Saturaa REVIEW

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FOR FAST, FABULOUS, AND FASCINATING WORK

239. POWER HOUSE ROAD JAFFNA. Phone 22823

> QUALITY ENGLISH AND TAMIL TYPING PHOTOSTAT AND RONEO PRINTS

GAPING HOLE PROF'S WA

I saw a gaping hole in a wall in the Jaffna General Hospital on 13th March.

I also saw pock marks on the adjoining walls.

All caused by Army shelling from the Fort Camp on 7th March, some people say.

The SR has also reported something to that effect in the issue of 14th March.

But I am not so sure now, especially after the denial by the genial Prof. Tilak Ratnakara, Chairman of the State Media Centre, in Colombo.

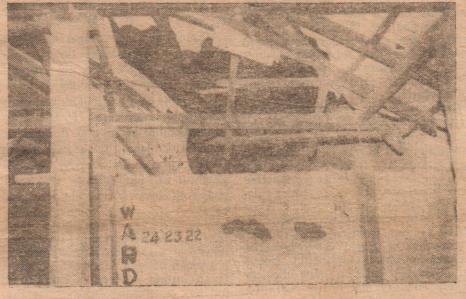
He is all knowing, all-seeing. He can claim to know what is actually happening in Jaffna-without visiting Jaffna. After all, he has his own sources of information, reliable or dependable I cannot really say.

All I can say is that I saw a ga- in their spare time. They also must ping hole (plus the pock marks) in have some form of recreation. the Jaffna Hospital buildings.

Come to think of it, the doctors and the other hospital staff could have been chipping away at the walls

planation than that offered by the Professor.

This is what he stated in relation



This would have been a better ex-

(Photo Courtesy: UTHAYAN)

to the incidents that are supposed to have taken place in Jaffna on 7th March:

"It was also stated that the terrorists fired mortars at the Security Forces Camp FROM BEHIND THE GENERAL HOSPITAL but that no retaliatory attacks were launched for fear of destroying the Hospital." (See SR, 14th March)

I was not a witness to the incidents that took place on that particular date. I feel bad that I missed the fun.

I like fun, like shellings and bom-

That is the only sound of music I

The odour of death that follows is not my concern. Let people die. They have to die, one way or another, some day or another. Better go off-to heaven or hell-in a flash.

Like it almost happened to my friend Chandra Perera on 13th March while he was taking some photographs for his American and British telivision network. As a journalist, I regretted that I missed a scoop. I was standing only a few feet away fron

To come back to the good old Professor, lies are of many types. Folksy lies. Foxy lies. Damn lies.

I would like to tell the Professor, whose only experience in journalismas far as I know, is that he's wedded to a journalist, to go and find another job.

You are bringing discredit to the Government of Sri Lanka.

The State Media Centre is a whore. The gaping hole in a wall of the Jaffna Hospital is evidence enough.

-GAMINI NAVARATNE

SAARC EDITORS' DIALOGUE

Mr. Gamini Navaratne is one of the journalists invited by the Editors Guild of India to attend the first ever South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) Editors' Dialogue to be held in New Delhi from 17th to 20th May.

The Editors will discuss the role that the media could play in furthering SAARC and Intra-SAARC information flows.

An interview with the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is one of the proposed items on the agenda. -The President of the Editors' Guild is Mr. B. G. Verghese.

Please hurry! We need money urgently to pay off the legal costs awarded to the Minister of National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali by the Press Council of Sri Lanka in the first case he filed against the SATURDAY REVIEW.

So far, we have been able to pay only Rs.466-50 of the total amount of Rs.1,575.

Now, in addition, we have to pay Rs.525, as legal costs in the second case he filed against the SR,a case he again won in the wholly Government-appointed Press Council.

What to do? We are a poor, nonprofit making organisation.

Readers of SR, please help. We are asking only for 50-cent

contributions.

While the ethnic strife between the Sinhalese and Tamils in Sri Lanka continues to be the focus of national and international attention, little reference is made to the country's worsening economic situation.

In fact, President Jayewardene's rightwing United Party Government and the national media, most of which is controlled or influenced by it, have been playing down the economic factor which, in large measure, is both cause and effect of ethnic strife.

From the Government side, only the Minister of Finance, Mr. Ronnie de Mel is openly trying to alert the nation to the perilous state of the economy.

Not unnaturally, because he is the man who has to find the money, principally abroad, to keep the administration going.

He is clearly finding the going very tough, with the aid-giving countries asking awkward questions about how the funds they give are being spent.

He warned Government last week regarding the deteriorating financial situation of the country in the face of rapidly escalating defence expenditure, the depressed prices of tea, rubber and coconut, and the disastrous effects of the present drought on agricultural production and agricultural incomes.

(Continued on page 8)

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CORRECTION

We regret the errors in the 2nd Death Anniversary Notice of Abrahampillai Magi Puniapuvirajasinghe (SR, 14th March).

He was the beloved husband of Saraswathy of Suthumalai North, Manipay, brother of Ben C. Das Abraham (Retired Station Master) and brother - in - law of K. Rajendram, Postmaster, Puttalam.

OBITUARY

A. THAMBIAH, former Senior Registration Officer, National Registration Department, passed away on 21st October 1986 leaving behind beloved wife Sinnammah, daughters Sivapakiavathy, Punithavathy (Sri Lanka), Dr. Mahadevi, Sivasothy sons-in-law Ehamparam, Balendran, grand-children, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends to mourn our loss. Funeral took place on 22nd October from 20 Jalan 27/15B, Petaling Jaya, Selangor to P. J. Crematorium, Malaysia.

* WOMEN'S DAY IN JAFFNA:

PERFORMANCE WITH FEMINIST

AWARENESS by Kalafemina

Some remarkable changes of attitudes on life and of cultural values have occurred in Tamil Society during recent years. Especially in the North, it is the development of a new Feminist consciousness among Tamil women. One of the definite reflections of this is the observation of International Women's Day on 8th March highlighting the problems of women in our Society. Since last year 8th March is celebrated by some of the women's groups in Jaffna. On 8th March this year The Women's Study Circle of Jaffna, organised a cultural programme (of course they did combine culture with Feminist awareness) at the Kailasapathy Auditorium, Jaffna University, to mark the occasion.

The programme commenced at 3 p.m. The auditorium was full in spite of the thundering noise of shells fired towards Kaithady from the Navatkuli Army Camp. And the Women's Study Circle was also determined to conduct the programme in spite of the fact that both the mother and the father of a performer in the play which they staged on this day had been injured during the bombing of Nallur on the 7th morning. (The performer a boy of Seventeen had the courage to take part in the programme, brushing aside his personal sorrows).

The programme commenced with an inaugural address, in which it was stated as follows: "we, the Women's Study Circle are conducting this programme, it is neither a celebration nor a ritual, but it is to have an opportunity to express the views of our women, and of their rights and of their progressive development which they should achieve in order to build a new Society where equality and justice will prevail.

"No one can deny the subordination of women in Tamil society. There is an illusion that women have achieved their rightful place in our Society. But in reality, it is not so. Any one who has an open mind with social responsibility will agree with this. This subordination of women reflects in many spheres of life, from philosophy to politics. The patriarchial ideology that binds women is deeply rooted in our culture and in our values of life".

"Today in many third world countries, women are in the forefront of progressive movements. They participate in the national liberation struggles and in socialist movements. By their participation these movements achieved a new vital dimension and women also gained much progress. This reality should be recognised in the present context of our society."

I consider the address more important than other programmes as it clearly put forward the "women's Question".

There were four songs sung by a group of women. The lyrics were meaningful. But it was obvious that the singers lacked practice.

A drama Thiyagath Thirumannam (Sacrificial marriage) written by M. Shanmugalingam and directed by Francis A. Jenam, also was staged It was a satire on Dowry. Although most of our social reformers and politicians agree that the custom of dowry is a menace to our society, there has been little agitation against this system. In my view dowry is a commercial price paid for a woman to get married. Dowry is an instant source of enrichment for any prospective bridegroom who

just by being a male is guaranteed material advancement the moment he agrees to get married.

Women should object to the custom of dowry for two basic reasons. First, it degrades women, makes them as a part of commercial goods. It makes a women's economic status the primary factor in her marriage and not as an equal partner in a marital relationship. Second, it impoverishes families which have many daughters. Therefore the birth of a daughter is a burden to a family. This sense of burden contributes to our community's negative attitude towards women in general.

"Thiyagath Thirumannam" displayed the absurdity of dowry. And it offered a solution to the problem—that is to unite in a struggle for a new order of society where equality and justice among its members will prevail.

"Thiyagath Thirumannam" is a stylized theatre with full of songs and rhythmic movements and actions. But I felt that it was dragging a bit. The humour sometimes dominated and the vital theme was submerged.

However it is a fact that we, the Tamil Society, presently need consciousness raising programmes like this in many spheres.

I cannot but commend the women's study circle for their enthusiasm.

S. R. Editor's Refugee Relief Fund

The number of refugees in the North is increasing day by day, all victims of the continuing ethnic conflict.

We are getting frantic appeals for assistance from all quarters.

We are also getting frantic, because there is very little we can do with the limited resources at our disposal.

Last week, we received an appeal from a Government Agent in a Northern district who said there were nearly 20,000 refugees on his hands but little money to meet their basic needs because an uncaring Government appears to have closed its eyes and ears to a pressing problem.

We released Rs.15,000 immediately for the purchase of drugs and infant foods.

But what is Rs.15,000 in the context of the situation that the poor Government Agent has to contend with?

We intend to give more to his district, and to other districts as well, provided we can mobilise enough funds.

But the funds arc slow in coming while the needs are many.

We again appeal to our Readers to help as much as possible.

Help! Help! Help!

That is the S.O.S. from the North.

In Memory of Fr. Bastian



An organisation named the Bastian Educational Assistance Scheme (BEAS) has been formed to perpetuate the memory of Fr.Mary Bastian who was shot dead by the Security Forces at his parish house at Vankalai, in Mannar, on 6th January 1985

One of Fr. Bastian's main concern had been to help provide education to children of poor parents.

BEAS will be a god-send to children all over the North, provided concerned people both in Sri Lanka and abroad support it financially.

The patrons of BEAS are the Rt. Revd. Dr.B.Deogupillai (Bishop of Jaffna) and the Rt.Revd. Dr. Thomas Savundranayagam (Bishop of Mannar)

The BEAS headquarter is at St. Francis Xavier's Seminary, Colombagam, Jaffna.

Soldiers In Tamil Protest

BRITISH mercenaries in Sri Lanka have walked out after complaining that the Government troops they trained have committed a series of atrocities against the minority Tamil population.

Security sources say the men, most of whom are ex-SAS, were sent with Whitehall's approval. They work for KMS Ltd. the powerful London security company which has been implicated in the contra arms scandal in Washington.

BRITISH

The firm's links with the Prime Minister are being probed by senior Labour MPs who want to know whether she has been secretly helping President Reagan by authorising the company to support the American-backed contras in Nicaragua.

TORTURE

The mercenaries walked out on their £20,000-a-year tax-free jobs after complaining that the Special Task Force, which they set up for the Sri Lankan Government in 1984, was running out of control and was indiscriminately killing and torturing Tamil civilians.

Amnesty International has gathered evidence that the force has kidnapped Tamil civilians who have never been seen again. Soldiers are also accused of executing detainees after ordering them to dig their own graves, using nails and pliers to torture prisoners and burning the bodies of those who died under interrogation. The Sri Lankan Government has rejected the charges.

They said their lives would be at risk if they were returned to the

Island, which has been torn by civil strife for five years.

RUSSIANS

Last week the ex-SAS major who runs KMS, David Walker, flew to Sri Lanka to try to salvage the company's contract.

Sixty of his men have now either walked out, refuse to renew their contracts or been sacked. "The whole operation is a bag of worms," said one source.

KMS has been working from a base at Katukurunda, an hour's drive south of the capital, Colombo.

The company's role is believed to have been endorsed by the Secret Intelligence Service, M16, in an attempt to bolster the Sri Lankan Government against overtures from the Russians, who want navel facilities on the Island.

Sri Lanka originally asked the Foreign Office for an SAS unit. But

the Government declined for fear of alienating the Indian Government. which supports the Tamil separatist movement.

RACIST

Instead, say sources, the FO sent a squad of 12 KMS mercenaries, including an ex-SAS colonel and an ex-SAS adjutant.

y Nick Davies

The Ministry of Defence is also believed to have supplied sophisticated new automatic rifles which have been developed by the Royal Ordinance factory and are not yet available even for regular British Army units.

The mercenaries first got into trouble for indiscipline. One got drunk in a tourist hotel in nearby Kalutara and fired his gun into the ceiling. A group of former Rhodesian

SAS men were sacked for making racist remarks to the Sri Lankans they were training and a South African pilot who disobeyed orders was transferred to the KMS operation with the contras in Central America.

But more serious problems - followed. The Special Task Force moved into the island's Eastern Province and the KMS men began to hear reports of atrocities.

The mercenaries, many of whom have long SAS experience of counter - insurgency, complained that this was a fatal error. They wanted the Task Force to win the "hearts and minds" of Tamil villagers to cut off the support they offered to Tamil guerrillas.

They complained the Task Force was making enemies of them all and made a series of protests to the senior mercenary on the ground, an ex-SAS colonel who joined KMS after being targetted by Irish terrorists.

He could do nothing. The mercenaries then pressed to be allowed to go into combat with the Task Force in an attempt to control them. But they were told this was unacceptable to the Foreign office in London.

Discontent in the mercenary ranks grew. Less-qualified "cowboy" reinforcements were sent from London, including one man who has served a jail sentence for armed robbery.

Then Israeli security consultants arrived on the island and, unhampered by restrictions from their own Government, began to take over parts of the KMS operation.

EXCESSES

Now senior ex-SAS men have refused to renew their contracts and others have walked out.

David Walker, who is believed to still be in Sri Lanka, is reported to have sacked KMS teams who had been training other specialist army and navy units for the Sri-Lankans, in an attempt to save the contract with the Task Force.

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner in London, Mr. Chandra Monerawela, yesterday confirmed that his Government had hired KMS but said he was not aware that any of its men had walked out.

He denied that the British Government had approved the contract and rejected the reports of atrocities.

"There may sometimes be excesses or civilian casualties, but when you are dealing with guerrillas, anything can happen. They don't wear uniforms," he said.

A Foreign Office spokesman denied that KMS had been given any Government approval for its work in Sri Lanka. Labour's Foreign Affairs spokesman George Foulkes has tabled Parliamentary Questions asking Mrs Thatcher about meetings with David Walker and links between the company and Government departments.

— (Courtesý: LONDON DAILY NEWS)



FORUT of Norway has sponsored a scheme of issuing fishing nets to Mullaitivu fishermen affected by the ethnic violence.

Picture shows the Asst. Government Agent, Mullaitivu, Mr. S. Sarvanantha handing over a net to one of the affected fishermen.

TILAK SPILLS THE BEANS

We reproduce a news item from the Daily News of 11th March 1987 without comments.

Sri Lanka disclosed details today of the role played by former members of Britain's elite Special Air Services (SAS) regiment in Colombo's battle against Tamil separatist guerillas.

Government spokesman Tilak Ratnakara denied a report in the London Daily News that British mercenaries in Sri Lanka had quit their jobs in protest at the military atrocities against the Tamil minority population.

Ratnakara said Colombo employed no mercenaries but used the services of a company based in the Falkland Islands to train a special force in anti-guerilla warfare. "We are not hiring mercenaries to fight terrorism. We are hiring trainers," he told Reuters.

He said the Government used services of KMS Ltd. to train the Special Task Force (STF), a paramilitary police unit set up in 1984 to combat Tamil guerillas seeking to carve out an Independent state in the North and East.

He said KMS, which had staff who were formerly with the SAS, was employed in late 1983 under a renewable three-month contract.

"They are at Kalutara (South of Colombo) training the STF," he said: They are training them in jungle warfare, to work under extreme stressful conditions, how to detect landmines, climb, fight, that sort of thing."

"They are not sent as observers or as participants or to direct any operations conducted by the police against the terrorists" he added.

A DETENUE'S SWORN TESTINONY

We reproduce here the affidavit of Mrs. Nithiyavani Mariadas of Mutur. It speaks for itself.

I, Mrs. Nithiyavani Mariadas, aged 35 years of Ward No. 7. Chenai-yoor, Mutur, Trincomalee presently of Palaly Road, Kondavil East, Kondavil, being a non-Christian do hereby solomnly sincerely and truly declare and affirm as follows; I am the Affirmant above-named.

My husband Joseph Mariadas, daughter Shantini and I were residing in the same house at Chenaiyoor, Mutur in the Trincomalee District.

On the 25th of February 1985 at about 2.00 p.m. Police Commandos and Army personnel who arrived suddenly in a bus and a jeep, entered our house when I was alone. My husband and daughter had gone out to work as casual labourers.

From the highest offical to the ordinary Policemen assaulted me severely.

They tied both my hands with a coir rope and I was suspended by my hands from a beam in my house.

My clothes were then removed one by one till I was naked. I was beaten with hands and the butt end of guns and kicked by these men. At the same time I was questioned as to the whereabouts of my husband and daughter.

I was assaulted for about 2 hours in the said manner and asked to reveal the whereabouts of my husband and daughter, and the hiding places of the 'Tigers',

Everytime I fainted, water was sprinkled on my face and when I recovered I was beaten again,

Once the rope snapped and I fell down but was hung up again.

Unable to bear the shame and torture, I said I had cooked for the militants.

I was then put down. I managed to grab a blouse and under-skirt with which I dressed myself. I was not allowed to take anything else.

I was then locked up in a room of my house with 5 uniformed men and the rest lay in ambush around the compound. I heard the vehicles moving off with other men in it.

On some people approaching the compound of my house they were shot dead without being questioned.

Of the five men in the room, our left and the man who remained pushed me down on the ground and inserted his penis into my mouth forcibly. It was nauseating and I vomitted.

At about 4.30 p.m. the same day a bus and jeep came back to my house with Army personnel. The 4 corpses were lifted. I too was put in and questioned whether they were 'Tigers.' The vehicles then moved to Mutur Police Station.

There the dead bodies were draged out of the bus and put under a margosa tree in the Police Station premises.

I was then taken in a boat to Trincomalee and was molested while in the boat.

I was taken to Trincomalee Police Station at about 7-00 p.m.

I was taken back to Mutur Police Station the next morning.

At the Mutur Police Station I was shown the 4 bodies shot the previous day near my house and questioned.

I identified one as my husband and for the others whom I did not know, I gave names at random through fear.

The bodies were then cut up in my presence: Unable to watch the scene I went out and slept on a bench:

At about 5-00 p.m. I was taken back in a boat to Trincomalee:

On 28-2-1985 I was questioned by the C.I.D. at the Trincomalee Police Station during which period I was often assaulted with a baton.

On or about the 10th of the following month I was taken before high officials of the C.I.D. at the Navy Camp, where on my denial of any knowledge of the militants' activities I was beaten and kicked with the booted leg of a C.I.D. official which I fell down and sustained an injury on the back of my chest.

I had difficulty in breathing, but they refused to take me to the hospital and was taken back to the Police Station where the Matron gave me medicine and balm to be rubbed on my chest.

On 14-3-1985 another married woman named Tharmalingam Shanthimathy, I9 males and I were handed over to the Sri Lanka Navy who put us in a boat. We were put

ashore at about 3-30 p.m. on 15-3-1985 at a place I later knew was Galle.

I and the other woman Tharmalingam Shanthimathy, were taken to the Galle Police Station where we spent 36 days.

On 18-4-1985 we were taken to Boosa Camp.

Female detenue Miss. Meena Sivalingam also from an area a quarter mile from my house at Mutur was brought to Boosa on 30th April 1985. There were injuries on both her wrists and she was unable to fold her fingers. She told me and the other female detenues that she was stripped naked, molested and hung up by her wrists by the Mutur Police before she was sent to Boosa.

The other female detenues and I dressed her (Miss. Meena Sivalingam's) wounds, applied oil and balm and relieved her pain.

One day in June 1985 three female detenues Miss Meena Sivalingam, Miss Shanthimathy Tharmalingam, Miss Selvarasa Ilangeswary and I were taken for interrogation. I was beaten about 50 times with a loaded plastic pipe on the head and hands during the interrogation. I suffered continuous pain for several days unable to move about. The others were also beaten similarly.

Miss Emmanuel Subadra from Mutur was brought to Boosa Camp and put in our enclosure one day in March 1986. She had welt marks all over her body. She could nor sit on the floor. She told me that she was unable to squat. When we pressed her for the reason she said she had been stripped naked, and the baton which Police used had been forcibly thrust into her vagina by a Policeman from Mutur Police. That as a result she felt severe pain in the region of her sexual organ and was unable to sit.

She further told us that 14 other girls from her area were taken by Mutur Police along with her and that they were stripped naked and raped by the Mutur Policemen.

On one occasion two male detenus who came out to answer a call of nature were beaten up and made to bathe in the cess - pool at 10.00 p.m. They were then stripped naked, made to hold each other's organs and shake it. They were also made to put each others organs into their mouths. They were also made to place their organs on a stone and hit it with another stone.

I was able to watch this from the enclosure where I was held as all this took place opposite our enclosure.

When the male detenus went to bathe they were beaten and water was refused. They were made to wrestle and hit, each other.

When new detenus were brought in they were beaten with long wooden poles and several had bleeding head injuries or arms fractured and legs broken consequently.

Detenus being assaulted daily during interrogation was a common feature. Some were made to lie on the floor, kept pressed to the ground and assaulted on their heels.

Edible items and clothing brought by the parents of detenus on their visits were never handed over to the detenus in full. A greater part was taken by Army personnel.

Whenever there was any news of Army casualties at the hands of the militants, all utensils like cups plates, plastic-cans, bottles, glasses would be taken away and be burnt.

Male detenus would plead for the meals that the females were throwing away because the rice was almost raw Only 2 ozs. of tea was supplied to the males.

I had no change of clothes and was dressed only in a blouse and underskirt from the time I was arrested.

I asked for cloth to be used as sanitary towel from the famale soldier who came to our enclosure occasionally. She declined to provide any cloth and I borrowed cloth from the others.

On one occasion a detenu shouted out in a dream. The other detenus too got frightened and everyone in that enclosure started screaming

Army personnel then rushed into the enclosure, took the detenus out and shouted at them to kneel down and were beaten and questioned as to who had shouted out.

Nine of the detenus were then takenaway, stripped naked and beaten very severely till they bled. They were then made to go round the Camp following each other.

(Continued on page 5)

AMUSLIM POINT OF VIEW

The Interim Islamic Political Action Committee has expressed fullest support to the 19th December proposals and has decided to mobilise mass Muslim support for its accep-

The IIPAC has emphasised that it is essential to see any proposal by the Muslims at this stage should not in any way impede the peace process.

Mr. M. T. M. Aluharuddeen, the Secretary of the IIPAC, has stated that it is also the duty of the different communities to try to solve this problem and not to leave it for the Govt. alone to solve it. He had therefore urged that all who are con cerned in the matter should con. centrate only on practical solutions, This would also be the biggest contribution that the Muslims could make towards establishing peace in the country, he added.

The full text of the statement is as follows:

The IIPAC expresses its fullest support for the 19th December proposals by President J.R. Jayewardene. The Committee which met to discuss the prevailing situation in the vince for the Muslims could result

country considers the proposals as a sound and proper basis for the resumption of talks to end the ethnic

Of all the proposals so far presented, these contain a practical approach. To expedite political solution is not only in the interest of the country but its urgency and the necessity is the need of the people and the country.

The IIPAC expresses its fullest support for the talks and for any solutions based on these proposals. We also resolved to campaign for mass Muslim support for its acceptance.

The Committee urges the Govt. and the Tamil militants to commence forthwith the negotiations, by accepting the invitation of the Govt. and with the assistance extended by the Indian Govt. It also urges both parties to take necessary steps to create favourable conditions for the commencement of the talks by taking neccessary steps in that

It is the view of the committee that the demand for a separate pro-

in many disadvantages to the Muslims and be counter - productive It could merely hinder the peace process and serve no other purpose.

Almost 99./ of the 85./ Muslims of Sri Lanka who live outside Amparai district have disapproved this request Even among the Amparai District Muslims this request has not found favour except for a few who dominate the political scene. The people's representatives who are their elected Parlimentarians and even the previous MPS have so far not stated their clear stand on this, nor even presented such demands. The only opinion made known so far by them was a unanimous decision by the Eastern province members of Parliament to keep the Eastern Province intact. Further, the larger population of the Muslims of Eastern Province. who are peasants, fishermen and workers have not approved this since it would seriously affect their liveli-

Even if it was taken in the context of the whole of the Eastern Province, the Muslims who live outside the Amparai district in small villages surrounded by a larger po-

pulation of Tamils do not like this request as it would endanger their very existence in the areas. On the totality, the proposal for a separate Muslim Province is not practicable and not rational; besides it impedes the peace process.

The Political solution that would be arrived at any stage should be just and durable. It is very essential to weave into it the secular elements and to ensure unadulteration with divisive tendencies. It is only then that permanent peace could be

We further emphasise that as much as the cessation of armed hostilities and violence is an urgent necessity, it is also a necessary pre-condition for peace to see that the civilian population in the affected areas be given the confidence and the feeling that the Govt. is not unconcerned about them but on the other hand considers it as its duty to protect the lives and property of each one of them.

It is also necessary, in order to carry any solution to success, that the major political parties should reach some understanding and set some of the objective guidelines for future talks.

Detenue's Sworn

(Continued from page 4)

In the nude state they were brought and made to sit in front of the female detenus section and we were asked to look at them.

That night we were not able to sleep or go out to urinate and spent the night weeping.

The next day the other detenus were questioned as to the cause for the screaming. As all were silent 10 other detenus were taken away, and were made to bathe at 10.00 p.m. in the cold. They were made to grovel on the ground in the waterlogged ground. This was repeated several times.

They were then made to sit in the pouring rain.

Detenus were punished similarly every night in front of our enclosure and we were not allowed to sleep peacefully.

Since June 1986 as male detenus were not allowed to go out to urinate or answer a call of nature at night, they used plastic bottles or plastic bags for the purpose.

In the mornings they would come running with the bottles and bags and throw the contents into the casspits after opening the concrete plates.

Whenever the cess-pits filled up, the male detenus were made to clear the pits by using buckets supplied by the Authorities.

After clearing the pits, they were made to wash the buckets used for the purpose and then allowed to

The same buckets were used to retain drinking water for the detenus

Due to lack of a balanced diet, insufficient food, and in regular bathing several developed skin ailments.

Several detenus died for want of proper medical attention.

When detenus pleaded for more food they were made to kneel, then kicked, beaten and pulled through the barbed-wire sustaining tears of the skin.

When Army personnel saw young girls (detenues) they asked the girls to marry them. When the girls asked for water they said they had somen water and asked whether they wan-

Male detenus were refused water to drink. No medicine was given to those who were ill.

The male detenus went on a hunger strike during my stay at Boosa. The

Army personnel infuriated by action, assaulted the detenus.

Those who had chicken-pox were not given any drugs. They were given only Margosa leaves.

Polythene bags were set alight and rubbed on the bare bodies of detenus.

All detenus were very lean with their bones visible for lack of sufficient food. Several had chest ailments due to assault.

Several complained of abdominal pains, dysentry and diarrhoea and scabies.

Water was unclean. Wells were close to spots where excreta buried.

The female detenues from Batticaloa told me that at Batticaloa 2 girls had been stripped naked and other women detenues were asked whether they wanted to see Eelam and these naked women detenues were shown to them.

Not a single detenu from Batticaloa arrived without injuries. One detenu had been burnt with hot-iron rods on the hands, legs and in the anus. Wounds had festered. He tied his sarong with difficulty and died

when being taken to Hospital. The other male detenus told me this.

Several died of diarhoea, dysentery and chest pain.

When relations called to visit them the ashes of the dead persons were handed over to them.

Four Foreign Correspondents came to visit the Boosa Detention Camp about June this year. They were accompanied by a Military

The Foreign Correspondents wanted to take pictures of the detenus. The detenus were asked to come out of the barbed-wire enclosure to be video - photographed by the Foreign correspondents.

Detenu Mr. Ramanujam Manikkaingam an American University graduate, having over - heard the conver. sation said that if need be the detenus be photographed from where they were locked in behind barbed-

Later, after the correspondents went, Mr. Mannikalingam was taken to the Guard-Room and beaten I heard him being beaten and his screams for about 10 minutes.

I was taken from the Boosa Camp on 2-9-1986 to the High Court at Colombo. I pleaded guilty in order to avoid a lengthy trial. I was sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment but was released on 28th November, Editor SATURDAY REVIEW

Minister Thondaman is an enigma in Sri Lanka politics. For a long time he has posed as a saviour of the Tamils of Indian origin in the estates. Although only a section of the estate population are members of the Ceylon Wokers Congress the government has dealt with him as the chief representative of the estate population. How far he has worked for their welfare and what their future is are matters for future historians. Even after getting citizenship many are landless and live in estate hovels. How long will they continue as labourers and what does the future hold for them? Will they join the mainstream and live as equals of those amongst whom they are living? We grant that the future of the estate Tamils is his responsibility.

The part he has been playing in the ethnic conflict is uncertain and baffling. On the one hand he poses as a loyal member of the J.R. government and is, on the principle of collective responsibility, a party to all what the Government is doing

THE ENIGMATIC THONDAMAN

against the Sri Lanka Tamils. He makes frequent visits to Tamilnadu and what he does there is a mystery. He does not fail to make statements to the press sometimes damaging to the life and death struggle of the Tamils of Sri Lanka. One is reminded of the elusive deer (Mayaman) in Ramayana. One is tempted to ask is he Thondaman or Mayaman? He makes conflicting statements about the ethnic problem and has earned the displeasure if not the hatred of the Tamils here. He knows that he has no future under the SLFP government, so he makes hay while the sun shines: Let him derive all the benefit he can from his loyalty to the J.R. Gove. rnment but let him not sell the Sri-Lanka Tamil interests for his own ends. Everyone knows that he took his official jeep to India which no minister has done. Has he brought it back? Why did he take it? The citizens of this country are entitled to know these.

He has made numerous press statements in India detrimental to the Tamils here and Lanka Puwath, also known as Boru Puwath relishes them like flies on a festering wound. His recent statement jurtiying the military action of the Sri Lanka government in the North and East which has caused the death of hundreds of innocent Tamils, men, wo-

LETTERS

men and children and destruction of their property has caused angry repercussions among all Sri Lanka Tamils. This statements appears to have been timed with a reported news item in some Tamil paper that he may be appointed a Vice President. Such an appointment will be very unfortunate and couterproductive: Thondaman is persona non grata with the Sri Lanka Tamils, and even the Tamils in Tamilnadu who

are fighing the cause of the Sri-Lanka Tamils.

The excuse given by the Government for mounting such a massive attck in Jaffna is that the militants want to take over the civil administration. They have done nothing that sort. The Government Agent is functioning and all other departments are functioning under the Colombo government. The massive military operations and the cowardly bombing of civilian targets and the ban on fuel etc. are not justified at all. The hands of this government are dripping with the blood of the Tamils and killing of innocent Tamils by the hundreds will solve no problem. When the army stops running round and killing civilians the militants will also cease attacking the army. The only course open to the government is to stop military activities. lift the ban on fuel etc. and resume talks with India's help. S. S. Vasan

Uduvil

Israel Closes Alternative

Information Centre

The West Jerusalem - based Alternative Information Centre was raided and closed by the Israeli police on 16th February and four of its workers detained. The police closed the AIC for six months under the 1980 amendment to the Prevention of Terrorism Act (The Tamir Law), which makes it an offence to 'identify' with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). This has been interpreted as cutlawing any expression of support, dissemination of the PLO programme or use of any Palestinian symbols or material such as flags and emblems. AIC's offices were completely stripped of all written material and office machinery.

AIC Cooperative members Michel Warshawsky, Ronnie Heiman, Ghada Abd al-Jabar and Hana Jalaji were arrested, on 18th February and later released on bail.

The police lawyers made a series of accusations about the activities of AIC, the most serious being that they had been acting on behalf of the PLO and rendering services to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and unspecified 'front organisations' in the occupied territories. The specific example of such activity cited in court was the preparation for publication of a research paper on Israeli interrogation and torture techniques and advice on how to resist them. This was said to have had 'opera-

tional significance' for an illegal organisation. References were also made in court to numbered documents taken from AIC offices. These documents were not shown to the defence lawyers. Police admitted they had been tapping AIC's telephones for 'a long time'.

The AIC was founded in January 1985 with three main aims: to produce a newsletter; to provide services to journalists and to establish an information centre for individual and groups of tourists. An AIC promotion letter described the purpose of the newsletter: AIC will publish a weekly review which will cover those events which do not receive the attention deserve in the international press. Likewise, the review will seek to meet the day-to-day needs of different activist groups. It will consist of information on current events and will be presented in a manner that facilitates a general analysis of the 'overall situation' in Israel and the occupied territories.

Initially, the newsletter was published weekly in Arabic, English and Hebrew. This proved to be overambitious and the output was soon reduced to a fortnightly English newsletter News From Within (NFW). NFW has regularly dealt with the conditions and treatment of political personers in Israeli jails, the land question, and the suppression of Palestinian rights in the occupied territories as well as raising issues cen-

tral to the Israeli Jewish opposition movement such as the role of the army and secret service in Israeli society as well as regular analyses of the Israeli economy.

The AIC has also published two research papers in Arabic and Hebrew: 'The Peace Movement in Israel: an Attempt at Internal Classification' and 'The Senior Officer Corps in the Israeli Army. Its Location in the Israeli Political System'. These

will be published in English by Ithaca Press.

The closure of the AIC has been condemned by the Israeli Civil Rights Association and some political parties. It comes at a particularly difficult time for non Arabic—or Hebrew-speaking students of the situation in Israel and the occupied territories. In the past few months the Jerusalem-based Israelf and the Israeli Mirror, which is produced in London, have ceased publication because of lack of funds. Both provided regular translations of articles from the Hebrew press.

-INDEX ON CENSORSHIP

A New Civilization

Highly valuing the significance of the Great October Revolution, Jawaharlal Nehru, in his book "The Discovery of India", wrote "that the Soviet Revolution had advanced human society by a great leap and had lit a bright flame which could not be smothered, and that it had laid the foundations for that new civilization towards which the world could advance".

The Bengali poet, Rabindranath Tagore, the greatest thinker and poet of our times, became an admirer of this new civilization and contrasted it with conditions in Tsarist Russia. In his last deathbed message, he referred to the "unsparing energy with which Soviet Russia has tried to fight disease and illiteracy, and has succeeded in steadily liquidating ignorance and poverty, wiping off the humiliation from the face of a vast continent. Her civilization is free from all invidious distinction between one class and another, between one sect and another."

For a basic study of the two contrasting systems of governments in Tsarist Russia and in Soviet Russia, one based on exploitation, the other on co-operation, read the book "Lenin and Asia" by Attorney-at-Law T. Duraisingam, a pioneer of the revolutionary movement of our country.

Sinhala, Tamil and English editions of the book are available at bookshops.

Price Rs. 10/-

Council for Socialist Studies 31, Wilson Street, Colombo 12.

AN EDUCATIONST FELICITATED

A well - attended function was held at St. John's College on 26th February to mark the 60th birthday of its long serving vice-principal Mr.S. Panchalingam. The function was presided over by Prof. S. Vithianandan. Amongst the speakers were Messrs. V. Sivagnanasudaram, J.G. Asirwatham, T. Gunaseelan, V. Ponnampalam, S. Kandiah and M. Ganeshasundaram.

As a schoolboy at St. John's Panchalingam had been a distinguished sportsman and head prefect. Leaving school in 1949, he joined the staff of the school in 1953 after obtaining his B.Sc. (London) from Jaffna College. He has remained on the staff ever since, serving under 6 principals in 34 years. Mr. Panchalingam was awarded the Grade 1 special post in 1969 and was subsequently made vice-principal. Mr. Panchalingam's unflinching service to the teaching profession and to St. John's comes during a period when it has been the common trend for graduate science teachers to driff off into other professions or service abroad. But for his loyalty, service at St. Johns' was by no means the most attractive. The school went through a long period of straightened finances between 1960-77. When it was decided in 1960 that the school will be a non fee-levying private Christian School rather than hand over to the government, Mr. Panchalin-

Gurukulam Appeals

Gurukulam, the Orphanage and also the Centre where Hindu Priests and Preachers are trained, is undergoing severe hardships to look after its inmates due to non-availability of funds. The situation has been worsened by this year's drought.

Gurukulam makes its appeal to all well-wishers to help them with whatever contributions they can make to enable the institution to run. To maintain this institution with just the minimum necessities, a sum of Rs.1,225/- per day is required. This it has been able to get through its paddy cultivation, cash crops and also from assistance of generous people.

Gurukulam requests both institutions and individuals to respond to this humanitarian call.

Correspondence may be addressed to Mr. V. Kathiravelu, Retired Principal, Director, Gurukulam, Kilinochchi. gam was amongst those who enthusiastically rose to the occasion in efforts to put the school on its feet. These and several other services were rendered in the full knowledge that being a Hindu will bar him from the top post. Of late Mr. Panchalingam has been known and respected as the administrative backbone of the school. Commenting on his self-effacing nature, one of the tributes in the souvenir reads, "Mr. Panchalingam remains hidden since he sought neither publicity nor

personal gains. Such selfless service is rarely seen among teachers of his generation."

Prof. Vithianandan remarked that Mr. Panchalingam has the singular distinction of having spent most of his life in the school premises. J.G. Asirwatham commented on the delicacy of his task which he handled with finesse. When the Principal Mr. Gunaseelan who has been making a remarkable recovery from a recent illness rose up to speak, he

was given an enthusiastic ovation by those present, signalling the confidence and affection they reposed on him.

Mr. Panchalingam delivered a moving address. Charcteristically, he said that Panchalingam alone cannot take credit for those complimentary attributes made to him. The process has been a co-operative effort beginning with his parents, his school, his family and friends, the persons of character and principals he has served under and many other benign influences. The memory of all these persons, he said, he treasured dearly. Finally he pointed out that his achievements in the school are the fruits of co-operative endeavour involving the authorities, colleagues on the staff and students, laying stress on co-oprative effort in all spheres of life.

SA ARMS BOLSTER LANKA ARMY

South Africa is emerging as the third largest supplier of military assistance to Sri Lanka after Pakistan and Israel according to a Press Trust of India published "The Times of India" on 28th February.

The report adds:

South African – made Buffel armoured personnel carriers, especially built to withstand landmine blasts, are being used regularly by the Sri Lankan Army in the troubled northern and eastern provinces according to informed sources.

Tamil militants claim to have blown or captured some of these (See the SR of 24th January -Ed.) In addition, a large number of transport vehicles of Lankan armed forces are being supplied by the Pretoria regime.

According to sources, the South African government is now trying to broaden the base of this co-operation to include more items for the armed forces and through economic assistance.

In spite of its professed anti-racist policy, Colombo is actively considering the manner in which it could circumvent the U.N. security council resolution banning import of military equipment from South Africa by member – nations of the world body.

The reaction of front - line states and the world community to this growing link between Pretoria and Colombo and Sri Lanka's insensitivity to world opinion over its handling of the Tamils' issue, is to be seen.

Meanwhile in Madras the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

South Africa is emerging as the has said the Sri Lanka Government ird largest supplier of military was massing troops in the Jaffna sistance to Sri Lanka after Pakis- fort camp.

Troops were being brought from Colombo to Pasaiyoor, a seaside village, by ships and from thence in armoured cars.

The Tamil Nadu Governor. Mr. S.L. Khuruna, has expressed "acute agony" over the massacre reportedly taking place in Sri Lanka.

Addressing the Legislative Assembly here on 27th February, Mr. Khuruna said it was a matter of great concern for the state Government that no amicable settlement had been found to the ethnic strife there.

He pointed out that the Government had been helping the Centre in its efforts to help find a lasting solution to the problem.

He hoped the issue would be settled soon and the 125,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in the state would be able io return to their country.

G. C. E. Results

Credit must be given to the students who sat for the G.C.E. (O.L.) Exam last December under much stress and tension in the Jaffna Peninsula. It may be placed on record that 17 students in the Peninsula obtained distinctions in all 8 subjects. Our congratulations to all of them and others who obtained seven and six distinctions respectively.

Biding Its Time

According to a news report in the "Hindu" of Madras datelined 16th March, G.K.Reddy has indicated that the Sri Lankan Government is taking final steps to launch its attack on Jaffna. The report adds that Sri Lanka has not yet finally called off military action in the North but only reduced its momentum temporarily. The Government is biding its time to mount a large scale offensive on Jaffna.

The Man In A Mask

10 persons travelling in a van on 16th March at Visvamadu, Mullaitivu district were strafed to death by a helicopter. Simultaneously a large

Helicopter Salvaged

A helicopter which had crashed into the Jaffna lagoon between Navanthurai and Kakaitivu in 1985 was salvaged by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on 15th March. A joint salvage operation conducted by the Army and Air Force in 1985 was a failure. The 'remains' of the heli were on display for a while.

number of soldiers from the Army camps at Kilinochchi, Paranthan and Elephant Pass converged on this area and carried out a rigorous search operations. Subsequently 4 bombers and 5 helicopters bombed and strafed the area causing extensive damage to houses and buildings. After this 'softening up operations' a helicopter is reported to have dropped so Idiers who indulged in random shoot_ ing and in the process took into custody several civilians. During these operations a 'man in a black mask' was seen moving around with the soldiers.

This is the first ever resolution adopted by the Human

Rights Commission on the

Human Rights situation in

Sri Lanka. It reflects the wide-

ly felt concern among the commission members that the Human Rights situation in

Sri Lanka is indeed serious enough to be worthy of at-

tention. The Human Rights

Commission is the Principal

UN Organisation dealing with

the Human Rights. In addition

to the States represented in

the Commission it has several

non - Governmental Organis-

ations who participate in Com-

mission's work as Observers.

GUIDED by the Universal

political rights

Declaration of Human Rights, the International covenant on

and the universally accepted

rules of International Humanit-

RECALLING its decision 1984/

111 of 14th March 1984,

civil and

arian Law.

Saturday Review SRIUNIA



UN Human Rights Commission On Smill

The following resolution was passed on 12th March at the session of the Human Rights Commission, held at Geneva / Switzerland.

NOTHING

In a special interview with the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW last week, Mr. Kittu, the Jaffna District Commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), reiterated that there could not be any dialogue with President Jayewardene's Government to settle the ethnic conflict unless the Tamil people were

Houses Re-visited

The persons displaced during Security Operations from 28th February to 3rd March were permitted to see their houses under the direct supervision of Security Forces. Those associated in this "Joint Operations" were the Citizens' Committee of Vali North, Assistant Government Agents, Brigadier Gerry de Silva and the Army Public Relations Officer, Major H.R. Stevens.

Butter Or....

(Continued from page 1)

He is said to have strongly appealed for a reduction of expenditure by all ministries, with the exception of defence, security, health and education. Even in the case of defence and security, it is understood that steps will be taken to monitor the purchase of arms, equipment and vehicles in future, by a special committee which will consist of a Treeasury representative too.

Mr.de Mel is further understood to have told the ministers that growth is likely to decline to three per cent and unemployment to increase to 16 per cent this year and 20 per cent by 1990 if the present trend continues.

Defence and defence related expenditure this year has already escalated to about Rs. 15 billion which represents 35 per cent of Sri Lanka's domestic budget of Rs. 40 billion excluding foreign aid and local loans. This is said to be one of the highest defence budgets of any third World country of the size of Sri

Butter or gun is the blunt question.

recognised as a distinct nationality with their own homeland.

He ruled out direct talks between the Government and the LTTE unjess an understanding was reached on this issue.

He said the LTTE was ready for a fight with the Government's Security Forces any time.

Brimming with confidence he said the LTTE had been successful so far in keeping the Security Forces at bay.

Associated at the interview was Mr. Rahim, the spokesman for the

Shooting spree

On 17th March when soliders from the Palaly camp were ferrying some goods, their vehicles had stalled on the way. After repairs the soliders went on a 'shooting spree' under cover of an overhead helicopter. This 'spree' resulted in the death of two civilians M. Atputhanathan (26) and M. Vinden (18). Those who were injured in the same incident were Sellathurai Balakrishnan (19), A. Pathmanathan (37), a Hindu priest, Santhiramokan, S. Rupakumar and S. Sivalingam. Schools and business areas in the vicinity hastily closed and people took whatever they could carry and took refuge in safe

TAKING NOTE of the report of the special rapporteur on torture and the report of the working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances.

1. CALLS UPON All parties and groups to respect fully the Universally accepted rules of Humanitarian Law.

2. CALLS UPON All parties and groups to renounce the use of force and acts of violence and to pursue a negotiated political solution, based on principles of respect for Human Rights and Fundamental Free-

3. INVITES The Government of Sri Lanka to Intensify its Cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross in the fields of Dissemination and Promotion of International Humanitarian Law and invites the Government of Sri Lanka to consider favourably the offer of the services of the International Committee of the Red Cross to fulfil its functions of protection of Humanitarian standards, Including the provision of assistance and protection to victims of all affected parties.

4. EXPRESSES THE HOPE That the Government of Sri Lanka will continue to provide information to the commission on Human Rights on this Question.

Balakumar Returns

He was cool and calm as usual when the SATURDAY REVIEW met him just two hours before he left Sri Lankan soil last week. Mr. V. Balakumar, inspite of the hurlyburly of a suddenly arranged journey across the Palk Straits told the SATURDAY REVIEW that his visit was going to be an important one.

With the escalation of the military process in the North and East especially after 2nd February, the Indian Government has suspended its mediatory efforts, and this has led to wider speculations.

"Even at this late stage, as time and again we have been asking for, the Indian Government should recognise us", re-iterated Balakumar "It is true that I'm leaving the Tamil homeland for India, but it does not follow that we are going to participate in the talks with Presi-

Human Shields Again

Assurance given by the Co-ordinating Officer, Brigadier Kobbekaduwa to the Citizen's Committee of Vavuniva that Security Forces would not travel in civilian buses with civilians as "human shields" was broken on 13th March when Soldiers travelled from Vavuniya to Omanthai, Kanagarayankulam with members of the public as "hostages". There was a repetition of this incident on 14th March as well when the Security Forces travelled up to Mankulam in similar fashion.

dent Jayewardene. There cannot be any meaning in direct talks, as the situation is progressively deteriorating for the Tamils in the North and East".

Meanwhile, reports from Madras indicate that Indian Coast Guard vessels and some naval units have been placed on the alert, following the visit of Dinesh Singh to Colombo. If the economic blockade continues. the reports said Indain Government, may resort to supply of food and fuel to the people of the North on humanitarian grounds.

Cumaraswamy Passes Away

The remains of Mr. P. Cumaraswamy one of the leading lights of the Sri Lanka Communist Party who died on 15th March, was brought to Jaffna on the 17th.

Mr. Cumaraswamy who died in his sleep, served the people through his party for a period of 40 years. As a Government Clerical Servant he was an ardent trade unionist together with his counterparts Messrs. 1. N. Hangaratne and K. C. Nithiyananda. In 1963 at the request of his party he retired from Government Service and became a full-time worker in the party. The last ten years of his life was spent in the service of his party in Jaffna.

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