

# Saturday Review

## SRI LANKA

Vol. 5 No. 14

26th April 1986

# Man, What Are You Up To?

What is Minister Thondaman up to?

He is the only one among the Tamil trio in the Cabinet with a reputation for horse-sense and some guts.

But his recent interview with the HINDU (see ISLAND report of 18th April) has come as a bomb-shell. And, what is more, he is quite unrepentant about it: "The time has come for somebody to speak on this matter."

No one, certainly, can accuse him of being in his political dotage. It's only recently that he scored two aces: Sri Lankan citizenship for nearly a lakh of his people and Indian citizenship (or is it a temporary residence permit?) for his official Lankan jeep.

But he seems to be undergoing a political identity crisis. On the one hand, he is a Minister in President Jayewardene's Government. On the other, he is unable to repress completely the memory of his past association with the Tamil United Liberation Front: he has told journalists in Tamilnadu that his interest in the Tamils was intensifying because they were undergoing great suffering and also there was no unified leadership among them.

In the HINDU interview it is the Cabinet Minister and J. R. loyalist who speaks: President Jayewardene himself could hardly have put the case better.

His diatribe against the Tamil militants (whom he labels 'agent

provocateurs') boils down to the accusation that it is they who are responsible for the violence. These agent provocateurs, he says, hop and jump from India to Lanka, kill 5 soldiers and provoke the Sri Lankan army to massacre 55 innocent Tamils.

Mr. Thondaman's solution is simple: the militants should stop the provocation and there'll be no retaliation.

Politicians have conveniently short memories. But is Mr. Thondaman—a veteran Trade Unionist and one of the founding fathers of the TULF—really ignorant of the history of Tamil militancy in this country?

It was the chauvinist Sinhala State, its goondas and its repressive apparatus which first unleashed violence against the Tamils. Remember what happened to the Galle Face Green satyagrahis in 1956 when they peacefully protested the Sinhala Only Act?

Who were the victims, Mr. Thondaman, in 1958, 1977, 1981 and 1983? Didn't these holocaust victims, include your own people, the hill country Tamils?

Have you forgotten, Mr. Thondaman that the prelude to the overt physical violence against the Tamils was the constitutional violence against your people—a move which the late Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam prophetically diagnosed as the first crippling blow to the Tamil nation?

But now Mr. Thondaman who, a while ago, got into hot water with his ministerial colleagues for telling his people that attack is the best form of defence, perversely chooses to put the Tamil militants in the dock—for picking up AK 47s, RPGs and SMGs to reply to the State terrorists in their own idiom.

Is he really so naive as to believe that once the militants spike their guns, the State terrorists will start sprouting angels' wings?

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is Thondaman's second target. He has some very unflattering things to say about the Indian leader but surprisingly concludes that the ball is in Rajiv's court and he must now evolve a mutually acceptable formula to solve Sri Lanka's ethnic issue.

We resist the strong temptation to transform the four-letter word ball into a five-letter one.

Thondaman concludes his interview with a fulsome tribute to President Jayewardene, stating that if during his time no solution to the ethnic problem was evolved, no solution could ever be found.

Historians may quarrel with Thondaman's Great Men theory of history. But History is fond of playing grim jokes, especially on those who like to think that they make history.

History has chosen as its butt the very same person who proposed to make Sinhala the sole official language during State Council days, and spearheaded the March to Kandy which led to the scuttling of the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) claims that it has killed 496 Sri Lankan security personnel in the first four months this year.

It lost 54 militants in the same period.

The LTTE's press release states that its fighters shot down or damaged 7 helicopters.

A plane and a patrol boat were damaged.

A patrol boat and 18 military vehicles were completely destroyed.

History has chosen him to play the role of fireman to douse the flames he helped to stoke.

Whether this raging inferno will once again become an island paradise, only time can tell.

But the Tamil people have only one question to ask Mr. Thondaman: WHOSE AGENT PROVOCATEUR ARE YOU?

## SELVASANNITHY & RUPAVAHINI

Sri Lanka's State TV Rupavahini announced on Sunday night (20th April) that devotees could freely worship at Selvasannithy Temple—an indirect reference to our story the previous day (SR, 19th April).

On Monday morning, the temple chariot was set on fire by Security personnel and the temple area turned into a battleground.

Rupavahini predictably reported that 'terrorists' had burnt the temple chariot!

Early on Monday morning there was a fierce 2-hour shoot-out between Liberation Tiger militants and security personnel who had moved out of the army camp sited opposite the Temple. Seven soldiers were killed.

Reprisals led to the killing of 3 people, including the priest of the temple.

In the evening, a bomber dropped 14 bombs on the temple complex and helicopters strafed the houses surrounding the temple.

A fact-finding team which included the Govt. Agent, Jaffna, visited the temple on Wednesday.

The team found two charred skeletons (one that of a female) at the site.

The 40-foot chariot, worth Rs. 4.5 million, has been burnt to ashes. The 2½ ton temple bell, worth Rs. 1.5 million, is in smithereens. The temple complex too has been badly damaged.

Mr. Chelliah Rajadurai continues to be the Minister for Hindu Religious Affairs.

**FLASH:** Two famous holy shrines of the people in Batticaloa, Kandasamy Kovil and Mariamman Kovil in Mandoor, were completely damaged, jewellery, cash and some other valuables looted by the special Task forces (STF). The STF stationed at Batticaloa were airlifted to Amparai for an "operation" in Mandoor where 400 people were also arrested.



## Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

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## Seminar on Diabetes

A Seminar on Diabetes will be held today (26th April) at Kopay Christian College at 3-00 p.m.

Professor N. Saravanapavanandan, Dr. Mrs. T. Saravanapavanandan, Dr. T. Navaratnarajah, Dr. C. Rajendran and Dr. A. V. Rajaratnam will speak on various topics related to Diabetes.

This Seminar is sponsored by the Lions Club of Kopay.

### SITUATION WANTED

AMP with 12 years experience in Medical Practice wishes to work under a Medical Officer in Jaffna District. Part time work considered. Apply c/o SATURDAY REVIEW.

## BOMBING OF LIBYA

# AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

This is the text of a statement (dated 17th April) handed over by Muslim Organisations in Jaffna to the Govt. Agent, Jaffna, for transmission to President Jayewardene:

We the Muslims of Jaffna consider the recent air attacks on the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi by American fighter-bombers as the culmination of the international terrorism of America and its closest ally Israel. Several planes operating from bases in Britain have attacked civilian targets including foreign Embassy buildings.

Several women and innocent children are among the casualties and many others were injured.

The Muslim Organisations in Jaffna have organised a demonstration and Hartal today (17-04-1986) in protest against the unwanted atrocities committed by the American imperialistic Government against the Muslims of Libya. We feel that the Americans consider Libya as an obstacle against its imperialistic designs in the oil rich Arab states.

We regret that the Sri Lankan Government has not expressed its condemnation of the high-handed acts of the Reagan administration.

We request the Sri Lankan Government to reflect the feelings of the Muslims of Sri Lanka as well as that of the other peace loving citizens of this country in this matter.

We desire that the Sri Lankan Government should express its solidarity with the Libyan people and their leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in safeguarding its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We request the Government of Sri Lanka to urge the United States Government to respect world opinion and to desist from any further attacks on Libyan territory.

## Stop Torture: AI's Appeal

AI has again appealed to Sri Lanka President J. R. Jayewardene to stop torture. Its latest appeal came after the Government of Sri Lanka had dismissed reports of torture published by AI as "unfair, biased and untrue."

The statements were made at a press conference on 4th December 1985 called by the Government in response to a "File on Torture" on Sri Lanka published in the October AI Newsletter.

The "File on Torture" contained sworn testimony describing persistent torture.

In the appeal, sent on 24th December 1985, AI regretted the Government's failure to respond positively to numerous reports of torture which AI has submitted in recent years, some alleging that the victim had died.

The Government has repeatedly denied that torture takes place, has not ordered impartial investigations into allegations of torture and has taken no effective action to stop torture. In a letter of 30th December to AI, the Government said only that "As and when we come across such reports signed by you...we will respond to them and state our position."

AI received no response, for example, to its appeal on 30th April 1985 for an investigation into reports (detailed in the "File on Torture") that Menendran Kesavapillai, a student at Jaffna

University, was tortured by Special Task Force personnel in January 1985. He said he was beaten, suspended from a wooden beam, had nails driven into his skin and chilli powder rubbed into the wounds, and was burned with a metal rod. He is believed to have lost the use of one hand.

In preparing its report AI had interviewed torture victims and studied sworn affidavits. Three Sri Lankans had been examined by medical experts experienced in this field, who found evidence consistent with their allegations of torture.

At its press conference, the Government said that AI had not given reliable evidence such as copies of affidavits or the names of victims, witnesses or doctors. However, AI had to withhold the

identities of many of the victims, as they and their relatives have repeatedly expressed fear of the consequences should their identities be revealed. Some former detainees have said they were threatened with rearrest and further torture if they told of their treatment. However, AI has expressed its willingness, with the permission of the individuals concerned, to submit the affidavits to an independent body mandated to investigate allegations of torture.

AI has received no information about any investigations into allegations of torture or any proceedings against security forces personnel. Although Lieutenant-General Cyril Ranatunga, Commander of Joint Operations of the Sri Lanka armed forces, stated at the press conference that two charges against two members of the armed forces were being investigated, he gave no details of either the incidents under investigation or the charges.

(Continued on page 7)

## SR Relief Fund

We acknowledge with thanks the following further contributions:

Anonymous

- a Parcel of used clothes

Commercial Bank of Ceylon

Rs. 500.00

Mr. R. Somalingam

50.00

Mr. K. Rasiah

250.00

Mrs. K. Sathiyathan

50.00

Anonymous

5000.00

In memory of late Mrs. Sellammah Alagiah

1000.00

Mrs. V. Shanmuganayagam

— a parcel of used clothes

100.00

Mr. P. Kanagaratnam

### PAYMENTS

Refugees at Mullaitivu Camp

5000.00

Mannar Association for Relief and Rehabilitation

9653.20

Assistance to Displaced families at Mullaitivu

4033.75



## FR. SINGARAYAR TRIAL — 2

**X2: JUDGE REJECTS HILTON'S EVIDENCE***(Continued from last Issue)*

The prosecution witness Punya de Silva stated that when he returned to Gurnagar on the 15th evening he was handed the document X2 stating to be a hand-written statement of Fr. Singarayar. He was not definite as to who handed the document X2 but the fact remains that he was handed this document either by Inspector Gallage or Hilton Perera.

Fr. Singarayar, the accused, stated in evidence that the first hand written document was written by him on 14.11.82 between 3.00 p. m. and 4 p. m. His position was that at about 1.00 p. m. Hilton Perera questioned him for about 10 minutes as to whether he gave literature and the cassettes that were found with Fr. Jeeva Paul and Fr. Paul Natchiathiran to which he had answered in the affirmative. Thereafter at about 3.00 p. m. Hilton Perera gave him two half sheets asking him to write detail how he came to possess Rs. 69,000/- that was found in his room in the locked almirah at Amalauppavam. So stating he had gone for lunch, Fr. Singarayar complied with the request as he thought at that time that he had no alternative but to write. According to him the first hand written statement he wrote was on these lines "During X'mas 1979 I wrote to the boys who were working in the Middle East countries to think of economic development and save some money. They started replying to me asking my health. I appointed Ravi to take care of that section because I was loaded with work. I also told Ravi to write back to those boys to start some co-operative farms outside the peninsula and if they wanted to start anything in the town of Jaffna they can think of a garage and a printing press things of that nature; some time back Ravi asked me whether I could take some money for safe keeping which belongs to a few boys who were trying to put up a printing press. He also told me that they do not want to send money to their parents because they might spend on useless things. Then I offered my services and the first instalment was given to me during the month February 1981. But later the boys who gave the money changed their minds and wanted money back. I was returning and the money that was found in almirah belong to those boys."

His evidence was that this was the contents of the first hand-written statement which he handed over to S. I. Wijetilleke at about 4.00 or 4.30 p. m. on 14.11.82. This hand-written statement was torn by Hilton Perera. Hilton Perera denied the receipts of such a hand-written statement and he denied that any statement was torn up by him. If he had written such a hand-written statement I cannot understand as to why he should subsequently write X2 giving in a different version the most crucial fact was that when he commenced writing X2 neither Gallage, Wijetilleke or Hilton Perera were present except for a guard. The first paragraph of X2 there is nothing to indicate that he received the money from the boys of Middle East. The accused himself admitted that even he could not believe what was written in X2. Therefore I reject the evidence of the accused on this point as false when he stated X2 was not his first hand-written statement. The accused admitted that at 3.00 p. m. he was given two half sheets and was asked to write about Rs. 69,000/- just before Hilton Perera went for lunch. He further stated that he was questioned by Hilton Perera at 1.00 p. m. Hilton Perera categorically denied questioning Fr. Singarayar prior to 6.00 p. m. on 14.11.82. However, he admitted on his way for lunch at about 3.00 p. m. he had asked the accused to explain about Rs. 69,000/- recovered by the C. I. D. from his room at Amalauppavam. Hilton Perera's position was that when he returned to security Headquarters at about 6.00 p. m. X2 was handed by Fr. Singarayar and X2 was a voluntary statement and it was not in consequence of interrogation. I am unable to accept Hilton Perera's evidence when he stated that X2 was not obtained after interrogation. His evidence in Court was that he was more concerned in expediting the release of the Father who was taken to custody as a result of the raid. "I had a interest to find out the contents of the tapes but my primary concern was to get the priest released as fast as possible". If his primary concern was to release Fr. Jeeva Paul and Fr. Paul Natchiathiran then he would have necessarily interrogated Fr. Singarayar to find out about the literature and the cassettes that were recovered from the possession of

Fr. Jeeva Paul and Fr. Paul Natchiathiran. Therefore he would have interrogated Fr. Singarayar as stated by Fr. Singarayar on those matters; in addition to Fr. Singarayar's evidence Punya de Silva stated that X2 according to information given by Hilton Perera was obtained as a result of interrogation. I accept Punya de Silva's evidence and Fr. Singarayar's evidence on this point. I regret that I have to reject the evidence of Hilton Perera on this point. It is my considered view that X2 was obtained after interrogation of Fr. Singarayar.

It was an accepted fact and established in evidence that at the time of the raid on the 13th till on the 15th night the most senior Police officer who was present and participated in the raid was Hilton Perera. Hilton Perera's evidence stated that he was an I.S.D. Officer as his function was only to gather intelligence and information and normally did not participate in raids. But on this eventful day he participated as there was no other Christian Officer available at Gurnagar Security Headquarters. He was aware that they were raiding a Christian Mission House. He admitted that he gave directions to I. P. Gallage and another officer of the C.I.D. He also admitted that he "passed off as a C. I. D. Officer to Fr. Adrian Joseph at the Mission House." His evidence was that he fell into "special category of police officers" who were not obliged in law to record after interrogations of suspects. Hilton Perera's demeanour in Court was far from satisfactory. He appeared to be resentful of the cross-examination on number of occasions in Court, had to repeat the questions in order to get an answer to Court. It was regrettable to observe that he was muttering under his breath when he was in the witness box. He was irritable and impulsive and at one stage he pointed out his hand at the defence counsel where the Court had to admonish this witness. There was no doubt there was lengthy cross-examination sometimes irksome going into minute details. It is rather unfortunate this Court had to make these observations of a Superintendent of Police.

Fr. Singarayar in his evidence stated that on the 14th at about 6.30 p. m. he was interrogated by Hilton Perera as to what he did with the money that he received

from Ravi. He had answered he had got the money deposited through the priests in the Finance Company and the receipts were in his drawer at Amalauppavam. Hilton Perera, Inspector Gallage and S. I. Wijetilleke took him to Mission House and recovered the deposit receipts issued by the Finance Company which were produced as P27, P20, P30 and P31. Thereafter he was taken to the Beach road, Inspector Gallage and S. I. Wijetilleke pointed the revolver at him and said "Do you know where the bodies of Inbam and Selvam were found? You had spoken on public platforms about the atrocities of the police. Your body will be found within a few minutes in the beach if you are not going to cooperate with us." Hilton Perera intervened and said that "we know what you are doing in Colombo with Ratnasar bugger and Balasuriya bugger but you cannot play the fool with us." Fr. Singarayar stated that he believed that Inbam and Selvam were brutally assaulted and killed by the Police, from the way Gallage made this statement Fr. Singarayar confirmed that the murder was committed by Police.

Fr. Singarayar said in evidence after the incident at the beach he was so completely frightened and started crying and agreed to cooperate with Police. At that stage Hilton Perera had informed others that they would give him chance and thereafter the jeep returned to the Security Headquarters. Fr. Singarayar further stated that Hilton Perera sent all other officers from his room and closed the door and asked for a bribe of 3 akhs to drop this matter. Then Fr. Singarayar indicated that he had no such money. Hilton Perera had called other officers back to the room and said that he should be given "the treatment." Gallage threatened that he would be sent to Elephant Pass which Elevedan had described as "Muskade." He further stated that Gallage pulled his cassock, and as he believed and held his cassock as sacred and as he believed Gallage was going to assault he removed the cassock. At that stage Gallage had informed him to exercise his imagination and write that the money was loot money. H. C. Perera had indicated to him that he should stress the fact that he received the money in the month of May after coming from Batticaloa and X2 was as a result of all this drama according to Fr. Singarayar.

*(Continued on page 7)*



There was rather more interest in this year's Lok Sabha debate on the foreign ministry's appropriations—both on the floor and in the galleries—than in similar discussions in recent years. The main reason for this clearly is the painful awareness generally of the high stakes in foreign policy problems.

On the one hand there is General Zia-ul-Haq's 'peace offensive' which is accompanied, ironically, by persistent and perfidious support to Sikh secessionists and terrorists. To say nothing of other unfriendly and disruptive Pakistani activity. What the Akali chief minister of Punjab, Mr. Surjit Singh Barnala, has publicly said on the subject—never mind the statements emanating from New Delhi—ought to be an eye-opener even to Gen. Zia's habitual drum-beaters in this country. On the other, the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has practically got out of hand.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's Government, which has been bending over backwards to help President Jayewardene reach a fair political settlement with the Tamil minority, has been left with the bitter feeling that its trust has been betrayed. The escalating dismay and anger in Tamil Nadu over what is clearly seen as a massacre of Sri Lanka's innocent Tamils does not always percolate full to New Delhi. Even so, there is the deepest foreboding in both South Block and Parliament House about the grim consequences of the catastrophic course being followed by Mr. Jayewardene and his government.

No wonder then that the focus during the Lok Sabha debate was on Sri Lanka. At least two other major and pertinent issues were also highlighted. But these can wait for the time being. Concentration on Sri Lanka was facilitated by the fact that several important aspects of the problems with Pakistan, including the visit to Karachi of the Enterprise-led formidable U.S. armada, had been dealt with, through call-attention and other motions, when the external affairs debate began.

It is noteworthy that there was a consensus, indeed striking unanimity in the Lok Sabha on the Sri Lanka issue that cut across party lines and regional representation. Members from all sides of the house and from all parts of the country were at one in blaming the government for being 'too trusting' of Mr. Jayewardene and urging it to take a 'tough' stance with Colombo.

Toughness, however, is easier advocated than adopted. In any

## FOCUS ON SRI LANKA

case, some options are best ruled out as the prime minister has dismissed out of hand possibility of an Indian military intervention. To keep open such a choice even theoretically can warp thinking and complicate matters needlessly.

### OTHER SIDE OF COIN

But then there is the other side of the coin. In the case of Sri Lanka, too, there are some options which are simply not open to it. For instance, Mr. Jayewardene (or anyone else in his position) cannot go on pursuing a 'military solution'—he has bragged about doing so to at least two visiting Indian journalists—while paying lip service to the search for a political settlement. He is already on the brink; one more wrong step would mean a leap into the abyss.

Similarly, the Sri Lanka President cannot question the sincerity of Indian good offices in one breath and virtually beseech this country to pull his chestnuts out of the fire in the next. That his Government has of late been clamouring for yet another visit to Colombo by Dr. Romesh Bhandari in full awareness of his retirement three days hence speaks for itself.

To be sure, it is the right, indeed the duty of every state to fight terrorism and secession. No sane person or government would object to that, but the worst part of the ghastly and steadily worsening tragedy that has been enacted in Sri Lanka since the anti-Tamil pogrom of July 1983 is that its security forces, vastly beefed up in terms of both numbers and equipment, are killing not the terrorists but innocent Tamils.

The stark reality is that in encounters with the terrorists, the Sri Lankan army, paramilitary forces and police invariably come out the second best. Nor are these forces able to cope with the ambushes and attacks for which the initiative is taken by various terrorist groups. It is against this backdrop that the security forces, blinded by their bitterness, frustration and humiliation, have started slaughtering in cold blood utterly innocent Tamil citizens.

At times people in Tamil majority areas, waiting in bus queues, have been sprayed with bullets. Equally indiscriminate has been the aerial bombing and strafing of the Tamil population. A more cowardly and disgraceful behaviour of a

supposedly disciplined army of a civilised country is difficult to think of, as so many despatches in the western press from the scenes of carnage have underscored.

Under these circumstances, is it any surprise that the Indian Government has had to reverse its earlier style and stance of running a Kissinger-like shuttle service between Delhi and Colombo? It has made it clear to Sri Lanka that neither Mr. Bhandari nor his successor nor any other Indian envoy can possibly visit Colombo until the wanton killings of hapless Tamils are ended.

by  
**Inder Malhotra**

### CAREFUL REVIEW

A careful review of the Sri Lanka policy pursued during the last 14 months is thus clearly called for. And in undertaking it some of the iron imperatives of the situation cannot possibly be brushed under the carpet.

The first of these is that India does not and cannot have any interest in undermining Sri Lanka's unity. Indeed it has a stake in maintaining the integrity of the island republic. But whether this unity would be preserved or destroyed through a *de facto* if not *de jure* partition between Tamil majority areas of the north and the east and the rest of the country, now overrun by a tidal wave of Sinhala chauvinism, would depend entirely on what the Sri Lankan Government does.

This brings one to the second critical element in the grisly mess. If there is one Sri Lankan leader who has the stature, the ability and the skill to cut the Gordian knot and sell to the country a political settlement that would be fair and reassuring to the Tamil minority and yet be within the framework of Sri Lankan unity, it is President Jayewardene. But he has sadly chosen to surrender to Sinhala chauvinism and embarked on the quest for a military solution which cannot but be self-defeating.

Even at this late stage he can retrieve what looks like a desperate situation only if he first puts an end to the killings of the innocent and then produces a formula for provincial autonomy in the north and the east that would meet at least the minimum aspirations of

the Tamil population which now faces a threat to its very existence. The two points on which extent of autonomy is absolutely critical to a solution of the ethnic problem are law and order and land settlement.

But, on these two vital issues, the response that Mr. Jayewardene's Government has produced to the TULF's proposal—obviously an opening bid in a bout to hard bargaining—is so farcical as to be insulting. This, combined with the stepping up of the killings, evidently proved to be the proverbial last straw on the back of the Indian Government which is unwilling to use all its influence with TULF and other Tamil groups, including the militants, to persuade them to accept a just and fair settlement but not the kind of the bogus deal which Sri Lankan Government is offering.

As Mr. B. R. Bhagat pointed out in his reply to the Lok Sabha debate, many countries which were previously reluctant to criticise Sri Lanka have spoken out sharply against it at the U.N. human rights commission and other forums. But unfortunately the pressure of world opinion is not yet strong enough to make the desired impact on Colombo.

### KILLING SPREE

On the contrary, in the pursuit of its disastrous policies, the Jayewardene Government is being backed by several countries for their own, far from noble ends. The Sri Lankan soldiery, now engaged in a killing spree, has been trained by Mossad, the notorious Israeli department of dirty tricks which has entered Sri Lanka through the U.S. embassy, and the British SAS. At one time the South African Bureau of Secret Service, better known by its outlandish acronym, BOSS, was also imparting its skills in murder and racism to the Sri Lankan troops. But it seems to have gone back home.

Above all, however, there is the Sri Lankan-Pakistan nexus to which the annual report of the External Affairs Ministry has drawn pointed attention. Its serious implications ought to be clear even to the meanest intelligence, especially at a time when the renewed U.S.-Pakistan military relationship is causing enough security problems for this country.

A news agency report that Mr. Jayewardene sought Chinese military help during the recent visit to Sri Lanka by the Chinese President, Mr. Li Xiannian, may or may not be correct. But the idea of calling

(Continued on page 7)



We are mere usurpers, tyrants and what's worse, To fright the animals and kill them up, In their assigned and native dwelling place" — Jaques, in Shakespeare's — 'AS YOU LIKE IT'.

This may be a strange subject for a time when life has apparently ceased to have any value. What may be a little surprising is that life has at all times and in all places been a chancy, unpredictable affair. Periods in the past which are taken to be stable and prosperous become far less so on closer examination. Beneath the apparent tranquillity there have been regular occurrences of plagues, fires and famines. Our grand-parents whom we take to have been lucky would tell us that sudden death, disease and infant mortality were features of life very much taken for granted in their time. Indeed, if life were ever stable there would have been little cause for religious reflection. The attractiveness of modern industrial civilisation for many of our people is its success in fostering an illusive air of complacency.

At this time in particular, it is brought home to us, day after day with such repetitive alarm, that the life of a man however cultivated with years of care as much as that of a dog or a cow can be brought to an end in the twinkling of an eye. This vivid demonstration of the vulnerability of life gives us a choice between two attitudes. The first is to become cynical and insensitive about life as a whole—

why bother with something as impermanent as a bubble, if you can kill one why not be done with killing a thousand? The second possible attitude is to value life, accept the shared vulnerability of all life and seek measures to preserve it.

by  
**Rajan Hoole**

#### WORST DEFEAT

For those who seek consistency and desire that all violence must be brought to an end as early as possible, the second option is the only one that is open. The first is in the final analysis the morality of a thief and a gangster, that which devalues all life while tacitly placing a high value on his own and on those near to him. The worst defeat the Tamils can suffer is to allow this conflict to render them crude and cynical. On the other hand if it leads us to a new awakening and helps to build our sense of honour and dignity, it will be a great victory.

While we may call ourselves Tamils, Sinhalese, Hindus, Christians, Muslims and Buddhists, and pay verbal respect to what we believe are our traditional values, our common dominant culture is the cult of the hero. This is a crude form of evolutionism which with the te-

aching of Western Science has taken deep roots in our culture. It has become easy for a man holding any power whatsoever to imagine himself on an evolutionary pinnacle with all else subservient to him. Such a man may appeal on behalf of his nation, while he really means himself. The Gangster bolstered by evolutionism is now formidable and complete.

#### GANGSTERISM

Our terrible institutionalised gangsterism against animals goes almost unnoticed. This ranges from butchery to medical experiments to such simple civic measures as shooting stray dogs. While many ancients took life with a sense of sorrow, we do it with amazing complacency. Emperor Asoka built hospitals for animals. The Old Testament of the Bible is replete with touching references to animals. Our reasons for killing are always the same: "man is a higher being. All else must serve him". Such an idea would have been foreign to the ancient people of India, the ancient Hebrews or the Englishmen of Shakespeare's time. The ancient Hebrews saw redemption as the redemption of all life, looking to that time when the 'wolf shall lie with the lamb... and they shall neither hurt nor kill in God's holy mountain.'

Life involves conflict. And if we

wish to see an end to all violence, we must look for ways to turn this conflict into partnership, and often this is possible. A dog can be a man's best friend or a menace depending on the way we treat it. It has often been seen as the easier option to destroy life — kill the aborigines, the Jews, the Tamils, the poor, or the stray dogs in Jaffna town. This philosophy has reflected itself in the widespread use of torture and even in Dr. Mengele's experiments on Jews in concentration camps — why not if the perceived lower must serve the higher. C. S. Lewis cautions us against the heroic role attributed to man by the current belief in evolutionary progress. After pointing to Prof. Haldane's caution that progress is not necessarily the rule in Biology in that retrogression is far more widespread than advance, Lewis goes on to say that man's role in the universe is likely to be far less heroic than we imagine.

Finally, we do not know who we are and where we are going, except perhaps by religious revelation. The best start we can make is to accept the common vulnerability of life and seek to preserve it, better by love than by indifference. All measures involve seeming sacrifices. A moral decision not to kill means not killing even when one can save oneself by an experiment on one's neighbour. The first measures we should boldly take are doing away with butchery, medical experiments and shooting stray dogs.

## THE LAST COWBOY

Ronald Reagan, the ageing cowboy bandit man  
Cooked up a major bandit plan

This man pattern, this comic clown  
Of movie fame and bushwacking fun  
Announced that he was riding down  
Through his backyard and islands in the sun  
To put more notches on his gun.

For Ronald Reagan 'twas not strange  
To go gun-shooting on his range  
To shoot back all dese winds of change.

So paff-paff Reagan wid face like twine  
And Caribbean Basin in he mind,  
Was determined to keep everybody in line  
And all yuh rebel is land slaves  
Resisting just like Indian braves  
Will end up dead in rebel graves,  
And all yuh natives playing rude  
Look-out — I'm in a looting, tooting, shooting mood.

'Just like in de movies', he said to himself  
As he removed his six-shooters from up on de shelf,  
'I'll fight for America, yes I will  
For America I'll die — kill, kill, kill!  
For de big boys and dem up on Capitol Hill,  
America de land of de free and de bold  
We give you de land and take all de gold.

America must direct the course of humanity  
And he who resists we kill with impunity.  
We make de plans, we pass out de orders  
We empty wash basins just outside we borders,  
We direct bombings, assassinations and murders  
We preach it in our school to our sons and our daughters  
These boys of the backyard are living in we waters.

So I'll attack like in days gone by,  
Grenada go bawl and Cuba go cry,  
And every other bugger is sure to die.  
Like old McCarthy I'll go on a hunt  
And mark up every piece a liberation front,  
And Nicaragua must fall before end a mont' —  
No matter who protest, don't bother who gripe,  
Dey all must bow down to de stars and stripe's.

And so this maniac, gunslinging clown  
Stood ready to ride in and gun down the town,  
Eventually to strike all humanity down—  
A cowboy desperado with nuclear power  
Threatening mankind hour after hour,  
Trying vainly to stop the march of people's power.

— KOJO DE RIGGS

(Courtesy: RACE & CLASS Vol. 25 No. 3 Winter 1984)



# The Dogs Of War Strain At The Leash

Editor

## SATURDAY REVIEW

General Cyril Ranatunge has threatened recently that the order for direct confrontation with the militants awaits the outcome of the Delhi talks and when carried out will result in the loss of many innocent lives. President Jayewardene also has warned that there will be loss of innocent lives when Jaffna is retaken by the Security forces. Whether the Government can launch successful operations against the militants is questionable but it is true there will continue to be marked loss of civilian life. Apparently, according to the General's statement the security forces are manfully controlling themselves and marking time till the order is made. But if we take a look at what is happening during this so-called lull, we can be sure of much larger scales of massacre in the future. Perhaps what the General threatens are incidents like Akkaraipattu where whole villages are surrounded and only smouldering skulls are left after the combing-out operations. During this so-called quiet period, shelling from the camps and random firing from the helicopters are daily occurrences with casualties and property destruction. Most of the old Hindu temples within the reach of the security forces have been defiled and much destruction of high cultural value has occurred. Once the General lets loose his black devils, we can expect something like the Portuguese times when religious institutions and common people were destroyed with religious fervour. Only the Gods, or perhaps India or may be militants and, doubtfully, the good people of the South can prevent the threatened massacre of the innocents Jaffna

Soma

## NO RHYME, REASON

Editor

## SATURDAY REVIEW

The UNP Govt. seems to have lost all sense of proportion. It spends millions and millions of rupees to kill more innocent Tamils and Sinhala soldiers than 'terrorists.'

It has got into a squandermania and is spending on 'defence', without any rhyme or reason, millions of rupees which otherwise would have been spent for the benefit of the poor Sinhalese masses. This is being done despite repeated appeals and warnings by the Finance Minister.

Is it beyond human ingenuity to have worked out a fair solution to the issues before the country? Has not the Govt. missed several golden opportunities? Is there any purpose at all in this fratricide and genocide.

Pungudutivu

T. Nithilam

## LETTERS

### NEW YEAR

Editor

## SATURDAY REVIEW

Most of us know that the indigenous New Year celebration of Sri Lanka which is meaningful to almost 90% of the people fell on the 14th April. Though the 1st of January is hysterically greeted by the Western world, in Sri Lanka the Sinhala-Tamil New Year festival is enjoyed, if not identically celebrated, by all communities, for its Cultural and Social significance.

The Buddhists and Hindus keep observances of special religious and custom value but all communities — Christian Sinhalese and Tamils, Moors and Malays and even Burghers — enjoy the festival for personal and social reasons. Many get together and spend a happy time socialising and partaking of refreshments prepared specially for the occasion, like oil cakes, kokis, at-hiraha and similiar Tamil preparations.

People get together for nostalgic reasons and recall the numerous happy occasions spent in previous years when after the religious observances have been duly honoured, they relax in song and dance helped by generous libations of beverages that both cheer and inebriate, to the background music of the rabana! Particularly when Sri Lanka is experiencing an unfortunate, turbulent phase in her history, it is good for us despite the troubles not only to meet together but also to try, in whatever way we can, to help to bring about reconciliation, rapprochement and restoration of stability.

Especially we who remember our early lives when under the yoke of foreign domination we lived in harmony and peace, ought to make special efforts to restore the same state affairs, through enlightened self-interest. I believe this can be done if the young people listen more to the advice of their religious teachers and elders than to the goadings of political provocateurs, whatever party they belong to.

Let us hope that meaningful steps will be taken by all communities to restore national harmony.

Melbourne

Neville H. de Silva

## A BOUQUET

Editor

## SATURDAY REVIEW

I am a devout Buddhist boy, just reaching the end of my teens. I have just begun to read your newspaper, having become aware of it only very recently.

Your newspaper has made me aware of the real situation in Jaffna. Most of us down South have hardly gone beyond Anuradhapura, let alone visiting Jaffna. We have to rely on the big newspapers to find out what is happening in the Northern Province. From the reports in your newspaper I now realise that these papers are spreading false propaganda. I admire you for your courage and dedication in publishing a newspaper like your from Jaffna at a time like this.

Bentota

D. Dharmasekara

## LBW RECORD?

Editor

## SATURDAY REVIEW

I wonder whether there had been any instances in Test Cricket where there had been leg before wicket (LBW) of the first FOUR BATSMEN as happened in the first Test match played at Asgiriya between Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Incidentally this feat was followed by LBW decisions in the 2nd Test which Sri Lanka won comfortably, all 7 LBW decisions in the match were against the visitors.

I happened to be a spectator during the 2nd Test and there were many who were of the view that at least there were very doubtful decisions and where there was doubt the benefit had been given to the bowlers rather than the batsmen.

It is said that the Pakistan umpires were biased, but that is no reason why we should not be impartial, and if the Pakistan crowds were behaving badly it was not necessary for us to act likewise. We should have applauded good play from which every side it came from but unfortunately 'the-not-too-good relationship' between the two teams were reflected among the spectators as well.

It is a great achievement for Sri Lanka to defeat India and then Pakistan but it must be achieved in the best spirit.

Jaffna

Jude Rajeev

## NO COMPARISON

Editor

## SATURDAY REVIEW

It is crass stupidity or blatant hypocrisy to draw a parallel between the 'terrorists' of Punjab and Tamil freedom fighters of Sri Lanka. Punjab is an integral part of the Union of India and is wielding all the constitutional powers which the other constituent federal states of India are granted by the Constitution of India. If the federal states of India want more powers, they would be considered by a Special Commission appointed by the Government of India.

There is no need for me to enumerate how the Tamils of Sri Lanka are being treated by the Pan-Sinhala Government since 1947.

Chankanai

Pro bono publico

## APPRECIATION

### S. E. Joseph

Christ's command: "Love thy neighbour as thyself" was the guiding motto of Samuel Emmanuel Joseph in his sojourn in this world before passing away to the beyond in January this year, felled by the sudden blow of a heart attack in his home without being a burden to any one, at the age of 66. He brought joy and sunshine into the lives of everyone around him. Cheerful and friendly, he was always ready to help any one in trouble or difficulty and went out of his way to bring solace and relief by his many acts of kindness and words of comfort to the old, the sick and the infirm. He was everybody's friend and no odd job was too small for him to accomplish with delight.

After his schooling at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, he joined the regular Volunteer Force of the Ceylon Army and saw active service overseas during the second world war and continued to serve in the army after the war. He retired from the army in February 1975, and spent himself in the service of others like a soldier of Christ. He was the live wire of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Cathedral parish and through that charitable organisation, he saw to the needs of the poor and downtrodden bringing them hope and joy in his efforts to eliminate human misery in the parish. He worked in his quiet and unobtrusive way without the glare of publicity. May his soul rest in peace.

— FRANCIS ST. ROCHE



(Continued from page 3)

I am unable to accept his evidence.

Hilton Perera's position appears to be remarkably non-decisive: he did not inform Punya de Silva either on the 15th or the 16th morning that he had instructed to write what Fr. Singarayar had told him that evening about Neerveli money. I am surprised at his action if he was collaborating and cooperating with the C.I.D. I am unable to reason out as to why he failed and did not inform Punya de Silva about the instructions he had given to Fr. Singarayar. It is further unenlightening as to why after he had questioned Fr. Singarayar on the 16th morning and Fr. Singarayar had informed him that he did not want to put that in writing since O.M.I. Order was an International Order and especially two police officers had been killed. He did not want to put in writing and also because His order will find fault with him and take action against him. Hilton Perera said that after questioning Fr. Singarayar for 10 minutes he returned X3 to Fr. Singarayar as the person who cleans entered the room to clean the room. Fr. Singarayar went to the room with X3 in his hand. The behaviour of this officer is highly illogical. I cannot understand why he conducted himself in this manner either without retaining or obtaining X3 and handing it over to the investigating officer Punya de Silva who was to commence investigation and interrogate Fr. Singarayar on the 16th morning. This witness admitted that Punya de Silva came to the room when he was there but he had declined to inform Punya de Silva that X3 was a document that was obtained from Fr. Singarayar as a result of his instructions and that Fr. Singarayar stated that morn-

## JUDGE REJECTS....

ing as to why he did not want to put the Neerveli matter in writing. This officer's strategy best known to himself, had remained silent. This witness further admitted though Fr. Singarayar on the 15th mentioned about Neerveli money, he did not ask how he had known that this money mentioned in X2 was Neerveli money which appears in my view a fatal flaw in the mode of his investigation.

The accused stated in his evidence that on the 15th night Hilton Perera in the presence of Gallage, Wijetiljeke, Major Ballagalla and other army officers had remarked that the whole Catholic Church had let him down, which according to Fr. Singarayar was to break him down mentally and spiritually. This position was denied by Hilton Perera. The accused further stated that Gallage requested him to remove his cassock and one of the officers pointed a revolver but he could not remember or identify the officer who pointed the revolver. Further there were two revolvers placed on the table. He could not remember as to who placed the revolver on the table. He stated that he begged and pleaded for some rest but they had informed him if he cooperated with them the matter would be over. At that stage he was feeling thirsty and he requested water and he was permitted to go to the tap without any hindrance. Gallage brought a glass of arrack and told him to drink. When he did not show any willingness to taking the arrack, Gallage sipped a small quantity and stated that it was not poisoned and brought the arrack close to his lips and he was forced to drink it. Surely this is not the behaviour of intended torturers to reassure that there was no poison in the drink and allowed him to drink as much water as he

wanted from the tap when he informed them he was thirsty. He further stated that Gallage gave him two blows with his open fist on his forehead and the other on the back of his head. As a result his pair of spectacles was knocked off and at that stage Hilton Perera intervened to stop the assaulting. At this stage Major Ballagala and other army officers left the office room. Gallage wanted him to say that the money was stolen from Neerveli and include Thangadorai, Kuttimani and Prabhakaran and ordered him that if he did not write as instructed, he would be sent to Elephant Pass. Hilton Perera had informed him he should drop Ravi from his statement. His evidence was that he was so humiliated and he was spiritually and mentally affected. This was further aggravated when Gallage picked up a piece of paper and crushed it and threw it saying that he was like a crushed paper. Then he was given half sheets and he wrote for about 10 minutes and thereafter all of them had left except for a bearded officer and another. His position was that he completed writing X3 and gave it to one of the officers who was there. If one analyses his evidence that X3 was written when he was mentally and spiritually manhandled and assaulted by Gallage and also informed that he was expelled from the Church, he did not have proper sleep, he was deprived of spiritual comforts in saying/hearing mass, he was threatened with a revolver, he was asked to cooperate, he was instructed to write about the stolen money of Neerveli and to bring Prabhakaran, Thangadorai and Kuttimani. The results of all these actions had only produced the document X3. X3 in no way brings in Neerveli nor the money to be connected to Neerveli. He complained to Brigadier Ranatunga on the 17th of November.

He further stated in his evidence after writing X3 at about 10 p. m. he had handed it to an officer who was present. That particular officer had left with X3 leaving him alone with a bearded officer in the room. The bearded officer wanted him to sit on a particular chair which he found to his consternation full of bugs and when he sat on the floor the bearded officer forcibly removed his trouser and compelled him to remove his banian and dealt him blows with his elbows and knees. Thereafter he was allowed to dress and whenever he attempted to sleep

the bearded officer focussed the only light that was in the room on his face and poured water from a jug not allowing him to sleep. The water was contaminated with some ingredients which brought tears to his eyes but he was unable to say how the jug came to the room, who brought the jug except to say that it was brought from the 'Maskade.' He stated that he complained about this incident to Brigadier Ranatunga on the 17th morning who informed that he would inquire into it. He had complained about assault by Gallage to Punya de Silva and also complained about the torture and assault on the 17th evening to His Lordship of Jaffna, (Rev. Fr. Deogupillai) when Bishop Deogupillai visited the Security Headquarters with other religious dignitaries including Vicar General Michaelsamy. According to Fr. Singarayar Bishop Deogupillai told him to speak the truth and reassured him that he was with Fr. Singarayar. Brigadier Ranatunga denied that any complaints were made to him on the 17th or subsequently of any assault on Fr. Singarayar by a bearded officer or by Inspector Gallage. He assured Court that if there was any complaint that he would have taken prompt action after due inquiries. Punya de Silva stated the accused did not complain of any harassment or any assault by Gallage or any other officers. The best witness, His Lordship Deogupillai, the Bishop of Jaffna who could have given evidence in this Court, if there was such a complaint of assault made to him by Fr. Singarayar. The best independent witness for the accused was His Lordship the Bishop Deogupillai. Fr. Michaelsamy, the Vicar General called by the Defence stated that he did not hear as to what the accused spoke to the Bishop of Jaffna, In fact he stated that he could not distinguish in which language the accused was conversing.

(To be continued)

## FOCUS ON SRI LANKA

(Continued from page 4)

in foreign troops did cross Mr. Jayewardene's mind in 1983 and it can as easily occur to him again.

This is where there can be no room for any ambiguity or equivocation. When Indira Gandhi warned against any move to induct into Sri Lanka foreign troops unacceptable to New Delhi and added that, in relation to Sri Lanka, India could not be treated as "just another country", she was enunciating no new doctrine nor engaging herself in a hegemonistic exercise. She was simply stating the obvious facts of geopolitical life.

Sri Lanka, whose sovereignty and unity are dear to India, has a population of about 15 million. Nearly 12 million Sinhalese live largely in the south. Leaving aside the Tamils of Indian origin in the central highlands, there are well over two million indigenous Sri Lankan Tamils who are sought to be virtually decimated. Across the narrow 21-mile stretch of salt water live no fewer than 50 million Tamils in this country with ties of blood and kinship with the victims of the massacres in Jaffna.

Neither the policy makers in Delhi nor their opposite numbers in Colombo can afford to shut their eyes to these realities.

## STOP TORTURE.....

(Continued from page 2)

Government representatives also stated that AI is not concerned with "terrorist activities." In its "File on Torture" AI referred to the use of violence by opposition groups demanding a separate Tamil state and stressed its condemnation of the torture or killing of prisoners by anyone, including opposition groups. However, AI urged that in bringing to justice those responsible the Government's actions should conform to international human rights standards. The Sri Lanka Government has reinforced this obligation by depositing with the United Nations a Unilateral Declaration Against Torture.



# Saturday Review

## SRI LANKA

## HINDU IS A MINISTER BUT TEMPLES DESTROYED

This is the text of a letter, dated 14th April, sent to the Minister for Hindu Religious Affairs, Mr. C. Rajadurai, by the Joint Secretary of the Valvettiturai Citizens' Committee Mr. K. C. Adiathan:

One of our joint Secretaries, Mr. S. Kumarasamy, met you on Monday, 31st March, regarding the temple, when you promised to discuss the problem with both the President and the Minister of National Security and ensure the restoration of the daily poojas and the safety and security of the pious devotees of the temple.

Since then, the situation has

further deteriorated whereby the Sacred Bell and the Bell Tower (the tallest in Sri Lanka) have been completely damaged, estimated to cost over Rupees Five Lakhs, by the Security forces of the Thondamannar Army Camp, adding insult to injury. We do not know what next to do in the matter.

It is tragic that the destruction and desecration of Hindu Temples are being done by the Security forces of the Government, of which you are a Minister. The Tamils will find it unacceptable for a Tamil to continue as a Minister any further and be a party to the continued destruction of Hindu Temples.

## BOMBS BLAST AT WELLAWATTE

Five policemen, including two women police constables, and two civilians were injured in a bomb blast at the Wellawatte Police Station on Wednesday morning (23rd April).

The bomb went off when the policemen were examining a small

brown bag left behind in a private coach.

The driver and the conductor of the coach who handed over the bag at the Police Station were also injured in the blast.

The blast caused heavy damage to the Police Station building and communications equipment.

## A'PURA BLAST HIBERNATION?

An explosion in a petrol bowser parked inside the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's oil storage depot in Anuradhapura killed 9 people including the Assistant Manager, on Wednesday afternoon (23rd April). Several people were injured. Three people have been taken into custody on suspicion.

The Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS) has claimed responsibility for the blast.

It has warned that it will carry out similar acts throughout the island if the Government does not observe five conditions EROS has laid down.

S.J.V. Chelvanayakam's 9th death anniversary falls on 26th April. A question is being asked in some circles whether the **Thanthai Chelva Memorial Trust** will resume its series of **Thanthai Chelva Memorial Lectures** or still prefers hibernation?

## OFFICE BURNT

Students' birth certificates and other valuable documents were burnt when the office of the Pooneryn Vidyalayam—about 100 yards away from the Army Camp—was set on fire by unknown persons.

## Act Before It's Too Late — TEIR

Tamil Eelam International Research at 53, Bickley Street, Tooting London has sent an urgent appeal signed by Mr. K. Srinivasan, Secretary, to the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Excerpts:-

"Bombing of villages and towns; and burning alive, torturing and raping of Tamils by the Sri Lankan Government armed forces and armed thugs have now reached an intolerable level. The scale of such atrocities have been especially stepped-up since the President of Sri Lanka had announced last December '85, that there will be only a military solution for the Tamil crisis in Sri Lanka. In fact, at this very moment helicopter gunships and airforce planes are bombing to kill and wipe out the entire Tamil population of Sri Lanka, on the

pretext of waging a war with 'terrorists.'

The Tamil Eelam International Research, therefore appeal to you, to consider the urgency of the matter. The excuse of territorial sovereignty cannot in International Law prevent you and the International Community in taking appropriate measures to stop this **GENOCIDE**. In fact the International Law and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) casts a duty on the International Community to secure the basic human rights of the subjugated Tamil people.

We are confident that through International Diplomatic and Economic sanctions you could take appropriate actions before it is too late."

## KANTALAI WHODUNNIT

The Press Trust of India reports that a hitherto unknown Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla group the—Eelam Revolutionary Communist Party (ERCP)—has claimed responsibility for the dam disaster at Kantalai last Sunday.

While Tamil militant groups say they are not aware of the ERCP group, the government controlled **Daily News** said in its 21st April issue that its sister Sinhala daily, the **Dinamina**, had spotlighted the danger of the bund breaching in a report from its Seruwila Special

Correspondent, published on 20th January 1986.

The **Daily News** followed, up with an editorial 'The Calamity At Kantalai' on Wednesday (23rd April).

Instead of chiding the bureaucracy, the leader-writer should have called for the resignation of the Minister, citing the example of Lal Bahadur Shastri who resigned as Railway Minister after the Ariyalur rail disaster.

But that was in another country and besides the man is dead.

## STRAFED AGAIN

The Selvasannithy Temple area was strafed for the second day running on Tuesday (22nd April).

There were no casualties as people had evacuated after the previous day's incidents.

## KILLED

Five soldiers and two militants were killed in a direct confrontation at Point Pedro last Sunday.

## DAMAGED

Two hotels in the grand Bazaar area and a tourist hotel close to the Jaffna Fort were damaged when shells were fired from the Jaffna Fort on Friday night (18th April)

## LANDMINE DEATHS

Twenty three Air Force personnel were killed in a powerful landmine blast at Morawewa, Trincomalee, last Friday, according to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The Government reported that only nine Air Force personnel, including 3 corporals, were killed in the ambush.

In another blast in Pottuvil, a sub Inspector of Police travelling in a jeep was killed.

## HOSPITALISED

Fifteen soldiers were admitted to Valaichenai Hospital after a direct confrontation between commandos and militants at Puli-paynthakal (literally, Tiger's Leap).