

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Vol. 6 No. 12 11th April 1987

GROUP ATLANTIC TRAVELS
163, Hospital Road, Jaffna.
(Opposite Our Lady Of Refuge)
JOBS ASSURED IN SAUDI,
FOR GIRLS AND BOYS
TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS
IN DOUBLE QUICK TIME.
+
PASS PORT, VISA, TICKETINGS
TO ALL COUNTRIES.
Prop. V. BALASINGAM

WELCOME TO JAFFNA, YOUR EXCELLENCY



ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON KITTU

An attempt was made on 30th March to assassinate the Jaffna District Commander of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Mr. Sathasivam Krishnakumar alias Kittu, by some assailants who have not so far been definitely identified.

The incident occurred round about 9-30 p.m. at 2nd Cross Street, Jaffna. Two locally made hand grenades were said to have been lobbed into Kittu's car. The first grenade failed to explode. Kittu and his bodyguards jumped out of the car to take on the assailants but the second grenade hit them.

Kittu was reportedly taken to India last week for treatment but he would be minus one of his legs for the rest of his life.

According to a LTTE press release after this incident, 18 members of rival groups were killed while attempting to escape with guns. Some other sources put the number killed around 50.

Two LTTE men were killed in the process, it was acknowledged, in the press release. They were not Kittu's bodyguards.

President Junius R. Jayewardene, in one of his most conciliatory speeches on the ethnic problem in recent times, said at the youth festival at Anuradhapura on 28th March that he would visit Jaffna "if invited" to look into the problems of the people.

He said he was very keen on a negotiated settlement of the ethnic problem.

If a settlement were reached, he was willing to order byelections to the 16 parliamentary seats in the North rendered vacant in 1983 by the operation of the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution which required all MPs to take an oath pledging allegiance to a unitary Sri Lanka, an oath the Tamil United Liberation Front MPs refused to take.

He even mentioned a time-frame for the byelections: August 1987.

The Boys would be free to contest the byelections and enter the mainstream of political life in the country, eschewing the bullet for the ballot.

The President's speech was of great significance. It seemed to signify a change of heart on the part of the United National Party Government over the ethnic problem.

But the President is well-known for tailoring his speeches to titilate the audience before him.

Among the participants at the festival were about 50 Tamil youths drawn from the Northern and Eastern Provinces, who seemed to have been highly taken up by that he said, according to reports in some of the Colombo-based newspapers.

We hope the Anuradhapura speech was not one of that kind.

If the President's speech is to be taken seriously, some progress has been made since the visit to Colombo of Mr. Dinesh Singh, ex - Minister of External Affairs as the special emissary of the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in mid-March in bringing about a settlement of the ethnic problem.

We hope so, but we are not quite confident.

The intriguing question is: Why should the President of Sri Lanka need an invitation to visit what is still a part of Sri Lanka?

The last time the President visited the North was in 1982, to campaign for the Government's proposal to extend the life of Parliament by another six years.

The Government got a sizeable vote in the North but far less than expected.

Sniping Goes On

Sniper fire from the ramparts of the Dutch Fort where the Security Forces are stationed continues to send panick waves for a third consecutive day.

On 6th April, Abdul Majeed (20) a hotel worker attached to the Rio Hotel in the Main Street was injured. On 8th April Selvam Kanapathipillai of Pasaiyoor was hit by the sniper fire. On the same day the Assistant Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW miraculously escaped when the sniper missed his target at about 3.15 p.m.

Most of the UNPers who voted "Yes" at the referendum are still there in the North. They are, how-



ever, not in a position now to extend an invitation to the President.

Nor can The Boys invite him, in the prevailing circumstances.

So, the SATURDAY REVIEW extends a cordial invitation to His Excellency to visit Jaffna. We will make all the necessary arrangements, since the civil administration is impotent.

We will organise a conducted tour. There is much to see, just like in the "ruined cities" of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa.

Houses with doors and windows open but no people, houses flattened to the ground gaping holes in hospital walls, et all.

Perhaps, Kittu's Co. may agree to provide an escort, because the Government's Security Forces may be unwilling and unable to undertake the task.

Welcome to the North, especially Jaffna, the heartland of the Tamil people, Your Excellency.

Saturday Review SRI LANKA

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THY KINGDOM COME

The Government decided to lift the economic blockade, against the North, especially the Jaffna Peninsula, in early March.

But the blockade, which includes a ban on fuel supplies to the Peninsula and the cut off of telecommunications, continues. Since early January it was impossible to get a telephone call to Colombo.

Now it is impossible to get a telephone call even within Jaffna.

Progress in retrogression is at the height of its peak.

The Government willingly or unwillingly is aiding and abetting those forces that wish to bring about a kingdom of Eelam.

Good luck to all.

Thanks to THE SACRED
HEART OF JESUS AND ST.
JUDE for favours granted.

—T.A.N.

KANTHASAMY'S CASE:

A Journalist's Bitter Experience

Let me at the outset introduce myself as a working-journalist in Colombo, representing the Jaffna based National Tamil Daily 'Eelanadu' (founded in 1959) since September 1982. I have maintained an unblemished record in my work and conduct till the fateful day of May 15th last year.

From 15th May to 15th September 1986, I had been kept in detention and in the Remand jail as a result of attending to my duties in office as representative of 'Eelanadu'.

The following is the gist of the events that led to my arrest, interrogation detention and remand in the jails of Anuradhapura and Bogambara for four months and the eventual release on bail on the 15th of September 1986.

I am cataloguing the events of the entire period so that you may understand the injustice meted out to endure merely because I was a conscientious worker keen on my duty.

On 13th May 1986, as usual, I sent a parcel of news items and advertisements to the 'Eelanadu' Office, Jaffna, by the 'Pilliar Bus' that had been doing this job for us for years.

I declare that I sent by the said parcel the following articles only:— 'The Hindu' (an English daily from Madras); Newsweek' (a weekly English Magazine); Advertisement block from Team Advertising Ltd., Cuttings from 'Dinamani', Dinathanthy', 'Thinakaran' (Tamil dailies published in South India, sent by Mr. G. Mahadeva, News Editor, 'Eelanadu' then staying in Tamil Nadu, with instructions that I should forward the same to the Editorial Office in Jaffna. A write-up by our News Editor on the Madurai Conference on the Ceylon Tamils' issue, Printed copies of two letters written by Tamil Eelam International Research on "The Ceylon Tamils" Issue and sent to the members of the House of Commons, Canada, and to the members of the American Congress, Copies of news items from Reuters.

The copies of the letters itemised order 6 above were sent to me by one Mr. K. Srinivasan the Secretary of the said Tamil Eelam International Research, which were in fact printed documents, requesting me to have the same published in our paper. I sent the entire documents as it is my duty to transit to my Head Off-

ice any document received by me for publication in our newspaper. I was not vested with any discretion to withhold any document for transmission on the basis of its contents.

Though Mr. K. Srinivasan had sent them to me, there was no personal relationship between us and it was sent to me in my official capacity. Since there were earlier official cor-

Mr. Ratnam Kanthasamy, Staff Correspondent, 'Eelanadu', Colombo Office, has finally been acquitted by the Magistrate of the Anuradhapura Magistrate Courts. In the columns below, he narrates his story recorded by our correspondent.

respondence with me he took the liberty on this occasion to give the greeting of a personal touch, which appears to be consistent with the mores of his present habitat.

He had sent a similar copy of another letter some time earlier as well. The news contained in those copies were conveyed to our Edi-

torial Office in Jaffna by my co-officer by phone form our Colombo Office and it was published in the issue of 6th May '86. I sent that same letter as usual by Pilliar Bus and it appeared in the form of an article on the issue of 9th May '86. Then came the dramatic turn of events that took me by surprise. I was arrested by the Wellawatte Police on 15th May and kept in detention and subjected to interrogation till 7 p.m. the next day and then I was taken to the Anuradhapura Police Station. From 17th May to 14th June I was subjected to interrogation. On 14th June I was produced before the Magistrate Anuradhapura and on his order I was kept in remand for one and a half months in the Anuradhapura Prison and another one and a half months in the Bogambara Prison. On 15th September I was released by the Acting Magistrate, Anuradhapura on bail of Rs. 5000/- with the stipulation that I should report on the last Sunday of every month till 25th November 1986.

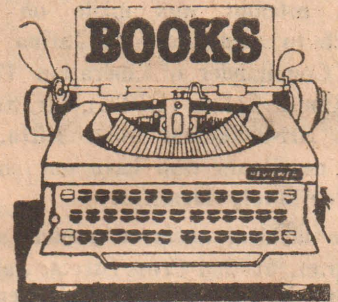
Remarkable Literary Accomplishment

A Blasphemous Poem (No-Belu Pasmaha Beluma) By Neil Lucky Christopher Distributed by Pradeep Publishers.

Few adequate efforts have been made to bring out the large body of new Sinhala and English poetry to modern readers. Christopher's writings is a handy anthology for anyone who wants to have an overview of modern creative poetry and the changes in outlook and life-style reflected therein.

His Sinhala anthology on "Pinna-mal" (The red beautiful flower which

no bees or butterflies ever step in) and "Wesaŋgana-wu-mawak" (The mother who became a prostitute) and English poem 'From a semi-rationalistic Young Nun' portrays the absurdity of life and the old my-



thical beliefs of virginity till death if the same cannot be preserved after death by living in a secluded imprisoned life, in a nunnery.

On the whole, Christopher's is a remarkable literary accomplishment by an amateur who strives to come out with modern social realistic thinking.

—Chandra Perera

Death Fast Again

The fast to death of 6 Tamil youths at Welikade jail which commenced on 6th April has entered the 3rd day without any signs of their calling off the fast.

For more than Two and a half years they are on remand without trial, though a Commission appointed by the Ministry of Justice had exonerated them. They are:— Kandasamy Thavarajah arrested on 12.9.83, Sellathurai Sritharan arrested on 15.4.84, Rajathurai Rajkumar arrested on 20.2.84, Sinnathamby Tharmalingam arrested on 28.2.84, Kathirgamar Balasingam arrested on 3.3.84, Pithambaram Naganathan arrested on 3.3.84

Musical Extravaganza

The Jaffnese Musical group, led by Mr. Maheswaran takes pleasure in offering a Variety Entertainment at Victoria College, Chulipuram on Hindu New Year's Day (14.4.87). The programme will consist of local pop songs symbolising the embattled North and East.

A LETTER TO MAMA

My dear Amma,

I am sorry I have been lying to you in the past three years. Each time I left home saying I was going to Anuradhapura — nearly 100 times — I was actually proceeding to Jaffna.

At your age — 85 — and in your delicate state of health, I did not burden you with unnecessary worries. That is why, I hope you will pardon me.

Jaffna, and the entire for that matter, is a strange place now unlike what it was in the "good old days." There are two legged tigers under every bush. There are also two-legged ghouls in khaki around the place. But don't worry, Amma, I have also got used to carrying an A.K. 47 though it contains only ink, not bullets.

The last time I left home — 3rd. April 1987 at 7 p.m. — it took me nearly 20 hours to reach my destination.

The seats of the Sri Lanka Transport Board bus were as hard as rock. My back side, is still aching, Amma. But this has been a minor discomfort compared to what happened on the way. What is supposed to be unitary and free country — the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka — I had to get down at 12 points to be "checked"

the last at Elephant Pass. Checking is normal practice when crosses borders. The immigration and customs are there to see that unwanted characters and unwanted goods do not get across. But these checks were on the way from one part of the same country to another part like in South Africa. It was as if Eelam the Kingdom to come, was already in existence!

You remember the election rallies when you were in your prime and I was a callow youth. "Kawda rajah" the torch bearers used to shout.

They in the South, still shout the same slogan. But one thing is certain: His Excellency, J.R. Jayewardene is no longer King of all Sri Lanka. He is merely the King of Kotte."

Amma, as I am writing this letter to you, the guns are booming and shells are falling everywhere. Little boys are at their fun and games yet again.

If people are hurt, it cannot be helped. They must ensure that they are not caught in the "cross-fire", Silly fools, they should stay at home. But even home is not safe nowadays because the little boys are sadists to the extreme and have no respect for human life.

Who created these monsters monster? Mothers like you, Amma? Only a mother knows the pangs of childbirth. How lovingly the child is brought up, though he or she may have been a bastard.

One bullet or shrapnel from a shell or bullet and he or she is off to Heaven or Hell. This is the stuff of life in Jaffna now, Amma. I am sorry, Amma, that I cannot bring you to Jaffna to see the state of the Sinhala Kingdom.

Father came with me to Jaffna about 10 years ago, to worship at Nagadipa, one of the holiest of Buddhist shrines in the North, believed to have been visited by the Buddha himself. He said he felt it was like going on pilgrimage to "Dambasadiva" (India). He in fact went to Dambasadiva also later.

The late Mr. S. Kathiravelu of Federal Party and later of the Tamil United Liberation Front placed his chauffeur driven car with the "Rising Sun flag" at my disposal for the duration of father's visit to Jaffna. wherever we went, we were treated like royalty. You should have also come and enjoyed the tour but you were too ill at that time.

Amma, several times you have asked me why I should go all the way to "Anuradhapura" for a job. You have said that you would find me one job in Maharagama, where I reside. I go there to hold up the 'Lion Flag' while the Jayewardenes, the Athulathmudalis and the like shout from their safe perches in Colombo about the greatness of the Sinhalese past and present and about their own power and invincibility. Amma, I am suffering in Jaffna, like the vast of the people. You know my favourite dish—fish? For the past so many months I have not been able to have any of it. The fishermen are in quarantine". The sea is out bounds to them in the name of national security."

I have to cycle to office because of the Government's fuel ban which makes car hire prohibitive.

I miss your cooking. I have not been able to have real rice "pol sambol" in Jaffna, while rice Koli" curry, dhal curry "pol sambol are not in the menu of most homes and hotels here.

Amma, my present suffering is all due to your fault. Why did you carry me to school and back daily till I was almost 10 years old and dressed me up in trousers? I would have been happier as a village school master wearing cloth and banian and functioning in my native Sinhala language. I hope you will not get worried or get angry about what I have written. It is Karma that is working, my Karma.

In Samsara's Karmic cycle, may you be my Mother again.

Your ever loving Son
Gamini

Cessation Of Hostilities Need Of The Hour

Text of the joint statement of the Commissions For Justice And Peace Of The Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference And The National Christian Council.

The Commissions for Justice and Peace of the Roman Catholic Bi-

shops' Conference and the National Christian Council at a joint session held on 18th March '87 reviewed the present spate of violence now prevailing in the Northern Region resulting from the ceaseless attacks and counter-attacks both by the Militant Groups and the Security Forces causing severe damage to life and property.

We are deeply grieved with the continued loss of life of youth on both sides and non-combatant civilians, specially the children, women and elders. The damage caused to school buildings and medical institutions, and the occupation of some of these places for defence purposes have further aggravated the situation by the disruption of access to freedom of education and health facilities which are basic human needs.

As a Christian Group dedicated to a United Sri Lanka and the cause of Justice and Peace, we deplore all forms of violence which inevitably hinder the progress for peace through a negotiated process, and we therefore appeal to both the Government and the Militant Groups to:- Take all essential steps for the cessation of hostilities in order to work towards a negotiated political settlement; Vacate any public buildings presently under occupation allowing their free use for the purposes they have been intended; Do everything possible with the aid of the Media to create an atmosphere conducive to peace and restore normalcy throughout the country without further delay.

STRONG PROTEST BY JAFFNA UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

Text of a statement by the University of Jaffna Teachers' Association on the Shelling of Jaffna Hospital.

The recent incident resulting in damage to two wards of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital, the death of several patients and an employee, and injury to many others is the climax to a continuous and prolonged attack by the security forces on civilian targets in the North. As law abiding citizens, we are aware that the Hospital has never been used as a base for attack on the Security forces. Such allegations have been an excuse to harass the civilian population of the North. Death and injury to civilians and wanton destruction of property by the action of the security forces is a callous disregard of any norms of civilized life.

As law abiding citizens and University teachers, we have to expose

the highhanded action of the security forces. The Sri Lankan Government itself should take note of our protest as the misinformation coming from the media centre gives the impression that communication has broken down at some point. The mis-information may in fact be disinformation on the part of certain forces to widen the misunderstanding among various parties interested in bringing about a satisfactory solution to the present problems.

As University Teacher's we have to make a strong protest against the attack on the Hospital which is a facility of the University. We are deeply concerned about the safety of our students and colleagues who have to be in the Hospital everyday for their academic programmes.

And in any case, as members of the public, we have to condemn any action which disregards the sanctity of human life.

ETHNIC CRISIS:

I wish to place certain facts at your disposal which I had witnessed as an insider in Sri Lanka's politics for the last forty years. I am also the son-in-law of the leader of what was originally the leading Tamil political party in the Ceylon Tamil areas of North and East Sri Lanka, the Tamil Federal Party, which later became the principal component of the Tamil United Liberation Front. S.J.V. Chelvanayakam, my father-in-law was the founder-leader of the Tamil Federal Party from its inception in 1949 till his decease in 1977. I am now Professor of Political Science at the University of New Brunswick and was Professor and Chairman of the Department in New Brunswick for four elected terms from 1972 to 30 June 1986. I ceased in 1986 when I chose to take my sabbatical leave.

Previously I taught at the University of Ceylon, (later changed to the University of Peradeniya), from 1952 to 1972. I was the first occupant of the founding chair of Political Science, which is the only chair in all the universities in Sri Lanka, as from 1968. For a short spell I functioned as Chairman of the Department of Economics and Political Science. Most importantly, I was the accepted intermediary in the dispute between the Tamil United Liberation Front and President Junius Jayewardene during the years 1978-1983 when I travelled from Canada during the long summer vacations to do my share in working out a compromise solution between the two parties. From my reading of the situation, the Tamil Front was honest and principled in all the commitments they made to President Jayewardene. They even agreed to President Jayewardene's request not to put forward a Tamil candidate at the Presidential election of October 1982. They expected President Jayewardene to deliver on his promises only to learn too late that he had been taking them for a long ride and had never intended to honour his pledges. President Jayewardene proved to be a man who had the utmost contempt for moral principles. He would have put Machiavelli to shame.

I have provided all this background information to indicate to you that I am quite competent and knowledgeable on Sri Lanka so that you will pay heed to the suggestions I shall be making below. For purposes of convenience, I shall enumerate these for you.

1. Politically the situation in Sri Lanka is both fluid and highly explosive. Repression may for a while maintain the peace and quiet of the graveyard. But there will be a re-

petition of the Shah, Marcos, Duvalier, Chang Kai-Shek and those of his kind. President Jayewardene belongs to the same genre. Besides, his age does not permit him to crack the whip whenever necessary. From ministers down to the humblest public servant, everybody knows that he is a lame duck President who has barely 18 or 19 months to go and that the succession lies elsewhere. It will not necessarily be Lalith Athulathmudali who will succeed. Neither the public nor the officer class trusts him. The "dark horse" in American politics is an appropriate application to the confused situation in Sri Lanka.

2. To prove my point that the political situation is completely confused, two persons of importance at least have fled the country:

a) Sri Lanka's former ambassador in Washington, Ernest Corea, a close relative of the President Junius Jayewardene and to all intents and purposes his Minister for Foreign Affairs even though A.C.S. Hameed kept in name the title, has chosen to leave his post. When I inquired of him (Ernest Corea) the reason for his sudden decision, he stated that the present incumbent (President Jayewardene) will remain in office for only another two years and he would not like to serve under his successor. My own guess is that the incumbent will unsuccessfully obtain an extension but there will be a popular uprising as with the Shah and Marcos. Ernest Corea is intelligent enough to know the consequences for him. He maintained his landed immigrant status in Canada and is now special aide to Ivan Head, the President of the International Development Research Corporation in Canada.

b) Sri Lanka's Secretary of Plan Implementation, Wickrema Weerasooria has similar status in Australia. His sister is married to Gaminu Dissanayake, one of the contenders for the presidential succession. Wickrema Weerasooria was my student at the University of Ceylon. He had told me that if he found the political situation in Sri Lanka becoming intolerable, he would flee

to Australia. To my amazement he has done exactly this. Today he is Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in Australia.

c) The military officers in charge of operations in North Sri Lanka have indicated to visiting foreign journalists and foreign academics that the most they (the military) could do is to contain the insurgent situation. They are convinced that despite the surfeit of weaponry and the training provided by foreign military advisors (Israeli and Pakistan) and the mercenaries employed (British and American), their troops do not have the will to fight. Their emphasis is on the political solution which is fast becoming a mirage. The mirage is due to the deep divisions within the cabinet. The President and the

This is the text of the STATEMENT by A.J. WILSON, Professor of Political Science, University of New Brunswick, Canada, at the Hearing on Sri Lanka on March 12, 1987, by the Sub-Committee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congress of the United States.

Prime Minister are openly at odds. The Ministers take sides. Most of them have no confidence in a President who has no confidence in them, having earlier demanded and obtained undated letters of resignation of all members of Parliament belonging to the ruling party.

d) To add to the confusion, the Commissioner of Elections in his report to Parliament has underscored the fact that the referendum to extend the term of Parliament was conducted in manners which were illegal and unconstitutional. In effect the Commissioner of Elections has virtually accused the government of cheating at the referendum in order to secure an extension of Parliament's term by another six years. This kind of activity on the part of a friend and ally of the United States will not promote the latter's interests, long term or even short term. The situation is reaching proportions similar to those

under Ferdinand Marcos. There will sooner than later be a popular uprising which will sweep away President Jayewardene and his government. Under such circumstances, the best courses, that might be adopted are

i. The suspension of all aid to Sri Lanka until proper constitutional government is restored.

ii. The Aid Ceylon Consortium should also be advised to avoid good money chasing after bad money. The United States cannot be expected to impose a democratic order on Sri Lanka. But suspension of support can compel the Jayewardene Government to reform itself, if not for its own sake, at least for the sake of those of its allies who have provided it with sustenance during the past many years.

iii. The United States should be aware of the problems that will result when Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike becomes Executive President of Sri Lanka. Mrs. Bandaranaike will obtain the office in the event of (a) a free and fair election or (b) as a result of a popular uprising as in the Philippines. The foreign policy of Mrs. Bandaranaike will definitely be distanced from the West. The U.S. facilities in Sri Lanka will be terminated. The U.S. will then have to prepare itself for alternative ways of achieving its foreign policy objectives.

iv. This is where the Tamil problem in Sri Lanka pose a significant question. There is a number of ways in which the Tamil problem can be handled by the major powers without the problem being neglected and become a further load on the international system:

A: The military solution that the Sri Lanka government seeks has to be ruled out despite Israeli and Pakistani assistance. For this the culture of Sinhalese society should be comprehended. As we have suggested the military itself realizes that a military solution is out of the question. The Sinhalese soldier, usually the son of peasants and/or rural folk does not realize the

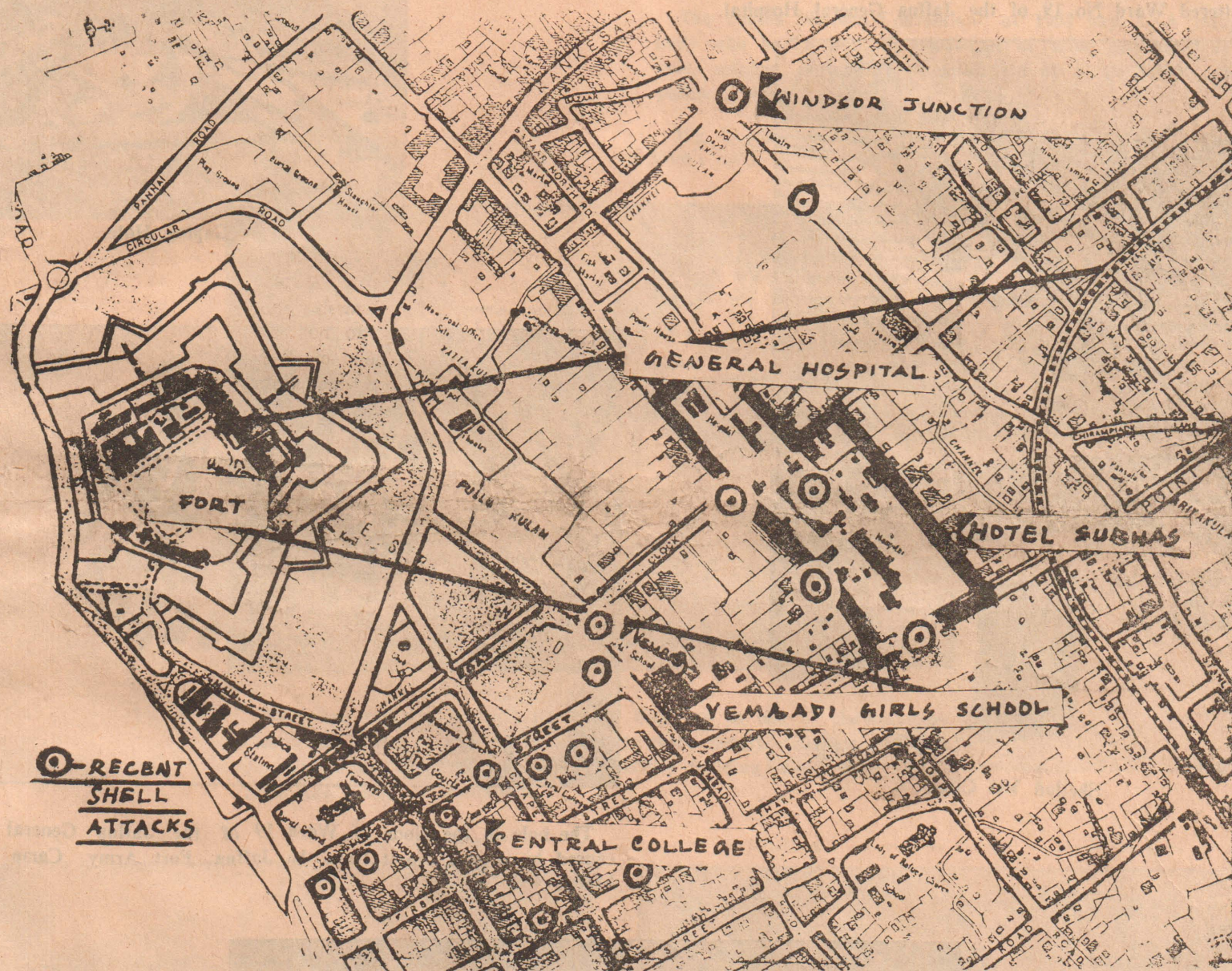
(Continued on page 9)

THE GLORY OF GORE

Today, we bring you in pictures the gory scenes that we witnessed in Jaffna after the Army personnel stationed in the Fort Camp did their worst in recent times (see SR of 4th April 1987).

The Government through its media Centre suggested that it was all the work of Tamil militants. Aesop was also good at relating old tales but he did a better job of it than some modern Professors.

The truth must be told. The people in the South and overseas cannot be allowed to be deceived for ever.



This map shows the areas affected by Army shelling from the Fort Camp on 30th March, 1987.

In the centre is the Jaffna General Hospital which the Government after several previous incidents, said would not be touched again. But touched again it was on this fateful day, with tragic consequences.

The official version put out in Colombo was that the Tamil militants had fired rocket at the Fort "from behind the hospital" (not "from within the Hospital premises" as they claimed on earlier occasions to justify the shelling).

The shells were "home made" and, therefore, crude and some fell within the hospital, according to the official version.

Anyone visiting Ward No. 19 of the Hospital would immediately realise from which direction the shells came. Nowhere but from the Fort.

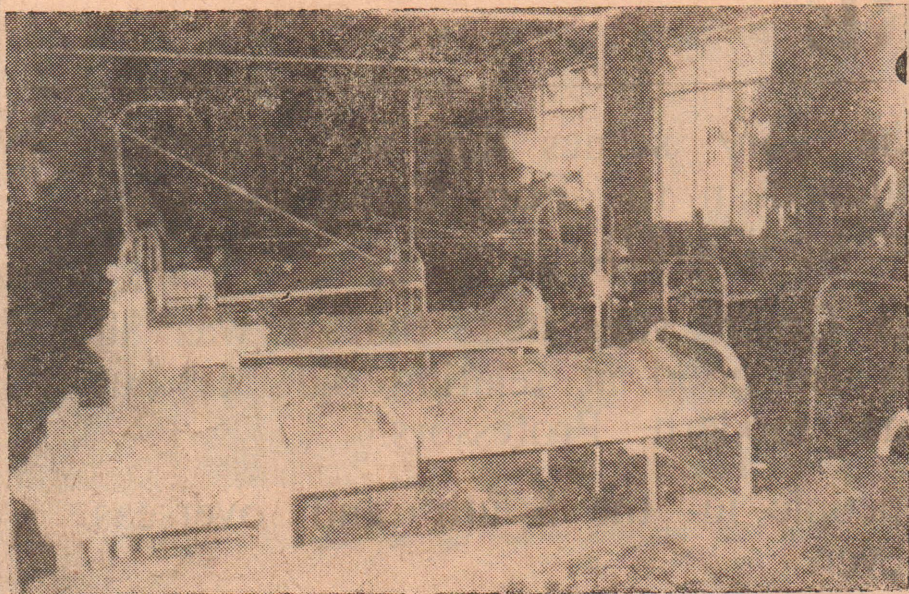
Ward No. 19 (which was administered by Dr. S. Sivakumaran) is in shambles. One must see it to realise the havoc that had been caused.

The Editor of the SR inspected the damage, along with the Director of the hospital, Dr. N. Nachinarkinar.

After seeing the broken roof and the gaping hole in the floor of Ward No. 19, the broken beds and rafters, the torn pillows and mattresses, the broken flasks and bottles strewn all over the floor and the broken windows, the Editor was at one time inclined to believe that the militants had developed a new weapon with boomerang potentialities — the shells once fired from behind the Hospital but these return to base to smash up innocents.

But, this was a fleeting thought. The militants are still not capable of developing a boomeranging shell despite all their ingenuity. Their shells go straight unlike the shells of the Army, which according to some official sources, are carried by the wind and fall inside the Hospital premises.

Ahem!



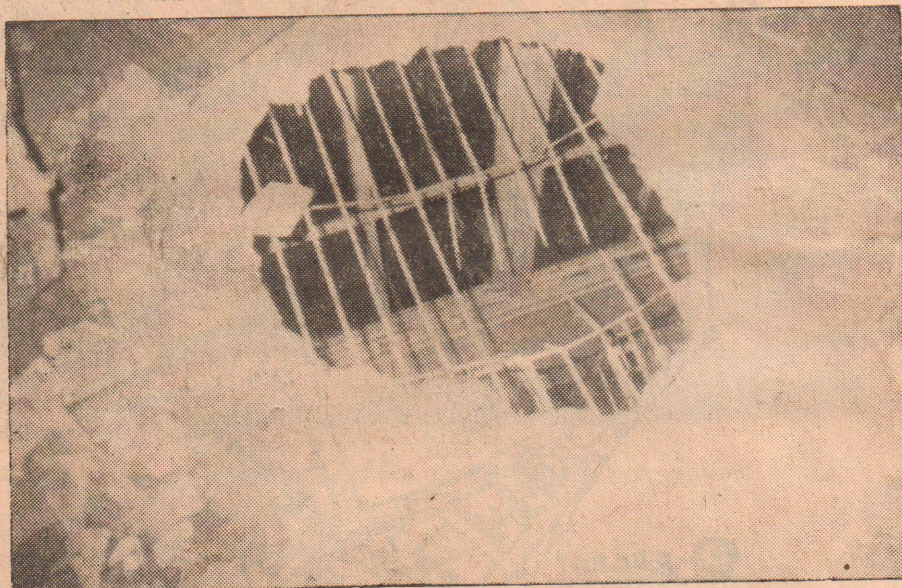
The shattered Ward No. 19 of the Jaffna General Hospital.



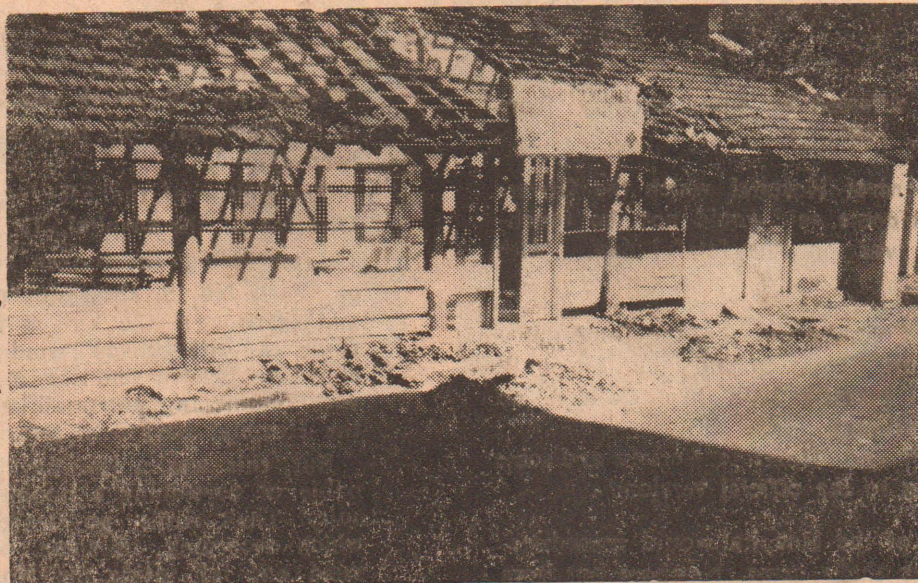
Gaping Hole.



Shelled VD Clinic.



The hole in the floor of Ward 19 of the Jaffna General Hospital caused by a shell burst from the Jaffna Fort Army Camp on 30th March.



The remains of Dr. Sabaratnam's hospital at First Cross Street.



This young girl lost her left arm when a shell fired from Karainagar Naval base hit her house.

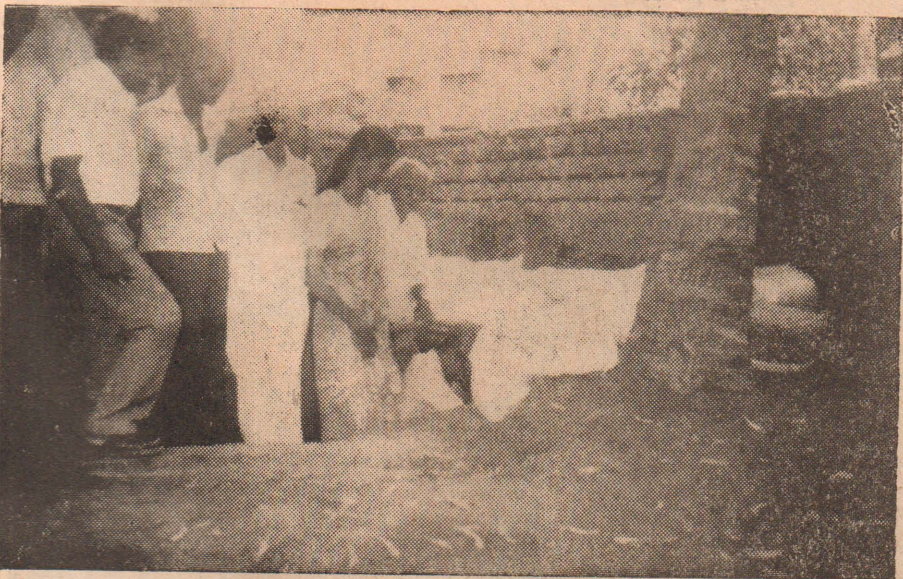


The United Nations Convention of 1951 says : A refugee is some body who has a well - founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

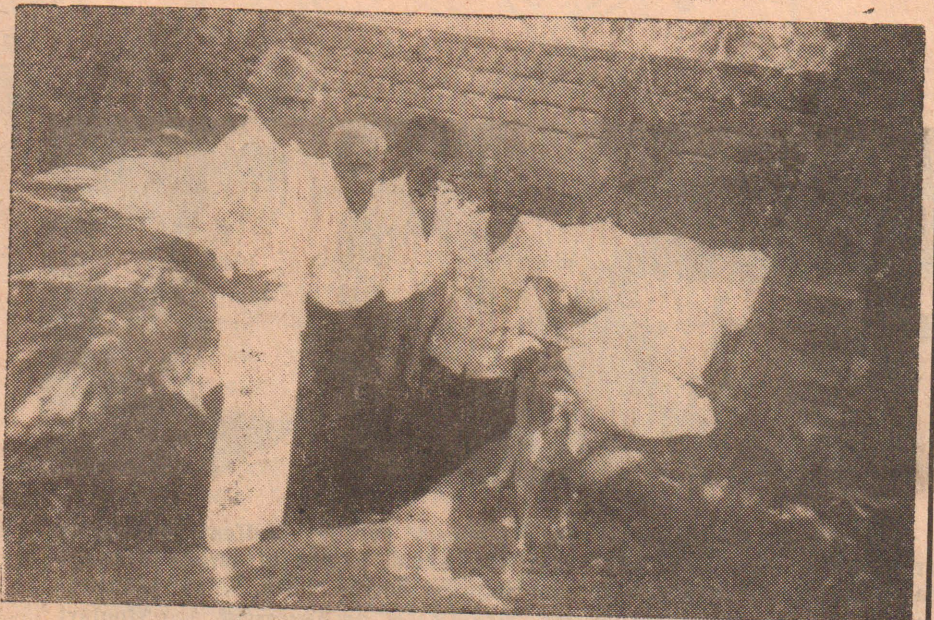
We, Sri [Lankans] are [proud in producing all these sort of refugees ! aren't we ?



They can still play volleyball though they are in one of the Refugees Camps in Jaffna. This is at Sangilian: where nearly 460 men, women & children are hearded into an old factory building minus basic facilities like water & sanitation.



The Editor and staff of the SR lined up to enter the air raid shelter constructed just behind the office as shells began falling in the vicinity.



The Editor, Assistant Editor, Director, an Editorial staff and Ronnie (SR's dog) emerging from the shelter after the raid was over.



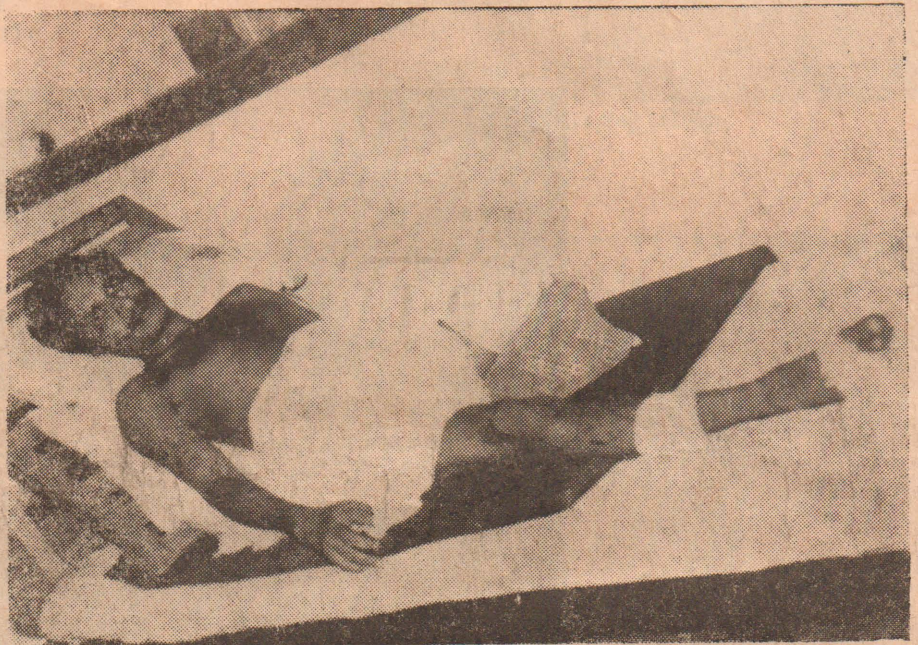
Weeping mothers and waiting relatives after the shell attack on the Hospital on 30th March.

Dr. Nachchinarkiniyar shows the direction of the shell.

(Photo Courtesy : EELANADU)



Tragedy at Ward 20



This unfortunate young man from the Muslim Ward, Jaffna had to lose his leg.

Thanks to the Jaffna Fort!



The prayer campaign at the premises of the Jaffna Secretariat organised by the Mass Movement for Human Rights to invoke blessings to ward off the atrocities by the Security Forces. Mr. S. Seevaratnam, attorney-at-law, President of the MMHR, is on the right and Moulavi Sathakathulla is on the left.



Deserted Main Street.

ETHNIC CRISIS : CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL....

(Continued from page 4)

implications of going to the battlefield despite all the incentives offered. The notion dies hard that soldiery is another term for policing and maintaining law and order. The peasant soldier does not realize that he will be engaged in an actual war. For another, armaments and the trade in it have become a source of income for ministers in the Jayewardene government as well as for top level bureaucrats. What in fact is happening is that weaponry from the United States, Israel, Pakistan, and other friendly powers is being traded with the Tamil guerilla movement. The situation is on a parallel with Chiang Kai-Shek and his officers. Military support is therefore counterproductive, if not definitely hostile to U.S. interests.

B. Given this state of affairs the U.S. has still a few options available to it. The Jayewardene government will eventually be overthrown by a combination of student protest, labour unrest and ethnic rebellion. If ethnic rebellion is stilled, the Jayewardene government will have to handle a less onerous task in dealing with students and labour with whom compromises and settlements are more likely to work. The Tamil rebellion on the other hand will provide a catalyst for the other forces of protest. It will also bring about the economic ruin of the country in that tourism, foreign investments and exploitation of the free trade zone will cease to attract foreign interests.

The most pressing problem is to recognize the fact that the Tamils of Sri Lanka, and they include the Indian Tamils Plantation workers, occupy a geographically contiguous area and have, unlike in the early days of independence, begun to look upon themselves as a nation in their own right. This contiguous area which comprises the Northern, Eastern and Uva provinces should be constitutionally recognized as a single Tamil unit. Powers that do not include foreign affairs, defence, currency and communication should be devolved on this unit. Constitutionally, the central government should not have the right to withdraw any of the powers devolved without the consent of the Tamil unit. Any other formula for the amendment of powers will easily pass through the Legislature and will be meaningless because the Sinhalese constitute 74 per cent of the population.

The quantum of powers and the areas in which powers are to be devolved are subjects for negotiation. But the two questions that are non-negotiable if the territorial integrity of the island state is to be main-

tained is (a) the one unit Tamil homeland and (b) the one unit Tamil homeland must have complete control over its demographic composition. If the Sinhala Rata (the Sinhalese state) complains of the voluntary immigration of Tamils into the, Sinhala Rata, unaided and by their town efforts, the alternative must be a peaceful exchange of population as for example, it happened in post-war Germany.

B. The alternative proposition will in my opinion prove more attractive. The traditional Tamil areas of the Northern, Eastern and Uva provinces should constitute one unit. They could have a sovereignty-type relationship with the Sinhala Rata (the Sinhalese state). That Sinhalese state could be completely unshackled in whatever it wants to do in regard to the preservation of the land, the Sinhala race and the Buddhist faith. Each unit will have complete and unconditional control over defence, foreign affairs and land. Other subjects can be negotiated upon. The fact of a sovereignty-association relationship will at least maintain the

island as one single polity on the map of the globe.

C. A confederal structure whereby the powers referred to in the preceding paragraph is an alternative to sovereignty association.

D. A federal system of government is where there will be the non-negotiable one-Tamil unit and unconditional control over its demographic composition is still a possibility. I must caution however that in historical perspective the end result will be what has been cited in A or B or C or two separate sovereign units.

E. The advantage in the United States supporting propositions A, B or C is that the Tamil unit is more reliable in its adherence to the rules of the international diplomatic system than the Sinhalese unit. There has been a long long tradition of education through American mission in the Tamil unit. The Tamil people morally obliged to the U.S. institutions which spent so much time over their education. Any agreement therefore with the U.S. Government will be honoured. It will therefore be a sounder proposition for

the U.S. to have broadcasting arrangements and other necessary facilities in the Tamil state than in the Sinhalese where public opinion is subject to violent, volatile and unpredictable changes of mood. A typical example was the abandonment by the Sinhalese government in 1956 of a defence agreement, hardly 8 years after it had been concluded, with the British government. The Sinhalese government has also proved thoroughly unreliable in recent times in its foreign policy towards the foreign powers which supported it. It has openly declared its support for the P. L. O. and the Arabs against the Israelis notwithstanding Israeli military support for Sri Lanka. It has condemned South Africa and supported sanctions against that country in spite of South African shipments of arms.. All this has happened with the government of President Junius Jayewardene in office. The situation will be completely altered when Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike becomes President and will have the fullest backing of the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc.

F. The difficulties that the Jayewardene government claims over the constitution it framed only six years after Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike framed hers in 1972 is lame and deceptive. Parliament in Sri Lanka has a five-sixths majority of the ruling party. Any constitutional expert will state that all that Parliament has to do is declare itself a Constituent Assembly in the context of a national crisis. This Assembly can abandon the referendal clauses in the Constitution, establish a separate Constitutional Court like Mrs. Bandaranaike's Government did and amend the Constitution suitably to meet the problems of the national crisis caused by the Tamil demand. The judges and public servants can then be re-appointed and asked to take their oaths under the new constitution. These were the procedures followed by Mrs. Bandaranaike in 1972 and President Jayewardene in 1978. The excuse of constitutional obstacles therefore is a lame one. It is a fraudulent excuse.

G. Finally India has played out its mediatory role. It tried bringing the disputants to the negotiating table to come to an agreement from the time of the holocaust in July 1983 to the present time. India has sadly failed in her diplomacy. Sri Lanka should not be allowed to become yet another theatre of war in which the super powers will fight a war by proxy. Washington and the Aid Ceylon Consortium can coerce the Jayewardene government to revise the constitution on the lines stated. In this way the Indian Ocean can be preserved as a zone of peace.

TRAGEDY AT KADDUVAN

Here we publish a letter from Mrs. Sarojinidevi Shanmugaratnam who lost her husband and brother-in-law on 28th February.

I would like to draw your attention to what happened to me and my family on Saturday, 28th February 1987.

On 28th February 1987, We were at our home which is close to the Kadduvan Junction when strafing started, and on soldiers started advancing. They entered the houses and gunned down the inmates. They entered our houses and shot dead my husband Ponnampalam Shanmugaratnam, (47), an employee of the Vivekanda Press, Jaffna, my brother-in law Ponnampalam Guharatnam (51), weo happened to be with us that morning too was shot by the soldiers. He was a Government employee working in Colombo. He came here for his mothers funeral.

As the two brothers were lying dead, my children and I had to flee now we are refugees at Kondavil.

The citizens' committee of Myliddy had fixed an appointment with an officer of the Army Camp, Palaly. I visited my house in the company of three army officers. I was shocked to find all our belongings removed. The house was empty. Our house which had cost Rs. two lacks was damaged. My father Mr. K. Kandiah, (70), was with me when I paid the visit. He can converse well in Sinhala. When he asked the soldiers present about my husband and his brother, they said, "we shot them!" They

also showed us the spot where the bodies were burnt.

When we asked them about the missing household goods, they said, they didn't know anything. But later the army officer who addressed the refugees said that they were in possession of some household goods and those who furnish the particulars could get same.

I have lost the following articles and documents:-

JEWELLERY

- 1) Thalicode -13 Sov.worth Rs.40,000/
- 2) Goldchain-5 " " Rs.15,000/
- 3) Necklace -3 " " Rs. 9,000/
- 4) Pendant -2 " " Rs. 6,000/

Radio, Wall Clock, A Complete Suite of furniture, Clothes, Brass utensils, Eversilver ware,

DOCUMENTS:

Identity cards. Ration stamps. Land Deeds.

The Particulars of my family are as follows:-

Husband - Ponnambalam Shanmugaratnam - 46 yrs (deceased), Mrs. Sarojinidevi Shanmugaratnam - 37 yrs., Mas. Shanmugaratnam Sudharsan - 12 yrs., Mrs. Shanmugaratnam Suheedharan - 11 yrs., Miss. Shanmugaratnam Sujeeva-7 yrs.

On 7th March, I informed the Government Agent, Jaffna through the Grama Sevaka Kondavil East, of the tragedy that befell us and my present plight.

I appeal to you to help me to obtain compensation for the damaged house and also to get the missing household goods back.

Further, I have absolutely no means to bring up my children. If you could make arrangements towards our rehabilitation, I shall be very grateful.

'TAMILS FACE MOST CRITICAL PERIOD'

(Continued from last issue)

While the death toll in the Anti-Tamil racial pogrom of June/July 1983, which prompted India's diplomatic intervention was estimated to be in the region of three thousand (3000), the number of non-combatant Tamil civilians killed since the formation of the Ministry of National Security and up to now, on the basis of a realistic assessment, is in the region of eight to nine Thousand (8000 to 9000). Since June/July 1983 more than eleven thousand (11,000) innocent Tamil civilians, men, women and children, have been mercilessly massacred in Sri Lanka.

While in the period June/July 1983, Tamil civilians were massacred by Sinhala thugs and hoodlums, in the period since the formation of the Ministry of the National Security, Tamil Civilians have been killed by the racially constituted Armed Forces, and Para-military forces specially trained and armed by the Government. Aerial and Naval attacks have been persistently carried out against civilian targets. Thickly populated habitations, have been shelled through heavy artillery from the Army Camps, and Naval Gun Boats, and strafed and bombed from the air.

Over two hundred (200) Tamil villages in the Northern, and Eastern Provinces have been devastated and destroyed. More than Twenty five thousand houses and other buildings owned by Tamils have been destroyed in the said two provinces. In every one of the ravaged areas, Hindu Temples, and in some areas Churches, have either been destroyed or desecrated.

No less than Five hundred thousand (500,000) Tamils have been rendered homeless and destitute. In many areas, Tamil civilians attempting to return to their villages have either been killed or driven out.

Foreign military personnel and mercenaries have participated in these attacks along with the Sri Lankan Armed Forces, and para-military personnel.

It is in this background and shortly after President Jayewardene resiled from the proposals of 19th December that the Sri Lankan Government imposed, in early January 1987, an economic and communications blockade of the Jaffna peninsula. The communications blockade has since been extended to other districts in the Northern Province.

Meanwhile the military operations continued in the Northern and

Eastern Provinces. In late January 1987, the Sri Lankan Armed Forces without any cause, suddenly launched major military offensives including Aerial attacks in the Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts in the Eastern Province killing over two hundred (200) Tamil civilians, and destroying substantial civilian property. This was followed by further major military offensives including Naval and Aerial attacks in early February 1987, in the mainland of the Northern Province, in the Mannar, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts. Over a further three hundred (300) Tamil civilians, were killed in these attacks and there was immense destruction of civilian property. More than five hundred (500) Tamil civilians were wantonly killed by these military offensives within the short space of a fortnight.

In the context of the on-going peace efforts pursued by the Indian Government, these military offensives were unwarranted and unjustified and clearly establish the mala-fides of the Sri Lankan Government. In further proof of its real intention to beat down the Tamils, and impose what in effect would be a military solution, the Sri Lankan Government continues with its military offensive, particularly within the Jaffna peninsula. Tamil civilians continue to be killed every day.

By all reports over twenty thousand (20,000) troops have been massed within and on the periphery of the Jaffna peninsula, so heavily armed as to engage at very short notice in a swift and ferocious operation aided by aerial attacks from helicopter gun-ships and bomber planes, and Naval attacks from Gun boats.

All circumstances point to the imminence of a massive military offensive within the Jaffna peninsula, the civilian casualties, in which event, would be unprecedentedly high.

Meanwhile, the economic and communications blockade, which has been in force within the Jaffna peninsula for the past two months, has subjected the civilian population to immense deprivation and suffering. Starvation stalks the peninsula and people have already been compelled to skip at least one meal a day. The fuel embargo has paralysed all transport and economic activity. Hospitals, Co-operatives, Schools and other institutions have all been crippled.

Despite the intimation of the Government of India of 9th February

that the economic and communications blockade be lifted, and that the military operations be suspended the Sri Lankan Government has persisted with its actions. Statements attributed to President Jayawardene, the Minister of National Security, and other Military sources indicate that both the military operations, and the Economic and Communications blockade will continue.

To demand that Tamil militants abandon their struggle and lay down arms in the face of the Government's continued tyranny and oppression without redressing the causes, that have fuelled revolt amongst a peaceful people, is to expect surrender. The Tamil militants have always expressed a willingness to participate in evolving an acceptable political solution.

The population of Eight hundred thousand (800,000) Tamils within the Jaffna peninsula, face imminent danger and are in grave peril. We earnestly plead that they should be saved. It would be doubly tragic if the fate that has already befallen the Tamil population in most of the areas of the Eastern Province, and the mainland of the Northern Province, was to overtake the bulk of the Tamil population who live within the Jaffna peninsula.

We respectfully contend that the Sri Lankan Government should not be permitted while continuing to abuse India's good offices, to steadily and surely thrust upon the Tamils a military solution. The Tamil people have suffered immeasurably through the manoeuvres and manipulations of President Jayewardene

and his Government. Several reports of International Groups bear ample testimony to the sad plight of the Tamils.

While we deeply appreciate the steps, that have been taken by the Prime Minister and Government of India we desire to keep you informed that we have, in a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, appealed that the following steps also be taken: (1) that as a humanitarian measure, food and fuel be provided to the deprived and suffering Tamil populace through the good offices of the Indian Government. (2) that the continuous gross violations of human rights, and genocidal attacks, against the Tamil people in Sri Lanka be appropriately raised at International Fora, and an International campaign be launched for the taking of such measures and steps, as would compel Sri Lanka to comply with its national and International obligations, in respect of its own Tamil civilian population. (3) that the Government of India consider on humanitarian grounds the taking of such action, as would ensure the physical protection and survival of the Tamil people in the Northern and Eastern Provinces pending a final solution.

All that has continuously happened, lead us to the irresistible conclusion, that the real aim of the Sri Lankan Government is the total suppression and annihilation of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka.

We are deeply convinced that it is only through the efforts of the Prime Minister, the Government and the people of India, that the Tamils of Sri Lanka can be saved from their tragic plight.

EXHIBITION OF PALMYRAH PRODUCTS IN COLOMBO

An Exhibition of Palmyrah based products is to be held next month in Colombo, with the view of promoting the sales of Palmyrah Products in the foreign market and at the same time to induce the foreign investors to help and explore the possibility of widening the activities of the Palmyrah Industry especially the fancy goods and liquor products like the manufacturing of Brandy, wine and arrack from palmyrah.

This exhibition, if the situation permits is to be organised by the Palmyrah Development Board in co-operation with the Export Development Board and the Ministry of Regional Development.

The Palmyrah Development Board in order to attain the maximum benefit from this exhibition is interested in obtaining the assistance of the public and social organisations in the way of collecting very old old scripts, old palmyrah products that are preserved to this day which could under line the durability of Palmyrah products and newly made fancy goods either from palmyrah leaves, timber or fibre.

Palmyrah Development Board earnestly appeal to the public who have such products to contact it's Head Office in Jaffna.

Church's Role Grows More Difficult In Sri Lanka

The parties concerned in reaching a solution to the ethnic crisis are the government and security forces on one side, and the Tamil militants and Tamil civilian population on the other, with the Indian mediation in between.

While these parties make their efforts towards a solution, as well as their blunders against a solution, the Sri Lanka Church and its leaders have grown in their diversity of views—ranging from, "We have done everything possible nothing could be done any more," to just the opposite, "We have not done anything worthy of us Christians."

From an earlier stage of aloofness with respect to the policies of the various governments as regards the Tamils and consequent Tamil discrimination, the Church of Sri Lanka was willy-nilly pulled in to contribute a more active share after the 1983 riots against the Tamils.

From its "Red Cross" actions of burying the dead and caring for the wounded without paying attention to the root causes, the Church was called to assume its due prophetic role of evaluating and reacting to the human situation of suffering and oppression.

Mr.A.K.Sen who was Law Minister in the Cabinet of Mr.Rajiv Gandhi, relinquished his post on 27th March. His reason for the resignation was the rout of the Congress (I) Party in the recent elections held in West Bangal for which he was Chief Campaign Organiser. He also quit because of the break-down of law and order that led to several

MEDIA SCENE

attacks on the Congress - I supporters. He sent his resignation from the Cabinet from Calcutta itself.

In historical retrospect, more than 30 years ago when there was a train disaster in a remote place called Arrialur in Tamil Nadu, the then Minister of Railways, Mr.Lal Bahadur Sastri, who was a thousand miles away at Delhi, took responsibility for the accident and resigned his post. Kamraj Nadar of South India, gave up his post as Chief Minister to work among the villages and the people.

History is replete with examples during the Indian Independence struggle where people gave up their much garnered wealth to fight against

This it attempted through a joint pastoral letter of Pentecost 1984.

Though acclaimed by His Holiness the Pope (and even translated into German by the German bishops), the pastoral did not reach Sri Lanka's Catholic masses, let alone the Buddhist masses and the government.

Father S.J. Emmanuel addressed the Fourth General Assembly of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference at Tokyo last September, is a theologian and is now rector of St. Francis Xavier's Seminary in Jaffna. This commentary appeared in the Asia Focus of.....27th March.

The letter's belated translation into the majority language (Sinhalese), with its lengthy, cautious and safely balanced statements, did not carry a hard-hitting message to those responsible for evil. Rather, it analysed some causes and proposed some orientations based on Christian principles for resolving conflict.

The Church leaders did contribute their mite also to the efforts of the All Party Conferences. They did call the people to prayer and penance through Lenten campaigns. But all

that was not enough to engage the Christians actively on behalf of the suffering and the oppressed. Prayer, though important and indispensable, was at times and for many an escapism from actions by the Christians.

As things deteriorated between the government and its security forces on one side and the militants on the other, the Church of the majority preferred to retreat into its traditional life of prayer and penance for the suffering and dead, rather than any strong Gospel stand against the government or majority masses.

The Church of the minority, meanwhile, finds itself in a dilemma.

Owing to its past aloofness from the politics of the North, it has no voice or influence over present happenings. And because of the continuous indiscipline of state forces, it can only condemn terrorism in general, but not act in a concrete manner against them.

They say that, if not for the militants, the army would have wiped us long ago. Because the Tamils of the North and East are discriminated against and punished by unjust methods—such as the Prevention of terrorism Act, detention of thousands of Tamil boys without inquiry, murder and burial without trial, economic and communications blockades, etc. — the Tamil Church has lost even the little prophetic courage that there was at the beginning.

The cries of the Tamils in general and of the Tamil Church in particular did not reach the South.

While the South is concerned and alarmed about terrorism but not about the causes of the continuing "Sinhala only" discrimination that

produces it, the North is convinced that root causes must be healed for a permanent solution. And even if reached, the latter opted for indifference and safer "prayer."

The state-owned media, Sinhala and English press, radio and television news covered Lebanon and Afghanistan in detail, but not the hor-

by Fr.S.J. Emmanuel

rendous happenings of the North and East.

Some bishops of the South did visit the North and expressed concern for its sufferings. But this latter was weakened by their praiseworthy statements only about the patient, good-will efforts of the government, but nothing of the people's unjust sufferings resulting from the economic and communications blockades.

This action of the Sinhala Church is due to the fear among the Sinhala Catholics. They have been accused in the past of being foreign to the aspirations of the Sinhala Buddhists. They feel now is the time to prove their patriotism and nationalism by raising "Hosannas" with the majority Buddhist Sinhalese.

Their concern for nationalism and for making the Church more national with the blessings of the Sinhala Buddhist Government, thus assuring a safe future, seems to suppress their concern for justice and solidarity with the distant suffering.

The evangelical preferential option appears thus for a cheap nationalism/patriotism and one with the masses than for justice, solidarity with the unseen poor and underprivileged.

SHAMELESSLY SHAMEFUL

the British Raj for their Independence: Legal luminaries like Rajaji, gave up their lucrative practice at the Bar and took part in the National Struggle.

Years have not dulled the noble traditions of not glorifying positions of power in India as evinced in Mr.Sen's resignation. However, in our country if one obtains power or position and is for some reason or other thrown out of it, one nevertheless tries to get back to it by some way or other. There are only one or two examples of people who have emulated the Indian tradition.

Chellapah Suntheralingam gave up his cabinet portfolio to protest the disenfranchisement of the Indian Tamils. In 1953, the Hartal against the removal of the subsidy on rice and the consequent Police Firing, brought about the resignation of the then Prime Minister, the late Mr. Dudley Senanayake who could not

bear to condone the killing of his own countrymen. Mr. S.Natesapillai resigned his cabinet post because he felt that the U.N.P. to which he belonged was going off-course.

Today, under the guise of the extermination of "terrorism" 50 to 60 Tamils at least are liquidated daily.

We publish below the editorial that appeared in the *Eelamurasu* of 30th March, written by its prestigious Editor-In-Chief Mr. S.M.Gopalaratnam.

Tamil-speaking people are being hounded out of their homeland, even refugees are being driven from pillar to post and those who are called "the army" have been installed. The Tamil homeland is turning into military encampments.

In this unfortunate situation, a man who cannot even visit his own birthplace and a person who has not a semblance of concern for his homeland still holds the portfolio of the Minister of Hindu Affairs and Regional Development.

Hindu temples are being daily razed to the ground. The six daily poojas in the renowned Maviddapuram Temple and other temples have ceased. There is no way of even lighting the Holy Lamp in the temples. In this predicament there as no one to remedy the situation in this gentleman is supposedly in charge of Hindu culture and Religious Affairs. The Minister of Home Affairs cannot even visit his own town. The Minister has done nothing about the cold-blooded murder of 52 Tamils in the Welikade prison.

A District Minister who cannot visit his own District. The Government keeps these men in the safety of their well-guarded houses and tells the world there is no ethnic problem in the country. A.P. Venkateswaran who thundered in America that Sri Lanka was making use of mercenaries in its struggle against the militants threw away his job because of his convictions. Are they Tamils who cling to their portfolios, and posts including the chief Justice and Attorney General no matter what the costs? It is a shamelessly Shameful way of earning one's living—if they could be called dogs, then the dogs themselves would feel disgraced.

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

STOP THIS NONSENSE

Hartal, Hartal, Hartal in Jaffna. Even so often.

Who is hitting whom? The people of the North themselves.

There is no impact from these puerile exercise at all in the South to where the message is intended to be conveyed.

One paragraph in the Colombo based newspapers and that is about all the publicity that is received.

Let us call an end to Hartals and do something more purposeful like planting brinjals in our home gardens.

THE SMILE ON THE FACE OF THE TIGER

The five soldiers and three policemen held captive by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) after they overran the mini-camp of the Security Forces at Pannai, Jaffna, on 23rd March 1987, were interviewed for international television by Mr. Chandra Perera of the National Broadcasting Corporation of America (NBC) and Worldwide Television News (WTN) who was accompanied by the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Present on the occasion were "Mr. Rahim", spokesman of the LTTE, and Mr. M. Kanagarajana-yagam, a Director of the S.R.

This was the first time the eight prisoners-of-war held in a well-guarded house in Jaffna were interviewed for international television.

The Editor, in a brief address, in Sinhala, told the eight prisoners that like so many others of them in the Security Forces, they had been sent as "cannon fodder" to the North while leaders of the Government and the Generals relaxed in Colombo in air-conditioned comfort.

He said it was a big political game in which some leaders of both

Boosa Black House

A youth taken into custody at Mullaitivu and released from Boosa recently, had a harrowing tale to tell about conditions at the detention camp at Boosa.

According to him nearly 3,200 persons are being detained there, 22 of them are women. Three families are also being kept in detention. Every room consists of nearly 200 men with inadequate sanitary facilities. Bread for breakfast and rice and curry at noon and nights were their regular meals, the quantity and quality left much to be desired. They were permitted to bathe once in five days.

communities, as well as arms dealers and contractors benefited.

He asked for the ages of the captives. They were all within the range of 20 and 22 years.

Kandy Trinity College "RAHEEM", a big man in the LTTE setup is also within the same age range. He is only 20.

He was a self-composed man, compared to the eight captives, who appeared to be somewhat nervous in the presence of so many fully armed guards.

But questioned by the Editor, the captives said they had been treated

well by the captors. No torture at all. Not even a slap on the face compared to what happens to Tamil youths, some completely innocent, taken into custody by the Security Forces. The Editor told them that he had seen some Tamil youths hung upside down in the former Army camp at Gurunagar.

The Editor asked them why they were in Jaffna. "For a job" was the unanimous reply.

Poor chaps. Given an inadequate training, they are sent to the North to battle against Tamil youths dedicated to preserve their heritage.

Some of the remarks (unprintable) made by the Editor made "Mr. Raheem" smile. "But do not get deceived by the smile", the Editor said. He could be ruthless as any other Tiger! "Mr. Raheem" smiled again.

Shell Kills Infant In The Womb

A young wife's stomach was ripped open by a shrapnel forcing the nine month infant out of her womb.

This tragedy of tragedies happened when Valvettiturai had its quota of shells from the night of 5th April, from the Army camp. The firing continued on the 6th as well.

The Army Camps at Valvettiturai, Thondamannar and Navy Gun boats fired into civilian residential areas and the shells were falling as far as three miles from the sea shore.

A shell fell on a house where a pregnant mother, A. Rajaledchumi, her husband Sundaram (40) and son Prabhu (2) had taken refuge. The husband and son were killed on the spot, along with seven others.

More than 20 houses were damaged.

Editor Released

The Editor of the "Ananda Viketan", the Tamil Weekly, was released from the Central Prison in Madras on 6th April consequent on an order made by Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly at the request of the Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Balasubramanian, the Editor was arrested at his farm in Tamil Nadu and sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment on 4th April for publishing a cartoon in the paper which is alleged to have brought the legislators into disrepute. Members of the four opposition groups walked out in protest at this decision.

Mr. Balasubramanian on the other hand, refused the Speaker's request to apologise saying that he would take any punishment.

THREE MILITANTS DEAD

Attempts were made by two helicopters to land on the Kaitady-Kopay bridge on 8th April.

As a consequence, there was a direct confrontation between the Security Forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

As one helicopter gave air cover with blazing guns, the other attempted to land, while Security Forces entrenched at the Navatkuli Camp fired salvos of shells.

Many civilians were injured in this confrontation, some ran for refuge in safe places while others took to air raid shelters, which have now become common sights in the Peninsula.

Bitter Rice

According to informed sources there was a clash between officers and soldiers in the Jaffna Fort Army Camp on 9th April '87. The clash appears to have erupted when some soldiers applied for leave which had been turned down by the higher echelons. A clash appears to have ensued, resulting in injuries to some soldiers.

The landing attempt was thwarted but three militants lost their lives. They were Surali (Vijayarajah) of Manipay, Siva of Vavuniya and Senith of Nainativu.

An Unofficial Detente

A high ranking officer is reported to have told passengers travelling from Mankulam to Elephant Pass by bus to ask the militants to stop firing at them and they too shall desist from firing.

Shelton Again

Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Shelton Ranaraja told a meeting at Senkadagala that millions of rupees being spent on arms could be better channelled to Health and Development of the people of the Island. Military solution was no answer to the ethnic problem while people are being killed unnecessarily.