

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Vol. 6 No. 34 12th September 1987

POST-ACCORD BLUES

Have we fallen from the frying pan into the fire?

This is the question that is troubling everybody, especially in the North and East, after the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord was signed on 29th July.

But not only in the North and East.

The Colombo-based media, especially the State controlled ones, tend to give the impression that things are back to normal, everything is hunky-dory and only a few loose ends in the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord have to be tied up.

The ground realities are very different.

The President of the Movement for Inter-Racial Justice and Equality (MIRJE) — the distinguished former Civil Servant Mr. Charles Abeysekera — put this very succinctly when he told a Jaffna audience recently: In the South, the majority of Sinhalese think that the Accord has given the Tamils all that they need or want. But in Jaffna the consensus seems to be that the Accord has virtually given nothing.

While we agree with the MIRJE President's point that the Accord contains the possibilities of evolving political structures that can provide a political solution to the ethnic problem, we must also make it clear that there's no room for complacency.

There is evidence that the Government is stepping up State-aided Sinhala colonisa-

tion in Mullaitivu and Trincomalee Districts. At the same time, the deadly trio—the Sri Lankan Security Forces, Home Guards and armed Sinhala colonists — are actively preventing Tamil refugees resettling in their old villages (not homes: most homes of the Tamils were deliberately 'torched' during the ethnic war).

This is a flagrant violation of the spirit of the Accord.

While this is the ground reality in the East, the situation in the North is not very comforting either.

At best, a kind of negative peace prevails. Mercifully, the Sri Lankan Forces have stopped bombing, strafing, shelling and sniping at the civilian population.

For this relief, much thanks to the Accord.

But, on the debit side, internecine warfare among the militant groups has become more marked. So have criminal activities like robbery.

Much more disquieting is the recent killing at Uduvil of innocent civilians, two of them from the South. This may have been a case of

mistaken identity; but that's cold comfort for the relatives and dependants of the victims.

Monday's 'gheraoing' of Indian Army camps throughout Jaffna may well be a pointer to future scenarios.

Perhaps if the Interim Administration gets going, the situation may improve a bit. Meanwhile, one is left with the nagging question: Will the Accord hold or will it founder?

How we wish we could answer that question affirmatively, with some degree of certainty!

Kachcheri Paralysed

The Mullaitivu Kachcheri has been paralysed for more than a week now.

Tamil residents of Mullaitivu have picketed outside the Kachcheri demanding that the Government put an immediate stop to Sinhala Colonisation of vast tracts in the Mullaitivu District (see SR, 22nd August).

The protesters point out that, while the Government has accelerated the pace of State-aided Sinhala colonisation of Mullaitivu, Tamil refugees who had to flee their homes during the ethnic war, are unable to get back to their villages: the Sri Lankan Security Forces and armed Sinhala colonists are acting as effective deterrents.

The question is: Who will deter the deterrents?

PASTOR, 3 OTHERS KILLED

Rohan Dissanayake (49), Pastor, and Upali Gunathunga (25), both of Nuwara Eliya, along with Sekar Don Bosco (25) and Philandran William Sebaratnam (18) of Navaly, members of the Assembly of God, were shot and killed on Monday night (7th September) at Uduvil while they were travelling in

a van. Four others were injured and admitted to hospital.

Preacher Rajasooriar, in his evidence at the Magisterial inquiry, stated that when he went up to the van in question he saw four masked men running away from it.

The occupants of the van, he added, were returning from his house and two others and he followed on scooters when they noticed the van halting at the Uduvil junction. They had gone up to this van to find the dead and injured lying in pools of blood. They had then stopped a passing lorry and another van and taken

the bodies of the dead and those who were injured to the Tellippalai hospital.

'We are men of God and

we have no enemies" concluded the Pastor.

The Magistrate returned a verdict of homicide.

Pawners Have To Hold On

Residents in the North and East who pawned their jewellery with the branches of the People's Bank in these

areas will have to wait for some time until the situation in these areas are 'under control' to redeem their pawned jewellery, according to Bank sources. Customers, however, who wish to redeem their jewellery in Colombo could do so on production of their pawn receipts. In case pawn receipts are not available, a certificate from a Justice of the Peace would be accepted for purposes of redemption. The interest on pawned articles is 30./ per year.

Prayer Meeting

A Public Prayer Meeting will be held tomorrow (Sunday, 13th September) at 4 p.m. at Uduvil at the site where a Pastor and three members of the Assembly Of God were shot dead by unidentified gunmen on Monday night (7th September).

This will be preceded by a Procession, starting at 3 p.m. from the Assembly of God, William Mather Church, Manipay.

Uduvil Killings Condemned

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Eelavar Munnani, which is affiliated to the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS), have condemned the brutal killing of a Pastor and three members of the Assembly of God on the 7th night at Uduvil.

48-Hour Curfew

A 48-hour curfew was clamped down on Kalmunai in the Eastern province on Thursday (10th September) following a clash between Tamils and Muslims.

It was sparked off by an attack on Tamil militants in Natpiddimunai in the Kalmunai area.

Reports say there has been heavy damage to property on both sides.

Ambassador's Gift

A cheque for Rs. 7 lakhs was gifted to Dr. Nachchinarkinniar, Medical Superintendent, Jaffna Teaching Hospital by the American Ambassador in Sri Lanka, Mr. James W. Spain, when he visited the Hospital on 30th August. The Ambassador and his party visited the damaged wards; it was towards the repair of these wards the donation was made.

RE-PLANNING URGED

The Point-Pedro Town should be completely re-planned, and there should be integrated development of the area.

This was the main point urged by the Pt-Pedro Resuscitation Committee (PPRC) when a World Bank Team visited Pt. Pedro recently.

The PPRC was represented by Messrs. S. Visagasundaram (President) T. Manickam (Vice-President), A. Theva Rajan (Secretary) and M. Nadarajah (Treasurer).

Associated with the PPRC was the Pt. Pedro Traders' Association headed by its Secretary, N. Sivasubramaniam, and representatives of the general public.

Among the officials present were Messrs. Austin Fernando, Secretary, Ministry of Rehabilitation, V. M. Panchalingam G. A. Jaffna, S. Sivathasan, Deputy Director of Planning and T. Kulasegarampillai, PRO Kachcheri.

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

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Editor
SATURDAY REVIEW

At a time when all steps are taken to rehabilitate the people who are affected by the unrest, violence and the so called 'terrorist' activities I would wish to draw the attention of those who are vested in power, to grant relief to the Public Servants, who have discharged their duties efficiently despite the several hardships faced by them since July 1983,

Public Servants who have suffered losses during the July 1983 disturbances were provided relief to a certain measure by granting 2 years salary as Distress Loan and in addition almost all the Public Servants were granted a 3 months interest free loan to meet the additional cost of living, arising as a result of the embargo on fuel to North. Consequently, recovery of these loans out of the salaries paid to the Public Servants has virtually resulted in their receiving not even 50% of their Gross Salaries, at the end of the month. Due to this burden most of the Public Servants are compelled to borrow more and more to meet the monthly budget.

As the Hon. Minister of Finance is expected to visit the Northern Province to assess the damages caused by the four year civil war, we request that his attention be drawn to the plight of the Public Servants and obtain his sanction to stop the re-

covery of the outstanding loans from the Public Servants who have suffered mentally and financially, during the past four years.

S. Kathirgaman
For and on behalf of Inland
Revenue-Jaffna Staff
Jaffna

LETTERS

Wasted Manpower

Editor
SATURDAY REVIEW

The Officers and employees of the former Highways Department are undergoing great hardships after the winding up of the Highways Department from 1-2-86 and the

formation of the Road Development Authority.

Most of the young officers below 40 years of age have been retrenched from service (in the capacity of works Supervisors and Technical Officers). These officers were not absorbed into the Road Development Authority. They have been deprived of their full pension, as they had been, prematurely retired. The paltry pension they receive is not sufficient to maintain them and give a good education to their children. These officers cannot fit into any other job in any department on account of their age. The retrenchment of these young officers has resulted in loss of career. It is the duty of the Democratic Socialist Govt. of Sri Lanka to pro-

vide all youngsters an opportunity of serving the country but these officers have been retrenched at an early age, which has resulted in a loss of Manpower. The Road Development Authority is presently employing officers over 55 years of age in the capacity of Technical Officers, Works Supervisors and Road Maintenance Contractors. The capability and experience already gained by the prematurely retired officers in the Department of Highways had been wasted.

We hope these deficiencies will be rectified by the authorities concerned and an opportunity given to the young officers to serve the country.

N. S. Anthonipillai
Kopay

Jaffna College Institute of Technology Examination Results - 1986/87

The following are the Jaffna College Institute of Technology, Vaddukoddai final examination results in Professional Engineering, Technician Diploma, Technician Certificate and Craft Certificate - 1986/87.

DIPLOMA COURSES FIRST CLASS

Mechanical: B. Jeyaseelan;
Draughtsmanship: Miss S. Sri-
eswary

SECOND CLASS (UPPER DIVISION)

Electronics: S. Jeyaseelan,
Miss K. Mallikadevi, M. Thaya-
yaparan; Electrical Power;
M. Gnanavel; Civil Engineering
& Quantity Surveying: N. Ga-
jendran, Miss N. Manchula.

SECOND CLASS (LOWER DIVISION)

Electronics: T. Terry Jenorge,
R. A. Thayaseelan, N. Vive-
kananthan, N. Thivakaran,
P. Sriharan; Electrical Power:
N. Kuhesan, K. Sakthivel;
Mechanical: P. W. Navarajah;
Civil Engineering & Quantity
Surveying: V. Thurairajasin-
gan, K. Jeyachandran; Com-
puter Programming & Data
Processing: S. J. Chellathamby,
Miss Manoranjini, Miss G.

Rathany; Draughtsmanship:
Y. Kugan.

PASS

Electronics: K. Nanthakumar;
Electrical Power: T. Jega-
thasan, S. Parameswaran,
S. Sathiyaseelan, S. Kugane-
san; Mechanical: N. Siva-
gnanakumar; Civil Engineer-
ing & Quantity Surveying:
S. Gnaneswaran, S. Raguthev,
S. Harischandran, K. Kan-
deepan, N. Sangarasiva, Miss
V. Srivani, K. Jenagan,
S. Sekar, P. Anura Computer
Programming & Data Process-
ing: Miss T. Gayathiri, Miss
K. Vasantha, Miss S. Mathi-
vathane, N. Navendran,
K. Raveendran, Miss S. Selva-
many, Miss S. Selvanayakee,
K. Sivasothy; Draughtsman-
ship: S. Sitsabesan, K. Piraba-
gar, R. S. Vijayakumar, S.
Sureshwaran

TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE COURSES

PASS (with MERIT)

Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration:
M. Uthayakumar

PASS

Automobile: S. Ananda-
kumar, S. Punitharajah, J. B.
Jeganathan; Air-Conditioning
& Refrigeration: S. Rajeethan
K. Bakeerathan, M. Kones-
waran, S. Thanapalan, C. R.
Jeyarajah

CRAFT CERTIFICATE COURSES

PASS (with MERIT)

Machine-Shop Practice: K. Sri-
nagaroban; Welding Prac-
tice: S. Anandalingam;
Foundry Practice: R. Ganaga-
pala; Electrical Wiring &
Installation Practice: S. Ahilan

PASS

Machine - Shop Practice:
R. B. Jenanthan, S. Jeyarat-
nam, M. Banugopan, V.
Banugopan, N. Koneswana,

S. Krishnathasan, P. Mano-
haran, K. Mohanathasan,
R. Sivakaran, V. Visaka-
nathan, T. Yogalingam, K. Gu-
naseelan; Welding Practice:
V. Visakanathan, Y. Siva-
chelvam, N. Thavarajah;
Foundry Practice: A. Kanesan
M. Balanathan, S. Balendran
P. Gnanapiragasam, R. Jeya-
rajah, S. Mangaleswara,
A. Sivarajah, V. Sriharan,
S. Paskaran; Electrical Wiring
& Installation Practice:
S. Skanthakumar, K. Kuna-
rajah, K. Jeyaseelan, Eela-
kumaran, P. Jeyakumar,
N. Jeyathas, A. Muruga-
nanathan, S. R. Nadarajah

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING

SECOND CLASS (LOWER DIVISION)

Professional Engineering
(Part 1): K. Jeyanathan

PASS

K. Jeganathan

M. G. Pillainayagam
Director

Annual Institute Day

The Jaffna College Institute of Technology will celebrate its Annual Institute Day on Saturday 19th September at ABELS Auditorium Vaddukoddai at 3 p. m.

The chief guests will be prof K. Balasubramaniam, Head Dept. of Biochemistry University of Jaffna and Mrs. A. Balasubramaniam.

Mrs. Balasubramaniam will distribute the awards.

Education Minister's Visit

Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe Minister of Education and Youth Affairs paid a flying visit to Jaffna on 31st August. He inspected the schools that had been damaged by shelling and bombing and gave an assurance they would be repaired as speedily as possible.

DIRECTOR
Jaffna College Institute of Technology
Vaddukoddai
SRI LANKA

JR Talks To Gavin Bell

Sinhala Resistance The Worry

After years of civil warfare, President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka is optimistic that his landmark agreement with India will survive initial opposition and provide a lasting solution to the Tamil separatist conflict.

In his first interview since signing the controversial accord last week with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Jayewardene told *The Times* he believed that a 7,000-strong Indian peacekeeping force could be withdrawn within two weeks—and, in any event long before provincial elections scheduled to be held by the end of the year.

He made it clear he did not wish his island's Eastern province to be part of a semi-autonomous Tamil "homeland" in the northern Jaffna region, and did not expect any intelligent opposition to the compromise settlement.

The President believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam would honour the agreement and hand over all their weapons. Indian troops were in Sri Lanka only to enforce the ceasefire and to supervise the surrender of arms. Thereafter, their task would be over and they would be asked to leave.

The President said he would wish the Indians to leave by August 20. If "there is a complete cessation of hostilities, then we don't want any troops."

Under the Indo-Sri Lanka accord elections are to be held by December 31 for a single council to administer the Northern provinces for a year.

The Eastern province, where Sinhalese and Muslims outnumber Tamils, would then have an opportunity, via a referendum, to opt out of the arrangement. Mr. Jayewardene said he intended to appoint an interim administration for the two

regions within a few days, principally comprised of Government agents. He added that some people, who had previously opposed the Government but were now coming into "the mainstream of politics," might also be brought in.

Asked whether militants of the Tamil Tigers would be included, he replied: "Yes—all of them."

However, the President was opposed to long-term linkage of the two provinces. "I have no particular objection, but I think the Sinhalese and Muslims don't want it".

Mr. Jayewardene said he was confident of overcoming opposition to the accord from within his Cabinet and ruling parliamentary group, and expected to submit the legislation to Parliament by the end of September or early October. "You can't be in the Cabinet and keeping on opposing the chairman of the Cabinet, but I don't think anyone will leave. They will all vote with me. That Bill will be passed unanimously."

The President said that his main worry now was the violence of "Sinhalese terrorists" in the south of the country, where the Janatha Vimukthi Perumna, a clandestine left-wing group, has been blamed for a wave of gun and fire-bomb attacks on officials. However, he said, "It is not as serious as the problem we had in the north."

"I think we will get over it quickly. I represent the Sinhalese. My Government represents them. They have to accept the settlement, otherwise they'll be locked up."

He confirmed that two Indian frigates off Colombo were sent in response to fears of a revolt against his Government. "There have been various threats of assassination of members of the Govern-

ment, one member of Parliament has already been shot and killed, and several of their houses have been destroyed."

Mr. Jayewardene said he was always under personal threats. The Indo-Sri Lanka accord had made his position "more dangerous."

He said Sri Lanka had to accept that India was the dominant power of the region, but he denied charges that he had surrendered Sri Lankan sovereignty by pledging not to allow its ports to be used for military purposes by any country in a manner prejudicial to India's interests. "India is the most powerful nation in the Indian Ocean. Either I must go to some bigger power, which I don't want to do, or I must accept the fact".

Asked about the ports issue, he said: "You can only if I may say so, take away from my independence by laws, not by words. There is nothing that we are doing there without discussions."

Mr. Jayewardene was disappointed by the American response to his request for military assistance, which he said was small.

America won't lift a finger to help me without asking India...they realize that India is the guardian of this part of the world for democracy, they're quite happy with that". He did not trust a single power, but he had faith in Mr. Gandhi. "You never know with these big powers, they chop and change, you can't trust anybody. India is the same, but I am friendly with Rajiv Gandhi and I trust him."

But he criticized India's past actions in providing the Tamil guerrillas with arms supplies, and dropping food on the Jaffna peninsula. "I am for non-violence. I believe in Gandhian philosophy. I am more Gandhian than any Indian more than Rajiv Gandhi. I would not do some of the things he has done and said. I wouldn't have tried to invade Sri Lanka. I wouldn't have dropped the foodstuffs. That was a foolish and impetuous act."

(Courtesy:

The Times, 8th August)

Immigration Officers Vs. Scholars

(Continued from last issue)

We have instances of (ii) where the candidate may be rejected on the grounds that he does not own sizeable property in this country. Candidates with parents who hold influential positions for own a great deal of property in this country do not seem to be similarly punished, although this may have little bearing on their intention to return. We point out here that property can always be sold. Also most meritorious students from our Universities come from lower middle class or poor homes. Such considerations discriminate against persons of proven merit simply because they are poor and this includes the vast majority in this country. This is also contrary to the principles expounded by the founding fathers of the USA.

It is clear that immigration officers ask questions where an applicant can be made to sound cornered and dubious. It is basically inhuman to ask an applicant unhelpful questions about arrangements for his wife. We are sure that any Westerner will treat the suggestion by implication, that it is better for him to leave his wife behind, as an insult. That applicants here should be asked such questions borders on racism.

The question that should be asked is whether or not institutions of higher education in this country should be helped. Your presence here indicates that your answer is clearly 'yes'.

We hope you will agree that you should first do away with unhelpful immigration procedures. We have at present no alternative but to use the facilities for post-graduate training in your country. We too would like to find means of persuading such trained persons to return. This is a long term problem involving reform in this country, towards which you can play a positive role. With this in view we make some suggestions.

SUGGESTIONS

(i) One obvious means of overcoming our difficulties concerning trained personnel is to provide facilities for training of international standards in this country itself. One way of doing this is for you to put money and personnel into establishing links with reputed Universities in the US. This would enable our scholars to register for higher degrees here and do some of the crucial portions of their research with an external supervisor in the US. Having scholars from the Universities with which links are established, doing working tours here ranging from 6 months to 2 years and participating in the general life of the University will also be a considerable stimulus to us. Such links will help us to develop research and other capabilities quickly.

(ii) Ours is the only University in this country which has no other University

within 100 miles radius. The nearest alternative library and laboratory facilities are more than 200 miles away. This makes it important that we should be equipped with books, journals and equipment which are required fairly frequently.

If your embassy can help us to acquire these facilities, it will not only help our own research scholars, but will also create an atmosphere which will attract established scholars from abroad who are desirous of returning to this country.

FINAL COMMENTS

We trust that you will find some of our points useful. We are also confident that you will look again at immigration procedures with a view to removing anomalies and making them more rational. Our suggestions too are long term in nature. There remains for the present the immediate problem faced by our scholars and the needs of our Universities.

Those who have obtained places with assisantships in the US have done so after going through an arduous procedure. It has involved over one year of anxiety preparing and sitting for their GRE and TOEFL tests and then going through the considerable expense of sending numerous applications before securing a place. The turning down of their visas by the US Embassy in not only a deep disappointment to us, but is of debilitating distress and humiliation to the applicants and their families. Their teaching careers are at risk and their considerable potential is going to be

unrealised. When a poor family or a village produces a budding scholar, it provides the means for the advancement of that family and the village. To suppress them will be to perpetuate a sense of social inferiority with its consequences. You will recall that the longstanding American connection with education in Jaffna has contributed considerably towards the social upliftment of many.

We have said enough, we hope, to convince you that

stopping such persons from going to the US solves neither our problem nor your problem. We are convinced that nearly all such persons go to the West with a sincere desire to come back, as many of us have done. We may observe without making insinuations, that it is in the nature of the world that the rich are privileged to ask leading questions and the poor have to suffer branded liars. This may be happening in may Western Embassies even without their knowing it.

Some Economic Projects For The North And East

The Indo-Sri Lankan Accord marks a new era in the history of the Republic, for it is the first time since Independence that the economic architects of the country can truly envisage a future with a guaranteed peace. Such an opportunity is unique and must not be squandered by self-seeking politicians or by divisive and dogmatic ideologies. The basis for any form of economic rejuvenation is the whole-scale re-development of the war-torn areas in the North and the East.

The immediate post-war period has seen numerous donor countries almost falling over themselves in their desire to send aid to Sri Lanka. The first step in the re-development process is to make sure that this aid actually does get to the people who require it. The bureaucracy in Colombo must be sincere in its desire to actually help the displaced and deprived Tamils of the North and the East and this can best be demonstrated by the rapidity with which it distributes basic aid provisions. Following this initial period, during which people are rehoused and compensated for the hardships of the past few years, the Government has to take positive steps to stimulate the industrial potential of the Northern and Eastern regions.

Probably the first major investment that the Govern-

ment has to provide is in the fishing industry. The fishermen of the North and the East had a thriving trade before the conflict began and now with Government aid it is possible, not only to go back to that period of prosperity but further still.

New fishing technology developed by Japan and Russia allow their fishermen to go deep water fishing as well as process their catch whilst at sea. Use of such factory ships as they are termed, will allow the fishermen of the Eastern Province to exploit the plentiful resources of the Bay of Bengal which have remained prohibitive to the primitive boats of local fishermen. Use of such schemes by the British Government has turned the small, lumbering economy of the Falkland Islands into a multi-million pound boom industry. A re-vitalized fishing industry will not only provide jobs for the coastal region but also, in the long term become a valuable foreign currency earner for the country as a whole. Thus re-development on a provincial scale can become beneficial to the national economy.

Another major area in which the Government can positively intervene is the development of a second national airport, either at Trincomalee or at Palaly where the Indian air force is presently based. Development of a second national airport

will inevitably stimulate new businesses around the area and hence further create employment. The positive economic consequences from such a development include the enhancement of the tourist industry. Due to the conflict of the past four years the Sri Lankan tourist industry has been crippled but now earnest efforts are under way to remedy the situation. If the Northern and

Concomitant to the development of a tourist industry is the development of the infrastructure of the North and the East. The road transport facilities have suffered enormously due to the conflict and one of the primary tasks of the Government must be to repair old roads as well as provide new highways to link up the towns. Such transport facilities are the very arteries of new businesses and must be a pri-

numerous parts around the world. The result of such a project would be a secondary port for Sri Lanka as well as a harbour for the export of natural products from the Northern and Eastern areas. Since Sri Lanka will become increasingly dependent on the export of natural products for earning her foreign currency it is only logical that a new harbour is developed.

The major schemes that have been outlined all require a positive political will to help re-vitalize the areas which have suffered in the bitter violence of the last few years. The implementation of these projects will not only be economically prudent but also help perpetuate the harmony that is gradually returning between the ethnic groups of the Island. Politicians must now dispense with their rhetoric and get down to sincere hard work if they are to keep their hard-won peace.

by

S. Arumugam

Eastern parts of the Island are to benefit from a thriving tourist industry a major airport is necessary. The Tamil areas of the Island have plenty to offer to European and American tourists and the promotion of these areas as potential holiday resorts can yield large returns for the local communities.

ority in the development of the war-torn areas.

Another major development project which the Government could undertake would be the development of a harbour and thence a free trade zone around the KKS area. Although initially requiring a lot of capital the project could yield major returns as has been demonstrated in

INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE

The Citizens' Committee for National Harmony spearheaded by Rev. Fr. S. Tissa Balasuriya brought an olive Branch to Jaffna last week.

The delegation comprised clergy and laity with the clear-cut objective of creating a climate of Peace and Harmony so as to ensure the integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka after the chaos, destruction and violence witnessed by the people of the North and East for nearly four years.

A similar delegation came when Sangamitta brought the sapling of a Bo-tree and reportedly landed in the North and then proceeded to Anuradhapura. The latter's objective, at the behest of Emperor Asoka, was to ensure the spread of Buddhism in Ceylon.

As far as Fr. Balasuriya is concerned, he is not new to Jaffna. He had spent his formative collegiate days at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna during the Rectorship of the late Rev. Fr. T.M.F. long O.M.I. These days, he would

nostalgically recollect, were the heydays of National Harmony—Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Burghers lived, worked and played together without distinction of race or creed.

So why did the rift occur? It would appear futile to have a post-mortem on the failure of successive Governments for it is part of current history.

At a Press Conference attended by representatives of the local press, Mothers' Front and others at oblate Centre on 1.9.87, Fr. Balasuriya spelt out the laudable objectives of the Committee for National Harmony which has been an articulate supporter of human rights.

To a question posed as to whether the National Press in the South and the Media with a dismal record of fostering hatred and discord could rise up to the expected level, he said he was hopeful.

When asked about the role of the Catholic Church in this exercise in National Har-

mony and in the context of certain acts which have happened in the past, he said that certain statements should be viewed in the heat of the moment and not generalised but the FUNDAMENTAL UNITY of the Church had always been there.

To substantiate this vein of fundamental unity running in the Church, he mentioned an episode which happened during their visit to Vavuniya when their delegation ran into a congregation of worshippers at a Church there. They themselves joined the congregation in their prayers and later jointly prayed for Peace in the country.

We are sure that the delegation visited many areas where death and destruction had been the order of the day, contrary to the popular belief painted by the Media in the South.

Their visit must have been a revelation and a moment of realisation of Truth and we hope that Fundamental Unity is maintained when we recite that popular Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi in all Churches—"O Lord, make me an Instrument of your Peace"

—A. S.

Institute Of Professionals

Professionals residing in the North have realised they should get together as a body to promote greater understanding among themselves and promote participation in matters of public interest, exchange views for the betterment of professionalism and to assist the community of this region in the re-building processes, wherever necessary.

At a meeting held recently at the YMCA, members from various professions such as Engineers, Accountants, Tax Consultants, Bankers, Veterinary Surgeons and Agricultural Scientists formed an ad hoc Committee with a view to forming an Institute of Professionals.

An executive Committee of twelve professionals was formed. All professionals interested in joining the Institute are welcome to get involved and make their contributions.

For further details they are requested to contact the Pro-tem Secretary, Institute of Professionals at 121, Point Pedro Road, Nallur.

Some of the Professionals included in the Committee are—Engineers: M/s A.C. Kanagarajah, M. Tillainathan, S. Varathan, S. M. Tissainayagam, V. Sambunathan; Accountant: S. Selvendrai; Tax Consultant: N. Karunainathan; Vet. Surgeons: S.S. Balachandran & T. Varnalingam; Bankers: S. Raghavan, and Agricultural Scientist: S. Krishnapillai.

It appears that there is controversy over the shifting of the Jaffna Municipal office complex to Nallur.

Suddenly some are concerned about the Antiquities Ordinance being strictly observed and historic landmarks preserved. Where were the guardians and perpetuators of the Antiquities Ordinance when King Sankilian's Palace, and other buildings has been turned into garages and what-not?"

When the old building had been badly battered, the municipal administration had to be housed in four different places, namely Maniam Building, Amman Road, Hindu Lodge and Pandara Malikai (Nallur), causing great inconvenience to the rate payers, who took it in good spirit.

Since enormous sums of money were being paid as rent for the above buildings, it was proposed to design a suitable office complex in a central spot. The Municipality was able to obtain ten acres of excellent buildable non-flooding land with fresh water in Nallur area. There is no other suitable land available within the municipal area under one ownership.

Interested parties are appealing to the Commissioner to reconsider his decision and locate the office complex at the old site at Ridgeway Hall. The extent of this land is only two acres with no room for expansion and without fresh water supply. Therefore a municipal complex at the former site to cater to the population for the next 50 years cannot be visualized.

The original municipal office was designed as far back as 1935 and it has outlived its life of fifty years, catering to the population. At the time of destruction, the administration was almost facing a accommodation problem both for the parking of vehicles and offices. There is no scope for expansion at the former site.

Further the original Buildings were at a recreational centre situated at the old Ridgeway Hall site, surrounded by the Beach Rest House, Open Air Theatre, Stadium, Library, etc. Therefore, it is proposed to construct an up-to-date town hall to accommodate 500 persons with parking space for vehicles including 200 motor cars motor cycles, bicycles, autos etc. which will fit into the recreational area. By the construction of the new town hall, we are retaining the historical character.

It is proposed to shift the Jaffna Municipality office

JAFFNA LIVES AGAIN

complex to Nallur. If the Municipality had not taken over the land people would have encroached and the land would have been turned into a slum. Incidentally there is not a single monument or any historic landmarks in this land. So far none had cared to preserve "Nallur, the capital of the Jaffna's Kings as an

With regard to accessibility, no one should connect that to a district busstand. It could be related to a district office but not to a local authority office. Even several Government offices are far away from the bus stand.

Quite apart from that, the proposed building is to be

any negligible problem that may arise.

The proposed site is there quarters of a mile within the Municipal limit whereas the former premises was on a corner of the boundary. According to a municipal map which was on display, the Nallur site is closer to six peripheral points while the former site is closer to four points only.

As has been often stated Jaffna is the second largest city, but it has not grown in a planned manner.

Hence the Municipal Commissioner should go ahead with the planning of the town and its implementation. His categorical statement that the bazaar area would remain and dominate as the commercial

centre and traffic and transport centre is welcome.

The move to shift the offices outside this commercial centre would undoubtedly lead to a reduction of the congestion, stress and strain of the town centre.

Similarly, shifting wherever possible and sitting new garages and welding works outside the town centre, preferably in the East and North East is welcome. Incidentally even in Colombo Fort/Pettah areas, which is the main commercial area one cannot find welding works or garages.

It is gratifying to note that the Municipal Commissioner, in consultation with the Town Planning Committee has decided to restore the Open Air Theatre, the Stadium, Park, the Library and the Rest House in order to restore the places as recreational environment.

The New Town Hall, once built, would add beauty and glory to this environment and would perpetuate the Ridgeway Hall that existed prior to 1935

by A Special Correspondent

archaeological preserve" Why the sudden interest? Shedding crocodile tears? Or a spoke in the wheel? Once the Jaffna Municipality office complex is designed and constructed, it will restore the historic landmark and historic character, bringing Nallur to its former glory as the capital of the kingdom of Jaffna.

sited along Point Pedro Road which connects Chemmany Road on the east and the Arasady Road and Iyanarkovil Roads on the west. This stretch of road is the longest one and almost all important roads of the city are connected to it. The provision of suitable town bus service would solve

CRM Opposed To Amendment Of Parliamentary Privilege Law

Text of a press release issued by the Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka.

CRM strongly opposes the proposal in the amending Bill currently before Parliament which will empower Parliament to impose a fine unlimited in amount as punishment for breach of parliamentary privilege.

In its recent statement on the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord CRM stressed the importance of seeking broad support for any political solution. In this connection, while welcoming the political solution of the ethnic problem recently arrived at and stressing the need for its fair implementation, CRM pointed out to the Government the need to be more sensitive and responsive to many questions of civil liberties which concern the people.

The proposed amendment to the law of parliamentary privilege is exactly the type of issue we had in mind. We urge the Government to abandon this measure, not merely because it is objectionable in itself, but also as a gesture of intent not to use its parliamentary majority to ride roughshod over matters concerning civil liberties.

CRM opposed the surprise 1978 amendment which em-

powered Parliament to impose the penalties of fine or imprisonment, thereby hastily changing the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act which had been adopted by an all-party consensus after careful study in 1953, and which had served us well for 25 years. (A CRM statement calling for the repeal of that amendment is reproduced — hd). The arguments apply a fortiori to the present amendment. If the present limit of a Rs. 5000 fine is for some reason considered inadequate, the power to impose a heavier penalty could have been vested in the Supreme Court alone, which continues to have concurrent jurisdiction in this matter.

CRM urges the Government to abandon the present amendment. It appeals to the Government to go further and to restore the position to that prevailing before the 1978 amendment. CRM considers this important now not merely on account of the reasons set forth in its earlier statements. Taken today, such action would be an invaluable declaration of a fresh commitment by the Government to democratic ideals, so important at the present juncture of the history of our country.

POWER TO PUNISH FOR BREACH OF PRIVILEGE

The Civil Rights Movement calls upon the government to repeal the hasty amendment to the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act which was rushed through the National State Assembly in May 1978.

This amendment vests in Parliament also the power formerly enjoyed only by the Supreme Court to try certain offences of breach of parliamentary privilege punishable by fine or imprisonment. CRM's position, however, is that the courts are the institutions best equipped to perform this function. Cogent reasons for confining this power to the courts alone were put forward and agreed to by all parties in Parliament when our Act was originally passed in 1953 after careful consideration by a joint Select Committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives. These arguments were reiterated and reinforced by Mr. Nadesan in his study of parliamentary privilege and its application in the Ceylon Observer case written at the request of CRM in 1978 and published in the SUN. Similar views have been expressed in other countries. Indeed, in the recent case in which Mr. Nadesan was unsuccessfully charged in respect of

his article in the SUN, the Supreme Court said that:-

It must be borne in mind that the view that the power to deal with offences of breach of privilege should be left to the Court and not be exercised by Parliament has been expressed not only in this country but is one taken by legal experts in almost all parts of the Commonwealth. In 'Parliamentary Privilege in Australia' by Enid Campbell, p. 123, there appears.

"On grounds of expediency and convenience, much is to be said for reserving to the Houses power to deal summarily with persons who, by their misconduct, disturb the orderly conduct of proceedings. No more seems to be required here than power to remove and to exclude (forcibly if necessary) persons creating disturbances in the House or in its vicinity, and power to suspend or expel members guilty of disorderly conduct or wilful interruption of proceedings. Except in regard to offences of this kind transfer of parliamentary penal jurisdiction to the ordinary courts of law is, in this writer's opinion, imperative if the accepted standards for administration of justice are to be satisfied."

The law which served us for twenty five years was thus enlightened and advanced. The 1978 amendment was a retrograde step which should be rectified.

THE QUEEN IS BACK

The Editor-in-Chief of the SATURDAY REVIEW Mr. Gamini Navaratne garlanded the Engine Driver of the Yarl Devi, Mr. S. Kandasamy, when it arrived in

damaged, allegedly by misguided youths.

For sometime, the Yarl Devi (Queen of Jaffna) came only up to Anuradhapura,



Jaffna on 1st September, 1987 after a lapse of more than an year.

It was a symbolic gesture to herald the new phase in South North relations, following the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord on the ethnic problem.

Among those present on the occasion were the Chief Station Master of Jaffna, Mr. V. Rajah, and members of the SR staff.

Fire crackers, not fire bombs, were lit by enthusiastic youths to greet the arrival of the train, ending an era of agony travelling between the Southern and Northern capitals of Sri Lanka.

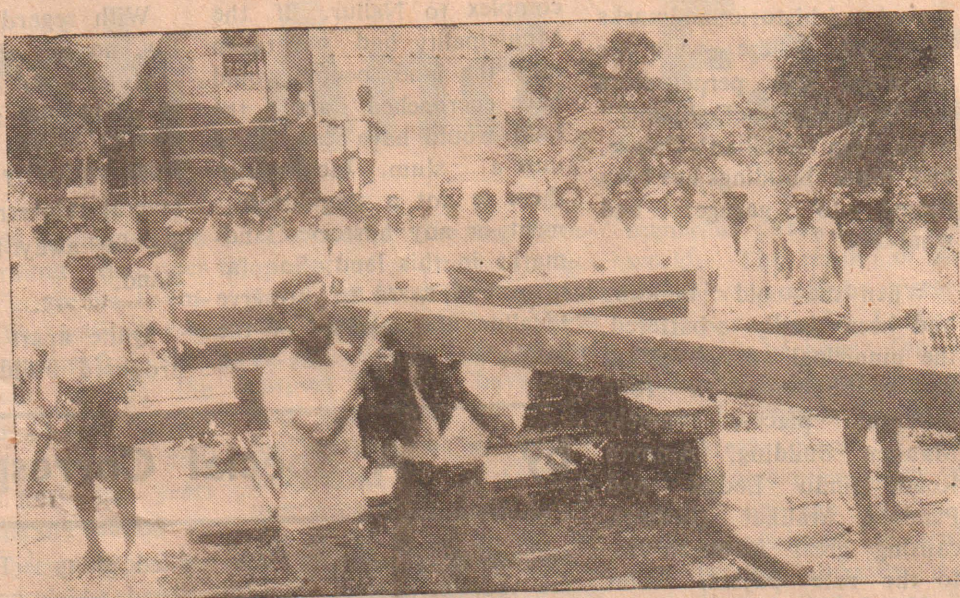
Trains ceased coming to Jaffna from 25th March, 1986 after the tracks were

midway on the 260 mile run from Colombo. Later the service was extended up to Vavuniya.

After the Accord was signed and peace was restored, the train service was gradually extended, first to Kilinochchi (on 4th August), then to Paranthan (on 9th August), to Pallai (on 15th August), to Kodikamam (on 21st August and finally to Jaffna.

The Government of Sri Lanka, the people of Sri Lanka, especially people in the North, should be thankful to the railway officials at all levels who worked day and night to restore the service—to restore a national link.

Special mention must be made of the Chief Railway Engineer for the North, Mr.



T.D.S. Peiris, and the Senior Technical Officers, Mr. T. Anandarajah, Mr. N.P. Paramanathan and Mr. R. Kanakarathnam, Mr. S. Alfred, Mr. S. Kulasingham, Mr. S. Mahadevan, Mr. S.

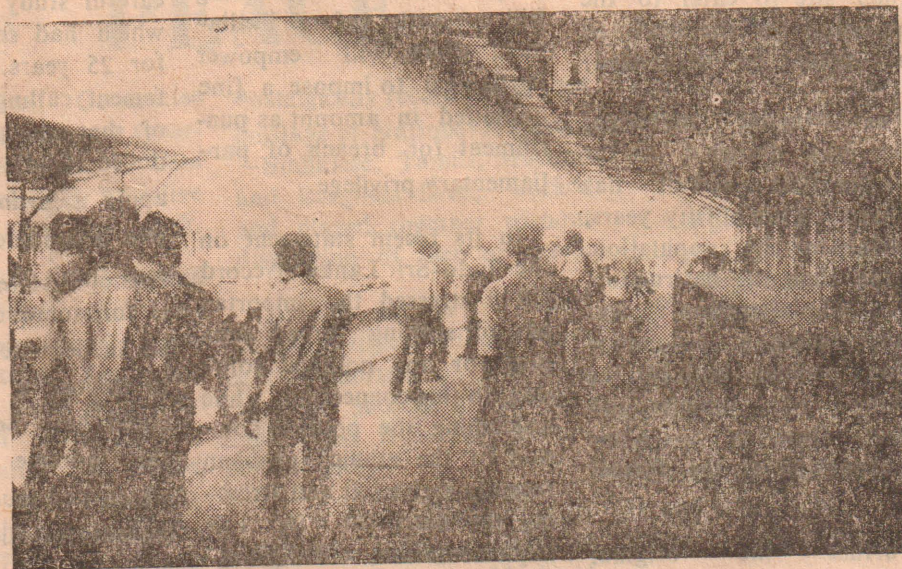
by the minor staff. The service to Jaffna was targeted to begin on 5th September. It was restored four days earlier.

All of them were who



Dissanayake and Dr. Sri Kanthayogasingam who did a splendid job assisted

were engaged in the operation deserve a special bonus from the President's Fund.



Janaki Captivates Audience

The famous South Indian singer Janaki gave a 4-hour long musical concert in the University of Toronto Convocation Hall on 7th August.

The concert was sponsored by the World Tamil Movement and the audience was predominantly Sri Lankan.

A regular SR reader, V. Thamilpiriyan, writing from Toronto, states: "The

music was captivating. The grand finale was, of course, the National Anthem of India sung by Janaki herself. The huge, enthusiastic audience stood up, without a speck of resistance, and paid tribute to the country they love and respect. And then, there was a complete silence. Not even the Canadian National Anthem was heard!"

FOR THE RECORD

INDIA VACILLATES

29.8.87: Citizens' Committees in the North state that India says one thing but acts differently in practice. The Government had initially indicated that 8,500 tons of food aid would be given to the 850,000 people in the North but ended up with only 4,111 tons. They fear that even in the matter of the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord it might act in this half-hearted manner.

RELEASE OF BOATS

Lieut. Illangakoon of the Sri Lankan Navy attached to the Naval section of the Kankesanthurai Harbour View Camp has indicated that the owners of 18 fishing boats and 50 out-board engines seized by the Navy during the disturbances would be released to the owners on production of suitable papers of identification.

REFUGEES ROBBED

Refugees numbering more than 60 had set off from Vedaranayathil in Tamil Nadu to Jaffna in two boats at about 4 p.m. on 21st. August. Close to the shores of Mathagal the next morning, they were stopped by the Sri Lankan Navy and robbed of their belongings and taken to the camp at the Harbour View Hotel. They were eventually released at the intervention of the Indian Peace Keeping Force.

INDIAN FORCES

According to news beamed over 'Radio Veritas' in the Philippines there are nearly 10,000 men of the Indian Peace Keeping Force posted in areas in the North and East of Sri Lanka especially in the Towns of both Provinces, in accordance with the terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord.

'TIGERS' KILLED

M. Kanagarajan the chief spokesman of the National Democratic Liberation Front of Tamil Eelam has condemned the reported killing of three militants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam by members of the PLOT at Nanattan in Mannar on 26th August. He has exhorted the people to be vigilant especially at a time when they would be called upon to take important and far-reaching decisions.

'MURDER REGIMENT'

Naval Rating Wijeyamuni Vijitha Rohana who hit world headlines and brought

shame on Sri Lanka when he attempted to assassinate Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi when the latter was inspecting the naval guard of honour prior to his departure to India, was produced before the Acting Fort Magistrate on 26th August who further remanded him pending further investigations. He was clad in light grey slacks and white 'T' shirt which had the words 'Killer Squadron', 'We are professional', 'We are proud' and 'We go forward' inscribed on it.

'RETURN TO THE NORTH'

Mr. C. Rajadurai, Minister of Regional Development and Hindu Culture has appealed to the Buddhist monks and the Sinhalese people who had left the North and East following the ethnic troubles to return to the areas. He has promised to make their stay as safe and comfortable as it was to them earlier. He has stated that temples which were damaged or destroyed will be repaired and renovated with the assistance of Government and the UNESCO. With the help of foreign organisations, reconstruction and development work will be undertaken in Jaffna, Trincomalee, Mannar, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu and other districts.

JAFFNA SCENE

30.8.87: The scene in Jaffna on 30th August appeared to be like George Stevenson's first run of the 'Rocket' Engine. Many people flocked to where the railway sleepers were being laid by engineers and workmen a train with five waggons had brought sleepers. It appeared to be a novel sight, for many people had not seen a train in Jaffna for nearly three years. To children under three years it was a revelation! The electric horn of the giant Canadian Diesel engine will once again be heard in Jaffna.

FISHERIES REHABILITATION

Minister of Fisheries, Festus Perera has assured the Government Agent, Jaffna, Mr. M. Punchalingam that he would take all steps to alleviate the hardships suffered by fishermen during the last 3 years. The Government Agent has indicated that Rs. 8,640 lakhs would be required for the rehabilitation of the Fisheries Sector alone.

RELEASE FROM CUSTODY

345 detainees at the Boosa Camp were released on 29th August and were sent by ship to the North and East. According to the Ministry of National Security, 600 will be released on 2nd September and a further 600 thereafter. 1248 Tamil youths have been set free so far.

POLIO SPREADS

Poliomyelitis, the dreaded disease, spreading in Jaffna. On 30th August two children from the same family aged 8 and 9 were admitted to the Jaffna General Hospital.

TRANSFER OF POLICEMEN

More than 150 policemen comprising Tamils and Muslims, are due to arrive in the North on 2nd September. Many police stations in the North are reported to be inadequately staffed, hence the transfers from the South.

CASH PAYMENTS

31-8-87 The Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna has commenced cash transactions as from 31st August. Such cash transactions will be done between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The Bank functioned at the Gurunagar Army Camp from 9th, April 1984 and thereafter was shifted to the Army Camp in the Jaffna Fort. A liquidity problem and the deteriorating military situation forced the Banks to suspend cash transactions and issue Pay Orders to their customers; salaries of Government Servants, teachers and pensioners were paid by cheques.

VISIT TO JAFFNA

Ven. Siyambalagamuwe Wimalasara Thera, Head of the Peace Committee in Vavuniya as well as the Viharapadhi of Kandy-Vanni Vihara and Rev. Yohan Devananda are due to visit Jaffna in early September. They are expected to meet the leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and other groups and members of Citizens' Committees during their stay here.

SKELETONS FOUND

01.09.87: Two farmers from Mullaitivu, V. Sivaretanam (30) and S. Rasiyah (43) are missing since 28th April. Two skeletons were found near the Army Camp at Odichuddan; they are allegedly the skeletons of these two missing farmers, because their identity cards were found nearby. A magisterial inquiry is being held.

SKIRMISH WITH THE POLICE

The Police who attempted to enforce their might in the Batticaloa town were prevented from leaving the police station by a crowd of people who surrounded the station shouting slogans.

The Indian Peace Keeping Force turned up to bring about peace while the Sri Lanka policemen kept up a steady barrage of tear gas shells. A serious breach of the peace was averted by the intervention of Brigadier I.M. Parr of the Indian Peace keeping Force who evolved a compromise formula by which the Indian Peace keeping Force would be jointly operating on beat with the Police who would go without arms.

COMMEMORATION

02.09.87: A Commemoration ceremony was held on 2.9.87 in memory of the two MP's V. Dharmalingam and M. Alalasundaram who were killed in 1985. The ceremonies were held at Kopay and Uduvil respectively.

INTERIM ADMINISTRATION

03.09.87: The Interim Council of Administration for the North and East which is due to be appointed by the President shortly will

comprise two former Government Agents, M/S D. Nesiah and Lionel Fernando and representatives of militant groups, Sinhalese and Muslims.

VEERASINGHAM HALL

According to an official of the Co-operative Department, Jaffna's Veerasingham Hall which was extensively damaged by military activity and subsequently by fire, is to be repaired soon. The Minister of Co-operatives, Dr. W. Dahanayake has promised that a sum of one million rupees would be provided for this purpose.

TRINCO COLONISATION

Mrs. Subagini Varathan, Secretary of the Trincomalee Citizens' Committee, in an interview with journalists from Jaffna confirmed that settlement of Sinhalese in the area is taking place at a brisk pace. She added that during the curfew last week Sri Lankan security personnel who had come in vehicles, hurled grenades towards her house.

NORTH EAST MERGER

Janab Ahamed Lebbe President of the Amparai Citizen's Committee at a meeting held to campaign for the merger of the North and East, said that the East should join hands with the North as otherwise it will be part of the Sinhala nation. The amalgamation of the provinces will bring the Muslim population from 34% to 17% but nevertheless it will prevent it being submerged by the Sinhalese.

JAFFNA COLLEGE ENGLISH MEDIUM CLASSES

The English medium classes preparing students for the London Advanced Level and the Associated Examining Board (AEB) of Hampshire for the Ordinary Level and Advanced Level examinations are being offered.

Parents and students interested should meet me immediately.

JAFFNA COLLEGE,
VADDUKODDAI.

A. KADIRGAMAR,
Principal.

JAFFNA COLLEGE WANTED

1. LIBRARY ASSISTANT:

Minimum qualifications:

Three Advanced Level passes in one sitting with Intermediate in Library Science. Residence in Vaddukoddai essential.

2. BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR:

A suitable person to be resident and supervise the buildings project for a period not exceeding nine months at Paranthan for an educational enterprise. Sufficient experience in buildings construction and supervision essential: Salary negotiable.

Applications should reach me on or before 19th September, 1987 on forms available at the college office.

Jaffna College,
VADDUKODDAI

A. KADIRGAMAR
Principal.

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Mother Appeals To AI To Help Release Son

We publish here an exchange of letters between Amnesty International and a detenu's mother. The letters are self-explanatory.

Mrs. Valliammai Subramaniam
Kandamai
Tholpuram
Chulipuram.

13th August 1987

Dear Madam,

As you know on 29th July Sri Lanka and India reached an agreement on the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. Part of the agreement is an amnesty the Sri Lankan Government has announced for all detained, charged and convicted political prisoners held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and Emergency Regulations. As of writing the first hundreds of political prisoners are being released and returned to northern Sri Lanka.

Amnesty International would like to monitor the release program as closely as possible, since its members have been working on behalf of many prisoners detained in connection with the armed conflict.

Kindly do inform us, as soon as possible, whether Sathiyarajah Subramaniam, your son, has been included in the release program and confirm his safe return home. Should this be at all possible we would like also to receive detailed accounts of his arrest and detention, and the conditions in which he was held and interrogated.

Yours sincerely,

Yvonne Terlingen
Asia Research Department
Amnesty International

1st September 1987
Dear Madam,

I wish to thank you for your kind letter dated 13th August, 1987 and wish to state as follows:

My son, Subramaniam Sathiarajan alias Meeran Master was arrested on the 11th day of December, 1984 by the Sri Lankan Security Forces near my home and is presently in remand jail at

the Magazine Prison, Colombo-09. He is my eldest son and 25 years of age.

On his arrest he was held first at the Army Camp, Gurunagar, Jaffna and later at the Army Camp at the Old Dutch Fort, Jaffna. Thereafter he was transferred to the Army Camp, Palaly, Jaffna. During this period I was permitted a few visits and was allowed to talk to my son only in the presence of army personnel.

However, my son was able to say a few things in veiled terms and that he had been continuously subjected to torture and third degree methods.

On representation made by my son's Attorney-at-law, Mr. T. C. Rajaratnam, a case was filed against him by the Attorney-General of Sri Lanka. But before the case was filed my son was taken from Palaly Army Camp to Boosa Army Camp and was given a Code No. J4/55. It was after the case was filed that he was brought to the Magazine Prison, Colombo-09.

He was charged in the High Court of Colombo under the P.T.A. and the Emergency Regulations on July 9th, 1987. Case numbers are as follows: 485/85, 484/85 and 2680/87, 2679/87.

The next date of trials are on 11th and 22nd of September, 1987.

Upto the date of this letter his name has not been included in the release programme.

In this connection, I wish to kindly refer you to a letter written by Father Aparanam Singarayar, O.M.I., on his release from the Magazine prison, consequent to the agreement on the ethnic problem. In his letter to the Prime Minister of India the Catholic Father had stated that there are about 260 Tamil Political Prisoners in the Magazine Prison kept alongside with the Sinhalese Prisoners and that these Tamil Prisoners may be killed at

Development Strategies For Pt. Pedro

Text of a memorandum sent by the Point Pedro Resuscitation Committee to the G.A. Jaffna with a copy to the World Bank team which visited Jaffna recently.

You are aware of the destruction that Point Pedro

has been subjected to during the past four years especially during the Operation Liberation of Vadamardchy.

We have felt the need to take organised and concerted action to re-build Point Pedro.

We have identified certain spheres of development primarily necessary for the overall development of Point Pedro.

Two things are fundamental in any future development of Point Pedro and they should be the motivating factors. They are that:

1. Point Pedro is a port town.
2. Fisheries forms the main economic industry of the area.

The present town and market lags behind over five decades and future planning has to cover not only this gap but should be able to withstand the probable economic activities for the next five decades or more. Therefore the following actions are necessary: (1) The construction of a new three storied market capable of absorbing all the present shops. This will provide more space for developing attendant items like the widening of the roads and construction of supporting economic institutions etc. (2) Construction of a modern bus stand and bus depot. (3) Dredging of the sea near the harbour and make it a port for light goods and passenger traffic. (4) Provision of facilities for a port town - some of the houses in this area can be converted into lodges by the owners themselves. (5) Provision of a housing project for about 1000 families who will be dehousing by the above proposals around the Katkovaalam area. (6) In addition we have to provide for: a) A Secretariat for Govt. Semi Govt. offices. b) A Secretariat for

banking and financial institutions. c) An open air theatre. d) A sports stadium and swimming pool. e) A Town Hall f) A children's park.

Since this area is rich in fisheries this industry should be properly developed. Some items for consideration are given below: 1) A fisheries harbour at Thalayadi or thereabout with expertise from F. A. O. and SIDA or CIDA and their direct supervision. 2) A fishing colony between Vallipuram South and Aliyawaalai to settle about 5000 families. 3) Construction of feeding industrial institutions like manufacture of nets, fishing boats, repair workshops etc. 4) Provide for the development of cashew nut and grapes plantations and other items on expert advice and a grape wine industry. 5) Plantation of Ipil Ipil, Casuarina, coconut and palmyrah trees along the coast. 6) Construction of a palmyrah industries complex at a convenient spot. 7) Construction of a fisheries training school with accommodation for staff. 8) Construction of an A grade school in the area with quarters for staff etc. 9) Construction of a new market and up-grading of the existing hospital at Thalayadi.

The following infra structures will become necessary for the achievement of the above targets: 1) The main road from Chundikulam to Munai to be widened. 2) Byroads to fishing villages in Ampan, Kudathanai, Nagarkovil etc. to be improved. 3) A road link with the mainland at Palai. 4) Setting up of a transport board depot at Thalayadi. 5) Creation of a separate A. G. A.'s division for this area.

If these are planned properly and achieved, the lovely beaches on East Vadamardchy can be made a source of attraction for tourists and tourism will be an added paying concern in the future.

We can discuss details and prepare a master integrated development programme for the whole area.

'Aid Flow Very Slow'

The Administrative Secretary of the Batticaloa District Trade Union Federation has sent us the following communication:

The four years of ethnic war had left behind a trail of destruction, desolation and despondency in the Batticaloa - Amparai Districts.

Several thousands of innocent civilians have been rendered destitutes by the crossfire of the vicious circle that engulfed this once very peaceful and resplendent region.

Several thousands have been killed plunging whole families in utter misery. Several

thousands have lost their traditional self-employment activities and this again has put the respective families into dire straits.

Several thousands have been disabled and this again had made the family members face serious hardships.

Several thousands had to face severe torture beyond endurance and became physically unfit to do any work involving physical stress.

Several thousands have been confined to the detention camps for years thereby leaving their families in complete disarray.

The situation that prevailed in the Batticaloa - Amparai

Districts can be termed as worse in comparison to other districts in the North or East, but, very unfortunately very little or no publicity was given to the factual position in the mass media, either locally or internationally.

The victims had to face severe hardships over the years. Their daily living has been miserable over the years. Apart from the mental agony they have to endure consequent to their sole breadwinners having been killed, disabled or maimed due to severe torture or as a consequence of the protracted and prolonged detentions, they have to face the most acute problem:-the daily subsistence. It is a miracle that several thousands of people survived this ordeal.

(To be continued)