produced before the High Court of Sri Lanka in Colombo and charged with three offences under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions Act No. 48 of 1979 as amended by Act No. 10 of 1982.)"

"Immediately after the service of the indictment the High Court Judge committed the Petitioner to remand."

"The Petitioner says that although she was committed to remand, the High Court Judge specifically informed the Jail authorities in open Court that she be considered as a normal remand prisoner and that she should be allowed all the privileges of a normal remand prisoner. Yet she is subjected to

the following discriminatory conditions which other female remand prisoners are not subjected to, viz :

- She is kept in solitary confinement in that she is not allowed to talk to other co-prisoners at any time while the rest of the prisoners are allowed to talk to each other.
- There is a Prison Guard who always remains outside her cell and follows her wherever she goes, which is not the case in respect of the other prisoners.
- While the rest of the prisoners are allowed to come out of their cells at 6-30 a. m., and remain out and roam about freely within the

prison compound till 5-30 p. m., at which time they are locked up again in their cells, the petitioner is allowed to be out of her cell only to walk about in the corridor adjoining the cell rooms for about one to two hours in the morning and one to two hours in the evening, the Guard all the while following her.

The Petitioner states that she is suffering from chronic bronchial asthma which is psychosomatic in nature. She is now continually subjected to severe asthmatic attacks and needs constant specialist medical care and attention and should be given special and clean and sanitary diet and should live

in hygienic conditions. She has been warned by Doctors that she is one of those asthmatics who could go into "STATUS ASTHMATICUS" which could be life threatening.

The Petitioner states that she has never been earlier charged with any offence and that the nature of the offences with which she is presently charged do not warrant her being kept in remand and that no prejudice will be caused to the prosecution to the ends of justice by her being enlarged on bail.

Police ask for public help

The Police are unable to carry out their normal duties in Jaffna. In these circumstances the public should extend their cooperation to the Police to maintain law and order. This is not a task for the Police alone; 'public co-operation is absolutely essential' stated Mr. W. B. Rajaguru, D.I.G., Northern Range, addressing a meeting of the leading citizens last Sunday. Vigilance Committees have been set up.

JAFFNA CRICKET: EXCITING FARE IN BIG MATCHES

Victor Kiruparaj writes:

The two BIG MATCHES played last week-end provided excellent, exciting fare. The 85th Battle of the North between Jaffna Central and St. John's ended in a draw. But St. Patrick's, as predicted, scored a comfortable 86 run win over Jaffna College in the 66th BATTLE OF THE GOLDS.

Time robbed the Centralites of a worthy win when fresher Nishyanthan's heroic effort for a pulsating 100 minutes to hoist a personal best of 72 steered the Johnnians out of danger's way. Thus Central has been eluded of a win for the second successive year.

The Johnnians were in the dumps in both their innings when they were precariously perched at 69 for 7 in the first and 83 for 8 in the second. But it was a captain's innings of 73 by R. Mahinda in the first and a splendid 72 by baby faced fresher, S. Nishyanthan in the second that helped the Johnnians to recover sufficiently to force a draw.

Jaffna Central failed to capitalise on their two advantageous positions—the first at 83 for 8 and then at 133 for 9 which eventually moved the Johnnians up to a decent second innings total of 199. Jaffna Central made 80 for 1 in 13.4 overs chasing the impossible task of 142 runs.

Jaffna Central's gamble of sending in St. John's to bat after having won the toss almost paid dividends when the first seven wickets were sent reeling for a measly 69. But a stubborn eighth wicket partnership between Skipper R. Mahinda and fresher T. Ragulan saw the pair lift themselves out of the dumps to hoist a respectable 138 when the former was snapped in the slips by B. Nimalan off the bowling of Paul Prahalathan for 73.

Another useful partnership for the ninth wicket between T. Ragulan and T. S. Bartlett saw St. John's move up to a remarkable 171 when the latter fell a victim to Paul Prahalathan for a painstaking 34. The last man failed to add any run to the total and St. John's had collected a laborious 171 taking 257 minutes to do so. Their long and purposeful innings which lasted four hours and seventeen minutes made the Central Shipper and their coach regret their folly in having put in the Johnnians to bat first despite the fact that Central had a formidable batting line up. Had Central opted to bat first, they could certainly have notched up a sizable total.

A much wearied Central combine went in to bat after having fielded in the scorching sun for a little

over four hours. Despite this handicap, the Central's openers, wicket-keeper cum bat R. Mahinda and Mathi-Vathanan battled doggedly to register a splendid 84 runs for the first wicket when the latter was bowled by Jeyendran for 34. K. Umasuthan joined Mahinda at the fall of the first wicket, and these two took the score to 137, when Mahinda fell a victim to Thirukumar for a well compiled 75. Andrew Gratien walked in at this juncture to join. K. Umasuthan, and this pair was unbeaten on 154 for 2 at the close of play on the first day—the total having being notched in 163 minutes of play.

The overnight Central batsmen, K. Umasuthan and Andrew Gratien, continuing their innings in Saturday morning moved up to 173 when Umasuthan was caught in the deep leg position by George off the bowling of Jeyendran for 34. Five quick wickets fell at this stage for a further addition of 26 runs and Central declared their first innings at 199 for 8 wickets an hour and 35 minutes before lunch.

The Johnnians in with a deficit of 28 runs to clear were soon in trouble with the lunch time score reading 40 for 2 wickets. Soon after lunch there was yet another debacle when the score board read 66 for 7, forty minutes before tea. The

Johnnians lost their eighth wicket at 83 with a little over twenty minutes left for tea. The Johnnians were in the dumps again with defeat almost staring at them. But Nishyanthan and T. Ragulan put down their heads and in a determined, stubborn effort, took the score up to 133 when Ragulan fell a victim to Pradeepan, for a painstaking 23. When the last man Jeyendran walked in, there was still a good forty minutes and twenty mandatory overs left. Defeat still seemed to stare at the Johnnians at this stage, but the Centralites lost their grip again when the last pair plodded on till three of the mandatory overs had been bowled, to move up to 169 when Nishyanthan, the hero and saviour of the match, was ruled leg before to the bowling of Manojkumar for a splendid 73.

Jaffna Central who had but 13.4 overs to compile 142 had made 80 for 1 at close with R. Mahinda (42 not out) and V. Sutharsanan (25 not out) unleashing their fury in no uncertain manner during the final four overs. The Johnnians could count themselves lucky to have not provided the Centralites with the full 20 mandatory overs, as was suggested by a few 'know hows' among the Johnnian camp. Had they done so, it would have been really suicidal for the Johnnians.

A match bag of 11 wickets for 73 by paceman N. Navaneetharajah and fair contributions by skipper S. L. P. Melanius (53) and N. D. Anandarajah (42). S. W. Kingsley (35) and A. E. Antonipillai (27 & 27) enabled the Patricians to easily crush Jaffna College by 86 runs.

The main scores are as follows:

ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE

1st Innings 148 runs

A. E. Antonipillai 27, N. D. Anandarajah 43, S. W. Kingsley 35

S. Sivathas 5 for 50, M. Paramalingam 3 for 48, K. G. S. Maniam 1 for 26.

2nd Innings 147 for 7 (decl'd)

A. E. Antonipillai 27, S. L. P. Melanius 52, D. Anandarajah 30, C. Kumarachelvam 9, M. Paramalingam 5 for 56, K. Sivathas 1 for 43

JAFFNA COLLEGE

1st Innings 76 runs

R. Ratnarajah 15, N. O. B. Ganeshan 13, B. L. Mohan 16, G. S. Gunaratnam 7,

N. Navaneetharajah 6 for 29, S. J. S. Baskaran 2 for 18, A. R. Deeno 1 for 11, N. D. Anandarajah 1 for 2

2nd Innings 132

R. Ratnarajah 23, N. Jeyakumar 31, M. Paramalingam 32, B. L. Mohan 33

N. Navaneetharajah 5 for 44, D. Anandarajah 3 for 22, S. L. P. Melanius 1 for 24, B. Ariyaratnam 1 for 15

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Army at Tennis!

A SATURDAY REVIEW reader who happened to visit Mannar on Monday the 21st was startled when he saw 12 soldiers with guns and ammunition encircling the Mannar Public Services Club. The soldiers were pointing their guns in all directions. Close by were two army jeeps (Nos. 5011 and 5068). He thought that some arrest was imminent or some search was going on. Very cautiously he stepped past the place and button-holed a friend for information.

Apparently all that was happening was two army officers had come to the Club to play Tennis and while they

played tennis till 6.30 p.m., the soldiers kept guard! He was told by residents there that this was a frequent sight though not a daily occurrence and the members of the public, especially the students, who make use of the library just opposite, fear to pass this spot at the sight of the pointed guns. The army officers, he was told a by club official, were from the Thalaiyadi Camp. What a loss of man-power, writes our reader, what a wastage of public funds, what a grim sight, what sorry state of affairs, and what a price to pay for military occupation!

Trigger - happy Army men wound two

Trigger-happy army men critically wounded a 15 year old youth, V. Mahendran and 39 year old P. Alagan on the public highway at Umayalpuram around mid-night on Monday, 21st March.

The "Daily News" and the "Sun" both quoting Police have published different versions of what provoked the firing. According to the "Daily News": "Police said the two men jumped from the lorry in which they had been sleeping and started running into the jungle when they saw the army vehicle. The army men asked them to stop but they continued to run. The army men then opened fire."

According to the "Sun", "according to the Police an army convoy patrolling the area had seen two lorries parked close to the spot where an army truck was ambushed earlier this month. When the soldiers heard the report of a gun from that direction they had opened fire, Police said".

It is obvious that the Police could not have given both versions, in which

case it is very clear that one of the two newspapers was lying!

SATURDAY REVIEW learns that a lorry from Punnalaikadduvan was on its way to Kilinochchi to load a lorry-load of straw. Unfortunately, close to the spot where the army truck was ambushed earlier this month one of the tyres of the lorry got deflated. The crew of the lorry were waiting for help when another lorry came from the opposite direction carrying straw from Kilinochchi. When the lorry drivers were engaged in a conversation army men who were coming from Elephant Pass in a jeep and a truck shot in the direction of the parked lorries possibly suspecting another ambush. While the two men started running, two others who were sleeping inside the lorry got off to a late start and started running too. The army men at this point fired at both of them and seriously injured both.

According to a third version, this time believed to be given by army sources, the firing was provoked by nearly 15 people running away from the spot!

American Swami gets a big hand

Batticaloa

audience snubs Minister



Sivaya Subramuniya Swami

An attempt made by the Minister of Regional Development, Mr. C. Rajadurai, to stop the American Hindu Swami and Head of the Saiva Siththantha Church, Hawaii, U.S.A., His Holiness Sivaya Subramuniya Swami from proceeding with his talk at the Batticaloa Town Hall last Saturday failed when the audience in a chorus wanted the Swami to continue.

It all began when Sri Sivaya Subramuniya Swami who was being accorded a public reception expressed regret at claims being made that the Hindu Religion is being given support by the Government. The Swami also expressed concern at the position of Hindus and attempts made to convert them. At this point Minister Rajadurai who was in the audience went up to the translator Mr. Shanmugasunderam and whispered something in his ears. The translator in turn conveyed to the Swami the Minister's wish that he must stop speaking. The Swami thereupon said that he thought he had come to a country where there was freedom of speech and would like the audience to let him know whether he should stop. Immediately there was a large chorus of voices from the Hall requesting the Swami to continue speaking.

Minister Rajadurai thereafter covered his discomfiture by remaining silent. Later at some point of time the hall lights suddenly went off. A listener from the audience got up and pointed to the Kuthuvilakku (the traditional brass lamp) and told the

Swamiji that that light was sufficient and they wished him to continue.

The drama has now shifted to Colombo. The Secretary to the Ministry of Regional Development had run a three column advertisement in the Sunday Observer of March 20th announcing that "THE INTERNATIONAL HINDU RESEARCH CENTRE" will be ceremonially declared open by His Holiness Sivaya Subramuniya Swami, the head of the Saiva Siththantha Church, Hawaii, USA on 23rd March, 1983 at No. 10, Chelsea Gardens, Colombo 3. The notice also said that a public meeting

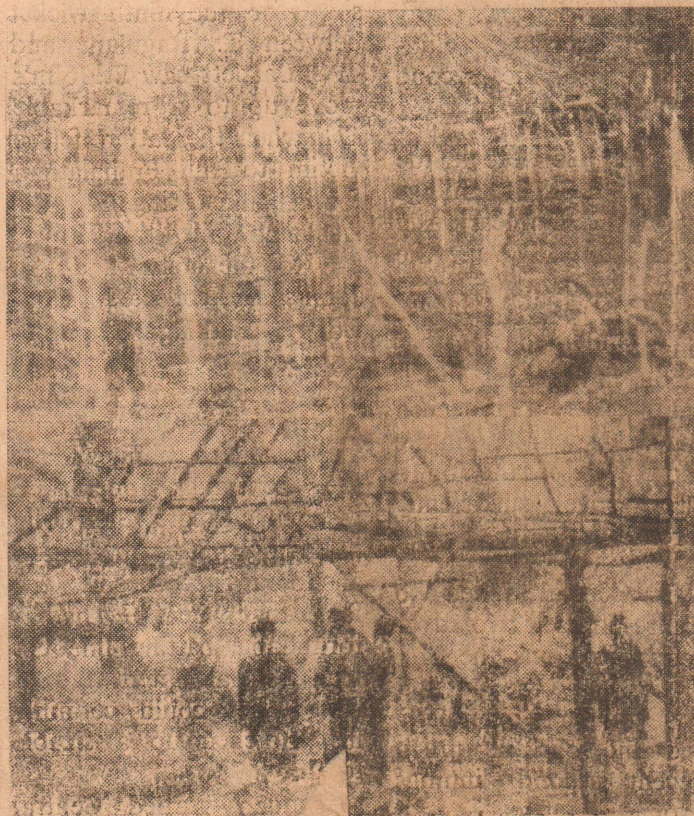
to mark this event will be held on Wednesday 23rd March at 6.30 p.m., at New Kathiresan Hall, Bambalapitiya.

An equally prominent advertisement signed by M. Ramalingam, Secretary to the Ministry of Regional Development appears in the 'Daily News' of March 23rd stating: "Due to unavoidable circumstances the ceremonial opening of 'THE INTERNATIONAL HINDU RESEARCH CENTRE' is postponed. The public meeting arranged in this connection at New Kathiresan Hall is also postponed. Any inconvenience caused is regretted."

Arson at Pankulam...

(Continued from page 1) Uppuveli Police Station to make a statement were reportedly assaulted by the Police Officers. Two of them, M. Muthu and M. Kovindasamy, had been awarded at the Trincomalee

SATURDAY REVIEW learns meanwhile that there are moves to settle some Sinhalese families who have been moved out of the Kotmale Project area in the Pankulam area. Hospital.



TWO OF THE

DESTROYED BY FIRE

LETTERS

Book on the Tamil Liberation Struggle

Magistrate's Court,
P. O. Box 399,
Belize City,
BELIZE,
Central America,
10th March 1983.

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Jaffna.

Dear friends,

I have written a book provisionally entitled:

The National - Ethnic Conflict and Tamil Liberation Struggle in Sri Lanka

The manuscript runs to 340 typed pages in double space with six Chapters under the following heads:

1. Introduction; 2. National - ethnic Structure and Early History; 3. The Colonial Rule and Sinhalese-Tamil Responses; 4. The Sinhalese-Buddhist Ethnocentrism and Tamil Subjugation; 5. Heightening

Conflict and Tamil Liberation struggle; 6. Conclusion.

This is a most comprehensive and complete study of the Tamil national question and the Liberation struggle of the Tamil people with the Eelam Tiger Liberation movement at the vanguard. The book is to be published in London, India and possibly in Sri Lanka, if my London publishers can agree on co-publication with a Sri Lankan publisher. The manuscript is already with my London publishers.

I am particularly interested in bringing out a Tamil translated edition in Sri Lanka. I am writing to inquire whether you would be interested in translating and publishing the Tamil edition. I shall be much obliged if you could reply early.

Yours cordially,
Satchi Ponnambalam

Ian, O.E.G, Mayanthie, Castro, Indira, Luckshmi & others

"Dutton Cottage"
Martyn Road,
Jaffna, 20-3-83

The Editor,
Saturday Review.
Dear Sir,

Respecting as I do Mr. Ian Goonetilleke's punditry and sense of fairplay, I would have ever like to join hands with Mayanthie Arunachalam in registering my protest against the snide remarks about one of the greatest sons of Sri Lanka—a man for all seasons, the grand vizier Sir Oliver, Mr. Ian G is well aware that George Orwell has shown us how words and grammar are abused because of an appalling moral and intellectual confusion about the nature of modern politics. Mayanthie, whom I had known since her undergraduate days in Holy Cross College, Trichy cannot be far wrong in her assessment.

I had the privilege of knowing the Grand Old man OEG since my seventh birthday when my father invited him for my birthday celebrations. I think he was then Auditor General and father was in the Railway Audit. I remember vividly that he wished me good luck in his attractive lisp which ended in a spitbath on

my plumpy cheeks. Recollected in retrospect, it was a memorable occasion.

But let me compare what I saw on TV last week at the Non-aligned conference; how Fidel Castro after handing over the gavel plonked on the Empress of India for a bear hug. It was an exciting moment and Mr. Natwar Singh was looking aghast. Mrs. Gandhi was able to reach only the shoulders of the Cuban Compañero who in turn made a mess of those silver streaks with that delightful Pantene odour. Poor thing should have worn a crash helmet for the occasion. Possibly she used the gavel to prod him to delink her.

Lo and behold—another flash Miss Luckshmi Naganathan, our envoy in Bonn was lucky in that she got away scotfree with a kiss on her Revlon manicured Apricot hand by the German Chef de Protocol at the Freedom Day celebrations. When you come to think of it Mr. Editor, there is nothing serious under the sun except love of fellow mortals and of God. This is a minor digression—a sort of

(Continued overleaf)

'Policemen at the point of guns ordered us to jump into the sea'

The Editor,
Saturday Review.
Sir,

Your editorial 'PUT OUT THE LIGHTS' ('SR' 19 March) prompts me to recall some personal experiences involving the security forces.

Several months ago I was cycling along the KKS—Jaffna Road to attend a wedding at Mallakam. It was around 7-30 p.m. as I approached Tellipallai Junction, when I was about 20 yards away from the Junction I noticed a barrier of empty barrels across the road. Army personnel were standing by. I got down from the bicycle and wheeled it towards the check-point. "Carry the bicycle on your shoulder" came the order in broken Tamil. I was almost tempted to ask the reason but

Tamil leaders lagging behind

72 Willowdale Place,
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada. T5T 1Z4.
5 March 1983.

The Editor,
Saturday review.
Sir,

Since the 1976 Vaddukodai convention, Tamils have taken many steps towards achieving an independent state of Tamil Eelam. But whether the old Tamil leaders are keeping pace with their followers or lagging behind is a big question in the minds of Tamils in Sri Lanka and Tamils living overseas.

Please permit some space in SATURDAY REVIEW to publish this little story through which I wish to convey my opinion of our leaders.

A wise old dog gathered his pack to go rabbit hunting. Dogs were so excited about the great idea and gave a big cheer to the old dog. Hunt began with the able leadership of the wise old dog. Dogs started sniffing around bushes and in earth holes Suddenly a rabbit jumped out from its hole. Dogs began their chase to catch the rabbit. When the chase was on, the leader dropped back to ease his bladder. He rushed to a tree trunk and began to ease his bladder. "Hey! old buddy" someone called the old dog. It was an elephant whose leg the old dog had mistaken for a tree trunk. "Don't panic" the elephant said. "You can stay by me safely for the next six years let your pack carry on the chase if they like".

Long live the quality news paper SATURDAY REVIEW.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely
Samuel. S. Lawrence

knowing the consequences I thought better of it. Again came the order in broken Tamil: "Odada" (ran).

I couldn't run but, carrying the bicycle on my shoulder I walked hurriedly towards Mallakam. Ahead of me were two "cycle kavadis". Some school girls returning after tuition smiled sadly at us. I must have looked both funny and pathetic in my wedding kit (silk verti, gold coloured shirt and matching saalvai), with the bicycle on my shoulder. After carrying the bicycle about 100 yards, I saw another barrier across the road. It was manned by Army and police personnel. The 2 cyclists ahead of me were questioned. Luckily for me, there was a Police inspector (a Tamil) at the barrier who knew me well. He looked embarrassed when he saw me and I was let off without any questions. I learnt later that my failure to get off the bicycle at least 50 yards away from the barrier was the 'reason' for the treatment.

My second experience—which happened about a fortnight ago—was a horrifying one. Five fellow workers at the KKS Cement Factory and I were waiting for the bus at Thikkam Junction round about 4-30 a.m., to get to KKS for work.

It was still dark. A jeep passed us and then reversed. Some policemen jumped out and began to question us roughly. Though we explained

who we were and what we were doing at the bus halt it appeared they wanted to start their day with some 'fun' at our expense. They abused us in filth and ordered us to jump into the sea which was about 15 feet away on the other side of the road. They forced us to fall down and crawl on the ground. The seashore is rocky and it's a miracle none of us received cuts and bruises. Then they ordered us to plunge into the deep water: in the dark we crawled and groped our way towards the sea. Suddenly we heard a shot being fired (perhaps in the air). We didn't have the courage to look back or at one another to see whether one of us had been shot dead. Then we heard the jeep starting. When the sound died away in the distance we stood up and checked to see whether all six of us were there. Thank God no one was missing. It took us quite some time to recover from the nightmare.

Now I realise who creates 'Tigers'. Please publish this letter so that our Sinhalese brethren will come to know the kind of humiliation we undergo. In recounting my two experiences I have not stated one word of untruth nor have I exaggerated any detail. But for personal reasons I do not want my name or address published.

Victim

Something New in Jaffna Every Saturday!

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