

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

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BAN, BAN, BANG, BANG!

The latest proposals of President Jayewardene's Government to settle the ethnic problem were under serious consideration by the militant groups, some of whose top leaders are now in Jaffna, when it fouled the whole atmosphere for further negotiations by imposing a fuel ban on the North.

The fuel ban has begun to seriously disrupt the lives of the people of the North. But if the Government's strategy is to pit the people against the militants, we say it will not work.

Any settlement forced on the people of the North under threats of any kind will be no settlement at all.

Echoing the people's sentiments, Mr.V.Balakumar, leader of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), told the SATURDAY REVIEW in an exclusive interview; "We will not give in to arm-twisting by any side".

This was a reference to the Indian Government's pressure tactics, through the Tamilnadu Government, and the

Sri Lanka Government's economic sanctions—the fuel ban is only the first step—to make the militant groups accept the proposals devised with India's "good offices".

The proposals go far, very far, to satisfy the aspirations of the Tamil people.

These deserve serious consideration and, we would say: acceptance.

What has been offered is no less than the powers enjoyed by the State of Tamilnadu.

The militant groups must not miss this point.

We repeat yet again that President Jayewardene has gone as far as any national leader from the South could go to meet the legitimate demands of the Tamil people in the context of the overall political situation in the country.

We admit there are a few small snags but these could be smoothed out by direct talks between Pre-

sident Jayewardene and the militant leaders.

But then the correct atmosphere should be created for a direct dialogue to take place.

Such a dialogue cannot take place under threats of any kind.

Our repeated call for direct talks has been misunderstood and misrepresented in certain quarters.

We do not wish to see anything done "behind the back of India", which has been a source of great solace and strength to the militant groups.

India has done its job. The militant leaders must take over from there, meet President Jayewardene and complete the job—if they are still interested in a negotiated settlement.

Or fight on to a finish. Whose finish? The finish of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka? The finish of Sri Lanka itself?

Even without overt pressure, many people have already moved away from areas close to the Jaffna Fort, especially Koddady. Who wants to live near an Army camp and suffer the consequences?

But to ask the people of Jaffna town to move away — it has not been done yet — will be the height of madness.

Where the hell are they going to go?

We know the Army is itching to come out, for a final show-down.

But whatever happens, the SATURDAY REVIEW, which is within the 1,000 metre range, will continue to function as long as possible. We will not move.

V. C. Members Arrested

The President of the Village Committee of Nellukulam in the Vavuniya District along with seven other members who were taken into custody recently by the Security Forces have not yet been released. However, due to the efforts of the Secretary of the Citizens' Committee, Dr.C.V. Pararajasingam their relatives were permitted to meet them. The Government Agent, Vavuniya, K.C. Logeswaran and the Asst. Government Agent, M.A.Karunapalan have, in a letter submitted through the Citizens' Committee to the Army authorities in Vavuniya indicated that the arrested members were in no way connected with any militant movement but on the contrary, they are in the Service of Government.

Undertakers of all types are waiting.

WHAT'S UP?

The Chief of the Joint Operations Command (JOC), General Cyril Weeratunga and the Army Commander, Major General Nalin Seneviratne were reportedly in Jaffna on Thursday.

★ FLASH

A settlement of the ethnic problem, through direct talks between President Jayewardene and the militant leaders, appears imminent, according to reliable sources, both in Colombo and Jaffna.

BICYCLE THIEF

Some cracko stole the S.R.'s Editor's bicycle from his residence at Kasturiar Road on Tuesday night, a bicycle which was never kept locked every time because of the trust he had in the Jaffna people.

Now he has to walk two miles to the office and back daily.

In Style

Despite the fuel ban and the air-strike, Jaffna celebrated Thai Pongal on 14th January in grand style beginning with crackers going off from the previous evening.

The din was such that it appeared as if the Army had finally come out!

Thanks to the Government and The Boys for a peaceful and happy Pongal!

FICTION AND FACT

The State-controlled DAILY NEWS, in a front-page story on 9th January, based on the State-controlled Media Centre, in Colombo, provided some fiction of the first order.

But the message was clear: The 1,000 metre 'security zone' was going to be imposed in Jaffna as well!

There were no 'warnings' on loud-hailers that the citizens of Jaffna should move out of a 2,000 yard perimeter around Jaffna Fort", as claimed by the Media Centre and published in the DAILY NEWS.

"Seven terrorist bunkers destroyed. Fort danger zone cleared of civilians," read DAILY NEWS headline.

We appeal to the Editor of the DAILY NEWS and other journalists from the South to come and see what is actually happening in the North and particularly in Jaffna.

Just as in the case of Trincomalee district first, and later in Batticaloa district, and then in Valvettiturai and Point Pedro, people have been forced to move away from near Army Camp sites.

The same thing is likely to happen in Jaffna town before long.

Release All Political Prisoners In Sri Lankan Jails

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M. Sc. In Biotechnology

The Department of Biochemistry of Jaffna University will ceremonially inaugurate the M.Sc. Biotechnology Course at a function on Monday at 10 a.m.

Prof. S. Vithiananthan, Vice-Chancellor of the University will preside.

The main purpose of starting this two-year course is to provide biotechnologists for biotechnology-based industries in Sri Lanka which is rich in cereals and tubers. The corn and manioc starch could be converted into glucose using enzymes. The glucose would form the raw material for confectionery and many biotechnology-based industries. By fermentation, glucose is converted into high value products like citric acid, lactic acid, antibiotics, ethanol and many more. Citric acid and lactic acid are used in food industries. The setting up of bio-tech industries would not only create employment and help development of the area but also give biotechnologists an in-plant training.

Jaipur Foot Work-shop in the North

The Mothers' Front of Jaffna realised the need for the rehabilitation of the less fortunate ones in the community, who by circumstances beyond their control, have lost their limbs. The total number of those who would benefit by the Jaipur-Foot in the country was estimated at 30,000. Out of these a good number are from the North. The Project at Colombo has been successful due to the untiring and selfless

service rendered by the members of the Colombo Friend-in-Need Society who are responsible for the project and their sponsors.

They have volunteered to assist in this project in Jaffna. The need for such a project was felt by many due to the great hardships an amputee has to undergo in travelling to Colombo and be away from their homes for a long period of time. Preliminary surveys made by the Mothers Front indicate that there is a great demand for Jaipur Foot. They have already had discussions with the Colombo Project Officials, who have selected two amputees to be trained in Colombo. The ground work has been done with the offer of a generous citizen who has allowed the use of her house at Chundikuli to set up the Jaipur Foot Workshop. The Mothers Front have had offers of help from local sources. However, much more is needed for this project to get off the ground and curtain itself.

We are confident that the large heartedness of our people will not fail us. With this hope we have committed ourselves to this project, to bring sunshine to those amputees who are affected and who look forward to our help. A gift of a limb will Cost Rs 1000/- only.

We appeal to you to send in your contributions to the Treasurer, Jaipur Foot Workshop, No.5, Old Park Road Chundikuli. Every contribution will be gratefully acknowledged, "states a press-release from the Mothers' Front.

STF SHOOT-OUT

Five young men were shot and killed by the Special Task Force on 3rd January at Manchanthoduvai in the Batticaloa district. During a search operation militants had reportedly fired on them. Because of the skirmish people fled their homes only to be shot at by the STF personnel.

Those killed were: P. Koman (20); A. Manoharan (24) father of a child; P. Rasenthiram (24), married six months; T. Ravichandran (24), father of a seven-month-old child and W. Christopher (24), married seven months ago.

FULL POWER

The Minister of National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, according to reports from Colombo, has been put in sole charge of security matters in the North and the East. In a statement made by him in relation to the decision of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to take over the civil administration, the Minister condemned this decision and warned that serious steps would be taken to foil its action. He, however, did not elaborate.

Now, it is Kumar Vs. S.R.

The inquiry into the complaint made to the Press Council by Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam, Tamil Congress leader, against the SATURDAY REVIEW perhaps the only English newspaper in the world fighting actively for the Tamil cause was concluded on 1st. January.

We applaud Mr. Ponnambalam's concern about the reputation of his father, Mr. G.G. Ponnambalam, Q. C. Reputations must be preserved at all costs.

We are eagerly awaiting the Council's ruling.

NEW CRECHE

A creche built with the generosity of the Canadian Embassy in Sri Lanka was opened on 27th December at Thirunagar.

The Bishop praised the parish priest of St. Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna, Rev. Fr. S. Hillary Jebanesan for taking the initiative in establishing the creche.

The creche named "Deogu Creche" was declared open by the lighting of the traditional oil lamp by the Rt. Rev. B. Deogupillai, Bishop of Jaffna and the Municipal Commissioner, Mr. C. V. K. Sivagnanam.

Fr. Jebanesan presided over the function.

THONDA'S VIEW

The Minister of Rural Industrial Development, Mr. S. Thondaman in an interview to the Press in Tamil Nadu on 3rd January, is reported to have stated that no finality could be reached in any direct talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the representatives of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. He is reported to have added that India's efforts were indispensable to settle the problem. The succour so far given by India to the refugees from Sri Lanka was commendable and in the same manner India should ensure that they were able to go back to Sri Lanka to live in peace and amity.

APPRECIATION

S. GANESH

Even though Selliah Ganesh, former Additional Landing Surveyor and Asst. Collector of Customs, Northern Division is no more with us, the memories of his association still linger in our minds. Ganesh hailed from a respectable family in Jaffna. He was educated at Anuradhapura and joined the Government Service in 1956. He served in Colombo, Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Vavuniya and Puttalam. He was very popular wherever he worked and earned the respect and confidence of his superiors. He rose to the rank of an Administrator in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service and held several coveted posts, in the Public Service.

Lao Tse, the Chinese Philosopher remarked that the persons who possess virtues attend to their obligations and those who do not possess virtues attends to their claims. Ganesh belonged to the former category. He is an ardent devotee of Lord Murugan. Ganesh was responsible for the construction of a temple for Lord Ganesh in Vavuniya which stands as a monument for his religious activities. He greatly contributed towards the introduction of the Mini Kachcheri concept when he was A.G.A. Jaffna.

With his pleasing ways, he became friend of all and foe of none. He was very knowledgeable and witty and one could gain much from the association and discussion with him.

He was a devoted husband, affectionate father, and a reliable friend. It is very difficult to find people of his calibre either in the Public Service or in our day to day life. He possessed qualities which are worth emulating. There is a stanza in Thirukkural, the translation of which runs thus—

"A man's cleverness and reputation will manifest on achievements left behind".

This is most appropriate to Ganesh. May God take him to his Arms.

—K. NADARAJAH

DIRECT TALKS, YES, BUT

The Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS) is not averse to direct talks with the Sri Lanka Government to settle the ethnic problem, provided all the other militant groups are invited, the necessary climate is created for such a dialogue and a suitable venue is arranged.

This was what EROS Leader V. Balakumaran told the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW in an exclusive interview this week.

MR. BALAKUMARAN WAS SPECIFIC ON ONE POINT: NO THREATS, NO ARM-TWISTING OF ANY KIND FROM ANY SIDE.

The tall, bearded leader of one of the most significant Tamil militant groups had just returned from Madras with his bag and baggage.

He was bitter about the treatment meted out to the militant leaders in Madras by the Tamilnadu Government, most probably at the behest of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr. Balakumar was very worried about the situation in the Eastern Province, where the Security Forces,

especially the Special Task Force, are continuing to play mayhem with peoples' lives.

"You are concentrating too much on the North, particularly Jaffna", he rebuked me. "What is happening in Trincomalee, and Batticaloa gets little report in your paper".

I pleaded guilty. The problem is that communication and transport difficulties have virtually cut us off from the East.

As a journalist, I would like to go personally to Trinco and Batt and assess the situation. But I am afraid for my life because of the presence of the STF and the Home Guards, who appear to have received a licence from the Government to kill and kill yet again. I want to live a little longer. This point I made to Bala and he understood it.

How can we get over the Great Divide—the Sinhalese on one side and the Tamils on the other, with the Muslims in between?

I discussed this and many other matters with Bala. He was quite

frank in his views. No hedging, no prevarication, as with some political leaders, both in the South and the North.

I admire Bala's courage, his tenacity and his humility. He has done much for the Tamils' cause.

But what more can he do? Is it all in the stars? I wonder sometimes. But the stars are erratic in their path now, what with satellites going and interfering in their movements.

There are satellites on the Earth too: of various types and sizes, some not sure of their orbit.

Bala's view is that the Government is, and never was interested in a political settlement. "Its actions in the Eastern Province and now in the Northern Province, (particularly the strafing and shelling of Jaffna on 7th January and the cutting off of fuel supplies) are indications that it wants to go in for a military solution."

I, too, cannot but help agree with him. The exchange of prisoners of war between the Government and

the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on 19th December, 1986, would lead to a new phase in the relations between the warring factions. The significance of the exchange was that for the first time in the past decade direct contact had been established between the two sides, Lalith himself was there at Palaly. It should have led to arrangements for a direct dialogue between the Government and the militant groups to bring to an end a situation which is sapping the life-blood of the nation.

That was not to be. First, the fuel ban. Then the air strike.

Bala was very sad over these developments. A wholesome atmosphere for a political settlement was being developed when suddenly the Governments messed it all up by two acts of crass stupidity—or sinister design.

As I took leave of Bala, I was just wondering what if the militant groups, through some means, stopped the oil supply to the South?

After all, all is fair Love—and war.
—GAMINI NAVARATNE

This collective appeal for Peace has been signed by prominent clergy of different religions, university professors and lecturers, editors of journals and intellectuals and other people involved in the peace movement.

It is time the people of Sri Lanka came to their senses! Our leaders of whatever party or creed by and large, with very few exceptions, have failed us, madness reigns, cruelty run amok, humanity lies bleeding our sisters and brothers, children and parents, Sinhala and Tamil, Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Muslim. Let's face it our country stinks!

We are all responsible, some more than others no doubt, but no one can escape the guilt and if we do nothing about it we are certainly responsible.

Is there no way out? no hope? is there no compassion no wisdom left anymore? are we to reconcile ourselves to the inevitable? More and more destruction, more and more bloodshed more, and more misery?

We must rise up and say "No!" No to destruction, bloodshed and misery or perish. If we do not come to our senses, all that we have treasured, held dear in the common life of our nation, our

peoples will perish and darkness will prevail.

Let us call up from the depths of our peoples, all our peoples, a worthy response, worthy of the best in us, in our culture and heritage, worthy of the best that is still to come, that can turn back the tide of madness and cruelty, and restore, create, build sanity, love and peace.

Tell the people the truth, the common people, tell them what the leaders are afraid to say, what the media hide from them, for only a movement of the people, a broad front of reasonable people, cutting across sectional barriers, a genuine Sri Lankan movement, conscious of realities, the people rising up for justice and peace. Peace on the basis of justice, only such a movement can prevail upon the leaders out of the bitter conflict.

Tell the people the truth

We must all face the truth, the truth, of course, is complex. There were certain imbalances certain minority power blocs in special positions result of imperialistic policy of divide and rule, some of this still persisting part of the present system. Some change had to come but how did it come? There was gross violation of elementary principles of fair play. Then, there are faults on both sides, needs, poverty on both sides, exploitation, oppression on both sides, violence on both sides, but the Sinhala racists, who have state power behind them, bear the primary responsibility.

Time and again the Tamil minority have been denied, whatever special positions some of the elite may enjoy, the masses of the Tamil minority have been denied certain basic rights, certain basic concessions, a fair share due to

them in language, land, education and employment, these are the basic demands, met with refusals, repressions, over the years, the Tamils protested, at first peacefully, then fought back, and so Sinhala racist power blocs become hell-bent on war against Tamils, as if directed towards extermination, and Tamils see no option but to retaliate as hard as they can and that reaches hellish proportions too.

And Sinhala power blocs using state power are bolstered by foreign state power and Tamil counter-attack is bolstered by other foreign state power, a prospect of endless conflict, endless violence, endless misery.

The primary responsibility, the primary violence, the primary terrorism, is wrong use of state power. people denied justice, elementary rights we must all understand this. The violence of "terrorists" arises from the violence of terrorism in our society, we are responsible, especially those who wield power, but also we the electors of governments.

And not only the state but international power politics multi-nationals, militarization, the arms-race are responsible. Third-world problems are directly linked with

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SRI LANKA

Militarism And Economic Crisis

Extracts from a paper presented at the Asian Regional Women's conference on Militarisation And Its Effects (sponsored by the World Council of Churches.)

Delegates who participated were from Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, USA, Okinawa and Hongkong.

The evils of militarism has with all its powers rooted itself firmly in the soil of Sri Lanka. This has caused immense hardship to our people, socially, politically and economically. The militarism has rapidly taken place in Sri Lanka under the pretext of containing the ethnic crisis. The Pearl of the Indian Ocean known to the world over for its tranquil beauty has now become a volcanic eruption of ethnic tension, hostility a hot bed in the Indian Ocean.

The Prevention of Terrorism act enacted in 1980, attempts to deal with violence which accompanies the demand of the militant Tamil Youth groups for the establishment of a Sovereign Independent State of Eelam in the North and East of the Island. The Prevention of Terrorism Act is a violation of Human Rights and no country that respects the rule of law could even dream of enacting an authoritarian Legislation of this nature. The only parallel legislation to it is the infamous Terrorism Act of 1967 of the Republic of South Africa. Although this law was said to contain

in Tamil militants, it is being used against the Sinhala people, who show any type of dissent. There are over three hundred Sinhala youths who have been taken into custody under this law. The latest casualty is Mr. Pulsara Liyanage, Asst. Lecturer, University of Kelaniya, who otherwise would have attended this conference.

by

To suppress and eradicate the armed struggle of the militant youth all methods of atrocities have been perpetuated by the government which is presently engaged in a genocide of the Tamil people. I will not go into details of the atrocities committed by the Army for all of us know the implications of a war-torn country. Army atrocities, violation of rule of law has been the order of the day in the predominantly Tamil areas.

The following data is sufficient to assess the economic instability that prevails in Sri Lanka and the bankrupt policy of the open economy which widens the gap between the haves and the have-nots by making the rich, richer and the poor, poorer.

The foreign debt which was 4.5 billions in 1977 has increased to 67.6 billions in 1985. The domestic debt which was about Rs. 18 billions in 1976 has rocketed to Rs. 63.19 billions in 1985.

With the economic instability in the country, discontent grows. When discontent grows, protests erupt and will become violent. To contain this situation, the authorities particularly in Asia resort to undemocratic repressive measures in order to preserve the power of the ruling class. A complete militarisation thus takes place at the expense of development and welfare of the poor. In Sri Lanka militarisation in the guise of a threat to the unitary government by Tamil Militants, militarisation had rapidly taken place as evidenced by the expenditure for the Defence Ministry. The defence expenditure of Rs. 919.9 mill-

About 45% of the population, that is, around seven million in Sri Lanka live on food stamps. The resources that are reserved for the 45% of the population who are below the poverty line is around Rs. 2 billion for food stamps while over Rs. 10 billion are reserved for Military Expenditure.

In this context when we compare the Revenue and Expenditure of the country and the public debt, the economic crisis is very clearly portrayed.

The ethnic crisis and the military operation have been brought in its wake severe problems, economically to the country and to the Tamil People in the areas of conflicts between the Army and the Tamil Militants. The impending economic crisis as is apparent from the debt crisis affects the entire country while the military operations in the Tamil areas have resulted in a refugee population of around 102,428 people consisting of 18,242 families in the eight districts in the Tamil areas as at 30.9.1986. There have been substantial loss of civilian lives and property. A further refugee population estimated around over 100,000 have fled to India while a substantial number have sought refugee status in various countries.

In order to contain the political and social discontent that lead to unrest by an economically oppressed people, the government has to embark on militarisation to remain in power. The ethnic problem has been fully exploited by this government to hide away the corruption and economic mismanagement to militarise at the expense of economic development and social welfare of the people of Sri Lanka.

Nirmala Balaratnam

ions in 1980 and in 1985 Rs. 5,035.8 millions and provision has been made for an expenditure of Rs. 10,335 millions for 1986 and a further Rs. 270 millions for "Manpower Mobilisation" in 1987.

In sharp contrast the budgeted expenditure for 1987 on Education is Rs. 4.5 billions, Health Rs. 2.9 billions, and Social Services Rs. 2.2 billions. The budgeted expenditure on the Army on its own is Rs. 3.1 billions, which exceeds the individual Ministry votes of the Ministries of Local Government and Housing, the Ministry of public Administration, the Ministry of Lands and Land Development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Research and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication.

Talking Peace And Playing War

On going to the South one is heartened by becoming aware of many who see this ethnic problem as a human problem involving human feelings and aspirations, and which must be solved on the basis of justice and equal protection and dignity under the law for all. To quote Fr. Yohan Devananda, "It is wonderful how close one can get to know one another in so short a time when so much is at stake".

Such people, with whom one may include the activists of the MIRJE and the CRM, would maintain that there is grave injustice in this country at various levels. Behind the facade of the Colombo of high life modern cars and super markets, there lurks the iniquity of exploited labour and devalued humanity. Girls, whose mothers in their time lived

fairly comfortably at home on their fathers' earnings, now work in factories 7 days a week, 12 hrs a day with compulsory overtime, for a meagre gross monthly earning of Rs. 750/-. The infelicitous vaunt of a minister to solve the Tamil problem by settling en masse certain armed groups of Sinhalese in Tamil areas also involved Sinhalese victims of the present system who were to be used cynically to feed the engines of racial hate. These proposed settlers would have been people deprived in some way—people unable to earn a living wage in cities, landless living on the edges of large estates and those whose lands were recently acquired for use by sugar multinationals. Tamils have the special problem of being made victims of racial violence which has been joined in by forces of the state. Many of

them would feel that the failings of the Tamils and the support rendered by them to militant groups, must be understood sympathetically. Hysterical demands for the use of force come not from a desire for justice, but from a wish to maintain indefensible positions and privileges.

by Rajan Hoole

This tangled skein of intertwined and injustice and iniquity cannot be righted by a deployment of guns, batons and bicycle-chains. This, they would maintain, has to be done by changing the laws and the conduct of officials and those entrusted with authority, so that all people will feel cared for by the state and

will have reason to respect its dignity and laws.

FRAUDULENT LIBERALISM

I was cautioned against persons practising another fraudulent kind of liberalism, all the more dangerous for being very respectable. Such persons would wax emotionally on the need for peace and the need to be nice to the Tamils, even treat them as brothers. But at the same time they avoid the fundamental question of Justice—the need to make changes that will assure Tamils dignity and the right to life as equal citizens of this country. So called concessions do not face the problem of how capriciously the Tamils have been treated. The speech of a minister in the wake of July '83 where he said to Tamils in the audience, 'who attacked you? Sinhalese. Who protected you? Sinhalese. It is we who attack and protect you' is very revealing. Such liberals, whether deliberately or not, ultimately serve

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Militarisation And The Social Security State

A slightly shortened version of a talk at a Women's Conference organised by the Centre for the Study of Society And Religion.

One of the main things to keep in mind when one talks about militarisation, is that one is talking about a social process, and not about the military as such. They are quite separate things; the link between the military and the process of militarisation in a society is important but I think we should be quite clear that militarisation does not mean the military alone.

When we are talking about militarisation, I think we should also be clear that we are not talking about a process that is taking place only in Sri Lanka but something which affects people throughout the world: Militarisation as a process within which militarism is becoming one of the major ways in which modern societies are organized.

If one is talking in the abstract about militarisation, one must see that there exists a system of belief which says that one of the main ways of controlling society and of ensuring social stability is the use of organized violence and the use of force. But then we must relate it to the nature of the state in our countries and the nature of the systems of control which operate within each of our countries.

The military — the armed forces — are a part of the state, and the state is not something that is just floating around; it is the way a society is controlled and organized and the state is a body which represents the interests of the group, or class, which is ruling our society. It controls us in many different ways; the state has many arms, and the military is only one arm of the state and there are many other arms such as the legal institutions, the educational system, religion, mass media, the family. The military is what one could probably call the overt form of control in our society, by which the state guarantees and ensures the rights of those people who have power in our society by dominating and controlling those who do not have power. And in our society I think you must accept that this 'power' we are talking about is linked to the group of people in our society who own property, who are rich, who are the capitalists.

If you are talking about militarisation in a global sense, you have to

go back to the fact that at the end of the Second World War there was a great outcry against war; there was public condemnation of Hitler's extermination camps and of the use of atomic warfare. But, in spite of the Nuremberg trials and the experience of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—the idea that war is a way of solving problems between races, between nations, that militarism, or the use of violence is a way of solving problems, has not died down. In fact, the tragedy of our history is, I think, that even after the devastation of the Second World War—except for a brief period in the 1950s since the 1960s we have seen the rapid escalation of militarism and of the use of war and violence as a means of controlling and subordinating one group of people by another group of people all over the world. There are some statistics which show that since the end of the Second World War, 9 million people have died in what are officially recognised as wars. 10 times more people have died in what are 'unrecognised wars' all over the world, which are conflicts of many different

by

kinds communal, ethnic, border struggles, struggles for national liberation. We must also be very clear that the growth of militarisation and militarism in our world is very closely linked to the development of capitalism; and the way in which capitalism has, particularly in the post-colonial period, tried to enter our societies economically and politically. For example, I think in many countries in Asia you can see that the spread of what we are now calling an open economic policy as a part of the strategy of developing our society has always been accompanied by an insistence on political stability and on social stability. And that political stability and that social stability has always been achieved at the cost of one group of people. In some countries where ethnic differentiation is not so great it has been achieved at the cost of subordinating the broad mass of the working people in those countries; in Sri Lanka, I think (and there have been some attempts already made to study this) the whole thrust of capitalist economic development and this whole stress on political stability has meant in many ways the heightening of ethnic differentiation and the growth of ethnic conflict in our society.

It is also important to see how, since the end of the Second World

War, there has been the growth of what we call super-power rivalry, and the various spin offs of that rivalry. The U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. have been vying with each other, globally, for access to various spheres of influence, particularly in Third World countries, for access to the use of raw materials and sources of energy. And we must pay special attention to the phenomenal growth in the arms industry. Today, there are many countries in the world for example, the U.S.A., Israel, the Federal Republic of Germany for whom a large part of their gross national product comes from the manufacture and sale of arms to other countries. Therefore there is what you now call a military-industrial complex. And so it becomes really important for the maintenance of those societies, for the maintenance of the capitalist economy, to keep on manufacturing and selling arms to particularly Third World countries where these types of violent conflicts are proliferating. It is a kind of war-mongering, a spreading of war which is what, as women, I think we should be

Sunila Abayasekera

particularly concerned about. Because it is not only something which affects us individual women, but it brings along with it a certain way of looking at life; and I think that as women, we are the givers of life, and therefore, we have a feeling for not taking away life. Perhaps some people may think this is a very subjective or emotional way to approach this question, but I think we should discuss this aspect of militarisation and what it does to us as women as well. In the face of this war-mongering and the growth of militarisation, and the growth in the use of violence as a way of resolving conflicts, we must ask ourselves why do we feel so strongly about it. Is it a purely romantic vision or saying No to violence? Or is it that we do have a specific vision of peace and non-violence with which we can counter this type of war-mongering which is not only an attitude but is a very real ideology, coupled with political and economic interests.

When we talk about militarisation, as women, particularly in the context of Sri Lanka today, it is important to realise that it is a way of life, a way of thought that makes arms, and the bearing of arms, a normal part of

our life. And that I think is very frightening. Because what it means is that after seeing, day after day, armed men on every street corner, in the market, in the Post Office, in the Pharmacy, it just becomes a way of life. And very soon, it is not only the army but even other people bearing arms, and it becomes just a normal event. And arms and violence become just another way of coping with the different problems that you confront in this society; and particularly I think in Sri Lanka we have seen a tremendous escalation in this since 1970, since 1971 to be exact. When the Sri Lankan state confronted with the JVP Insurrection was in 1971, the army was totally unprepared for it; it was the first time the army made the move from being a purely decorative instrument which went on parade on Independence Day to being a group that actually fought, and died in fighting, for the security of the state. And since that time I think we have seen a rapid increase in expenditure on arms and the army until this year we are spending something like 15% of our national budget on defence; this is an addition to all the monies passed as supplementary estimates and from the Presidential fund etc.

Together with the increased military presence, you have the growth of Civilians bearing arms and the increase in the buying and selling of firearms. I am sure you all have heard of the many stories about the wheeling and dealing that is going on with various foreign and local arms dealers who are flying in and out of Colombo all the time.

The move, for Creating Home Guards and giving arms to civilians is another part of this whole process of militarisation. These are politically appointed persons and the abuses of power on their part have been well documented.

Another problem of the state's reliance on the armed forces to protect it and defend it in this process of militarisation is that it is very possible that the armed forces go beyond the control of the state—and you find that army personnel can go on rampage and be unpunished for example, because the state is not in a position to exercise discipline or authority on them.

In our situation, because of the ethnic conflict it is very possible for the state to use nationalism and patriotism as justification for militarising our society. And I think

(Continued on page 10)

SRI LANKA ARMY'S SCORE CARD FOR '86

1-11-'86 **Valvettiturai**: A helicopter fires on Hindu devotees at the Sivan and Murugan temples at dawn on Deepavali day. 10 persons are injured.

1-11-'86—4-11-'86 **Periyaporativu**: On 31st October, Security Forces had suffered a mine attack in which eight Service-men were injured. Later Security Forces surround the village and arrest 65 persons. Bomber planes and Helicopters attack. Four houses are destroyed. 1500 persons flee as refugees.

Kaluwanchikudi: Security Forces arrest about 100 persons and take them as a cover.

Palugamam, Munaithivu and Porativu: Five houses are damaged by Helicopter attacks. 20,000 residents flee in fear.

Kokkatcholai: Security Forces establish temporary camps at Manalpidi, Ambilanthurai, Manmunai and Unnichai using large numbers of Tamil civilians as a cover. Security Forces set fire to some shops. Three persons including a woman are injured in random firing. Persons arrested numbering about 200 include Government, Bank, Postal employees and Teachers.

At Ambilanthurai a man and a woman are shot dead by Security Forces.

The Citizen's Committees of Batticaloa and Amparai protest to the Sri-Lankan President over the extensive attacks by Bomber planes and helicopters causing damage to property and suffering to the citizens, and the action of Special Task Force in forcing the persons arrested numbering about 200 being forced to walk a distance of over 30 miles to Batticaloa ill clad and shouting anti Eelam Slogans and as a cover for the Security Forces.

1-11-'86: **Palaiuttu**: Trincomalee: 180 persons are arrested by Security Forces and removed to the Army Camp.

2-11-'86 **Ambilanthurai**: Two persons including a woman are killed when fired at from a helicopter.

3-11-'86 **Point - Pedro**: T. Guna-sundaram a 50 year old fisherman fishing off the coast is shot dead by Security Forces.

3-11-'86 **ARAIAMPATHY**: Batticaloa: Two persons arrested by the Security Forces are shot dead. Their bodies are removed to the Army Camp. One of the persons shot dead is a 16 year old student. Appeals by next of kin for the release of the dead bodies are re-

fused. 60 other persons are also arrested.

4-11-'86 **Jaffna**: Security Forces fire shells on the environs of the Jaffna Bazaar from about 2-30 A.M. A branch of the People's Bank is hit. Office equipment and records are destroyed. One house and four business establishments are also hit and damaged. Four persons are injured.

4-11-'86 **Nilaveli**: Security Forces surround village and arrest 57 persons.

5-11-'86 **Patchainool: Mutur**: Two militants are killed in a confrontation with Security Forces.

6-11-'86 **Coast off Thalvupadu: Mannar**: 17 dead bodies of men and women in a highly decomposed state are found by fishermen. They are believed to be of refugees shot dead by Navy personnel. The fishermen inform the Government Agent, Mannar and bury the dead bodies. Government Communique refugees "returning from India probably killed in a boat mishap."

Even a conservative estimate of those perished in the July 1983 Holocaust would number 2000. Since then the number of persons killed have been increasing unprecedentedly. In 1986 alone the Security Forces have killed 2807. The average being 233 persons per month, or 7 persons per day.

Here we publish a diary of important events for the month of November 1986. In November 219 persons were killed.

6-11-'86 **Thurainilavanai: Amparai**: Special Task Force personnel surround a village and arrest 300 persons. Four persons are shot dead. Their bodies are later recovered from the river. Among those arrested are a woman and 10 school going children, 110 persons are later released. Velmurugu of the T.U.L.F. protests the wanton killing and the mass arrests.

6-11-'86 **Thurainilavanai**: Special Task Force personnel surround a school and arrest six teachers. Finding a T-Shirt with a tiger emblem in a house, Koneswari, a 19 year old girl student in the house, is arrested.

6-11-'86 **Vavuniya**: Security Forces surround a carpentry workshop and arrest 10 workers. Timber and furniture are confiscated.

7-11-'86 **Valvettiturai**: Navy boats erring men and supplies to the Army Camp from 3 cannon boats anchored in the sea are attacked by militants and are forced to retreat. Later Navy personnel arrest some fishermen fishing in the sea and use them as a cover to land. Shells are fired for several hours

on the environs of the town from the Army Camp and the gun boats. Helicopters strafe and shell. Public life comes to a stand still. Nine persons are injured. Over a hundred houses suffer damage.

7-11-'86 **Ratnapuram: Kilinochchi**: Security Forces in hiding open fire on a party repairing a road on a self help basis. A school Teacher, a Woman and another are injured.

9-11-'86 **Eravur**: Special Task Force personnel surround certain villages and arrest about 100 persons.

9-11-'86 **Koduwadadu**: Government Communique—"terrorist" who flings a grenade at Security Forces is shot dead.

10-11-'86 **Periyapullumalai**: Five Servicemen are killed in a land mine attack. In reprisals 23 men women and children under 12 years of age, the youngest being a 3 months old infant, 6 are females, two of them are raped before being killed. Another woman is also

raped. The whereabouts of 24 persons arrested by the Security Forces are not known. 15 houses and 3 shops are destroyed. In an earlier incident, on 20th May the army camp was attacked by militants resulting in the death of 3 servicemen. In retaliation, two civilians were killed and 140 houses and 16 shops were looted and destroyed. The houses and shops were being repaired with state assistance. Sinhalese thugs damage and loot over a lakh worth of building materials. 2000 persons are rendered homeless and flee as refugees to Eravur. On demands made by the Batticaloa Citizen's Committee for an impartial inquiry, a Police and Army inquiry is ordered.

10-11-'86 **Akkaraipattu**: At about 10 P.M. shots are fired on a hut. A 10 year old Tamil girl is killed. Her mother is grievously injured. Later armed men in army uniform who pass by pretend to be ignorant of the shooting. Security Forces who call on the following day collect all empty cartridges in the vicinity, and blame militants for the shooting.

11-11-'86 **Kiran**: Some special Task Forces personnel are injured in a confrontation with militants. Later, six civilians are killed.

13-11-'86 **Wellawatte: Colombo**: A Colombo University professor and 4 other occupants in his house (all Tamils) are arrested by the Police allegedly for involvement in a case of kidnapping of a Tamil at Jaffna last year. The 5 are detained under the P.T.A.

14-11-'86 **Kilinochchi**: 200 Security Forces arrest 150 farmers and using them as a cover move to Ganesapuram. Mahendran who on seeing Security Forces flees in fear is shot dead.

Nov. '86 **Nilaveli: Kumburupiddi**: 6th. Mile Post In Trincomalee: Security Forces during search operations in these areas arrest over 300 persons 200 are released after questioning. 70 of those held are removed to the army camp at Fort Frederick.

14-11-'86 **Akkaraipattu**: Government Communique-3 "terrorists" are killed by special Task Force men in an ambush.

16-11-'86 **Tirukovil**: Government Communique - 2 "terrorists" who attack Security Forces shot dead.

17-11-'86 **Tirukovil**: Security Forces fire on a tractor killing two persons.

18-11-'86 **Tirukovil**: Special Task Forces in civilian dress arrest several. Two of them are beaten to death and later shot. The dead bodies are removed to camp.

19-11-'86 **Valaichchenai**: Two Tamils are shot dead by Special Task Force personnel on patrol. The bodies are removed in their vehicle.

19-11-'86 **Sammanthurai**: Militants attack the Police Station. 4 home guards are killed. Sections of the Police station building are damaged. 49 Tamils of 11 families are forced to evacuate their homes in close proximity to the Police station.

21-11-'86 **Jaffna**: Incendiary shells are fired by the Security Forces stationed at the Fort intermittently from morning without any provocation into the Bazaar area. A hotel employee is killed in the morning. Two Muslim youths and a businessman are killed in the evening. 10 shops are hit and suffer extensive damage. Some buildings which catch fire are doused by the fire brigade. 10 persons are injured.

21-11-'86 **Mullaitivu District**: 22-11-'86, 23-11-'86 A 24 hour curfew is declared in the District 23-11-'86 Commencing 6 A.M. on 21st November and again for seven hours from 6 A.M. on 23-11-'86.



Muliyawalai Poonthoddam Thanniuttu: Security Forces in large numbers are engaged in a search operation. Four arrested persons are put into a vacant house with hands tied and shot dead. Four others are killed by helicopter fire. Several houses and a rice mill are destroyed by aerial bombardment.

Kumulamunai; Alampit; Semmalai: The villages are surrounded by about 1500 servicemen drawn from the Dollar, Kent and Padaviya Army camps. Security Forces loot and destroy houses and shops. Several

way to work in close proximity to the Hospital premises. Later at about 10.30 A.M. 2 persons aged 47 and 70 in the bazaar area are hit and killed by shells. 8 persons are injured several shops also suffer damage. Government Communique—In retaliation for fierce attack on the Fort army camp shells are fired. 8 terrorists and 3 civilians are killed.

23-11-'86. Batticaloa: A young carpenter released from detention at the Kallady Army Camp arrives at Boundary Road back at home. Within

are arrested and removed to the Kallady Army Camp.

25-11-'86 PARANTHAN: Three workers of the Paddy Research Centre are shot dead near their place of work by Security Forces on foot patrol. Another person is arrested and removed. Later, the dead body of the arrested person is recovered from a well in a decomposed state.

26-11-'86 TIRUKOVIL: Michael Collin aged 17 years, arrested at

28-11-'86 VEERAMUNAI: Sammanthurai: 50 persons are arrested by Special Task Force personnel during a search operation.

28-11-'86 Tirukovil: Special Task Force personnel suffer a mine attack in which some are injured. Special Task Force personnel in retaliation open fire killing 2 youths and an aged person. The body of the aged person is thrown into a river, while the bodies of the 2 youths are removed to the Army Camp. 40 persons are also arrested.

28-11-'86 Sammanthurai 32 persons including 11 Muslim students of the Technical College are arrested.

29-11-'86 Thondamanaru: N. Mylvaganam aged 71 years, an ex-Chairman of the Town Council is hit and killed by a shell fired by the Security Forces.

30-11-'86 Kallady: Batticaloa: Area where houses put up under a housing scheme are situated is surrounded by Security Forces. 135 including Government servants are arrested and removed to the Army Camp.

30-11-'86 Karaitivu: Youth informed by his mother that Security Forces are engaged in a search and advised to flee is shot dead by Security Forces. Two persons are arrested.

30-11-'86: Puliyanikulam: Security Forces fire on farmers congregated at the market square. Two persons are killed and Six injured. Nine persons are arrested—Government Communique—Security Forces return fire when attacked one killed Nine arrested.

30-11-'86 Senaikudiruppu: Batticaloa: Over 15 persons including women are arrested by Security Forces.

2807 KILLED

persons are shot dead. Several women are raped by Security Forces in black uniform. Several persons are arrested and removed.

Kumulamunai: 30 persons are arrested and marched towards the Dollar Farm army camp. The arrested person are forced to carry items looted by the Security Forces. In all, 18 persons including 3 militants are killed. Over 600 persons are arrested.

Valaichchenai: Special Task Force personnel masquerading as Muslims open fire killing 3 Tamils.

21-11-'86. Araampathy Batticaloa: Persons who flee in fear on seeing an army patrol are fired at. Two persons are killed and three arrested.

21-11-'86 NAVATKUDAH: Batticaloa, Government Communique Two terrorists are shot dead by Security Forces in a confrontation. 12 are arrested.

22-11-'86 ARAIYAMPATHI: Batticaloa. Special Task Force personnel arrest Sundarasiva a 16 year old student of the Sivananda Mahavidyalayam and remove him in their jeep. At Nochchimunai the boy is ordered to get off the jeep. The boy hesitates and is pushed out of the jeep and shot dead. The dead body is removed by the Special Task Force personnel.

22-11-'86. Puthukudiruppu: The village is bombed by bomber planes. One person is killed. Three persons are injured and hospitalised. Several houses are damaged.

22-11-'86. Jaffna: For the second consecutive day shells are fired intermittently by the Security Forces stationed at the Jaffna Fort. At about 6.30 A.M. a hospital employee is hit and killed by a shell when on his

minutes Special Task Force personnel rush into his house. The young carpenter is pulled out on to the road and is shot dead despite of his pleadings that he had been just released from detention. Another Youth and a 50 year old woman are shot dead in random firing. 20 persons are injured. 75 persons are arrested. Security Forces remove the dead bodies. Requests made by the Citizen's Committee for the release of the bodies is refused. This in spite of a recent assurance given by the Minister of Internal Security that dead bodies would be delivered to the next of kin or the Citizen's Committee.

23-11-'86 AKKARAIPATTU and THAMBILUVIL: Security Forces surround villages and arrest 300 persons and remove them to the camp. 3 persons are shot dead. Of those arrested 270 persons are released on the following day. 30 are further detained.

24-11-'86 VAVUNIYA: Some persons who see Security Forces in hiding in the Bazaar area, flee in fear. Security Forces open fire. A 20 year old girl hit in the chest succumbs to her injuries.

24-11-'86 KALUWANCHIKUDI: 17 persons are arrested by Security Forces during a search operation.

24-11-'86 KILINCHCHI: Security Forces in hiding beckon two passers-by to approach. One of them who flees through fear is shot dead. The other is released after questioning.

24-11-'86 TIRUKOVIL: Security Forces and militants are engaged in a confrontation. Later Security Forces fire at random killing five persons. 10 are arrested.

25-11-'86 BATTICALOA: Security Forces surround the area near Boundary Road. About 50 persons

Akkaraipattu is brought in a jeep and shot dead. His body is removed to the camp.

27-11-'86 KARUVAKERNI: Valaichchenai: Over 300 Security Forces surround village in the early hours. Over 75 youths are arrested and removed to the Army Camp. 61 persons are released after questioning. 14 are further detained.

Nov. '86. SURIGANKERNI: Mutur: Six persons are killed by Security Forces during a search operation.

Nov. '86. KADDAIPARICHCHAN: Mutur: Security Forces fire on youths engaged in fishing. Two are shot dead. Others escape.

Nov. '86. TRINCOMALEE: Four Bank employees are arrested by the Security Forces.

PATHIRANA MURDER

STUDENT UNION ACCUSES JVP

Excerpts from a press statement issued by the Independent Student Union on the murder of its President, Daya Pathirana:

About 6-30 p.m. on the 15th of December, 1986 (poya day) Pathirana and another Comrade had been taken away by the J.V.P. Students of the Sri Jayawardenapura University for a pre-arranged talk to be held at an yet unknown place. Pathirana and his mate Comrade P. R. Somasiri (V.C.) left the Campus about 6.30 p.m. with those two and had been compelled to get into a Hi-Ace van opposite the Campus at gunpoint. The fact was revealed by Comrade Somasiri whose neck had been severely cut but has managed to survive.

The above talk had been arranged since about the 10th of the month. Having been forced into the van they had been forcibly taken away by about 8 people in the same van (the exact number is not known) and on the way the two

J.V.P. students had been forced out of the vehicle (which is the statement of the J.V.P.) which we think must be a tactic of the whole operation.

Thereafter they had been taken to Bandaragama (about 20 miles off Colombo) and thereafter to a riverside where Pathirana had been cut on his neck till he died and the other Comrade's neck also had been severely cut.

According to his evidence the operation has been to kill the two and dump them into the river. But it had to be given up on the way as some people had been passing by at that moment round about 8.15 p.m. Pathirana had died on the spot and the other had been found about an hour later and rushed to the Colombo General Hospital.

During the last two months the J.V.P. (the newspaper 'Mallma') and the Desapramy Student Movement had been boasting that they would entirely annihilate the Independent Student Union.

KILINOCHCHI KILLINGS

Here we publish a list of persons shot dead by the Security Forces in Kilinochchi during the period 25-1-'86 to 9-10-'86.

Name of the deceased	Date shot dead.	Name of dependants	Address
1. Somasegaram Jeyaseelan, 23 yrs.	25-1-86	Mr.P. Somasegeram.	1 st Lane,Mullaitivu-Road, Paranthan.
2. Nalliah Rupathasan, 11 yrs.	25-1-86	Mr. A.Arunachalam	Uthayanagar,Kilinochchi
3. K. Thangammah, 61 yrs.	25-1-86	Mr.T.Kulasegaram	10A. Kanagapuram, Kilinochchi.
4. R. Alagiah, 49 yrs.	25-1-86	Mrs. A. Packiam	156th Mile Post,Kilinochchi
5. Pandiyan Sivaguru, 26 yrs.	25-1-86	Mrs.S. Rasamani	Bharathipuram, Kilinochchi.
6. Thuraisamy Kathirgamar, 20 yrs.	25-1-86	R. Thuraisamy	Udayanagar,Kilinochchi
7. Thavarajah Suhandini, 18 yrs.	25-1-86	Miss. Suwgini	246/3,Murasumoddai, Paranthan.
8. Nagarajah Sinnamany, 40 yrs.	25-1-86	Miss. Suwgini. M.	do
9. Somasunderam Jayaseelan	25-1-86	P. Somasunderam	25, Vaddakachchi
10. Muthiah Manoharan, 28 yrs.	25-1-86	V. Muthiah	69, Jayanthinagar, Kilinochchi.
11. Shanmugam Krishnaraj, 09 yrs,	1-2-86	Mrs. S. Puwaneswary	559,Unit 7,Tharmapuram
12. Kandiah Sellakili, 17 yrs.	2-2-86	V.Kandiah	241, Sivasunderam Road, Vaddakachchi.
13. K. Tharmakulasingham	2-2-86	Mrs. T. Ambikai	do
14. Manickam Asayan, 38 yrs.	6-2-86	Mrs. A. Parasakthy	Putur East, Putur.
15. S. T. Gnanathickam, 21 yrs.	16-3-86	Sandanam Thomas	D-2, Kilinochchi.
16. Sundaram Shanmuganathan, 26 yrs.	16-3-86	Mr. S. Ratnam	214,Redd Barna Viswamadu.
17. S. Mylvaganam,22 yrs.	16-3-86	V. Subramaniam	Iranaimadu Jct. Kilinochchi.
18. Christopher Noel, 28 yrs.	4-4-86	Mrs.N. Jeevamalar	Kanagapuram, Kilinochchi.
19. T. Selvarasa, 24 yrs.	7-5-86	Mrs. T. Sellammah	Paraviapanchan, Kilinochchi
20. Chinniah Suppiah, 33 yrs.	7-5-86	Mrs. S. Ampika	Uthayanagar,Kilinochchi.
21. Sinniah Rasalingam, 28 yrs.	4-6-86	Mrs.R.Mynawathie	132,Thirunagar, Kilinochchi.
22. Marimuthu Mathavan, 21 yrs.	4-6-86	L. Marimuthu	Vairavarkovilady, D-2, Kilinochchi.
23. Ratnam Muthukrishnan, 34 yrs.	4-6-86	Mrs. M. Eeswary	253, Thirunagar, Kilinochchi.
24. Ramalingam Sivakumar, 19 yrs.	4-6-86	Mrs. R. Navamani	Anandapuram, Kilinochchi.
25. Muthali Tharmalingam 56, yrs.	4-6-86	Mrs. T.Sellammah	Paravipanchan Kilinochchi.
26. A. Anthonisamy	4-6-86	Mrs. A. Vaisooriam	Bharathipuram, Kilinochchi.
27. K Loganathan	4-6-86	Mrs. L.Rupamalar	Bharathipuram. Kilinochchi.
28. Periyampillai Kalanathan, 10 yrs.	4-6-86	Mrs. P. Kanaga-	Depot Road,Kilinochchi-many
-do Sentilkumar 8 yrs.	"	"	"
-do Pushpanathan 6 yrs.	"	"	"
-do Bawani 04 yrs.	"	"	"
-do Kiruban 01 yr.	"	"	"
29. B. Anpalakan 27 yrs.	4-6-86	Mrs. B.Selvarani	480, Thirunagar, Kilinochchi.
30. Dias Paul Jacob 23 yrs.	4-6-86	Joseph Paul J.	87, Thirunagar, Kilinochchi.
31. P. Shanmuganathan	4-6-86	Mrs. P. Kamadhcy	D-4, Paranthan.
32. Ramasamy Manickam 24 yrs.	4-6-86	Mrs. M. Valliam-	D-3, Kilinochchi.mah
33. M. Jeyasingam 26 yrs.	4-6-86	Mrs. J. Yogeswary	Redd Barna,Viswamadu.
34. Sinniah Sivagnanam 42 yrs.	5-6-86	Mrs. S. Sellammah	56, Ganesapuram, Kilinochchi.
35. I. Siluvaimuthu 47 yrs.	5-6-86	Mrs. Antonyam-	Choola Kamam, D-4, Kilinochchi.mah
36. S. M. Vethanayagam	5-6-86	Mrs. V. Mariam-	Civic Centre, Uruthirapuram
37. R. Shanmuganathan	5-6-86	Mrs. M. Kamales-	Urelu West,Chunnakam.wary
38. Santhiyapillai Mariamah 82 yrs.	6-6-86	Mary Josephine	36, Thirunagar, Kilinochchi.
39. C. Velauthapillai	6-6-86	V. Ambika	Ganesapuram, Kilinochchi.
40. G. Jeyaraj, 25 yrs. G. Thevaraj 20 yrs.	6-6-86	K. Govindaraj	39, Thirunagar, Kilinochchi.
41. Nicholas Antonypillai	6-6-86	Mrs. A. Edwinisi-	97, Civic Centre, Urithi-ammah. six dau-rapuram.ghters.
42. K. Shanmuganathan 36 yrs.	7-6-86	Mrs. S.Vasantha-	Kandy Road Kilinochchi.malar. 4 chiidren
43. A. Raveendran 16 yrs.	7-6-86	A. Arunasalam	Uthayanagar, Kilinochchi.
44. A. Logeswary 11 yrs.	8-6-86	R. Appadurai	196, Jayanthinagar, Kilinochchi.
45. C. Asirwatham 40 yrs.	18-6-86	Mrs. A. Mary Emilda	142, Hudson Road, Vaddakachehi.
46. M. Gnanapragasam 25 yrs.	19-6-86	Mrs. G. Krishna-	97, Civic Centre, Uruthi-kumary, 23 yrs. rapuram.
47. S. Thiagarajah	19-6-86	Mrs. T. Thanga-	123, Thirunagar, Kilinochchi.mmah
48. K. Ketheeswaran	28-6-86	Mrs. N. Kathira-	Selva Nagar, Kilinochchi.Velautham
49. V. Balasubramaniam	28-6-86	A. Vythilingam	Kodikamam. Paranthan.
50. S. Kanagasabai	28-6-86	Mrs. K. Annam-	Poonakari Road, Paranthan.mah
51. M. Uthayasooriyan	28-6-86	Mrs. M. Munisamy	D-4, Paranthan.
52. N. Nadarajah 63 yrs.	28-6-86	Mrs. N. Nagam-	Kumarapuram, Paranthan.mah

(Continued on page 11)

THE COLOMBO SCENE

LION'S SHARE

The well advertised New York joust between the Minister for National Security and the Amnesty International which took place in December has been much shrouded in mystery. The Colombo press has graciously let us know what the Minister told the AI. The AI in previous statements had given damning replies to the Minister's contention that Tamil people had recourse to justice under the law and that all complaints about human rights violations are investigated (see SR, 15th November 1986).

Reports reaching Colombo say that the Sri Lanka Association of New York which organised the meeting had assured the AI that though the AI spokesman will speak before the minister, time would later be given for the spokesman to reply to the minister. The AI had also been assured that there will be a Tamil spokesman. What happened in the event was that there was no Tamil spokesman. The AI spokesman stuck to the given time limit. The Minister went well past his time limit and no attempt was made to stop him. Then came the unkindest cut. To the AI's disbelief its spokesman was not given the chance to reply—lack of time would have been as good a reason as any. It is understood that the AI will be issuing a statement.

The minister did not play cricket—not an ex parte game. But he certainly had the Lion's share.

ECCLESIASTICAL FOLLIES

Gordon Shaw from the BCC (British Council of Churches) was in

Colombo and was meeting the NCC (National Christian Council) to be briefed on the ethnic problem. In his address Gordon Shaw said that there was so much racism in Britain, that Britain was not best qualified to Counsel Sri Lanka on its ethnic problem.

Arriving late, after Shaw's address, the Rt. Rev. Swithin Fernando, Bishop of Colombo, spoke on what a privilege it is for us to have Gordon Shaw from the BCC to advise us on our problems, coming as he does from a country with excellent race relations! Gordon Shaw kept a diplomatic silence.

In another event, at the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) meeting held in Dacca, Bangladesh, the Korean Secretary of the CCA briefed the meeting on the aims, functions and activities of the CCA and invited questions from the participants. A leading Methodist Churchman from this country stood up and after referring to the incidental expenses incurred by the participants in order to be present, wished to know when these will be reimbursed.

POSH SCHOOLS FOR POSH FOLK

Just as schools in the old days were classified into English schools and vernacular schools, the new trend seems to be towards International schools and Local schools. The former have now grown to 3 in number, the latest being Wycheley down Bullers Road. What is notable is that the latter and the one down Gregory's Rd. are patronised overwhelmingly by local pupils. Fees charged per pupil amount to Rs. 6000/- per term in the

lower classes. It would cost a graduate teacher his entire pay packet in fees alone to send a child such a school. How these schools function is a mystery as the education act prescribes the mother tongue as the medium of instruction whilst these international schools use English.

To be realistic there are an increasing number of Ceylonese returning from abroad having teen-age children who cannot fit in into swabasha instruction. Besides with the country becoming increasingly dependent on the west the importance of English has increased. The science based courses in the Universities have not succeeded in switching to swabasha and the humanities faculties feel a pressing need to improve proficiency in English. Hence there is good reason for providing greater exposure to English in our schools from an early stage.

This would require greater investment in education, more training opportunities for teachers, and facing the challenge of providing an education responsive to the needs of the nation will call for teaching profession with a sense of mission.

The government has slunk from facing this problem squarely and is content to let the rich have what they want and let the others be damned.

What we have today is a government spending Rs. 4.5 billion per year on education as opposed to Rs. 10-15 billion on so called defence. What we have is an impoverished and demoralised teaching profession burdened with the task of minding the young and the nation's future.

Paid less than a living wage a teacher has two choices. Mark time in school and concentrate on private tuitions or join an international school. This is the really disturbing thing about our international schools. Is our education system to be run down starved of motivated teachers and funds, whilst those who can pay send their children to international schools which cream off the more able teachers?

With University teachers up in arms over salaries and with the prospect of an American University setting up a campus in Ceylon, what next? International Universities and National Universities?

REACH FOR THE TOP

Remember the time after the bombings in mid-'86 when the security forces were deployed to stop and search civilians in Colombo? Tamils without identity cards used to be lined up and made to perform humiliating acrobatics. It all mysteriously came to an end. An observer had this to say. A Tamil businessman with a good line to the top was once stopped by the army. The officer who looked at his identity card told him, "I am now letting you go. But we know where to find you". The businessman promptly drove to the highest in the land to make his complaint. On another occasion two tipsy men in a car, well up in the establishment, were also harassed. These checks soon came to a sudden halt.

Here is the moral. If you want redress in this country, do not bother to go to the Police. Do not bother to go to the courts. Take your chance. Go straight to the top.

—Archimedes

Talking Peace And Playing...

(Continued from page 4)

the cause of wickedness. When it comes to the crunch many of them will stand behind the editor of the Island, who has said, "... the time has come where the government cannot yield anymore even if there is a threat to civilian life." (Sun. Island 4-1-87).

GUNATILLEKA'S ARTICLE

A senior political analyst with a long record of media experience both locally and in the West took strong exception to the article 'The two paths before us' by Godfrey Gunatilleka (Part II in Lanka Guardian, 1 Sept. 1986). It reads:

"The recent acts of terror committed by militant groups and directed indiscriminately against civilians have been different from almost all other manifestations of violence that we have witnessed, whether they be army reprisals or mob violence or isolated acts of violence, ... However in the strategy of terrorist violence which we have recently witnessed, there is a deliberate and premeditated rejection of all human considerations which are not amenable to the controls and sanctions normally available to society..."

"The terrorist acts in the South have created an environment of distrust and suspicion which is affecting

all Sinhala Tamil relations. Tamils living in areas outside the North and East engaged in their legitimate occupations and pursuing their normal activities tend to be perceived collectively as Security risks."

"The response to the brutality of the terrorist acts committed by militant groups has to be balanced by an honest recognition of the tragic conditions in the North and East. The action of the security forces to deal with the present situation is resulting in the deaths of many civilians, ... It has been pointed out that the aerial and naval attacks have been essentially efforts to provide protective cover for troops who were carrying out security operations."

"...The state must act clearly on the assumption that the death of civi-

lians and the damage to property in the course of military action calls for some form of relief and rehabilitation..."

The analyst observed that writing of this kind may be expected from a well-meaning person fed by the Colombo press. But from a person like Godfrey Gunatilleka who has been on the Ceasefire Monitoring Committee, the C.C.N.H and has the benefit of a huge research organisation (Marga Institute) under him, it is far from honest. Being on the Ceasefire Monitoring Committee he would have seen at first hand the deliberate government policy of depopulating the Eastern province of Tamils. What else could the government's threat to settle

(Continued on page 11)

HAZARDS OF CONSCIENCE-KEEPING

Editor
SATURDAY REVIEW

I write this with regard to an article written by Mr. Rajan Hoole in the S. R. of 3rd January, 'Looking Back At 1986'. Mr. Hoole appears to have taken on himself the arduous task of being the keeper of the moral conscience of the Tamil race. It ill suits him. More specifically I would like to take issue with some of the observations that he has made in the article referred to.

There have been some unfortunate attempts by our own people to create division between the Tamils of the North and East. This is of course in addition to the efforts of the Government. Mr. Hoole has conveyed the impression of a friend that the people of the Peninsula in their relative security are unconcerned about the travails of the people in the East. In the same vein it could be asked whether the people of the East were concerned when the peninsula was in the teeth of the storm in '84 and early '85. This is pointless. Of course the people of both areas are concerned about the other. Unfortunately the means of expressing such solidarity in the midst of the situation we live in is not easy. The Tamil papers naturally gave prominence to news within the peninsula because they are based in the peninsula. If Mr. Hoole, through his contacts, could ensure that accurate information from the East is obtained quickly I am confident that the papers will give them equal

prominence. They in fact do as good a job as possible already.

Mr. Hoole makes reference to the recent storm in the University and lauds the attempts of the students in striving for idealism and for fighting for principles. The recent 'disappearance' of Vijitharan was most unfortunate and the perpetrators should be condemned. That, however, does not mean that the many problems such as indiscipline that exists within the Campus ought to be glossed over. In trying to downplay the problems of the students

LETTERS

in the University, Mr. Hoole is revealing that he is not an impartial observer. Being a University Lecturer I suppose he cannot be. Strangely though it is from sources within the University that one hears of the many problems there. Before trying to set the world right, the staff and students of the University must first set their own house in order so that the University could truly lead us by example and show us the way forward.

In his article the writer goes on to try and show that there are innumerable problems that exist within our Tamil society and to this end he quotes one Rev. Selvarajah's comments about the Jaffna ladies who went to Kandy. If Mr. Hoole need-

ed that to open his eyes, it's most unfortunate. Of course many Tamils are aware of the many social problems that exist. These have been present for years and will probably take years to solve. Nevertheless change is taking place and to deny that is to be unfair. This change has been most obvious since the riots of '83. No doubt the changes are slow but the fact that they are taking place augurs well.

Finally, I come to his reference to the recent meeting held with the N. C. C. delegation that visited Jaffna. He expresses the view that the N.C.C. delegation was treated somewhat unkindly by the speakers. I was at the meeting and I disagree. The delegation came to Jaffna to find out what the people here felt and wanted. Deeply felt views cannot be expressed with bland indifference. The speakers in expressing their views strongly meant no disrespect to the visitors and as far as I know no offence was taken either. It is only Mr. Hoole who is flogging an imaginary horse. Most astonishing however is Mr. Hoole's interpretation of the view of the parable of the good Samaritan as expressed by a 'leading ecclesiastic'. When Christ taught the parables he left their interpretation to his listeners. I do not think however that the 'leading ecclesiastic' was trying to downplay the importance of 'neighbourly love' when he quoted the example of the 'trap of the good Samaritan'. Rather than

'cleverly contriving to leave a question congenially hanging in the air to suit the current moral climate', the ecclesiastic was instead trying to show us how we have failed, how the Church has failed. We have always been content to bind the wounds and never try to do anything to prevent the infliction of those wounds. Is it irresponsibility or a lack of love, to work towards a situation where the healing kindness of a 'good Samaritan' becomes unnecessary? Or is it that Mr. Hoole believes that prevention is not better than cure? For readers of the article who were not present at that meeting this reference must have been quite baffling.

Mr. Hoole should get out of his intellectual cocoon and mix with the people whose conscience he tries to be and face up to the exigencies of reality. A reality that means that a 'ray of hope' is now smothered by the gloom of an economic blockade. In closing I would also like to ask him to spare a word of praise for the many Clergy both Catholic and Protestant who facing considerable personal risk are working amongst their people in the troubled North and East. Mr. Hoole needn't look to Kandy and Hendala alone for such examples.

Karainagar

'A Christian'

I. Y. S. H.

Editor
SATURDAY REVIEW

The year 1987 is being declared as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (I.Y.S.H.). It's a worthy cause and we salute you Mr. Prime Minister for initiating this project. Lord Buddha said Giving shelter for a homeless person is much more worthy than building shrines and dagobas for him.

In our country today houses are built on one side and on the other side houses are broken, demolished and burnt and people are driven out as refugees from their houses.

The expansion of various Army camps in the Peninsula have claimed the lives and properties of so many civilians living in and around those areas. The charred remains of buildings, houses, the scorched farm lands, tree stumps along the way are living monuments of their atrocities.

These houses are not built with the aid from World Bank, nor any grant from the Government, but the poor farmers blood, sweat and their entire life's savings went into building these houses. Hundreds and thousands of buildings, houses, shops are broken and burnt ever since the ethnic crisis cropped up in this country.

We appeal to you Mr. Prime Minister, allow us to live peacefully in our own homes. We do not ask for stylish homes or self contained plush apartments with all the modern comforts, but to live in our own humble homes with peace and dignity.

Your shelter for the homeless drive will be meaningless if one part of your countrymen are driven out and made homeless in their own homeland.

Chunnakam.

Selvi

Militarisation....

(Continued from page 5)

one of the issues we should address ourselves to, today, when we are on the subject of militarisation, is to look at it concretely; how far is it in our power to stop it—I personally don't think we can do anything to stop it. In that case, how far can we try to make people conscious about the negative aspects of militarisation; because I do think that we must learn from history; if one looks at countries which have been through for example wars of national liberation, militarism when it has been with people for some period of time, really does tremendous psychological damage to people. And if we are thinking at all of moving towards a society in which there will be equality and justice and the right of self-determination, a pluralistic society, we have to be very realistic in coping with the problem of what militarisation does

to us and what militarisation does to our society. Even in the event that there is a negotiated political solution to the ethnic conflict in our country, the state can say okay, come on, let's live together and all be friends, but it's not going to work like that because on both sides the polarisation has been tremendous and also this whole consciousness that violence is a way to solve problems, and that bearing arms is a way to solve problems has become a part of our lives. This has been said in our country by no other than the President and the Minister of National Security, for example; and this is why we must talk of militarisation, because it inculcates in people an attitude, a way of life, which is totally out of joint with, say a negotiated political settlement. And the other aspect of militarisation is that the state begins to rely more on the use of force and the use of organised state sponsored violence to control any type of dissent; through the PTA we see this very clearly—first of all they said it was against

the Tamil Tigers, and very soon it became the normal law of the land. And militarisation in our country, I must emphasise, is not a question of the north and the east alone, it is not a question of the suppression of the so-called terrorists in the Tamil areas, but it is a very clear way of controlling and subordinating whatever dissent there is within the country to a proposed way of development or a proposed path of growth, which serves the interests of the ruling class in our society. And I think that when we are talking about militarisation, we should be very clear that right now, it may seem to be very closely linked to the ethnic conflict in our country but it is not only to do with such ethnic conflict, it is in fact a much greater and broader problem. And I think we must also be clear about the way in which it is linked to the economic and political interests of capitalism, not only within Sri Lanka but also abroad.

Tell the people the truth

(Continued from page 3)

the structures of world domination and with the electors of governments of world domination, they too are responsible.

So we need transformation of the structures of world government, a new spirit of sharing and bearing with others, a new society and a new humanity.

We must break through the endless conflict, the endless violence, the people must break through, mobilise, protest, fast, demonstrate, for a political settlement, each side must listen, understand the other's need, the other's plight, each side must make concessions at cost, at sacrificial cost.

We must, somehow, hammer out some settlement that will stop the carnage, it will not be the end of the road, there will be other problems, the movement for development, justice and liberation must continue but unless we make some substantial settlement, some real reconciliation, however imperfect, of the ethnic conflict, there can be no real progress, in any other sphere of our common life.

This is the reality we must face and respond imaginatively, creatively, to save our people, our children future generations from destruction and death. We shall have to mobilise all our resources, resources of people,

masses of people on both sides, manipulated and used by leaders for their own ends, but retaining despite the stresses and strains a basic humanity and compassion.

We shall have to mobilise resources of true dharma, of temple, kovil, church and mosque, renewed and integrated in the context of modern aspirations for justice and liberation, acted out in understanding and love, before it is too late, we must speak out, act, fearlessly, urgently, and so out of the fire of fear and frenzy create a way to sanity and peace.

The following people have signed their acceptance of "Tell the People the Truth". They have signed in their individual capacities and not on behalf of the organisations to which they belong. It was not a mass signature campaign. Only a limited number of people have been approached, in a short space of time, as a representative cross-section of the general public.

1. Ven. Batapola Anomadassi Thero, Mahanayaka, Sri Kalyaniwansa Maha Nikaya. 2. Ven. Wahakula Somanandabhidana Thero, Chief Sangha Nayaka of Siyane Hapitigam Korale. 3. Ven. Udalumada Gunaratana Thero, Chief Sangha Nayaka of Northern and Eastern Provinces, President, Movement for National Harmony. 4. Ven. Wellawatte Gn-anabhiwansa Thero, Suvisuddharam-

aya, Colombo-6. 5. Ven. Kavisigamuwe Revatha Thero, Sri Siddhartharamaya, Ganeyaya, Morathiha. 6. Ven. Saddharmacharya Theripeha Dhammananda Thero, Viharadhipathi Sri Suvisuddharamaya, Gurudeniya. 7. Ven. Uduwara Saddhananda Thero, President, Vimukti Dharma Kendra, Cailathalaramaya. Uduwara, Horana. 8. Ven. Ampitiye Dhammakirithi Thero, President, Central Province Peace Committee, Matale. 9. Ven. Karmacharya Reddagoda Saranankara Thero, Korossa Raja Maha Viharaya, Dodangaslanda. 10. Ven. Ramunugedara Indasumana Thero, President, NWP Graduates Uni-

on, Sri Mangalaramaya, Dalupotha, gedara, Ambakote. 11. Ven. Keeran-thidiya Pragnasekera Thero, Mahameuna Viharaya, Galahitiya, Mol-kawa. 12. Ven. Badagiriye Medhananda Thero, Janatha Bhikshu Sammelanaya. 13. Ven. Buddhiyagama Chandraratana Thero, Bhikshu Peace Foundation, Kahandawa Viharaya, Ranna, Hambantota. 14. Ven. Batapola Nanda Thero, Janatha Bhikshu Sammelanaya. 15. Ven. Karambe Gunananda Thero, Janatha Bhikshu Sammelanaya. 16. Ven. J. J. Gnana-pragasam, Archdeacon of Colombo. 17. Ven. Christopher Ratnayake, Archdeacon of Kurunegala. 18. Revd. Fr. Paul Caspersz S. J. Satyodaya, Kandy. 19. Revd. Fr. Nihal Abeyasinghe, Santa Maria, George E. de Silva Mawata, Kandy. 20. Revd. Fr. E. Fernando S. J., Jesuit House, Colombo. 21. Revd. Fr. Aloy Vanderwall S. J., Jesuit House, Colombo.

(To be Continued)

Talking...

(Continued from page 9)

amongst these Tamils large contingents of armed Sinhalese amount to? To achieve the effects of genocide you need not kill hundreds of thousands. Killing a couple of hundreds and creating a climate of fear and servility will do the trick.

Violence by the militants is not the most malignant instance of the deliberate and premeditated kind. What can you call the government's policy that comes from the counsels of the highest?

Godfrey should have known that the distrust and suspicion of Tamils and the perception of them as security risks started not with the bombings of mid '86, but way back in '83. A practice of excluding Tamils from jobs in Colombo has operated since then.

Although liberal sentiments about peace and concern for civilians are strewn around in the article, its effect taken as a whole is to cleverly and subtly legitimise government policy and perpetuate the degradation of a section of our citizenry. His personal prestige and those of the institutions he represents have been deployed not in the cause of peace and justice, but towards something sinister and iniquitous.

THE CHURCH

Concerning the Church, an observer said, "by its silence on the unparalleled injustices in post independence Ceylon, and by making mere symbolic gestures for peace, the Church has acquiesced in a cover up rendering the government a crucial service. When a serious situation involving Tamil victims comes up for discussion, the Church leaders will agree that something must be done. A decision will

then be made to contact someone who knows Nissanka Wijeyratne or some Minister. That is for practical purposes the end of the matter."

I was told of an incident where Gordon Shaw from the British Council of Churches (BCC) was meeting our National Council of Churches (NCC) to be briefed on our ethnic problem. An invitee of the NCC described the problem to Shaw saying in effect that unlike in Britain where the law to a large extent afforded protection to all communities, experience has shown that protection afforded to the Tamils by the law in this country was negligible. The government policy towards the Tamil community was in effect state sponsored criminality. This policy he went on was aided by help in financial, military and intelligence matters provided to the Sri Lankan government by Britain. The BCC was urged to use its influence to good effect in curbing this source of oppression. This speech was backed by factual argument.

The Chairman of the Methodist conference apparently unmindful of the credentials of the invitee, followed up with some alarm, and proceeded to ridicule the invitee's speech as being effectively exaggerations and distortions. No serious effort was made by the others present to back invitee.

"You can see the direction of the Church", my observer said, "if they have the courage of conviction to take Christ seriously, they must go to the people, and tell the people that what is happening in this country is most unjust and unacceptable: that we must work urgently to seek and put right the principal sources of injustice. The Church has never tried this".

KILINOCHCHI KILLINGS

(Continued from page 8)

Name of the deceased	Date shot dead	Name of dependants	Address
53. N. Sathiyaseelan 23 yrs.	28-6-86	K. Nagendran	1st Lane, Mullaitivu Road, Paranthan.
54. A. Sivagnanasunderam 23 yrs.	29-6-86	V. Arumugam	Kandy Road, Paranthan
55. V. Shanmuganathan, 32 yrs.	12.7.86.	Mrs. S. Kamaladevi 29 yrs.	Civic Centre, Vaddakachchi.
56. M. Loganathan, 28 yrs.	13.7.86.	Mrs. L. Jayalaxmy. 24 yrs	58/6, Kanagapuram, Kilinochchi.
57. Sellan Iyadurai, 40 yrs.	13.7.86.	Mrs. I. Kunchammah 35 yrs. 4 children.	Thirunagar, Kilinochchi.
58. K. Thavanathan, 16 yrs.	15.7.86.	Mrs. K. Nagamani	Gurukulam refugee Camp, Kilinochchi.
59. P. Indrani.	25.8.86.	S. Manickam.	Gurukulam refugee Camp, Kilinochchi.
60. M. Mahalingam, 28 yrs.	25.8.86.	M. Kandiah.	32, Ganeshapuram, Kilinochchi.
61. A. Vishnunathan, 37 yrs.	25.8.86.	Mrs. V. Susheela-Devi, 35 yrs.	Ganeshapuram, Kilinochchi.
62. Ratnarajah Baskaran.	24.9.86	Mrs. B. Balasarawathie, Mas. B. Prabhakaran 4 yrs, Mas. B. Pratheepan 2 yrs., Miss. B. Prianthi 6 mths.	Emerson Road, Karadipokku, Kilinochchi.
63. Sinnasamy Subramaniam, 23 yrs.	3.9.86.	P. Sinnasamy.	Ambetenne Estate, Mathugama.
64. Chelliah Thavarajah, 30 yrs.	9.10.86.	Mrs. T. Thanalaxmy 26 yrs. 2 children 6&4 yrs.	D-4. Paranthan.

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

NEWS BRIEFS

Bribery At Barrier

Vehicles passing through the Elephant Pass Barrier are being subject to rigorous checking by the army. Men, women and children are forced to get off the buses and every conceivable bag is hauled out of the vehicles and thorough check made but so far with no results. The hardship which people undergo at the barrier after a long and arduous journey does not seem to be the concern of the Army. Passengers who leave Jaffna early in the morning seldom or never are able to travel by the connecting train at Vavuniya due to the inordinate delays at Elephant Pass. A traveller noticed a board prominently displayed at the Elephant Pass Check Point requesting people to report to the Commanding Officer of any member of the armed forces guilty of BRIBERY. We wonder what that is!

Memorial Lecture

The Dr. A. Vettivelu Memorial Lecture to be delivered at the North Lanka College of Medical Practitioners, fixed for to-day has been postponed to a later date which will be announced. The re-opening of the College has been postponed to 26th. January because of transport difficulties in the district.

632 MISSING

According to statistics furnished by the Batticaloa Citizens' Committee, 632 persons were "missing" since May 1986 in the Batticaloa and Amparai Districts after they had been taken into custody. Though representations had been made by the Committee to the authorities there had been no response.

Pregnant mother dies

Due to stoppage of fuel the ambulance at the Mallavi Hospital, Pallai could not be pressed into service to transport Kaliappan Packiam (22) who was 8 months pregnant and needed urgent medical attention at the

Jaffna Hospital. She was compelled to travel by CTB bus and died on the way. She leaves behind two children.

OVER 40's

At a conference held recently between the Minister of National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali and the three Service Chiefs the proposition that all those arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act who were over 40 years of age should be released was discussed. However, a final decision was put off.

More Disappearances

Amnesty International in its January 1987 issue has again spotlighted the "disappearances" of Tamils and has asked the Sri Lankan Government to clarify.

Among the 100 persons arrested at Othiyamalai in Vavuniya District on 2-12-84 is a 31 year - old Technical Officer Linus Aloysius Franklin who was attached to the Irrigation Office at Chemamadu. He was married and with 2 children.

The officials have disclaimed knowledge of their arrests but there were strong reasons to believe that Linus Franklin and the rest of the 100 who "disappeared" had been "killed" and their bodies disposed in secret possibly in Irataperiyakulam Army Camp at Vavuniya.

His photograph appears in the current issue of the Amnesty International.

Diversions

The Army which had been confined to the Fort in Jaffna for a considerable period of time, ventured a few yards outside and are at presently occupying the Jaffna Telecommunication Exchange which had been vacated by the personnel of the Exchange earlier. As a diversion they move out in the nights a few paces further away on the Jaffna - Pannai Road, Koddady areas, set fire to thatched houses and indulge in petty thefts. The people of the areas had long-deserted their houses for fear of shelling.

More Than 2000 Tamils Killed Yearly

According to figures released by the Secretary of the Citizens' Co-ordinating Committee, 14,705 Tamils have been killed by Security forces between January, 1981 and December, 1986. The break-up of the figures is as follows:-

1981 - 846
1982 - 1,380

1983 - 3,678
1984 - 3,301
1985 - 2,695
1986 - 2,805

191 Tamils died in 1985 and 209 in 1986 for lack of oxygen in hospitals. 63 died of shock in 1985 and 49 in 1986.

American Mercenaries

The Government of India has conveyed its deep dismay to the American Government at news reports that the Sri Lankan Army is being reinforced by American mercenaries. Mr. A.P. Venkateswaran, the Indian Foreign Secretary had met with his American counter-part and conveyed his Government's regret. In a speech at a seminar in New York he further stated that the Sri Lankan Government had failed to abide by its undertaking given to the Indian Government in relation to the latest proposals to solve the ethnic problem and thus a stalemate had arisen.

Shot And Burnt

Nine young men along with an elderly person were arrested and taken to the jungle, shot and set on fire half alive by the members of the Security Force last week at Mutur. Eye witnesses to this incident made representations to the Mutur Citizens Committee who in turn brought it to the notice of the Government Agent and the Commander of the Camp. Those killed were—Sivasekaran Krishnarasa (23), Rajaretnam Gunaretnam (26), K. Fontgalland (26), K. Sebastian (46) S. Pithaparam (27) M. Sangarapillai, S. Markandu, S. Satchchithanandan, K. Thetchanamoorthy.

Armoured Car Blown Up

An armoured car (South African made) stated to be land - mine proof was blown to smithereens by militants near the army camp at Thaladi in the Mannar District on 14th January. The soldiers had reportedly withdrawn to their base leaving their dead comrades.

LALITH Vs. SR
ACT - 3 WILL
APPEAR NEXT WEEK

PULSARA STILL IN CUSTODY



Ms Pulsara Liyange, a Human rights activist taken into custody by the C. I. D. on 1st November is still under detention.

VACANCY

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