

# Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

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*The Eelam People's Liberation Front*—comprising student, youth, worker-peasant and women's organisations—will launch a 'long march' on Tuesday (5 April) to protest the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the detention of clergymen and others under this Act. The 3-day protest march will start on Main Street, Jaffna opposite St. James Church, at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

The organisations planning to march are the General Union of Eelam Students, the Eelam Youth Front, the Rural Workers and Peasants Front and the Eelam Women's Liberation Front.

The main demands of the marchers centre round the repeal of the Anti Terrorism Law and the immediate release of the Christian clergymen, lecturer, youths and others detained under this Act.

The EPLF Secretary, M. Davidson, has written to the heads of several foreign missions in Sri Lanka—including the Soviet Union, People's Republic of China, India, Cuba and Palestine—informing them of the long march and seeking their support in the struggle against the violation of the fundamental rights of the Tamil people.

The EPLF has set up a

Committee of volunteers to look after the needs of the marchers and co-ordinate activities. Several organisations and individuals have volunteered to provide food and refreshments on the way, SATURDAY REVIEW learns.

The Front has called upon students to join the ranks of the marchers on the final day, Thursday 7th April.

While the Front has not made public details of the long march, Police sources declined to say whether there is any move to ban the march or take the organisers into custody in a preemptive strike.

## 3-day people's protest march begins in Jaffna on Apr. 5

### Teach Jaffna people a lesson, says M. P.

Polgahawela MP Sunil Ranjan Jayakoddy (UNP) wants to teach a lesson to those who burn buses in Jaffna. He has suggested the withdrawal of all buses from Jaffna; the people of Jaffna should be made to walk.

The Polgahawela MP made this point in Parliament on Wednesday when he was speaking on the votes of the Transport Ministry.

He said: "In Jaffna they

### Nedunkerny youths arrested on suspicion

Three youths from Navalur Farm, Nedunkerny, who had gone to Vavuniya to buy chillie plants and had thereafter gone for a cinema show were arrested by the Vavuniya Police on 20th March. The youths are: Rasalingam Thambi-

raja, Sithamparam Ramamurthy and S. Nadarajah, who were formerly residents of Galagedera and Yatiyantota and became victims of the 1981 racial riots in Sabaragamuwa. They had come as refugees to Nedunkerny and settled

there. The fact of their arrests was not known until the 26th.

SATURDAY REVIEW learns that these three youths who were kept in detention at Vavuniya Police Station until the 26th have been moved out

and are likely to be charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Police sources in Vavuniya said that they suspect that these youths might be those who were responsible for stealing chemicals from a school laboratory.

### Viewpoint

#### Countering Eelam propaganda

How are you going to counter this propaganda? By saying that the Jaffna Library was not burnt at all? Or that it was burnt by the Tigers? In which case, why did the Colombo media take so much pains to hide the fact at that time?



this point in Parliament on Wednesday when he was speaking on the votes of the Transport Ministry.

He said: "In Jaffna they are burning buses as they like. Those who burn buses must be taught a lesson. Send all the buses there to my electorate. The people of Jaffna must be made to walk. Don't send new buses to Jaffna. If you do plan to send new buses, send them to my electorate instead."

## Arsonist G. S. missing from post!

SATURDAY RE-VIEW learns that Grama Sevaka Kanaganayagam of Pankulam A.G.A's Division, who along with five other government officers, set fire to the 16 refugee huts (SR March 26) has not reported for duty for the past ten days!

## Countering Eelam propaganda

**HOW TO COUNTER EELAM PROPAGANDA ABROAD?** This has been a vexing question for government functionaries, Sinhala Buddhist organisations, Colombo Editors, and assorted busybodies for quite some time now. Now and then, some high-powered thinker puts his thinking cap on and sits down to think it over; and comes up with NO answer every time! Naturally. Because there is no answer. It is like trying to stop the other fellow from saying that MY MOTHER is a sinner when my mother is sinning all the time.

Propaganda can be of two kinds—propaganda by exposure and propaganda by censorship. A classic example was the burning of the Jaffna Public Library. When on the night of June 1, 1981, vandals destroyed this cultural wealth of a city and its people, one would have thought that that was the kind of news that would have made front page news in any newspaper in any part of the world. Probably many readers are not even aware of this—no English or Sinhala-language newspaper in this country did even record this news-worthy happening in its news columns! Why? Because they knew that the vandals were GOVERNMENT vandals. That was a typical example of propaganda by censorship. If Eelam propagandists use this to illustrate State oppression of the Tamil people, what is wrong about it? Are they being untruthful? Who is being untruthful anyway?

it was burnt by the Tigers? In which case, why did the Colombo media take so much pains to hide the fact at that time?

Now look at the fate of our dear sister SUN from Gunasena Mawatha. She is having endless problems with the Police, worst of all with the Traffic Police. We are not sure whether her driving is as erratic as her journalism, but how does one reconcile her making a song and dance over a Police assault on two journalists in the South with her failure to record in her news columns the burning down of a whole newspaper establishment—the EELA-NADU in Jaffna—on the night of June 1, 1981, the same night the Jaffna Library was put to the fire? The EELA-NADU is an independent Tamil newspaper, the only regional daily in any language, a newspaper that had been in existence for nearly a quarter century when Police vandals set it aflame. Why did the SUN black out the very happening, let alone failing to make a song and dance? What happened to her fraternal feelings in journalism? That was another wild example of propaganda by censorship.

No Sirs, stop thinking of "combating Eelam propaganda" abroad, until you put your house in order at home. No glossy booklets in colour can ever hide the State oppression of a people. As was said in Macbeth, when there is smell of blood, not all the perfumes of Arabia will sweeten it. There is only one way to stop the other fellow from saying that your mother is sinning; ask your mother to stop sinning!



**Saturday Review** SRI LANKA

# Whither the Tamil worker

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**EDITOR**  
S.Sivanayagam

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There had been and there will be public rallies to celebrate the International Workers' Day in the Northern Peninsula, on 1st of May. The T.U.L.F. without a doubt holds the largest of these May Day rallies in Jaffna. The Left Parties, like the Communist Party of Sri Lanka (Moscow) and the Nava Samasamaja Party too, at times visits Jaffna to hold

May Day rallies. But these remain symbolic, for they cannot muster much attention from the Tamil workers.

For the T.U.L.F. of course, it is a show of strength. For the T.U.L.F. leadership, an opportunity at rhetoric, to mix the strains of Eelam to the Jaffna winds.

But, what of the Tamil workers? What role do they play on this International Day of the Workers?

The lack of a dominant role even on May Day by the Tamil Workers is a clear indication that the leaders of the Eelam movement, have not taken any serious steps to forge a strong working class movement from among the Tamil workers.

This is in no way the fault of the Tamil workers, in no way the backwardness or petty mindedness of theirs. Yet, it clearly shows political immaturity of the Tamil workers. For the Tamil political leaders, who

are calling for a separate State, for Eelam, have been able to draw these workers away from the working class of Sri Lanka and yet keep them from organising into a strong class force.

The T.U.L.F. ever since it started campaigning for a separate Tamil State, for Eelam, never really worked to achieve it. Although they asked for the consent of the Tamil voter, to usher in an Eelam State, and the Tamil voters gave that consent without any hesitation, the Amirthalin-

leadership, did not at any time force the Tamil Trade Union leaders to mobilise their membership. They only fell foul of the top men. They were then removed from their vantage positions. Men like Sampantha Moorthy had to take a back seat in their Federation. The Federation thus never comes awake from its slumber. Or rather, the TULF top, is in a position yet, to keep the Tamil Trade Unions firmly under their heel.

This is contrary to the Tamil workers in the plantations, who were every well organised from the inception. Yes, the advantages the plantation folk have, though saddled with illiteracy-backwardness and alienation, has promoted a working class consciousness, and awareness, that has brought about a well organised trade union movement. The early work of the Left

**By Kusal Perera**

gam leadership is yet to put that into practice. They have not yet shown any worthwhile inclinations to that effect. Thus, the T.U.L.F. leadership is only peddling the Eelam slogan to be at the top of the Tamil movement and control it to suit their petty ideas. No, they have never willingly moved in to mobilise the Tamil masses, into action.

This is why we do not have the experience of meeting a strong working class organisation from the Tamil population. This is why the Tamil Trade Union Federation has remained a dormant—dead more than living—appendage of the T.U.L.F.

The critical approach of the youths, and those dissenters in the T.U.L.F. time and again have left their mark in the Tamil Trade Union Federation too. But those who were critical of the T.U.L.F.

too played a very significant role in this.

But a higher consciousness, a very higher awareness, a vibrant national movement has yet to surface among the northern workers. This is a void to be filled. It could be most fortunate if the radical Eelam Youths, who are more bent on open campaigns, spread their interests towards the working classes.

The Jayawardene regime has stepped into the second phase of its reactionary rule. The economic crisis the capitalists are facing world-over, has not left any chance for them to breathe. Jayawardene is fighting with his back to the wall. What could he do for the existence of the capitalistic order? Or, to put it plainly, what else is left for this government to save the capitalist order, other than by crushing the anti-capitalistic forces?

(Continued on Page 12)

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Another round of elections in May! Another round of circuses! It will be like having fun and games while the country is burning.

The elections to the 12 municipal councils and 38 urban councils can be justified up to a degree. Their four-year terms end in May. Still, with the system of decentralised local government that existed for decades destroyed in 1980 by the District Councils Act, which actually centralised the administration and executive power as never before, local bodies serve little purpose that they could be scrapped altogether.

As for the 17 parliamentary by elections they are utterly unnecessary. They have been inflicted on the country through the forced resignation of most but not all, of those MPs of the United National Party who could not pull as many votes at the Presidential poll and the Referendum as at the 1977 elections.

As we commented on an earlier occasion, the UNP high command has done grievous wrong by these MPs by not adhering to one principle, one formula, that is, ordering by-elections in all the 30 UNP-held constituencies where the majority of the people had opposed the extension of life of the existing Parliament for another six years.

#### Political expediency

The High Command's action should not be surprising because in recent years the UNP has been guided more by political expediency than principle, going to the extent of repeatedly amending its own version of the fundamental law of the land.

The number of by-elections would have been at least 21 had four vacancies not been filled by nomination under the proportional representation system. The Minister of Finance, Ronnie de Mel, who resigned from Devinuwara, has been accommodated at Mulkirigala; the former Minister of Health, Dr. Ranjit Atapattu, who resigned from Beliatta, has been brought back into Parliament from Tangalla; Mr. Mervyn J. Cooray has been the choice at Panadura. Will the Kesbewa seat also go to someone?

There is the further anomaly that a number of UNP members who were asked to resign are to be given party tickets to contest the by-elections. What was the big idea in asking them to resign in the first place if the High Command believed they deserved to be in Parliament, like some of those who have been nominated again and others whose resignations have not been called for?

Does all this reflect confused thinking on the part of the High Command? Or is it part of the ongoing power struggle between

# Political Causerie

by

Gamini Navaratne

the supporters of President Jayawardene on one side and those of the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa on the other, with both sides manoeuvring to increase their strength?

Government spokesmen will no doubt argue that the sole object of the exercise is to re-emphasise the "democratic nature" of the UNP. Free and fair elections and all that blah blah.

That is what President Jayawardene also said in New Delhi. "The by-elections will



The President



The P. M.

What the opposition really needs at this hour is a new leader, untainted by past misdeeds, who would be capable of rallying all the progressive forces in the country. There appears to be such a yearning among the people, but who is there among the younger set of leaders who could take up the challenge?

Not Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, whom his mother appears determined to make the next leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. In my assessment of his performance, or non performance, at the presidential election and the Referendum, he is likely to be more at home within the UNP than in a party whose membership, though not some of the leaders, believes in socialist solutions to the country's problems.

## Confused thinking or internal power struggle?

be held in the interest of democracy.

Certainly, such re-emphasis is necessary to refurbish the Government's image which was badly tarnished after what happened during the Referendum. But how many Sri Lankans — or foreigners — would be impressed? As opposition critics have said, the by-elections are "more a cover-up of its political problems than a concession to democracy."

I suspect that both the local elections and the by-elections are intended in part also to distract public attention from the economic situation which the Minister of

Finance now readily admits is very precarious.

In the next two months, we are going to hear ad nauseam, through the controlled media and from public platforms, the "splendid achievements" of the UNP in the past six years. I for one would prefer to be out of the country till the elections are over. A surfeit of elections, could cause indigestion!

As for the outcome of the elections, the opposition parties could put up a good show — if only they could unite. This is stating the obvious, because the spiralling cost of living is

certain to turn many more people away from the UNP. It is also obvious that, except on rare occasions, the one thing that they have not been able to do is to agree to pull together. Personal ambitions and prejudices of certain leaders have wrecked unity attempts more than the machinations of the UNP.

With the lessons of the past before them, will the opposition leaders get together this time? Or will they fritter away another opportunity of slowing down Sri Lanka's slide to a one party state?



Mr. Anura Bandaranaike

More at home within the U. N. P.?

A Jaffna educationist's views on:

## Police - public relations in Jaffna

There are not many parts in today's modern civilized world which are not policed. Not many Sri Lankans perhaps realise that there is one part of their country — the north — where routine policing is virtually absent. What caused this situation and what can be done about it? The Deputy Inspector General of Police (Northern Range), Mr. W. B. Rajaguru, is an 'UNHAPPY MAN' as a recent foreign media correspondent told the 'SATURDAY REVIEW'.

On 20th March Mr. Rajaguru called a meeting to discuss this problem. Top ranking Police Officers, Army personnel and representatives from the public, including businessmen were present.

SATURDAY REVIEW asked a leading Jaffna Educationist the Principal of St. John's College, Jaffna, Mr. C. E. Anandarajan, who was also an invitee, the views he put forward at that meeting.

Mr. Anandarajan said that Mr. Rajaguru explained the need for public support and participation to maintain law and order at a time when Police Officers were not able to do their normal duties on account of the killing of Policemen while on duty. He urged the Police-Public Relations Committee to help him in organizing Vigilance Units to help the Police to carry out their normal duties and to promote better understanding between the Police and the Public.

Colonel C. S. Fernando speaking on behalf of the Army assured the D. I. G., that the Army personnel would render all possible assistance to maintain law and order.

We are publishing below the views as set out by Mr. Anandarajan at that meeting:

Police Public relations mean the promotion of goodwill between the Police and the Public by whatever means possible. The three groups which play a vital role in promoting Police Public Relations are the Police, the Public and the Government. Events of the past, however, reveal that these three groups have failed resulting in the deterioration of Police Public Relations.

Referring to the Police he said that Police Officers who are custodians of the law must in the first place be upholders of the law. They should not resort to unlawful means or violence or brutality. They should use their brains, their skills and tact to combat crime and to maintain law and order. He commended a recent publication titled "Police—Public Relations" by Dr. Nandana Ratnapala and appealed that copies of it should be made available to every policeman.

Mr. Anandarajan related a case given in the above book where a husband and wife were summoned to the Police station following a complaint. The Inspector addressing the (Continued Overleaf)



Kailasapathy battled his way to fame! When he collected his first class honours in Tamil at Peradeniya in the 1950's he had already armed himself with the powerful weapon of Marxist theory, an acquisition that might have been considered a liability by typical academic careerists. To Kailas this weapon of theory was a basic need to enter an intellectual arena in which he moved from controversy to controversy, blazing new trails and leaving behind his pioneering contributions as land marks, until his great mind ceased to think on that fateful day in December 1982.

With his fresh and radical ideas he bombarded the minds of the thinking sections of a people who had long become mesmerised by the metaphysics and magic of a rich and long cultural heritage. A hard critical look backward was long overdue for the Tamil literary tradition, if it was to move forward. And the saga of Kailasapathy begins just at that juncture of history. But Kailas, the figure that moved in the Tamil literary world like a colossus, is no more. Those who did not know, or wish to acknowledge, his greatness may now see it in the void created by his death and the spontaneous feeling of grief among all sections of the people. One comrade has turned his grief into a praiseworthy deed, living up to the expectations of the traditions to which Kailas belonged, by publishing a collection of nineteen articles written by Kailas. Ganeshalingam deserves to be thanked by all of us for his voluntary and timely action in bringing out "Illakiya Chinthanaikal," the first posthumous volume of Kailasapathy's writings.

### His sense of the dialectic

It is not my intention to review, all the nineteen articles here. Instead, I have set myself a different but, in my view, a difficult task. I shall attempt in a preliminary way to highlight some elements of Kailasapathy's methodology using some essays as reference. I would also like to add that it is my personal familiarity with him that has given me the confidence to embark on this onerous task although I do not have any formal credentials in literature.

I was always fascinated by Kailas's sense of the dialectic, his power of abstraction and the systematic flow of ideas in his speeches and writings. In social sciences, unlike in the natural sciences, microscopes and chemical reagents are of no use. As Marx said the force of abstraction must replace both. But there is not one universally accepted method of abstraction and one's understanding (or misunderstanding) of the world

# Kailasapathy's critical method

This review article is my humble tribute to the late Professor K. Kailasapathy who inspired me as a friend and teacher to learn to read literature in a more enjoyable and meaningful way. Art and literature have magic, meaning and message and the search for this unity when pursued properly reveals

life itself in its essence. Kailas devoted his life not only to this search but to teach others how to do it themselves and become fuller human beings.

Institute of Developing Economics  
Tokyo, February 24th 1983

By Dr. N. Shanmugaratnam



depends on one's method of apprehending reality. Perhaps that is why some one remarked that there is nothing so practical as theory.

The method used by Kailas in his practice of literary criticism and analysis is firmly rooted in Marxist epistemology and enriched by his syncretical assimilation of modern developments in fields like historiography, social anthropology and mass communication. In my view Kailas succeeded in effectively combining three components of knowledge accumulated by him through his intense, unalienated mental labour. They are:

i) a mastery of the Marxian dialectical method of abstraction in its fullness by which I mean the recogni-

tion of the existence of a social basis to human conflict and its resolution and the varied manifestations of the class struggle in the realm of culture.

ii) a thorough knowledge of classical and modern Tamil literature, Indian and Sri Lankan history and Indian Philosophy.

iii) a good familiarity with ancient Greek, modern European and third world literature.

To this may be added his passionate concern with third world liberation movements and the cultural movements in post revolutionary societies. The dialectical method is the key to the successful integration of the different constituents. However, Kailas could not have been an em-

bodiment of the intellectual virtues of a new era in Tamil literary tradition without the depth and breadth of knowledge he had of the subject.

### Tamil literary criticism

Going through the enormous corpus of tributes from varied sources one cannot but see the consensus that Kailas piloted a change of course of the Tamil literary tradition. Here I shall attempt to give some idea of his monumental contribution toward the development of a new paradigm of Tamil literary criticism.

Kailas was completely aware, as a practitioner of a relatively new scientific

discipline, that art and literature had their own specific laws and that artistic production was not like political economic research and reporting. The most fundamental task in the method of dialectical abstraction is to distinguish between the basis and the conditions of change in natural and social phenomena. In all social phenomena from the global to the local this dual aspect can be recognised and scientific analysis should identify the basis as the field of manifestation of change that results from the interaction between the internal (basis) and the external (conditions).

(To be continued)

## Police - public relations in Jaffna

(Continued from page 3) husband said "What the hell yakko? Why did you assault your wife? Don't you have anything better to do?" The wife replied "Sir, he drinks every day, comes home and beats me! The Inspector retorted thus "What is this, you son of a bitch. Why do you do it? Look here yakko, if you come home drunk next time I shall break your neck. I will let you go free only this time. Come to the Police station again and I will break your neck and send you to hospital for six months."

The investigating group later visited the woman and inquired from her and found that her husband had not improved in any way. When asked as to why she did not

complain again to the Police she said "If I go there the Inspector will break the neck of my man. He will be dead or he will be sent to hospital for a long time. Then Sir, who will be there to feed me?"

Speaking about the Public Mr. Anandarajan said the public must extend their fullest co-operation and also adopt a more humane philosophy. The thinking of our people has been so conditioned that the general feeling is that if one does not agree with or subscribe towards one's own views he should be bumed off or killed. This is a very dangerous phenomenon. It is therefore not surprising that the general public does not express disapproval to many killings.

This attitude must change and it is our duty to mould public opinion!

Referring to the Government—he said that a fair and just Government is necessary to foster a better relationship between the Police & the Public. The average man meets the policeman often and identifies him with the Government. If therefore the Government resorts to unfair means it will affect police public relations. The attitude of our Government towards police officers found guilty of offences committed against the public has been shocking.

The Srimavo Government had the distinction of promoting a Police Officer who was responsible for the dis-

turbances connected with I.A.T.R conference in 1974 which resulted in the death of 10 civilians. The Jayawardene Government—not to be outdone has promoted a Police Officer who was found guilty of an offence in a court of law. It is shocking to note that the Cabinet was prepared to pay the fine—a sum of Rs 10,000/- on behalf of the offender. Such action of the Government and responsible members of the Government militate against Police Public Relations.

In conclusion Mr. Anandarajan said that the public would give all assistance possible through the vigilance committees.



What the hell is Transport Minister M.H. Mohamed trying to do? Grab almost the entire Rs. 100 pay hike announced with the Budget? The latest bus fares increase — the third since he took charge — is to be followed by a "standardisation" in which there could be further increases on some routes! Then a family of five going to work and school by bus might find it has to incur between Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 extra a month on bus fares alone!

Granted that there has been a steep rise in operational costs since 1977 — the prices of vehicles and spares and fuel as well as salaries are all up — but is the Minister justified in extracting more and more money from the public in this fashion?

As one who has had occasion to comment on the transport system over a number of years, I would say that the fares increases are partly the price the people are being called upon to pay for the sins of commission and omission of the Transport Ministry.

Sheer inefficiency and mismanagement, colossal waste of manpower and other resources, corruption and political interference and victimisation have all played their part in making the Sri Lanka Central Transport Board what it is today.

The SLCTB is broke, the Minister says after six years of his stewardship; the Treasury is refusing to bail it out any longer; so the public will have to shoulder the burden.

The SLCTB, in fact, looks more run down now than when the UNP assumed office alleging that the previous regime had messed up the works.

#### IMF and World Bank demand

Some of the problems of the SLCTB have been aggravated by the entry of the private operators. The active involvement of the private sector in passenger transport, however, did not come about through the Minister's own volition; it stemmed from a decision of the Cabinet, which had agreed to the demand of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to reduce state intervention in economic activity.

In effect, the Government was under obligation, in return for aid, not only not to make any more inroads into the private sector but also to hand over to the private sector as many nationalised ventures as was practicable. The bus transport system was high on the denationalisation list.

Because a frontal attack would have aroused opposi-

# Mr. Mohamed, you have missed the bus!

tion from the employees and the public, the Government went about it in the same roundabout manner it has been gradually "dissolving" other public sector enterprises.

In the case of the SLCTB, the Government was able to score a major political gain as well; no longer would its employees be able to hold the nation to ransom, as it did in the past through strike action when public transport was a state monopoly.

The tragedy is that even after the private sector came to its aid, the Government has not been able to provide as efficient a bus transport system as the public was made to

dene was Minister of Communications and Mr. Anil Moonesinghe was Chairman, the CTB did provide a fairly satisfactory service. After the LSSP was ousted from the United Front Government, the deterioration set in, largely as a result of politics coming to dominate CTB affairs.

The new Minister promised to provide an improved service "within six months." His idea of an improved service was to import more and more buses. There were 5,400 buses in 1977, of which about 30 per cent were "not roadworthy" (according to the Ministry). In the past six years, over 4000 new buses have been put on the road, but the public criticism of an inadequate and poor service

with the blessing of President Jayewardena. He was opposed to the 'import mania' of the Minister and the over-staffing of the organisation.

To the Board of Directors itself the Minister appointed persons in defiance of the Motor Transport Act. No. 48 of 1957, which stipulated that, apart from the Treasury representative, "it shall consist of five persons who appear to the Minister to have had experience in transport industry, commercial or financial matters or in administration."

These special qualifications were laid down because bus transport is such a vital sphere of activity and only the best men should have been chosen. I asked in my article whether the Minister could say he had fulfilled that obligation. My own answer was, "No, there is more than one joker on the Board!"

To make matters worse, some of the best men in the administrative, engineering, operational and accounting divisions were got rid of or were forced to leave. Many of them had served in the organisation for long periods, some from the very inception. They were capable men, dedicated men, honest men, who had done their job irrespective of the party in power. They could have continued to do their job, if given the chance, and not treated like pariahs who had to be at the beck and call of some persons whose only qualification was the ability to stooge. In fact, quite a number of those who quit in disgust like Mr. Wijesekera, were UNP loyalists.

In their place were brought in new UNP loyalists, some of whom simply did not know their job. Even a baila singer was given an executive job, replacing an official with years of service.

#### JSS finger in administration

It was because all this was happening that I wrote, "I have harped on the goings on at the highest level in the CTB because efficient management means everything to it. For if in any organisation there are unfit people and consequent dissatisfaction and low morale at the executive level the head, that is how could the rest of the organisation — the body — function effectively?"

In the lower rungs, too,

there was considerable dissatisfaction right from the start of Mr. Mohamed's administration. In the name of rectifying past wrongs, thousands of workers who belonged to unions other than the Jatika Sevaka Sangamaya were victimised, while those belonging to the JSS were pushed up irrespective of service and capabilities. Some hurdled over several grades in one jump.

#### Over-staffing

#### to give jobs

In addition, there was mass recruitment to an organisation which even in 1977 was already overstaffed. The number of employees then was around 45,000. Nearly another 25,000 were recruited thereafter. I remember the Minister receiving bouquets from Government MPs during the first budget debate for a job well done—solving at least partly the unemployment problem in their electorates. Now the Minister has had to resort to retrenchment to cut costs! With these developments, there was no need for an astrologer to predict that the state bus service was heading for disaster.

Now, private operators have begun to give the SLCTB more headaches. As the Central Bank has noted in one of its reports, "The objective of allowing the private sector to participate in passenger transport business was to supplement the SLCTB service, mainly in the long distance routes. However, due to lack of planning and co-ordination, a competitive and rival approach appears to have emerged rather than a supplementary and constructive approach."

Result: the total number of passengers carried by the SLCTB has dropped from a peak 1,862 million in 1979 to 1,105 million by 1981. The estimated loss in 1981 was Rs. 449 million. And who is to blame for this "lack of planning and co-ordination," if not the Minister himself? (Next week: Private operators)

## FOCUS

by Gamini

expect. The common complaints continue to be irregular or inadequate services on some routes, particularly in the outstations, overcrowding, dirty and leaky vehicles, some with glass panes missing, ill-lit vehicles, ill-lit destination boards or no boards at all, stopping outside halts or no stopping at all.....

The blame for all this must go to Mr. Mohamed. This is not a new opinion, an after-thought after what has happened. I said so in a Sunday newspaper on January 15, 1978. Even at that early stage, it was obvious to those who did not wear blinkers that the job was too much for him and he was going about it the wrong way. My conclusion then was that the "CTB is going (in Green Circles) on the rocks!"

He started by blaming the previous regime for the state of affairs in what was then known as the Ceylon Transport Board. This criticism was only partly correct. At least between 1970 and 1975, when Mt. Leslie Goonewar-

has not ceased.

While proffering various excuses for this situation, the Minister has been repeating ad nauseam his promise of an improved service "in another six months," like those astrologers who always forecast a bright future for people gullible enough to consult them.

Even if we assumed that as much as half the 1977 fleet had to be taken off the roads, this left 2,700 vehicles. Add to this the 4,000 new vehicles and the nearly 6,500 vehicles of the private sector and we have a total of over 13,000 vehicles. Even with this fleet, except on certain routes, can it be said that the public gets the service it deserves? I invite the Minister to travel with me on some routes and see how matters are.

Where the CTB was concerned, the rot really set in with Mr. Mohamed's entry. As I said in the Sunday newspaper write-up, the one man who could have put the CTB into working order, Mr. A. R. P. Wijesekera, was forced out barely two months after he had been appointed Chairman



# International Funding Agencies -3

## Aid or Loan? Who are the real winners?

According to an article in the recent issue of "DEVELOPMENT FORUM", a United Nations Publication, the functioning of the multinational corporations (with all their political connections) and the free trade system today looks almost too bad to be true. The article starts by pointing out that the multinational free trade system we have been taught to venerate is based on an immutable economic model which postulated the principles of equal advantage based on a competitive market allegedly ensuring the optimum allocation of the resources. Whatever could have been said in the past, "in the universe of the multinational corporations that has emerged during the past two decades, the model has become a caricature of reality". These corporations are already well known for their tendency to pay all too little regard to the interests of the people of less developed countries.

### Decisions behind closed doors

What it is saying is that the great speeding up of the onward march of the multinational corporation since the beginning of the 1960s has effectively revolutionised the growth, nature and composition of world trade. The result is that, although there is an appearance of democratic debate in the inter-governmental organisations and governmental commissions, the major decisions affecting the direction and performance of the global economy are being taken behind the closed doors of multinational boardrooms. Nyerere's

### refusal

A good deal of evidence has been adduced to support this. The processes of business amalgamation and the accompanying shift towards conglomerate structures have greatly reduced the number of multinational corporations in recent years to the point where fewer than 500 effectively dominate the world's markets. Together they are said to account for between 80 and 90 percent of all international trade. Internationalisation of capital brought about by the evolution of the multinational corporations has not only exacerbated the crisis within the global economy but, more important, has immensely contributed to the fuelling of it—notably by spreading unemployment.

The great battle to prevent the international free trade system being over-

whelmed by the protectionist forces spawned by the global recession continues to dominate the world economic scene. The IMF is considered to be the only body with the authority and the expertise to force debtor countries to change their economic policies where this seems necessary. The IMF described by some as the imperialist citadel of orthodox finance, has been accused of using deficits caused by world recession as a lever to impose "Right wing monetarist" policies upon the poor nations. In July 1982, President Nyerere of Tanzania refused to accept IMF conditions for the short term loan he so desperately needed. One condition was devaluation; another was to end food subsidy to the poor. To illustrate the trade protectionism of industrial countries one needs to look no further than sugar export by the European Economic Community (EEC). The EEC closes its markets to normal exporters of sugar (except for 13m tonnes of raw sugar needed as feed stock for particular community mills supplied by developing countries under the Rome Convention). At the same time the Community's own heavily subsidised sugar exports depress the world markets to the detriment of the traditional exporters mostly from the developing countries.

### Sugar exports from EEC

Now nearly one quarter of the world sugar exports comes from the EEC; as it cannot possibly compete on fair terms with the cane producers, every ton exported has to be heavily subsidised. Under the impact of massive production and export subsidies, the Community has gone from a net importer of sugar in 1976 to an exporter of 5.3 million tonnes in 1981. In 1982 it was still more. In the period 1968-1981 the EEC sugar subsidy has cost non EEC exporters (mostly from developing countries) \$520 to \$820 m per annum in forgone export receipts. The developing country exporters of a range of commodities have had their export earnings capacity similarly affected. Trade protectionism affects both prices of commodities and access to markets; by these means the heavily indebted developing countries are denied means of financing loan repayments and become more indebted under variable interest rates. The "reasonable price" received from the EEC has risen by only 26 percent

since 1975, while the index for manufactured goods exported to developing countries from EEC has risen by 84 percent in the same period.

Moreover, high interest rates took, in another sense, a particularly heavy toll of the developing countries. As the IMF has also pointed out, goods with high carrying costs and typically financed on credit are most sensitive to interest rate movements. High rates are apt therefore, to hit hardest countries whose exports are heavily weighted towards commodities with high storage and carrying cost—as, indeed, the fact that commodity prices are lower in real terms than at any time in the

posing that "if one accepts that the debtors' problems are a shortage of cash caused by recent high interest rates and low prices for their commodity exports rather than fundamental long term insolvency, then there is a need for bridging finance". Surely this is not the ideal solution for our problem. Bridging finance will provide temporary relief but the problem will persist and recur. Should we not explore possibilities of "indexing" the debt repayment schedules of developing countries to some kind of index of commodity prices or of export earnings of developing countries from commodities? At the Bretton Woods Confe-

neering design & construction abilities rise, until there is virtually local self sufficiency. Therefore opportunities in the Western World are limited to a few "Special Cases", where a particular expertise has to be imported. In the Communist World the opportunities are limited to an area of high technical complexity. It is the Third World that offers the greatest opportunities for consultants and contractors from the advanced countries. These firms foresee two major risks in operating in the Third World. The first risk is quick and adequate payment, especially in the poorer countries. The other risk is increasing interference for political reasons, and e

by

P. Varothayasingam  
London

past 30 years testifies all too clearly. The United States Special Trade Representative has emphasized the value of world trade in services—Banking, Insurance, Brokerage, Freight etc—usually classed under "invisibles" in trade statistics, to the US economy. "Our fastest growing export sector is trade in services which registered exports of at least \$ 60,000m in 1981", he told Washington's National Club in May 1982.

### Surviving the rat race

Having thus identified the major problem areas for developing countries in the increasingly hostile international environment, we should now look at the options available to survive the rat-race. The main reason why the industrialised countries give loans to develop poor countries is to increase the latter's consumption of imported goods. In the last three years alone, as the world demand for commodities has dropped off, United States income has been cut nearly in half from a total of \$ 32,300 m in 1979 to \$ 16,500 in 1982. The industrialised countries are pro-

rence which saw the birth of the World Bank and the IMF there were calls—unfortunately in vain for an international trade organisation (ITO) to stabilize commodity prices. In today's situation there is an ever increasing need for a link between commodities and financial obligations of developing countries.

Next to farming, the construction sector provides a large proportion of the employment opportunities in developing countries. This is associated with carrying out increasingly large public works programmes and with the development of natural resources. The world market in construction work can be split broadly into three generally acceptable divisions as follows:-

1. The Western World
2. The Communist World
3. The Third World

In any country, initially the larger portion of construction works is concerned with creating a suitable infrastructure (basically civil engineering). But as the country develops and its standard of living rises, the percentage extended on infrastructure construction falls. Concurrently, both local engi-

desire for the host country to substantially involve itself in the contracting opportunities. The first risk is overcome by both the IMF and the World Bank.

In 1981 the World Bank lent \$13,000 million for more than 240 new projects in the Third World countries. These countries currently award between 600 and 800 design (& supervision) contracts to consultants from advanced countries. Although the responsibility for selecting consultants belongs to the borrower, the bank staff are involved in reviewing each selection, to ensure spread of work among western countries. These design contracts are worth \$750 million per annum creating over 75,000 design jobs. Added to this are the hundreds of thousands of jobs for contracting staff and manufacturers of construction machinery and materials. It is now a requirement of the World Bank leading that international procurement be advertised in "DEVELOPMENT FORUM", a UN publication. As the Bank insists on investigating the whole public sector investment plans of developing countries in order to select investment opportunities all projects appear in the

(Continued next page)



Another locality where Hinduism flourished during this period was Padaviya where the architectural remains of many Hindu temples which may be assigned to the Polonnaruwa period have been found. Some of the Hindu institutions at Padaviya were supported and maintained by mercantile communities who formed an important element in the town. The Ayyavole of the Ayyampolil pattinam in Padaviya are said, in one of their inscriptions, to have dedicated themselves to the service of (a temple of) Siva. Another inscription at the same locality refers to the gift of an image of a deity made to a temple by the merchants of the locality. It mentions a group called Kalikanam, who were presumably the managers or trustees of a temple of Kali. Yet another Tamil inscription, which could be assigned to the late twelfth century on palaeographic grounds, records a Tamil verse composed by a local poet in praise of a temple dedicated to Siva and referred to as Valakali.

The Sanskrit inscription on the seal recently discovered at Padaviya and which has been assigned to the thirteenth century on palaeographic considerations shows that there was a Brahmin settlement at Padaviya. The inscription states that it was issued by Mahesa who resided at Sri Padigrama inhabited by Brahmins whose feet were adorned by the diadems of Indra and other gods. As Mahesa meaning "The great god" is an epithet of Siva it may be assumed that the seal was issued by the authorities of a Saivite temple at Padaviya. The evidence from this inscription may perhaps show that Saivism and Saivite institutions continued to flourish at Padaviya during the thirteenth century. The issue of a seal in the name of the local temple may suggest that it had an institution to manage its affairs.

Another important development connected with the growth of Hindu institutions was the influence exerted by Vira Saivism which seems to have been introduced among the Tamil settlement during the period of Magha's rule.

## International Funding...

(Continued from page 6)

"MONTHLY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY"—a supplement to "DEVELOPMENT FORUM." Thus, consultants and contractors from Western Countries benefit from advance information on all projects in the Third World. Naturally, the World Bank and the IMF would use their influence to ensure maximum participation of firms from western countries in all development projects in the Third World.

(To be continued)

# Hinduism in Ceylon-5

Circa A. D. 1000-1250

The priestly functions in some of the Hindu temples in the eastern littoral have been and are still to a certain extent performed by the Cankamar who form a strong and influential element in some localities in the region. They continue to wear on their chests the Vira Savitite emblem, the lingam, encased in bronze caskets which have the figures of a recumbent bull and the trident carved upon them. Tradition claims that the ancestors of the Cankamar had come from the town of Malli-

car Kalvettu may briefly be summarised here.

Vararamatevan, the son of Manunith Kanta Colan, and his son Kulakkottan came to Trincomalee with their retinue and army after hearing of the greatness of the sanctified site at Trincomalee. Later, Kulakkottan decided that the services at the shrine of Konesar should be revived and elaborated with help from the Cola country. He brought craftsmen including smiths from the royal mints (akka calaiyar) and

kulamparru. This chief was assigned lands in Nilaveli and endowed with the insignia of a Vannipam. Kulakkottan ordained that the accounts of the income for the Konecar temple should be in the custody of the Vanniyanar of Kattukulamparru and his successors. The inhabitants of Kattukulam were required to serve the temple. The people of Nilaveli were to conduct the festivals. Kulakkottan also proclaimed that the revenue in the form of Atai Ayam, Tirvai and other dues from the sea (port) should belong to the temple. On the

Kanta Cholan and of Vararamatevan that he is a legendary figure. The Taksina-kailasa puranam states that Kulakkottan had the name Chola kankan. As there were many princes and dignitaries who had the name Cholakankan in Kalinga, South India and Sri Lanka, Kulakkottan Cholakankan may be regarded as a historical personality. That he had close connections with Konesvaram and Trincomalee is suggested by persistent local traditions which credit him with the reconstruction of that temple. He could not have lived before the eleventh century because it was only after the rise of the Imperial Cholas that the name or title of Cholakankan came into use.

There had been some princes or dignitaries who had the name Codaganga in the island during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. A prince called Codaganga is known from the fragmentary Sanskrit inscription discovered at Fort Frederick, Trincomalee. The epigraph states that he came to the island in Saka 1145 (A.D. 1223). This inscription was inscribed on a door jamb found among a set of images, and it may be assumed that the missing portion of the epigraph recorded certain benefactions of Codaganga to the temple of Konesvaram. As there is some evidence to prove that Codaganga who had come to the island in A.D. 1223 had some connections with Konesvaram, he may provisionally be identified as Kulakkottan Cholakankan who, as claimed by the local Tamil traditions, rebuilt Konesvaram and reorganized its services.

[To be continued]

by

Dr. S. Pathmanathan

karyunapuram in India in the distant past. Their rituals and worship are still guided by manuscript texts expanding Lingayat doctrines and beliefs.

It is significant that the Tantonrisvarar temple at Kokkaticcolai, the leading Saivite shrine in the entire eastern littoral to the south of Kottiyam, was according to tradition, established during the period of Kalinga rule. The architectural style of the Vimana of this temple, which was dominated by its massive stupi and was of brick construction and the Pandya style of architecture seems to suggest that the temple had been constructed on an elaborate scale during the thirteenth century.

Another famous shrine on the eastern littoral associated with Magha by local tradition is the Subrahmanya temple at Tirukkivil. Among the buildings of this medieval shrine only the Vimana has remained intact while all other structures have collapsed. This gracefully designed Vimana has on account of its architectural style, been compared to the Pandya monuments in South India and have been assigned to the thirteenth century. A Tamil inscription which could be assigned to the fourteenth century records the donation made to this shrine by a certain Vijayabahu.

The ancient temple of Konesvaram on the eastern littoral developed into one of large proportions during the Polonnaruwa period. The Kulakkottan traditions recorded in Konecar Kalvettu seems to reflect the nature and extent of this development. The account of Kulakkottan as found in the Kone-

constructed a Saivite temple surrounded with many lofty gopuras, created the sacred springs and endowed the temple with fields and tanks which he had reclaimed and made elaborate arrangements for conducting religious services. He settled at Trincomalee six families selected from the best of the Cholas brought from Marunkur, and granted them lands to be held in hereditary succession. He deposited treasures in the temple and ordained that the expenses incurred and the income obtained daily should be recorded by the tanattar who also had to ensure that the ceremony of alatti and other services were duly performed.

Moreover, he settled at Trincomalee twenty-one families of Varippattar who had been brought from the Tamil country. They were to perform such services as gathering flowers, making garlands, cleaning and preserving silk garments used to decorate the images, carrying banners and umbrellas on festive occasions singing to rhythm when the dancing girls perform their dances, lighting lamps, distributing sandal powder, pounding rice and polishing the floor. People of the tanam and varippattu received rice fields at Pallaveli as remuneration for their services.

Kulakkottan brought Taniyunnappupalan from Madurai, raised him to the rank of a Vannipam and placed the administration of the town of Trincomalee, under his charge. Furthermore, he settled a chief ruler of a Karalar family from Tinnevely at Kattukulam and made him the ruler of the division of Kattuk-

orders of Kulakkottan Nilacotaiyan and his armies diverted the waters of the Mahaveli and constructed a huge reservoir. Land to the sowing extent of 2,700 avanam was converted into fields and granted to the temple.

The value of the foregoing account as a source of historical information would depend on the historicity of Kulakkottan and the veracity of the detail concerning his activities. It cannot be said of Kulakkottan, as it can be of Manunith

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A Tamil daily paper states that for the year 1982 Prima imported 4 lakhs 13 thousand and eight hundred and ninety three tons of wheat. The radio announces that the number of tourists for the year was five lakhs thirteen thousand and twelve and that this figure is ten percent more than the previous year. The typical man-in-the-street who represents the majority of the people does not make much sense in reading or hearing such news. This is the typical presentation of figures by the daily papers and the radio to the masses perhaps with the attitude 'take it or leave it'. If however the presentation could be modified to read that 'Prima imported in 1982 a little over 4 lakhs tons of wheat and that the number of tourists for the year was slightly above 5 lakhs and this is about 50,000 more than previous year, would make much sense to the general public.

#### Making them

#### meaningful

What do figures mean to the public? They give some impression of the quantity depending on the individuals appreciation of numbers. In early days, man could count only up to a few numbers. It is said that the following was an early method of counting, which still prevails among certain isolated tribes: "one, two, plenty."

A collection of more than two objects was looked upon as consisting of too many objects to be counted. True we have advanced but can we say that the masses in the third world have advanced to that level as to appreciate most of the figures given by the daily papers and the radio. It is thus necessary that figures are presented in such a manner that they are meaningful to the average person and one way is to give round numbers in the desired units, as suggested in paragraph 1.

#### Interpreting of figures

Speaking of round numbers, is it not absurd that railway fares particularly for long distance journeys should end up with odd cents? For example the 2nd class fare from Jaffna to Colombo until it was recently raised was Rs 71/40. The bus fare is Rs 65. This is because the buses between Jaffna and Colombo are private owned and owners are practical, business-minded persons, who would not like to (a) inconvenience passengers with fares ending in odd cents, (b) inconvenience their staff with the collection of odd cents and (c) give additional work for their accounting and auditing staff with these odd cents.

True the C.G.R. has a working formula to multiply

# Presentation of figures to the masses

the distance involved by a certain fare per mile but the railway should not fall victims to formulas and conservative accounting pundits where saving in time and convenience to the public as well as to their staff are concerned. With galloping inflation, cents have lost their value and therefore when dealing with sums which are not small the fares should be rounded to the nearest rupee.

The examples cited are very simple cases. Let us take one that is not so simple. The Government makes an announcement that it is spending a certain sum of money for a particular item and this is six times the corresponding figure ten years ago. This is factual - there is nothing wrong with it. What the statement hides is that during the ten years the prices have more than doubled and therefore the people really do not get six times the benefit - really they receive less than 3 times the benefit. If further the benefit is to go down to every citizen the benefit per person has to be further reduced as the population would have increased by about 20 percent during this period. This is a case where simple figures when interpreted would have to take into consideration factors associated with the object concerned, particularly where comparison is involved.

It is this inadequate presentation of figures which prompted one writer to remark of "lies, damned lies and statistics". The remarks are justifiable when figures are badly presented or wilfully and wrongfully presented. When correctly presented, figures enlighten people to view a situation more clearly. Ramakrishna Paramahansa once remarked that with the same oil lamp one can read a useful book or set fire to a house. So with figures too, we can use them to appreciate facts better or fool the masses by misrepresentation.

Now how do we use figures for the benefit of the common man? He is not interested in abstract numbers. For him, numbers should be associated with objects.

Further he is interested only in figures which are amenable to his thinking and grasp. The moment you go beyond this point, he will lose interest by remarking that the writer or speaker has gone to realms of higher mathematics. In short we have to present figures in a simple way similar to the way Sri Ramakrishna presented religion to the masses and Bharati his poems to the Tamil people.

## PERSPECTIVES

By

**Nagamuttu**

President Nyerere like Rajaji has a way of putting across facts and figures for easy understanding to the masses. He once said that formerly only 6 bushels of coarse grains locally produced were needed to purchase a ton of fertilizer and now due to increase in the price of fertilizers Tanzanian peasants have to sell 30 bushels of the grain for the same amount of fertilizer. This is easier to grasp and goes well with the people than saying that the price of fertilizer has gone up 5 times.

**Thennali Raman**

#### story

Again we look at another way of putting across figures. Tarzi Vitachchi instead of stating that the world population would double in 30 to 35 years stated that in 30 to 35 years we have another world to look after in addition to the present one.

If we need an example from yore we have one from Thennali Raman. The King put forward a question hoping to pin down Raman. He asked "how much sand is there in this hillock?" pointing a hillock. Raman replied "your Majesty, if your Majesty's measure is the same as the hillock, you get one measure, if however the measure is half that of the hillock, you get two measures" It was an amazing reply to what the King thought was an impossible question to answer.

We now commonly hear of our young men and women

going abroad to the Middle East and other countries for non-skilled work at about Rs. 5,000/- per month. When a figure like five thousand is mentioned our people are overwhelmed with it. No one bothers to inquire what the equivalent is in the currency of the country concerned. Troubles start only after reaching the other end when the expenditure is naturally - not in Sri Lanka rupees. For example the person goes to Singapore then he/she receives about \$500/-. This is not a big amount by Singapore standards and when one starts spending in dollars what would be left for sending home is not what

concerned, it is easier to understand. Further there is some mix up in the terms.

Last week a Minister reported that Sri Lankans abroad remit about 6 billion rupees annually and a Tamil daily reported this as 60 orotes instead of 600 orotes. It is high time that we decide to use the terms million and billion. Coining suitable words in Tamil and Sinhala is not a difficult task. When I discussed the subject with a scientist of some standing, he readily agreed with me in the use of millions and billions. He added crores and lakhs should then be dropped. My own son feeling is to leave these terms as they are and over time the people will settle down to what terms to use and what to drop.

Once a teacher had to teach the same theme to five different classes the same day. In the first four days classes apparently the students did not grasp what the teacher put across, according to the teacher's observation. However in the fifth class as he taught them, some students showed appreciation and therefore understood the subject. The teacher when retiring to bed that night recollected what happened that day. He then realized that in the first four classes he himself had not understood the subject clearly and hence the inability of the students to grasp what was taught and only in the fifth class he understood the subject and hence the students grasp of it.

The lesson to be learnt is that the person who espouses a subject should have a clear understanding of it - this is also the case with figures. Figures can be made simple as possible in usage when the person who puts across has a clear grasp. So let us appeal to those who use figures for the benefit of the public to have their minds clear of what they are putting across.

## Tamil University plans video cassettes to teach Tamil abroad

The Tamil University at Tanjavur in Tamil Nadu has planned to bring out video cassettes for the benefit of Tamils abroad desirous of learning Tamil. The project is expected to be completed shortly, according to an announcement made by Dr. V. I. Subramoniam, the Vice-Chancellor.

The move is inspired by the necessity to teach Tamil to the younger generation in countries like Mauritius and Fiji where due to lack of facilities the language is found to be languishing.



# LETTERS

## The future of the Palmyrah industry

Evergreen Villa  
Ariai, JAFFNA  
21 March 1983

The Editor,  
Saturday Review,  
Sir,

On reading Mr. Vadivetkaran's letter in the S.R.(19/3) I find myself troubled by the thought whether the Palmyrah industry will make any progress at all. The Board was set up in 1978 by the Minister of Plantation Industries with trade unionist K.C.Nythanatha as its first chairman. Owing to indifferent health, he resigned and was succeeded by a political appointee Mr. Kanagasuriar. He was enthusiastic but he had a running battle with the Poohbahs in the Ministry of Regional Development.

When he faded out a CCS man Mr N. P. Jeganathan took charge of the Board but he was operating from Colombo. He appointed Dr. S. Mohanadas as a Consultant to the Board and gave him a free hand to develop the industry. Dr. Mohanadas is a permanent employee of the Coconut Research Institute, Lunuwila and comes to Jaffna on weekends for consultations. It was during this period that the idea of a Palmyrah Workshop was mooted when Mr. Y. Y. Kim, UNDP Resident Rep. visited Jaffna in February 1982. Dr. Mohanadas followed up this suggestion and the workshop became a reality in February this year.

Sometime last year there was agitation that the Palmyrah Board should be chairpersoned by a minority Tamil to provide jobs for the boys. The ministry was looking aro-

und for a suitable man of the right calibre and eventually settled on a subordinate officer in the Board. He is a teacher by profession and is seconded for service from the Education Dept.

Palmyrah Board's low rating is not in any way due to the bungling ineptitude of the present Board but to the cumulative errors of the Ministry in not giving proper directions. The major problems facing the Palmyrah industry is the rapid attenuation of the Palmyrah population — roughly 1000 palms are cut down illicitly every day for use as timber in house building. Replanting is painfully slow and is not keeping pace with the current needs.

Although three arrack distillates will be in operation, there will not be enough raw material (toddy) and manpower (palmyrah technicians) to feed the projects. All the palmyrah technicians opt to go to the Middle East if they fail to get white collar jobs in the Board or elsewhere.

The Board is so ill equipped that they were unable to give a Palmyrah oriented dish of Kool or porridge to the foreign delegates who attended the workshop. The sales outlet—Katpalam—is running at a terrible loss and is a king-size chip on the shoulder of the Board.

The question then is— is the Palmyrah Development Board really necessary? Why not scrap it and have a Palmyrah Controller on the lines of the Rubber & Tea Control Departments?

Yours faithfully  
T. K. Somasekaram

## Tourists express concern at Pankulam burnings

We came to Sri Lanka as tourists, and are also interested in the cultural and social life of the Sri Lankans. We had a lot of experience, good and bad ones. Besides the tourist places, we visited some rural areas in Sinhalese and Tamil regions. By chance we got the opportunity to see how officials treated some Tamil people. These people had left the estates due to communal riots and sufferings in the line rooms, and wanted to start a new peaceful life in the Tamil area. Some employees under the A.G.A.

came one morning and burnt 16 houses which the new settlers had built up. This just happened near Trincomalee in the Eastern Province, only a few miles away from the big tourist resort Nilaweli.

Since the politicians are concerned about attracting tourists in the future, they should stop these violations of human rights. If more and more foreigners will learn about the human rights violations, how can they enjoy holidays in this country anymore?

Bijji and Wolfgang

## Textile Weavers Co-op Society : Is it going to be the end of the story?

The Editor,  
Saturday Review,  
Jaffna.

Sir,

The public should be ever grateful to you for highlighting the corruption, nepotism and inefficiency of a leading Co-operative institution in Jaffna namely The Jaffna District Textile Weavers Co-op Society Ltd. Though numerous allegations had been made against the Board and the General Manager of the Society to the authorities concerned no corrective action or remedial steps were taken until it was highlighted in the Saturday Review. The credit goes to you Sir for the timely action in saving the Society from the imminent collapse.

Though four of the Board of Directors had been removed the other five elected members of the Board continue to hold power in the newly constituted Board. Are they not equally responsible for the sordid state of affairs of the institution? Should not the General Manager too be

held responsible for the Society's inefficiency and mis-management?

I cannot understand why the department concerned is not coming forward to remove the others responsible for the sordid state of affairs in the Society and hold an inquiry under Secti-

on 46/1 of the Co-op Act.

I trust this would catch the eye of the Minister concerned for his immediate and necessary action before the vultures get away with their booty.

A Co-operator

## Moolai Co-op Hospital Society

Chulipuram,  
83/03/23.

The Editor,  
Saturday Review,  
Sir,

The letter written by Mr. Sivagnanam under the heading, "Eradicating Blood Suckers (S.R.12/03) is amusing. He first finds fault with the Co op. official being dumb to his appeals. Next he gate crashes with the Minister and compliments the Minister for a belated action — removing the President elected by a General Body which is all supreme and replacing him with a New Member President through the back door of nomination. The act of the Minister through the writer's alleged errant officials of Co.op.depar-

tment appeared to have greatly satisfied and pleased the writer. Perhaps he is towing the old adage of cutting the nose to spite the face.

Strangely enough, he speaks of democracy, justice etc. and feels highly elated that a democratically elected executive President, elected by a supreme General Body, has been removed summarily against all the laws and principles of the Co-op movement and the tenets of Natural Justice and replaced by the unlawful and undemocratic act of the helpless officials of the Department.

The writer speaks of certain malpractices adopted at the Moolai Co-op. Hospital General Meeting held on

(Continued overleaf)

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## LETTERS

(Continued from page 9)

29/06/80, summoned and presided over, by the Departmental Officials at the request of the writer. The writer while winning majority of the Directorships was decisively beaten at the election of the President he contested at the selfsame General Meeting manoeuvred by the writer himself. He now begins to speak of malpractices at the said meeting and corresponds with the Departmental officials to declare the election of the President only null and void.

Subsequently, when the President of the Society summoned a General Meeting which shall be the only forum to settle all controversial matters between the Board and the President and restore the Society to its past prestigious position of self determination and self administration, the writer gate crashes the Minister to have the General meeting already fixed and notices of meeting posted to all members at a cost of Rs. 2000/- to be postponed and the democratically elected President removed. He succeeds in his manoeuvring with the Minister to have the President removed in the most undemocratic and illegal way and to have the said General Meeting postponed indefinitely. It is now two years and the postponed General Meeting with 11 items in the agenda still stands 'postponed'. Having condoned with-holding of the Annual General Meeting for the last two years, he has now the brass to speak of democracy. This is indeed a new type of democracy that the writer is trying to uphold and usher. It is not in any books on democracy.

Yours in co-op. service,  
V. Rajasundram.  
Executive President Elect of  
Moolai Co-op. Hospital Society.  
(General Body)

## Didn't Nehru embrace Castro?

Jaffna.  
28-3-83

The Editor,  
Saturday Review,  
Dear Sir,

While Patricia Saverimuttu received her "spitbath" from OEG after seven summers (SR—March 26th), change of life had overtaken Indira Gandhi when Fidel Castro gave her that bear hug. If my memory is correct, Pundit Nehru soon after a UN general session embraced Castro either in New York or Havana. He was very emotional and called Cuba the land of great freedom fighters.

According to Mervyn de Silva Castro was the "most

wanted man" at the Delhi NAM. While it is common knowledge that he also heads the CIA hit list.

Castro is not everybody's darling. So isn't OEG, who has been called a Gogia Pasha and Ali Baba by his critics. Like the original Ali, OEG too had his men. Condemned by Sri Lankan Courts during 1970—77, it was left to the Dharmista Government to rehabilitate him.

Ian, I am sure, will not be scared away by the old girls of Chundikuli or Holy Cross and we await his next missive.

Yours truly,  
Puliadi OG.

## Friends of the farmers?

Gramodaya Sabai,  
Araly W. N.  
Vaddukkodai.  
2nd March, 1983.

The Editor,  
Saturday Review,  
Dear Sir,

Apropos "Wanni Farmer" by Chairman Agricultural Development Authority, appearing in your esteemed issue of 20/2/83, I wish to place certain facts, before your worthy readers for their verdict.

At the meeting of the Pradesa Sabai Valigamam West and Gramodaya Sabai Araly W.N. there were resolutions expressing certain problems confronted by the Farmers of Araly, in the cultivation of Bombay Onions.

The copies of these resolutions were forwarded to Chairman Development Council Jaffna, and to the Department of Agriculture. The Chairman Development Council informed the writer that the resolution of the Gramodaya Sabhai was referred to the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Jaffna, who would inform the Sabai within fifteen days, the course of action taken by the Department.

Not even an acknowledgement was received either by the Pradesa Sabai nor the Gramodaya Sabai from the Department of Agriculture up to date. Even the direction of the Chairman Development Council was not attended.

Only the resolution of the Gramodaya Sabai was forwarded to the Agricultural Development Authority and an officer of Provincial Director's rank, probably from Colombo Head office, visited the village to discuss the problem with the Farmers within a few days of the resolution.

The Chairman Agricultural Development Authority claims that his officers are "FRIENDS OF THE FARMERS" Is he correct?

Yours faithfully,  
N. Kugarajah  
President Gramodaya,  
Sabai Araly W. N.

## Goat breeding is good for you!

14/10, Galpotta Road,  
Nawala,  
Rajagiriya.

Goat Breeding is very profitable to the town as well as village folks. Goats need little space and little care; unlike cattle, goat is poor man's cow, and its milk is very nourishing to the children as well as adults. Mahatma Gandhi sustained himself mainly on goat's milk. Mr. Dudley Senanayake was a fancier of goats. He imported some good milking varieties as Shanani, Anglo, Nubian, Kamori for milk and Jamna Pari for meat.

In Australia the Shanani goats give 8 bottles of milk per day. I myself had a Kamori Goat in 1954 and it gave 5 bottles of milk per day. The food cost was only -/40 per day. If all of us take to breeding goats the milk shortage problem and malnutrition will vanish. Our Rural Industries and Development Minister has started in earnest in importing good milking goats from Germany and I hope he will import more and distribute among goat fanciers and also start Goat Stud Farms and Goat Artificial Insemination Centres all over the country.

P. S. L. Nathan

## Licence to kill?

88/1, Bedagama Road,  
Kotte,  
24th March, 1983.

The Editor,  
Saturday Review.  
Dear Sir,

There was criticism in a daily newspaper about the shooting of rare birds in Sri Jayawardenapura a prohibited area. Why blame the sportsman after issuing a licence to kill and a quota of cartridges? They have to use them one way or other.

It is these sportsmen with a licence to kill who are hunting in all the reserves and killing animals indiscriminately. They seldom get caught.

Therefore it is high time that the licence to kill is withdrawn by our Dharmista Government.

S. K. Dias Abeyasinghe

## Oh Calcutta! How different are you from Sri Lanka!

SPAN magazine, New Delhi, carried this account:

On June 24, 1982, the American Centre Library in Calcutta was attacked by a group of persons. The newly renovated building—which is visited by an estimated 22,000 people every month—was badly damaged. In a severe condemnation of the attack on "the only modern library

# Prisoner I may be, but not a slave .....

## REBIRTH.

To destroy  
the heat of thought  
even in my shadows  
the police follow me.

When I look  
at the sky innocently  
they measure my eyes.

To capture  
the refrain of my  
revolutionary song  
in my foot prints  
they send the dust  
to the analyst.

They try  
to put out the human lights  
that feed you and me.  
Instead of removing  
the filth I hate to see  
they try to pluck out  
my eyes.

When I kiss children  
they try to scrape  
the moisture  
on their cheeks with knives

My voice is a crime  
my thoughts anarchy  
because  
I do not sing to their tunes  
I do not carry them on  
my shoulders.

To call me  
Conspirator  
Constitution is their index—  
with the folly  
common to all religions  
they cloak their  
class-interest

in the sanctity  
of all Constitutions.

But  
no "raga"  
to their religion and rule  
will escape my throat.

Every drop of my blood  
I scatter like seed  
to liberate my country.

Prisoner I may be  
but not a slave  
Though battered and broken  
like a wave of the sea  
I will be born  
again and again.

Cherabanda Raju, who died of cancer on 3rd July, 1982, was a revolutionary poet and song writer of Andhra Pradesh India. He started writing poetry while still in his teens and joined the REVOLUTIONARY WRITERS' ASSOCIATION in 1970. Inspired by the people's struggle against oppression, Cherabanda Raju turned from poetry to song: many of his songs are still sung by cultural troupes of revolutionary activists.

In 1971, Cherabanda Raju was detained under the A. P. Preventive Detention Act. and was released 45 days later when the Andhra High Court declared the detention invalid. He was arrested again in October '73 and implicated in the Secunderbad conspiracy case along with other writers. He was granted bail in late '74 only to be arrested again in June 1975 in the wake of the Emergency. Within months of his release in October '77 he underwent an operation for brain tumour, which the doctors confirmed was cancerous. Despite two more operations, in '79 and '81, he lost his eyesight, hearing and speech. He died before his fortieth year.

Seven volumes of his poems and songs as well as two novels were published during his lifetime. Many dramas, skits and children's songs remain unpublished.

Cherabanda Raju wrote *Rebirth* while in Hyderabad Jail.

By courtesy:  
KALAM  
The Revolutionary  
Students' Voice,  
Bombay  
August 1982

in the city" (Bengali daily *Jugantar*), newspapers took out editorials admonishing the miscreants. The Calcutta Centre has been inundated with visits from well-wishers who while expressing their anger and sorrow at the attack have also lauded the decision to open the library the very next day. Two book displays planned for that day

were held as scheduled.

Hundreds of Indians—ranging from judges and students—have written to the library expressing their sympathy and condemning the incident.

An excerpt from a typical letter: "I am enraged and ashamed of what happened at the American Centre yesterday... I felt as if my own had been smashed.



# Victims of Pankulam

## arson continue to be harassed

'SATURDAY REVIEW' reported last week how 16 Tamil Refugee Families were deprived of their dwellings and belongings when their huts were set on fire by Government Officials. The victims along with the Gandhiyam volunteers who are still at Parathipuram village in the Pankulam A.G.A's division continue to be subjected to threats by Police and Government Officials according to a report released by Gandhiyam Society signed by the Organizing Secretary, Dr. S. Rajasunderam.

Dr. Rajasunderam in his report says: "Hundreds of families of Tamil origin moved into Trincomalee District in August 1979 as a result of communal violence in the south of Sri Lanka. These families settled down in existing Tamil

villages. Due to continuation of violence in the south of Sri Lanka, especially in 1980 and 1981, some more families moved into the Trincomalee District.

"Parathipuram village was one of these villages, situated 10 miles from the Trincomalee Town on the Anuradhapura Road with such 150 plantation Tamil families. Some of these families have already obtained title deeds for the land from the Government in 1980 under the 'regularisation of encroachment on crown lands' and this was granted to the families who have obtained Sri Lanka citizenship. The other families were officially branded as squatters.

"On the 14th of March '83, a gramasevaka attached to Pankulam Asst. Government Agent (AGA) Division

with five office clerks armed with clubs and batons went to the Parathipuram settlement set fire to sixteen houses of these unfortunates, threatened the Gandhiyam Volunteers who had recently moved in to assist these underprivileged families with Pre-school, nutrition, medical care, water supply etc.

"On the following day (15th) some of these affected families went to the Uppuveli Police and lodged a complaint against the errant Government Servants.

"On the 16th, Police officials conducted a formal inquiry and on the 17th March, Police party came, took the Gandhiyam Volunteer Rubakanthan, assaulted him and took him to the Police Station where he was assaulted again. Similarly, five of the victims were also assaulted by the Police and were later released.

"We have reported this matter officially to the

President of Sri Lanka, IGP., of Colombo, Leader of Opposition, Hon. Minister Thondaman, MP for Trincomalee, District Council Chairman of Trincomalee and President of MIRJE, Colombo.

"The Gandhiyam volunteers are still at the Parathipuram Centre with the people whose houses

were burnt. Police officials and Government officials visit occasionally and threaten them and want them to leave.

"At the end of a week, we release this report with the hope that people who believe in justice, equality and human rights will raise their voices to give redress to this poor people."

### Easter Bajan at open

Christha Seva Ashramam of Maruthanamadam will hold its annual Easter Bajans as usual on Easter Sunday Between 5.30 p.m. and 8 p. m. at the Jaffna Open Air Theatre.

### Air Theatre

The "Pirathna Sevaka" of the Ashram Rev. Sam Alfred, known popularly as Sam Annan invites everyone to attend.

### Athletics after decades at Holy Family, Jaffna

17th March 1983 was a red letter day in the Sports annals of Holy Family Convent Jaffna, because they had their Athletic Meet that day, an event they were not able to hold

due to lack of playing fields in the school premises for several decades. It was an occasion revived in the spacious sports grounds of St. Patrick's College, under the distinguished patronage of Mr. Devanesan Nesiah GA Jaffna.

Visitation House emerged champions while Josephine House were runners up. The Principal—Sr. Anthony Joseph welcoming the Chief Guest expressed her pleasure that Holy Family Convent Jaffna was able to combine Athletics & Sports as the grounds had been made available, thanks to the generosity of Fr. Rector of St. Patrick's College. She stressed the vital need for sports in an all round education.

Mr. Nesiah expressed his appreciation of the well organised event and congratulated those in charge. He said he had witnessed the standard of excellence he had hoped although it was the first display.

Premini Dominic, Amirthini Stanislaus and Nilani Francis all of Visitation House were champions in the under 13, 15, and 17 events, Koshala Ponnambalam of Josephine House shared the honours in the under 17 events while Nalayani Selvarajah of Clare House swept the boards in the over 17 event. Mrs. Amita Nesiah gave away the prizes.

The Assistant Head Girl Miss Shasikala Sivapathalingam proposed the vote of thanks.

## JAFFNA CRICKET : OLD CENTRALITES WIN

Tall scoring combined with belated declarations saw the **Hartley-Jaffna Hindu Cricket** Encounter end in a tame draw.

Jaffna Hindu electing to bat first, after winning the toss, hit up 227 for 9. Hartley replied with 215 for 8 of which P. Nareshkumar contributed an effervescent 98. He was most unfortunately run out when the century was well within his easy reach. His great innings included 9 fours and a sixer.

Jaffna Hindu declared again at 169 for 6 after the opening pair Gowrikrishnan and Saravanapavan put on 105 runs.

Hartley, despite the impossible target, batted aggressively to collect 67 for 3 in 10 mandatory overs.

The main scores are as follows:-

**Jaffna Hindu 227 for 9** (declared)

Baheerathan 63; Vasuthevan 50; Thaventhiran 43; R. Shantharam 3 for 68; V. Manoharan 2 for 26;

B. Pathmaseelan 2 for 40. **Jaffna Hindu 164 for 6** wkts (declared)

N. Sarawanabawan 67; P. Gowrikrishnan 49; B. Nanthakumar 3 for 34

**Hartley 1st Innings 215** for 8 wkts (declared)

P. Nareshkumar 98; B. Sutharshan 30; K. Jeyanthan 28; P. A. Richards 26; T. Suresh 2 for 41; K. Anpan 2 for 42.

**Hartley 2nd Innings 67** for 3 wkts.

V. Manoharan 25; P. A. Richards 12; P. Nareshkumar 10 not out.

The **OLD CENTRALITES** asserted their superiority over the **OLD JOHNIANS** in a limited 50 over match by cruising home to a comfortable 136 run win. R. Naguleswaran, the C.C. cricketer claimed 5 wickets for 10 runs. The scores:-

**Old Centralites** R. Satchithanandan b.

Jeyakumar 53

J. Gnanaratnasingham ct. Thevapalan b. Jayakumar 11

M. S. Rameez b. Mills 62

K. Thomas l.b.w. b. Jeyakumar 52

S. Mithiran ct. Thevapalan b. Kulanathan 06

R. Naguleswaran ct. Thananjeyan b. Mills 18

R. Balakumar b. Kulanathan 05

S. Premachandran b. Mills 01

R. Devakumar ct. Jeyakumar b. Kulanathan 00

S. Rajakumar not out 33

S. Thevarakan not out 26

Extras 06

Total for 9 wkts in 50 overs 273

Fall:- 35, 110, 192, 193, 205, 222, 224, 227, 273.

**Run Rate**

10 overs 43

20 overs 92

30 overs 156

40 overs 225

50 overs 273

**Old Johnians**

N. Prabakaran ct. Gnanaratnasingham b. Naguleswaran 08

T. Thevapalan b. Naguleswaran 27

M. Y. A. Fowzan l.b. w. b. Thomas 03

S. Karunaikumar run out 08

C. Sooriyakumar ct.

Satchithanandan b. Balakumar 01

T. S. Varathan ct. Naguleswaran b. Satchithanandan 20

S. D. Kulanathan ct. Naguleswaran b. Satchithanandan 08

C. Mills ct. Mithiran b. Satchithanandan 13

S. Ravindran ct. Gnanaratnasingham b. Naguleswaran 11

P. Jeyakumar L.B.W.b. Naguleswaran 11

S. Thanankeyan not out 09

Extras 18

Total in 42 overs 137

Fall:- 28, 41, 42, 49, 55, 65, 85, 108, 111, 137.

**Run Rate**

10 overs 40

20 overs 60

30 overs 85

40 overs 131

**Mahajana** scored a comfortable 7 wicket win over **Manipay Hindu**.

The scores at a glance:- Mahajana 235 and 30 for 3 wickets.

Manipay Hindu 95 and 169



# Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

## M.C. polls: Testing time for T.U.L.F.

The Tamil United Liberation Front is likely, SATURDAY REVIEW learns, to drop some of the old guard and bring in new faces in a bid to beat off the challenge of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress and retain control of the Jaffna Municipality.

Though nominations to the 50 local bodies (12 municipal councils and 38 urban councils) that will go to the polls in May were being accepted from Thursday onwards (31 March), the TULF hasn't yet handed in its list for any of the five districts—Jaffna, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Amparai and Trincomalee—it's contesting. The last day for handing in nomination papers is 20 April.

Jaffna Mayor Raja Visuwanathan and Deputy Mayor N. T. Sellathurai along with some other TULF veterans may be dropped, SATURDAY REVIEW understands. Informed sources say the TULF's list is likely to be headed by ex-Communist Party (Moscow) member V. Ponnambalam who contested the TULF leader, the late S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, at Kankesanthurai both in 1970 and at the by-election in 1975.

Speculation about V. Ponnambalam being the Mayor-elect has been touched off by a reference Jaffna MP V. Yogeswaran made in a speech last week at a Community Centre in Navanthurai where both were put down to speak on Bharathi. The Jaffna MP had hinted that high office awaits VP, as he is popularly known. VP has indicated to newsmen that he is not unwilling if the TULF invites him to head the list of candidates.

Political observers think the TULF's move to bring in V. Ponnambalam has been prompted by the slump in the Front's popularity and the

grumbling among Jaffna rate-payers about inefficient administration. They point out that the average rate-payer has begun to hark back to the days when the Jaffna Municipality was administered by the late Mayor Alfred Durayappah. They interpret the move to bring in VP as an attempt to exorcise Durayappah's ghost: VP has had experience of local administration as Chairman of a local body and the Front hopes he'll still prove a draw to youth.

Informed sources also say a young TULF politico is playing the role of honest broker to persuade a prominent Tamil Congress councillor to cross over: the bait being dangled before him is the Deputy Mayorship.

These top-level moves have reportedly upset veteran TULFers who feel they are being upstaged by interlopers. But the leadership is expected to have its way and hand in the list of candidates within the next few days. The accent is likely to be on new and young blood.

While the Tamil Congress is getting its list ready, neither the UNP nor the SLFP (both unrepresented in the Council at the moment) seem to be interested in the forthcoming polls. Independent candidates too have yet to announce themselves.

Political observers think it's too early yet to predict the outcome of the polls but they feel voter turn-out may not be high, though boycott calls are unlikely: the average voter is just about fed up with the whole electoral process, they point out.

## Jaffna Intensive Care Unit gets a donation

Mr. I. T. SAMPAN-THAN, Trade Unionist and Translator, Sri Lanka Port Authority, handed over a cheque for Rs. 45,000/- to the Medical Superintendent, Jaffna Hospital, which money was collected with the assistance of Mr. C. D.

Cinnakone, C.O.M. and other Officials of the Port Authority.

It is understood that Mr. Wimal Amerasekera, Chairman, Port Authority has himself promised more assistance to this Intensive Care Unit.

## Tamil demonstration at Tourism Fair

# Loss of face for Sri Lanka at Berlin Fair

Sri Lanka suffered loss of face and Sri Lankan tourist prospects took a nose-dive in Germany from March 5 to 11 following demonstrations organised by Sri Lankan Tamil expatriates in the country. The incidents occurred at the ITB Berlin Fair, one of the biggest international tourism marketing events in the world.

The Ceylon Tourist Board as well as some private travel operators from Sri Lanka have been participating at this Fair regularly. Nearly a hundred countries were represented in the Fair, which attracted an average of 50,000 visitors a day. Sri Lanka's biggest segment of tourist traffic comes from West Germany and the Ceylon Tourist Board maintains its main European office at Frankfurt.

### Slogans in English & German

Sri Lankan Government and Tourist Board Officials were taken aback on the very inaugural day when about 30 Tamil expatriates grouped themselves in front of the Sri Lankan stall and carried protest banners condemning Police and Army terrorism against Tamils in Sri Lanka and the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Slogans in English and German called for the release of Eelam Liberation fighters like Kuttimani, Jegan, Father Singarayer and Nirmala Nithiyananthan and others. Other slogans included: 'Taste Tamil Blood in Ceylon Tea'; 'Withdraw armed forces from Eelam Territory'. The youths also distributed photographs of Tamils killed by the Police and Army, and handbills.

Following complaints by the Tourist Board Officials the Fair Authorities asked the Tamil youths to withdraw but on the intervention of German Human Rights Workers the youths were given more time to

carry on the picketing.

Demonstrations continued on the 6th, 7th and 8th of March as well. On the 9th Policemen were brought in and they tried to eject the Tamil youths by force but failed when the demonstrators lay down on the spot and refused to move.

The penultimate day of the Fair—the 10th—was incident free but on the 11th, the final day of the Fair, more than 80 youths came dressed in white vests and 'T' shirts with slogans inscribed on them. Along with representatives of Human Rights Organizations in Germany, the demonstrators distributed leaflets

to all visitors to the Sri Lanka Stall.

This was followed by arguments between the authorities and the demonstrators. The demonstration continued from 2 to 4 p.m., when about 75 members of the German Riot Squad, stormed the premises with loud speakers. This only served to focus more attention on the demonstrators with a crowd of media men clicking their T.V. and other cameras. West Berlin Radio Station, RIAS and newspapers like Der Tages-spiegel, Tageszeitung, Sonntagblatt, and Volksblatt gave wide coverage to the incidents.

## Whither the Tamil worker...

(Continued from page 2)

Yes, there is none left for this Government. They are and will accelerate their plans for repression and freezing of living standards. The Eelam Movement will be the first at the receiving end.

This is why the role of the working class plays an important part. A very strong unity, which is as it is, more or less absent, has to be built in the working class. The present effort by the Government Clerical Services Union, in forging anti-capitalist working class unity, on 8 demands, could be the opening. It could be the stepping stone for working class unity, in the broadest form.

The demands include the right of self determination for the Tamil speaking people and granting of citizenship for plantation workers, two very significant demands. Hence, the Tamil speaking workers should waste no time now to pose an alternative to their present leaders in the Tamil Unions. Why is the Tamil Trade Union Movement still out of this anti-capitalist working class unity? This is one of the key issues to forge a new militant leadership in the Tamil Trade Union Federation and a very favourable opportunity to get the Tamil Workers organised into a militant movement, an opportunity to fill a long standing void too, in the Tamil Movement.

## Black-out of Police news for a week!

The Working Journalists' Association has decided to black-out all news of the Police for a period of one week from April 4th to 11th, as a mark of protest against the recent assaults on journalists by Policemen. This decision was passed unanimously at a meeting of the Association chaired by the President Mr. R. Sivagurunathan.

Mr. Sivagurunathan has explained that this is by no means an anti-government move but meant as a symbolic protest against Police misbehaviour.