

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Vol. 5 No. 25

12th July 1986

WORLD AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

Ticket confirmation,
Reconfirmation,
Cancellations,
Telephone & Telex Services

Mack Communications & Travels

(MCT)

8, 1st Lane,
Pt. Pedro Road,
Jaffna.

Tele: 24791, 24836.

Govt. Kayoes Jaffna Fishermen

By D. B. S. JEYARAJ

Over one lakh of persons have been rendered destitute as a result of the Government ban on fishing in the North. 18,895 fishing families in the Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts have been deprived of their primary source of livelihood and are now eking out a miserable living on the meagre dole provided as relief.

The once flourishing fishing industry of the North is virtually non-existent as a result of security measures like the surveillance zone, prohibited zone, territorial zone and now the taboo on fishing in the Jaffna lagoon.

Although deep-sea fishing and to a lesser extent coastal fishing had been proscribed from 1984 the Jaffna fishermen had continued to survive through lagoon fishing.

Last month's ban on lagoon fishing had proved to be the death-knell of the fishing industry. Incidentally the ban came into force within two days of the brutal killing of 31 Gurunagar fishermen at Mandaitivu by uniformed men.

Official sources told SATURDAY REVIEW that technically fishing had been made impossible by the prohibited zone of December, 1984. Interim measures taken on a humanitarian basis allowed fishing within limits to continue since mid-85.

The state decided to re-enforce the fishing ban on 2nd March this year to prevent the "continuing flow of men and material from South India to Northern Sri Lanka" said a spokesman. The rationale was to eliminate the need to differentiate between a 'fishing' boat and a 'militant' boat. The sea is now

clear and any boat seen would be deemed an 'enemy' he said.

The national security-conscious state's objective of curbing 'terrorism' has spawned several bizarre proposals bordering on hilarity in the past. Ban bicycles in the North because the 'boys' come and kill on cycles was one; ban lorries carrying produce to Colombo because bombs could be hidden among onions was another. Preventing the Northern fisherman from pursuing his traditional occupation is also part of the same torturous logic. One is inclined to laugh at the whole thing if not for the fact that the issue affecting a vital sector of the economy is above all a human tragedy.

Relief to the unemployed fishermen is of two kinds. Families that were already getting food stamps are provided with an additional set of stamps. 7 thousand families fall under this category. Another 11 thousand families who were not entitled to food stamps earlier are now getting two sets of food stamps.

The second kind of relief to fishing families is another card on which foodstuffs could be bought from M.P.C.S. Stores. The monthly value of this card is Rs. 200 for families less than 5 in number and 250 for more than 5. Since most families are large in number the money is inadequate

The SATURDAY REVIEW finally has got its own press. It was commissioned in the presence of a gathering of well-wishers on 9th July.

The fishermen's problems have been further compounded by the shelling and bombing of coastal areas by Air, Sea and Land. Many families have been compelled to leave their villages and take refuge elsewhere. Apart from bureaucratic delays the entire destruction of Jaffna

food stamps at Kilinochchi has proved a further set-back. Fishermen also point woefully to the boats and motors that remain idle now. Most of these were purchased on credit and repaying the loans is not possible. Several boats have been destroyed by the Security forces.

Another factor to be taken note of is the effect on people who were not directly employed in fishing but were dependent on the industry (trade etc.). There seems to be no provision of relief for this category.

The curbs on fishing do not affect Jaffna and Kilinochchi alone but also other Tamil-speaking districts like Mannar, Mullaitivu,

(Continued on page 8)

PROVINCIAL COUNCILS:

A PIG IN A POKE?

A 'Group of Tamils' has issued a press statement condemning the proposals of President Jayewardene's Government to establish provincial councils as a means of solving the ethnic problem.

All the proposals have been examined by the Group, which has made detailed comments.

Here are some excerpts from the statement:

"The President has put forward some proposals purportedly for a political solution of the ethnic problem by discussion and agreement, but he announced at a press conference immediately afterwards that with suitable modifications he will implement the proposals with or without the consent of the Tamil people.

"Modifications will be considered only within the rigid frame of a unitary state and separate provincial administration. The people's acceptance or rejection of the proposals is therefore irrelevant.

"The question is whether any modifications of the frame of the proposals which can satisfy the basic aspirations of the Tamil people will be given due consideration.

"They are: 1. Security of life and property in their traditional homelands, 2. Economic autonomy, 3. Political self-determination and 4. Equality of rights.

"There is limited scope for the realisation of these aspirations in a unitary government even if there is maximum devolution of powers to the provinces. Though the President announced that he was prepared to give the maximum autonomy within a unitary frame, the actual proposals give the minimum autonomy, thus rendering it impossible for the Tamil people to realise their basic aspirations.

"In every conceivable sphere, the concept of devolution is being subverted by making national policy paramount. In the fields of education, irrigation, agriculture and industry how much have the Northern and Eastern provinces benefited from national policies and programmes hitherto? To be candid, Provincial Councils as envisaged by the Government can achieve nothing. The aspirations of the Tamils are not met even marginally. The air of suspicion is not cleared. Fears are not allayed and suspicions not assuaged. There is simply no meeting ground even to consider the proposals. The Provincial Council is made to appear a step forward from the Development Council because the geographical unit is larger. This may dazzle the charlatan. The discerning mind, however, cannot be diddled. To the latter, the now defunct village councils were more potent".

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

No. 118, 4th Cross Street,
P. O. Box 122
JAFFNA.

Telegrams: SATVIEW

EDITOR
GAMINI NAVARATNE

Subscription Rates inclusive
of local postage and foreign
Air Mail Rate

Sri Lanka

Annual — Rs. 175/-
Half-year—Rs. 90/-

India

Annual — Rs. 300/-
(Indian Rupees)

Singapore / Malaysia—

Annual — U. S. \$ 40

All other Countries

Annual — U. S. \$ 60

Cheques Payable to:
New Era Publications Ltd.

Advertising Rates

Contracts — Rs. 20/- per
col. centimetre
Casual — Rs. 25/- per
col. centimetre

World Prays For South Africa

Excerpt from the press release of
the Christian Workers Fellowship:

In response to a call to Christians of the World Church from the South African Council of Churches transmitted in an appeal made by the World Council of Churches, The Lutheran World Federation and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, the 16th of June was observed all over the world as a day of prayer and fasting for South Africa. It was but fitting that this day of prayer to end the unjust rule of apartheid in South Africa should be held on the tenth anniversary of the Soweto massacre. In Sri Lanka too the National Christian Council, The Young Men's Christian Association, The Christian Workers Fellowship, The Student Christian Movement and the Ecumenical Institute for Study and Dialogue jointly organized a programme of activities on this day to bear witness to our rejection of apartheid and to express our loving solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa.

COMMON ROOM SNIPPETS

The SATURDAY REVIEW has in the last few months been inundated with questions from readers about the thoughts of those who man the institution which constitutes Jaffna's most eminent fortress of learning. We bade them be patient. We now publish the first dispatch from our sleuth who finds various excuses to grace its Senior Common Room.

"I say, good morning", beamed Dr. Johnson settling down with his cup of tea. "What is happening now is genocide. We are being killed off a few at a time to avoid big publicity. Well, it is the business of governments to fight terrorism. But these fellows don't get at the terrorists. They go about wiping out the Tamil civilian population. When I was in Colombo recently, I had cordial conversations with my Sinhalese friends, including my old friend Kalpage. But things have changed a good deal. They are not generally sympathetic. They are not very keen on a settlement. Now people tend to be bloody-minded. They don't care if the government stands or falls. They would simply say, 'let blood flow'."

Dr. Johnson was earlier known as Adam Smith. No one nowadays seemed to have much use for sound economic sense. Thus he decided to become Dr. Johnson. Not the least part of the attraction was the fact that the young lady in charge of the common room made excellent tea—little mercies in these bleak times.

"Take the murder of Bro. Wenceslaus by the Security forces at Tholagatty," he went on, "they are now putting it on the boys. They know they can say anything and get away with anything. The Catholic Church here will keep quiet. They know that the Bishops' Conference in the South will not back them up. If the Catholic Church here decides to say something, the Pope will tell them, 'for God's sake do be quiet. You are dividing the Church'."

Rostow and Valluvar were seated at a table beside the door. Someone said that Mr. Nesiah wanted it made a rule that all post-graduate theses should be written in English. He felt that by writing theses in Tamil and making them inaccessible to the world at large, this removes from scholars the obligation of being answerable to international standards. He also felt that this would encourage a generation of teachers in the humanities who are isolationist and whose standards are unascertainable, thus making really good scholars suffer. Mr. Nesiah had added that every scho-

lar had to be fluent in English and if possible in other international languages.

Rostow replied, "we would like to. But standards of English have gone so low that it may be difficult to enforce this as a rule."

Valluvar chipped in, "I say, you tell Mr. Nesiah that he was one of the causes behind the present state of English."

Mr. Nesiah of course maintains that what he had stood for was for the place of the mother tongue in education and not for the abandonment of English. He further maintains that he had advocated at least two subjects being taught through English in schools, this being an accepted means of teaching a language in countries such as Russia.

Ptolemy was explaining to another group why the percentage of Tamil speakers in Ceylon was low despite the proximity to Tamil Nadu. He said, "the bulk of the Tamil homeland had been a region chronically subject to malaria, while this was not so in the South-Western region of the island. In the Jaffna peninsula itself, life had been very difficult, as a consequence of malaria, outside the small region stretching from Jaffna town to Kondavil. This gave rise to a relatively high mortality rate in the Tamil homeland, and by the cumulative effect of passage of time over the centuries, the relative size of the Tamil population had been rendered small in comparison, putting it at a grave disadvantage in a political system where numbers mean everything."

One gets the feeling that so many good ideas float around in this common room that seldom see the light of day. But Herodotus

assured me that he was working on a paper on the relationship between Sri Eelam and Sri Lanka based on new evidence that had come his way.

Someone asked why it was that with the Tamil homelands question becoming a key issue, none of the Tamil scholars since S. J. Gunasegaram have done serious study and writing in this and related issues in a systematic manner. He noted that the government had directly or indirectly encouraged Sinhalese academics who supported the government's view on the homelands.

"I accept this criticism and have to plead guilty", replied Herodotus. "In fact several of my colleagues and I feel that it is time for us to do some serious work on this. But you must remember that as long as Colombo has a controlling influence on higher education, Tamil scholars will be reluctant to write on these matters. They too are human and tend to keep an eye on promotions and perks."

"I say", said Dr. Johnson draining his cup of tea with relish, "this is splendid! Another tea madam, if you please. You must let me tell you about the Madras period in Ceylon's history which had a great impact on the political life of Ceylon in this century. Do you know that between the time the British first came in 1796 and the Treaty of Amiens in 1802, this country was ruled from Madras by Madras civil servants? Many of them settled down and became influential in local life. The family of Ramanathan and Arunachalam traces its origins back to this period."

I wondered — Federalism or another Madras period?

— ARCHIMEDES

Heaven or Hell?

People are born daily
How and what for?
To eat, drink and yum yum?
Then more people are born.
The sutras say
blessed is one
born as a human being
to serve humanity.
Born to serve
most do otherwise.
They fight among themselves
for petty morsels
based on race, caste and creed
and personal glory.
Where do they want to go?
Most prefer Heaven
But the Gate-keeper is very strict.
He wants a permit
from the Jaffna Army Commander.
His writ runs large

within the Camp.
Outside,
he is a non-entity.
So if anyone still wants
to go to Heaven
try the Bishop of Jaffna;
he is an amiable man.
But most people
will go to Hell.
Not for the sins
they have committed
but for the sins
of others.
Hell is a nice place
with plenty of room
for all the do-gooders
on Earth
who have done good
only unto themselves.

— ANON—VI

Colonisation, Devolution And Sinhala Interests

The MIRJE statement (SR, 29th March) on state sponsored and state-aided Sinhala colonisation of Tamil areas, correctly warns that the present Government's attempt to instal systems of local government for artificially created areas of mixed ethnicity will only "postpone the day when the two peoples can live together in a harmonious relationship". The intentions of the Government are clear. Others who prate about a just resolution of the Tamil question show their cloven hoofs when they take up positions on the matter of land colonisation and units of devolution.

What has to be emphasised is that the Government's intention to settle 250,000 Sinhalese in the Northern and Eastern provinces is not in the interests of the Sinhalese themselves. What is more, the past and ongoing colonisation schemes are not likely to stand the scrutiny of a benefit cost analysis, even after discounting the cost to the country of what the CRD has described as "the constant communal conflict" resulting from "a large influx of ethnically motivated colonists and settlers who come to the area with a confrontational attitude."

One has only to refer to the many criticisms of the Gal Oya Project. The truth of the matter is that D. S. Senanayake as the first Prime Minister initiated the two-pronged strategy of neutralising the Left and keeping the minorities at bay by disenfranchising the plantation Tamils and planting Sinhalese peasants through state-aided colonisation schemes in Tamil areas. Even before independence, such schemes had been made glamorous through the revived memories of an ancient irrigation civilisation.

As the MIRJE statement says, the motivation for land alienation from the 1930s has been the "politically conceived need of the ruling elite". Under the powerful influence of D. S. Senanayake, Dudley Senanayake and C. P. de Silva, the colonisation perspective became the chief component of state policy towards irrigation and food production.

Not that there weren't other possible alternatives. The very practical and far less capital intensive proposals of Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe were largely ignored. Some of the irrigation and flood control schemes now being implemented in the Southern Province are open to criticism from the point of view of Dr. Wickremasinghe's plans for that region, of which he was so much a part. It is to the credit of Philip Guna-

wardene that he ventured to oppose the Senanayake legacy while he was a Minister in the Bandaranaike Government of the 1950s. With his characteristically brutal frankness he challenged the rustic Senanayake notions of a robust peasantry, of peasant proprietorship and of turning the dry zone into a "smiling rice bowl". Gunawardene sought to achieve a fundamental transformation of the agrarian structure through his Paddy Lands Act. But his original proposals were "castrated" by the SLFP Government Parliamentary Group. The surgery was alleged to have been performed in a powerful kitchen in Colombo while vested interests went to the extent of organising a Cabinet strike! Gunawardene also initiated an Agricultural Plan which broke new ground by emphasising the need to increase the yield per acre as opposed to

extending the land under cultivation. It might be mentioned here that subsequent advances in rice production have been achieved mainly through increases in the yield per acre in lands already under cultivation.

Meanwhile, C. P. de Silva, an ex-Civil Servant under the Senanayakes and a Cabinet colleague of Philip Gunawardene, merrily con-

by **AMALI**

tinued the old land development and irrigation policies in the dry zone. C. P. de Silva was the Minister in charge of Land and Irrigation from 1956 till 1970. The Master Plan for the Mahaweli Ganga Development was formulated during this period in 1968. C. P. de Silva was also the

architect of a colonisation experiment in 1956, under which Sinhalese settlers were given land prior to irrigation facilities being made available, to enable them to carry out clearing and mobilisation in advance. The scheme was a disaster and was soon abandoned.

The land reform measures of the 1970s were neither thorough-going in reforming and optimising the wet zone land ownership, nor able to provide an alternative to the dry zone colonisation perspective. Studies have revealed that no less than Rs. 3.7 billions were spent on irrigation and colonisation between 1947 and 1974. The Gal Oya Scheme alone devoured Rs. 910 million (the equivalent of the Government's annual revenue at that time) for a

(Continued on page 7)

A SHAKESPEARIAN TREAT

The despondency cast over Jaffna by the soul-rending happenings in recent times, shifted its veil for a while on Saturday June 28th morning, when the Inter-School Shakespeare Drama Contest went on the boards at Chundikuli Girls' College Hall. It was a welcome revival of old English Drama by some leading schools of Jaffna, unearthed as it were from its enforced burial smothered by the cobwebs of Time. The Contest was sponsored by the Lion's Club of Jaffna and ably organized by the Y.M.C.A. Mr & Mrs. S. Sivathasan (Deputy Director Planning) were the Chief Guests.

The traditional touch of the Elizabethan era or the semblance of the Globe Theatre, which generally go to give the environmental elegance to a Shakespearian cast, was remarkably absent. However, the imaginative setting of the stage for 'Hamlet's Encounter with the Ghost,' successfully created the eerie atmosphere. The other plays went on stage with simplified ad-hoc arrangements. No doubt, the focus on a Shakespeare Drama Contest of this nature has to be more on acting than on stage setting. It is to be noted with satisfaction that generally the actors did their best to bring out to the audience the essence of Shakespeare through the respective characters portrayed by them.

The programme started with the staging of an excerpt from 'Romeo and Juliet' by Jaffna College. The cast was mixed. The various layers of poetic nuances were brought

out remarkably well by Vasuki Rajasingham, who played the part of Romeo. Truly this young actress seemed to live the amorous part with her facial expressions and appropriate gestures, when she passionately spoke the meaningful words "What light through yonder window breaks? It is the East, and Juliet is the Sun!"

Subathra Gunaratnam of Chundikuli Girls' College strikingly stole the show with her meticulous portrayal of Hamlet in the encounter with his father's ghost. The tormented heart of Hamlet seemed to pulsate through Subathra rhythmically to the awe inspiring music, which underscored the eerie appearance of the Ghost. Her performance was deservedly acclaimed.

After getting engrossed in the romance of Romeo and sympathising with the plight of Hamlet, Uduvil Girls' College brought out a significant but welcome change by staging an excerpt from the comedy 'Twelfth Night.' The stage gained colour and gaiety with the multicoloured costumes and the audience felt hilarious at the presence of the Clown, so ably played by Karthigayini Manikavasagar. The comic role—the most sensible character in a Shakespearian play—eased the tensed up audience. Uduvil Girls' College deserves to be congratulated on the choice of a comedy in the midst of tragedies.

St. Patrick's and St. John's Colleges presented excerpts from

'Hamlet' and 'Twelfth Night' respectively. On the whole they brought out their themes well, yet the audience was more pleased with the performances of the Girls' Colleges than with the Boys' Colleges. The winners in Dramatic Elocution and One Man Theatre also gave 'exhibition' performances.

Mr. M. C. Francis welcomed the Chief Guests and Mr. Thanapalan of the Y.M.C.A. also spoke. Mr Sivathasan the Chief Guest in his address stressed the multifarious characteristics of Shakespearian Drama, and said how true such characters are to our experiences in day to day life.

The awards were distributed by Mrs. Sivathasan. Jaffna College carried away the prize for the mixed cast play without a contest. Chundikuli and Uduvil Girls' Colleges tied for the first place in 'Drama for the Girls' Colleges.' St. Patrick's College won the first prize in 'Drama for the Boys' Schools.' The award for the Best Actor went to Master Priyantha of St. Patrick's and Best Actress to Subathra Gunaratnam of Chundikuli Girls' College. The award for the Best Supporting Actor was won by Master Anandakumar of St. John's and the award for the Best Supporting Actress went to Karthigayini Manikavasagar of Uduvil Girls' College.

The Drama contest was indeed a rare treat in English traditional drama in recent times in Jaffna.

— SWENDIRINI CANAGARATNAM

April '86

1.4.'86 - Kadduwan, Myliddy, Thyiddu - Security Forces lying in hiding in the early hours fire on villagers living near the Palaly Army Camp engaged in their usual activities. 3 civilians are killed and 3 wounded. Several houses abandoned by civilians through fear, bombed and 'torched'. A lorry is also burnt.

1.4.'86 - Batticaloa - Police escape a hand-grenade attack by militants. Later the Police come back and fire at random: a Hindu Priest and 3 Muslims are injured.

2.4.'86 - Kokkavil - 9 Servicemen are killed in an attack by militants. In reprisal, 6 civilians are killed and over 20 wounded. 3 lorries are set ablaze.

2.4.'86 - Kankesanthurai - Several areas in Ilavilai, Mareesankoodal Siruvilan, Pandateruppu subjected to bomb attacks from a plane; shelling from gun-boats at sea; firing by Security Forces patrolling on foot and in vehicles for 4 hours. 3 are killed and over 6 are wounded. A bomb falls in the compound of the Ilavilai Convent but no major damage is caused.

2.4.'86 - Kadduwan Kurumbasiddy, Vasavilan areas are strafed by a helicopter. Several are injured.

2.4.'86 - Valvettiturai - Security Forces who attempt to come out of their Camp are forced to retreat by militants. Later residential areas are subjected to shell fire from the Army Camp and firing from gun-boats from 1-30 a. m. 4 are seriously injured, some houses damaged.

2.4.'86 - Kerativu, Sangupiddy - People at both jetties flee in fear when a helicopter strafes the area. None hurt.

3.4.'86 - Vellaveli - A youth attempting to flee on seeing Security Forces is shot dead.

4.4.'86 - Chundikulam - 80 refugees of Trincomalee fleeing to India in a boat are arrested by Navy personnel. The boat was sunk. 76 are released at a refugee camp at Trincomalee. 4 are detained.

4.4.'86 - Chavalakkadai - A new Army Camp is opened and a check-post established. 15 Tamils are arrested. 140 families living in close proximity to the Army Camp flee as refugees.

4.4.'86 - Pathapeddi (Amparai) - Special Task Force personnel arrest 10 Tamil youths.

4.4.'86 - Thirunagar - Homeopathy practitioner Dr. Christopher Noel is arrested by Security Forces.

Later his dead body, partially burnt, is found. On the same day, the watcher of an Estate is also shot dead by the Security Forces.

4.4.'86 - Kayts - A Navy gun-boat runs into a mine but no major damage is caused. In reprisal, from 9.30 p.m. helicopters strafe several areas, and gun-boats fire into residential areas. No reports of casualties as residents had already fled.

6.4.'86 - Vasavilan - A 75-year old man is shot and injured by Security Forces.

6.4.'86 - Jaffna - Security Forces attempting to get out of the Jaffna Fort Army Camp are forced to retreat by militants. Security Forces resort to continuous artillery and shell firing from the Jaffna Fort. 2 civilians are killed and 12, including 5 women, are wounded. One of those killed and some of the wounded were hit about 1 mile away

dom. One seriously injured and removed by them, succumbs. On the following day 4 dead bodies with gun-shot injuries are found floating in the lake.

7.4.'86 - Navatkudah (Batticaloa) - A youth, who on seeing Army personnel, attempts to swim across the lake, is shot dead.

7.4.'86 - Vannivelankulam, Manikulam - Security Forces in search operations in private vehicles shoot at random. One is killed and several injured.

7.4.'86 - Oddusuddan - Security Forces fire at random on worshippers at Sivan Temple. One is seriously injured. Others escape with minor injuries.

7.4.'86 - Chavakachcheri - Surrounding areas are strafed by a helicopter. Some women plucking green peas in a farm are injured.

We document here the incidents in the North and East in April.

The total number of persons killed in April is 220. 2777 persons were arrested; 2163 were released.

from the Jaffna Fort. (A Government press release claimed that 2 terrorists had been killed). A bus from Kayts with about 60 passengers is fired on by the Security Forces; a woman passenger is injured.

6.4.'86 - Valvettiturai - Navy personnel order 4 fishing boats to approach. Their catch is confiscated and the out-board motors are damaged by gun-fire. The fishermen are severely assaulted and warned that they would be shot, if seen again.

6.4.'86 - Valvettiturai - Pamphlets issued by army authorities are dropped from a helicopter. Later, the areas are strafed by a helicopter. Some civilians are wounded.

6.4.'86 - Konavil, Kilinochchi - Security Forces arrest several youths; a vehicle is set alight.

6.4.'86 - Thirukovil - Security Forces surround village and arrest Government Servants, Teachers and others indiscriminately. 300 are arrested and later released, except for 12.

7.4.'86 - Thambiluvil (Akkaraipattu) - Over 50 Special Task Force personnel in search operations fire at ran-

9.4.'86 - Palali - Security forces move out of camp and fire at random killing a 45-year old man; 4, including 2 women, are injured. Later a helicopter strafes surrounding areas.

9.4.'86 - Chavalakkadai (Amparai) - Security Forces surround a village in the night and under the guise of search operations, women are humiliated. 3 young women are removed to the Camp reportedly for interrogation, and released after some hours.

April '86 - Thondamannaru - The Sella Sannithy Temple buildings bell-tower and the bell are damaged by shells fired from the Army Camp and by bombs. (Government claims all damage caused by the terrorists).

9.4.'86 - Thondamannaru - Two aged persons are shot dead in vicinity of Sella Sannithy Temple by Security Forces firing from the Army Camp. Bodies not recovered due to fear.

10.4.'86 - Uppuveli - Security Forces on foot run into land-mine attack. 3 Servicemen are killed and several injured.

April '86 - Ayathimalai - About 30 persons are arrested by the Security Forces.

10.4.'86 - Thiriyai - A 16-year old youth is shot dead by Security Forces during search operations; another is seriously wounded.

11.4.'86 - Omanthai - 2 youths are fired at by Security Forces lying in hiding. One is killed and the other is released after 2 days. Both youths were on their way to the paddy field when ambushed.

11.4.'86 - Mollaitivu - Government communique: 3 terrorists in a tractor shot dead by Security Forces.

April '86 - Poonanai - A Hindu Temple is under occupation by Army personnel, and being used as a Check-Post.

12.4.'86 - Thiruvaiaroor (Kilinochchi) - Security Forces remove 200 bags of paddy from a house and arrest several people.

April '86 - Thirukkivil - Government communique: Security Forces who encounter terrorists kill 4.

12.4.'86 - Nagarcoil, Point Pedro - 6 fishermen are arrested by Navy personnel and their boat, with the out-board motor, is confiscated.

April '86 - Kilinochchi - M. Jegan is arrested by the Security Forces as a terrorist suspect. Later his body, in a decomposed state with gun shot injuries, is found in the jungle.

8.4.'86 - Thunukkai - Government communique: A terrorist who attempts to throw a hand-grenade is shot dead by Security Forces.

7.4.'86 - Paddikudiruppu - 3 Tamil villagers are hacked to death by Home-Guards.

8.4.'86 - Thondamannaru - Clashes between the Security Forces and militants leave 4 dead (2 Servicemen and 2 militants).

8.4.'86 - Kattankudi - Azeez, the Principal of a Muslim School is arrested by Muslim Home-Guards, assaulted and dragged along the main roads.

8.4.'86 - Pankudaveli, Iyankerny, Thalavai - Special Task Force personnel surround areas in the night and arrest 118 persons; over 25 women among arrested. All are removed to the Karadianaru Army Camp.

8/9.4.'86 - Kadatkarachchenai (Muttur) - A 29 year old woman is raped by Security Forces, the males being chased away. A middle aged man who is caught is stripped and mercilessly assaulted. The woman is hospitalised, and a complaint lodged with the Trincomalee Citizens' Committee.

13.4.'86 - **Valalai, Thondamannaru** - 3 huts near the Army Camp are set alight by Security Forces.

13.4.'86 - **Palugamam** - Government communique - Militants attack Security Forces with hand-grenades. Later 12 including a woman are arrested.

14.4.'86 - **Kuchchaveli** - S. Nandakumar a farmer and a father of 5 children is arrested by the Security Forces. Later his dead body is handed over by them at the Trincomalee Hospital. He is reported to have been killed by militants when in the custody of the Security Forces in a confrontation. (NOTE: None of the Security Forces are reported to have even received injuries).

14.4.'86 - **Myliddy, Kadduwan, Thyiddu** - People engaged in Religious observances for the Hindu New Year Day seek cover as a helicopter strafes these areas. Two women aged 17 years and 2 others are injured, and a house is damaged.

14.4.'86 - **Kumburupiddy** - Security Forces during search operations kill 3 persons and arrest 15.

14.4.'86 - **Pandiruppu** - Hindu New Year Day. The young and old engaged in in-door games in a hall flee on seeing Special Task Force personnel. One youth is shot dead and 16 arrested.

14.4.'86 - **Kalmunai** - 14 youths are arrested by Security Forces.

April '86 - **Trincomalee** - 58 Schools in the District remain closed.

14.4.'86 - **Ayathimalai** - 14 persons are arrested by Special Task Force personnel.

April '86 - **Murasumoddai** - Security Forces arrest a Supervisor of an Irrigation Scheme and 6 others, on suspicion as supporters of terrorists.

April '86 - **Nilaveli** - 60 Tamil families living close to the Army Camp forced out of their houses by Security Forces. 10 shops in vicinity are blasted with bombs. The 60 families denied entry to refugee camps roaming the streets of Trincomalee as destitutes.

15.4.'86 - **Kayts** - The Public Market area is strafed by a helicopter at 10 a.m. People flee abandoning their belongings.

15.4.'86 - **Vakaneri** - 4 Service personnel are killed in a land-mine attack.

15.4.'86 - **Akkaraipattu** - Security Forces arrest and detain 300 persons at the Thirukovil Army Camp. 260 are released after interrogation.

15.4.'86 - **Uruthirapuram** - Government communique - 2 terrorists killed by Security Forces.

16.4.'86 - **Selvanayakapuram** - Security Forces assault and chase residents away. 60 houses are 'torched'.

16.4.'86 - **Tellippalai** - Several areas around Tellippalai are strafed by a helicopter and 8 shells are also dropped. 7 including a woman, are injured. The injured woman, aged 60 years succumbs to injuries. The Union College, 2 Hindu Temples, several houses and a Co-operative Store damaged.

Home Guards Give Muslim Principal The 'Works'

April '86 - **Polonnaruwa** - Security Forces hand over 7 dead bodies at the Hospital. These are believed to be of farmers of Pottuvil, Vadumunai and Tirukovil. A Government announcement says 7 terrorists killed.

16.4.'86 - **Puthunagar** - Security Forces arrest 7 persons.

17.4.'86 - **Jaffna** - Security Forces, forced to retreat to Camp by militants, fire shells into Town area. A helicopter strafes Jaffna and environs. 5 are injured. A passenger van is fired at by Security Forces; one person who is injured succumbs to injuries.

17.4.'86 - **Navatkuli** - Security Forces who attempt to move out of Camp encounter militants. In the shoot-out 1 Serviceman is killed and 3 are injured. 2 militants are also killed by Security Forces resort to artillery and shell fire from Camp resulting in the death of 2 civilians; 2 are injured.

April '86 - **Valaichchenai** - 2 youths under 12 years of age are under detention at the Kallady Army Camp. The mothers appeal for their release.

17.4.'86 - **Thondamannaru** - 2 fishermen engaged in fishing with nets near the shore are shot dead by Security Forces.

April '86 - **Thiriyai** - New Army Camp set up. Residents leave as refugees abandoning their homes and belongings.

17.4.'86 - **Poonakery** - The Office-room of the Government School situated within 100 yards of the Army Camp and catering to over 1000 students is set alight. Birth Certificates and School Records are destroyed.

18.4.'86 - **Morawewa** - 9 Air Force men and a civilian in a truck are killed in a land-mine attack.

18.4.'86 - **Pottuvil** - A Sub-Inspector of the Special Task Force is killed in a blast that blows up a jeep.

18.4.'86 - **Thikkodai, Batticaloa** - 2 who attempt to flee on seeing Security Forces shot dead. A Government communique states 2 terrorists shot dead and arms and ammunition recovered.

18.4.'86 - **Kilinochchi** - A 40-year old woman asleep in her hut is shot and injured by Security Forces. She is transferred to the Jaffna Hospital.

18.4.'86 - **Myliddy, Palaly** - Strafed by a helicopter.

18.4.'86 - **Verugal, Trincomalee** - Five persons of Verugal housed in a Refugee Camp at Kathiraveli on a pilgrimage to a temple at Verugal are shot dead by Security Forces. Those killed are a husband his wife and 3 children all under 7 years of age.

19.4.'86 - **Sivanagar Uruthirapuram** - About 500 Security personnel engaged in search operations shoot killing 2.

19.4.'86 - **Annamalai Navithanveli** - Security Forces surround village in early hours and arrest 300. Of these 9 are removed to the Chavala-kkadai Army Camp. The others are released. Of these too except for one Puvaneswaran all the other 8 are released. When inquiry is made about Puvaneswaran at the Army Camp, his arrest is denied.

19.4.'86 - **Hingurakgoda** - M. Ramanujan a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, U.S.A. and the son of Manikkalingam who had served as Ceylon's Ambassador in Indonesia and several other countries is arrested by the police.

Refugee Camps: NOT For Nilaveli Refugees

when travelling in a bus. This arrest reported in the Australian and American press had been earlier denied by Sri Lankan authorities.

20.4.'86 - **Kommathurai, Batticaloa** - Police Commandos on patrol duty shoot, killing a cyclist.

21.4.'86 - **Thondamannaru** - Security Forces who move out of Camp towards the Sella Sannithy Temple encounter militants. 6 Servicemen are killed and several injured. Later the Security Forces come to the

Temple assault a Priest and his Assistant, strip them naked and shoot them dead in the precincts of the Temple. Another Civilian is also killed. Areas around the temple are strafed and petrol bombs dropped by a helicopter; about 14 bombs are dropped by a bomber. Extensive damage is caused to the Temple buildings Chariot, Bell and Belfry.

April '86 - **Valvettiturai** - A 67-year old fisherman fishing close to the shore is shot dead by Security Forces from the Camp. Later his body is removed by them to the Camp.

April '86 - **Batticaloa** - The whereabouts of 358 persons arrested by Security Forces in recent months are not known. The President of the Citizens' Committee present a petition to the Army Co-ordinating Officer giving details in full and sworn affidavits.

21.4.'86 - **Kiran** Special Task force personnel on patrol shoot killing a youth. His body is removed by them to the Camp.

21.4.'86 - **Pallathuchenai, Polonnaruwa** - Government communique - Terrorist hide-out attacked; 3 terrorists killed.

22.4.'86 - **Point Pedro** - Strafed by a helicopter.

22.4.'86 - **Thondamannaru** - Strafed by a helicopter for several hours.

22.4.'86 - **Anaipanthi, Batticaloa** - A youth in a temple procession with temple collection-till is severely assaulted by Special Task Force personnel and removed to the camp.

22.4.'86 - **Visvadamu** - Security Forces surround village in the early hours. 2 youths of Red Barna Colony at Milk Distributing Centre are shot dead. A garage and some shops are blasted with bombs. A youth is arrested.

23.4.'86 - **Wellawatte** - An unclaimed parcel found in a passenger van is taken to the Police Station. It explodes on examination. 5 Policemen and 4 civilians are injured.

23.4.'86 - **Anuradhapura** - Petrol bowser from Jaffna when being filled at a principal distribution centre bursts. 9 persons are killed (including 5 Tamils) and 3 injured. Mobs attack lorries from Jaffna. 5 drivers with cut injuries hospitalised. Another lorry is hijacked and burnt at Medawachchi.

23.4.'86 - **Pulipaintha - kal** - 30 houses with large stocks of paddy set alight. 2 milk vendors shot dead. Villagers flee to jungles.

(Continued in next issue)

A Nefarious Master Plan?

Editor
SATURDAY REVIEW

The bitter and agonising news that Vasavilan Madhya Maha Vidyalayam was taken over by the Security Forces, has come as a great shock to me. I find words inadequate to express my feelings.

I was one of the former Principals of this College and during my tenure of office, in my humble way, I contributed a good deal to build up this institution. Even today, I rarely miss any opportunity to meet and converse with the students and staff of this great institution which I love.

The people of Vasavilan, Palaly, Kurumbasiddy etc. will be deeply pained by this wanton take-over by the Army. The education and the future of the children over there are blasted beyond redemption.

The Palaly area has almost become a military cantonment and it is not understood why this MMV should be taken over like this. Burning of libraries and taking over of schools appear to be part of a nefarious master plan to push back a hundred years the educational progress of the hard-working Jaffna people.

P. P. Sahharatnam
Chankanai

FOOL'S PARADISE

Editor
SATURDAY REVIEW

In my Childhood "VINCENT'S APC" was taken for headaches. It dissolved in water before one could say 'Jack Robinson'. The ALL PARTY CONFERENCE dissolved more or less like a Vincent's APC!

An All Party Conference should involve parties involved in the conflict. Getting the TULF to attend the APC, now the PPC, will in no way serve a useful purpose. They ceased to represent the Tamil people after the constitutional amendment of July '83, (a sad day in the history of this country. They now only represent themselves and their voice is a voice in the wilderness.

If the President of Sri Lanka expected military assistance from the USA to solve the present crisis, then he truly has been living in a fool's paradise. The Americans are well known for letting down their friends. Batista of Cuba, Din Diem of Vietnam, the Shah of Iran and

lately Marcos of the Philippines are classic examples of their unreliability. Even the Mujubudeen of Afghanistan will sooner or later realise that they are making a 'great big mistake' as the American saying goes.

Sri Lanka cannot go on fighting an endless war like Israel. While our state coffers are empty, Israel has access to almost limitless financial and military resources. It is the 'Sons of David' who pull the strings in America and Europe. The rulers are mere puppets in their hands.

Had Sri Lanka maintained a pro-USSR stance then we would today not be in a military quagmire. His Excellency's visit to the USSR has been put off. If his journey

LETTERS

to the 'Mecca' of Communism is to be a success he should be accompanied by the General Secretary of the Communist Party of SL. The President has been critical of Communism, and at last he is on the threshold of eating humble pie. Yanky Dicky may do a somersault after partaking tea off a samovar and become Dick Ivan. The communists may say 'religion is the opium of the masses' but the President's ancestors realised about 200 years ago that religion is the opium of the rulers.

If the PPC is to have any measure of success it should comprise the following: President & P.M. of P.D.S.R. of S.L. President/Gen. Sec. of the following: (i) SLFP, (ii) SLMP, (iii) C.P., (iv) LSSP, (v) NSSP, (vi) MEP, (vii) JVP, (viii) CWC and Uma Maheswaran, Prabhakaran, Stanislaus Balasingham, Pathmanaba and a representative, of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.

India should be given observer status as they are not in the least bothered about what happens to SL. All that India is interested in is keeping Tamil Nadu politicians quiet and fanning the flames of their armament industries.

Gamini Ellepola
Matale

PRESIDENT'S MEN

Editor
SATURDAY REVIEW

At last, the cat is out of the bag! At the press conference held in

Colombo on June 26th 1986, no less a person than President Jayewardene blamed the Police for burning the Jaffna Public Library on 1st June 1981.

Although the President referred to the Jaffna Town Hall, what was reduced to ashes was actually the prestigious Jaffna Public Library and its collection of 97,000 books and rare manuscripts.

The Jaffna Town Hall, in which the Jaffna Municipal offices were situated, continued to function until April 1985, when that itself got demolished with the attack made on the Jaffna Police Station by the militants.

The SATURDAY REVIEW is the only English journal in Sri Lanka to have repeatedly exposed the non-payment of Rs. 10.2 million compensation recommended by the Lionel Fernando Commission to the Jaffna Public Library.

The so-called national newspapers and the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation even made an attempt to black-out the news concerning the destruction caused to the Jaffna Public Library. Later, when the International media did expose the fact, they made a feeble attempt to blame the 'terrorists' for burning the Library.

Perhaps, even the non-payment of the recommended compensation may have been prompted due to the denial of responsibility on the part of the Security Forces.

Now, since the President himself has openly accepted the Police involvement, it is hoped that the Rs. 10.2 million compensation recommended by the Lionel Fernando Commission would be released in full to enable the Jaffna Library Committee to proceed with its restoration and reconstitution work without let or hindrance.

The payment of the compensation need not necessarily affect the contributions made by institutions as well as the public towards the reconstitution of the Jaffna Library through 'The President's Jaffna Library Reconstruction Fund, a separate account opened in the bank under the President's name. Out of this fund, the Jaffna Library has already received a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs. Any contributions received by the Fund, too, should under normal circumstances be released to the Jaffna Library to satisfy the wishes of the contributors.

S. Nadarajah
Koddady

GUYANESE EXAMPLE

Editor
SATURDAY REVIEW

Every Sri Lankan would have heard, of the country known as Guyana bounded by Suriname, Brazil and Venezuela. Guyana was formerly known as British Guiana.

Guyana gained its independence from Britain in 1966 and is a democratic country without any racial violence although 6 different ethnic groups live there. Guyana has a multi-racial and multi-religious population of 800,000, mainly made up of people who originated from India, Africa, China, and Portugal.

Guyana has a population of only 800,000 but yet has 4 Vice-Presidents. The sixteen million dollar question is why a 'Five Star Democracy' (as said by President J.R.) of sixteen million people should not have at least 8 Vice-Presidents to be elected on a racial and regional basis by each racial group as follows:- 1. Kandyan Sinhalese Vice-President for Kandyan Provinces. 2. Low Country Sinhalese Vice-President for Low Country Provinces. 3. Tamil Vice-President for Northern and Eastern Provinces. 4. Up-Country (Malai Nadu) Tamil Vice-President for Up-Country. 5. Muslim Vice-President for Northern and Eastern Provinces. 6. Muslim Vice-President for the other 7 Provinces. 7. Burgher Vice-President all Island-wide and 8. Malay Vice-President all Island-wide.

I hope President J.R. Jayewardene will give serious consideration to the above suggestions and have eight Vice-Presidents in the beautiful but racially divided Sri Lanka.

Canada V. T. Saravanapavan

GROSS INJUSTICE

Editor
SATURDAY REVIEW

On behalf of the Tamil public officers who appeared for the Viva Voce for promotion to the Sri Lanka Administrative Service during the period April 1986 to June 1986, I appeal to you to publish in your esteemed Journal the gross injustice meted out to hundreds of Tamil officers who appeared for the interview undergoing several hardships in travelling and finding accommodation in Colombo at present. In the said interview, 18 Sinhalese officers were selected for promotion to Class II, Grade II of the SLAS., by the present Govt. which is supposed to be fair and just towards all races in Ceylon especially the Tamils—public officers who count over 25 to 35 years of honest, loyal service to the Govt. in power. None of the Tamils were selected for promotion, which is most unjust and unreasonable towards the Tamil Community which forms an important part of the population in Sri Lanka.

S. Kandiah
for and on behalf
of the Tamil
Public Officers.
Mullaitivu

SWARAJ — Not A Gift

We reproduce here the Preface to the First Seven Chelvanayakam Memorial Lectures published in bound form recently by the Thanthai Chelva Memorial Trust.

The Preface is by K. NESIAH, Chairman, Thanthai Chelva Memorial Trust.

These nine years have been years of unending agony to the Tamils of Sri Lanka. Following the reign of terror unleashed on them, they have suffered the loss of thousands of innocent lives, men, women and children, the destruction of their homes and the consequent uprooting of families from their ancestral villages, the desecration of scores of venerated temples and churches, the disruption of the education of the young, the deprivation of means of livelihood of tens of thousands of families and the humiliation of their women. While there was a massive flow of refugees to safer areas here, there has also been a continuous flow to South India and to almost every country. One aspect of this flow has certainly damaged Sri Lanka as a whole. For, apart from tarnishing the country's image abroad, we note the comments of the oldest English weekly published here: "The exodus of upper-level man-power in Health, Education and in Services where technical expertise is needed, reduc-

ing the people of the land to masses living virtually in a technical stone age." The erosion of the Rule of Law apart, the same weekly grieves at "the erosion of our spiritual, moral and ethical values which we have cherished for 2500 years." We need to grieve too at the fact that over three quarters of the readership of newspapers of the country and nearly all viewers and listeners of the rest of the mass media are in the hands of the State media and, sad to say, this contributes to the people of Sri Lanka, North and South, leading mental lives in which group prejudice and hostility plays an appreciable part.

Yet, we should derive some comfort from living in one of the most creative epochs in human history, what Arnold Toynbee has designated the Gandhi-Nehru Era, comparing it with the Buddha-Asoka Era of India. Witness how the Independence of India was won largely by means of Truth and Ahimsa, derived from her spiritual heritage. And how the Constituent Assembly itself held the mirror to India and how some of the vital elements of her new Constitution were adopted by consensus, also derived from the principle governing her village assemblies—The Voice of the Five is the Voice of God.

And here in Sri Lanka, as Professor Arasaratnam (quoting Colonial Secretary Emerson Tennent) points out, it is in the Tamil speaking

North that some aspects of the meaning of the Rule of Law were appreciated through the centuries. And in our time, was it not the Jaffna Youth Congress that invited Mahatma Gandhi to these shores and began to respond to his message in terms of a new social and political order for the whole country? It was against this background and rejecting the mistaken roads taken by the political leaders in the South who came to the seats of power, that Thanthai Chelvanayakam found it necessary to re-affirm the self-identity of the Tamil speakers of Sri Lanka in terms of territorial identity, cultural identity and the completion of that self-identity by self-determination (within the framework of Lanka, if that was possible). As Mahatma Gandhi said, Swaraj cannot be a gift from one people to another; it has to be the people's own self-expression. Not least, we were fortunate that the Tamil leader too seemed to agree with what Lord Pethick-Lawrence said of Gandhiji that his central doctrine of Ahimsa belonged to the great tradition of India. He certainly placed before the Tamils the sanctity of means as well as ends.

This collection of seven lectures by four eminent men, one of them a great son of India and close associate of the Mahatma, we venture to think, reflects the Gandhian dawn in India as well as its relevance to us. The Thanthai Chelva Memorial Trust sends it out in this bound form in the hope that it will prove a study document of abiding value in the major libraries of the country.

The Chairman of the Trust hopes too that, as the values underlined in these lectures come to be appreciated, perhaps shared, by our brothers and sisters outside the North and East, that they will help re-build community on Sri Lanka's ancient soil. And even convey a message beyond these shores!

REFUGEES CONTINUE TO MULTIPLY

With the Government displaying a callous—or is it calculated—indifference to the plight of the Tamil refugees whose number is increasing daily, non-Governmental organisations have been forced to bear the brunt of the relief work. But the resources of the NGOs are very limited compared to the magnitude of the problem.

The SATURDAY REVIEW EDITOR'S REFUGEE RELIEF FUND continues to receive applications almost daily for assistance. But our resources, too, are limited.

We appeal to Readers in Sri Lanka and abroad to make further donations in cash and kind to help the affected people.

News Briefs

BRUSH WITH DEATH

A Dutchman, Rev. Fr. Omla, attached to the Paranthan parish of St. Anthony's, was returning from Kumarapuram by jeep in the forenoon of 8th July when it was chased by a helicopter and shot at. He had a narrow escape from death. His assistant, Francis Xavier (24), was seriously injured in the firing. Fr. Omla is reported to have got down from the jeep and held aloft the crucifix he was wearing. In spite of this, the firing went on. Francis Xavier who sustained injuries on his hands, legs and stomach was brought through Poonakari and admitted to Jaffna hospital.

Father Omla is 65 years old and has been discharging his spiritual function in Sri Lanka for the last 38 years.

His jeep which was damaged in the firing, was green and had a Red Cross painted on the hood.

IN MEMORIAM

The 31st Day of the massacre of 31 fishermen at Mandaitivu was ceremonially observed at Gurnagar on the 10th of July. St. Mary's cemetery where a common monument had been erected, was a sea of heads where relatives and friends of the deceased flocked. In the evening there was a well attended memorial meeting at the Gurnagar Cultural Centre. This was followed by a Requiem Mass.

SILVER JUBILEE

Rev. Fr. Louis Ponniah, Superior of the Oblate Order in Jaffna, celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Sacerdotal Ordination on 9th July. He celebrated Mass at St. John's Church, Chundikuli.

COLONISATION, DEVOLUTION...

(Continued from page 3)

cost-benefit yield of 0.5. The Ministry of Finance, under Dr. N. M. Perera, commented, in 1971, that the performance of the colonisation schemes "has not been encouraging and commensurate with the investments made on such schemes".

It is not the purpose here to embark on a criticism of the Accelerated Mahaweli programme and the construction carnival staged at enormous cost to the country, for the benefit of foreign contractors with empty order books in a context of international recession, not to mention the huge trickle-down benefits to the local interest groups. The prospect of irrigating 900,000 acres of old and new land and settling 140,000 families, has created vistas of powerful vote banks for Presidential aspirants. More Sinhala settlers in Tamil areas the better. In 1979 both the SLFP and the TULF condemned the provisions of the "Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka Act" for their ero-

sion of Parliament's authority over public expenditure. The TULF took special exception to the powers over land alienation vested in the Authority.

A new dimension to the colonisation programme is the utilisation of foreign aid to drive the Tamils into the sea. The Canadians have found to their consternation that the quarters built for Canadian engineers at Maduru Oya are now being used as a counter-insurgency training camp for the Sri Lankan armed services. Canada's national daily "The Globe and Mail" has called upon its Government to suspend its aid to the Maduru Oya project and convert the remainder of Canada's aid into relief assistance to all persons displaced by the conflict with particular attention to the 30,000 Tamils sheltered in refugee camps in South India. Norway is said to have set the pattern already.

(To be continued)

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Govt. KOs...

(Continued from page 1)

Trincomalee and Batticaloa. Together these districts account for more than half the total fish production of Sri Lanka. The waters to the West, North and East of Jaffna District were known as the 'Fishing Triangle' of Sri Lanka. Combined with activity in the lagoon it was perhaps the only district in Sri Lanka where productive fishing was possible the whole year.

The punch aimed at 'militant' traffic has knocked out the Northern fishing industry; it is not the only casualty. The overall economy of Sri Lanka too has taken a heavy blow. In 1982 the peak year of fish production Jaffna with 42,667 metric tons topped the chart. It accounted for 23.7 of the total volume. Negombo came second with 11.54 of the total production; Jaffna also produced more than 45 per cent of the country's exports of shrimp, beche-de-mer and chanks. The total value of marine exports was valued at Rs. 491.4 million in 1983. With the introduction of the 'zones' in 1984, fish production and exports have started plummeting. From an above 40 thousand ton level, production decreased to 13 thousand in 1984 and 4,000 tons in 1985. This year's production figures in January and February were very impressive with 1215.4 M. tons and 1320 M. Tons respectively. The ban in March saw that month's figure drop to 88.5 Tons. The subsequent relaxation on lagoon fishing saw the figure picking up to 199 tons in April. The statistics for May and June are not available yet. The June ban however is sure to hit production levels badly.

Fish supplies the largest amount of protein in the Sri Lankan diet. The Government has cushioned the impact of the shortfall in pro-

duction by importing large quantities of canned and dry fish. In Jaffna despite the ban a small quantity of fish is yet available. This is made possible because of fishermen who venture out at dawn and dusk at great risk to their own lives. The religious vows connected to temples have resulted in rising vegetarian food consumption. There is also an aversion towards eating fish because of the various bodies floating in the sea. Since demand has dropped the prices seem to have stabilised to a reasonable level although certain types of fish are sold for more than Rs. 60 per kilo.

The 182 mile Jaffna coastline and the 3360 sq. mile continental shelf boasts of a 110 metric ton fish yield per 5 square miles. Jaffna's fishing fleet of 3379 mechanical and 2563 non-mechanised craft was the pride of Sri Lanka once. Now only 3 of the 12 ice-plants in the district are functioning. The mobile fish sales service is defunct; the fish processing plant and cold storage facilities are being utilised below capacity.

While the fishermen languish on land the Fisheries Ministry goes ahead with grandiose plans of revitalising the industry. One assumes that the Fisheries Ministry was either consulted or at the least is aware of the plight of the Northern Fishermen. The Ministry's latest brainchild is the village level Fisheries Social Development Organisation to be set up on an island-wide level. In contemporary Jaffna fishermen are deprived of their livelihood; families are abandoning the coastal villages and moving to the interior; boats are beached permanently; in such a climate the Fisheries Ministry Scheme is like a fish out of water in Jaffna. The Minister in charge Mr. Festus Perera should immediately take action in consultation with the Security authorities and save the Northern Fishermen.

TRINCO TENSE

A curfew was clamped down on Trincomalee on Wednesday following the killing of 16 Sinhalese who were transporting fish by lorry to Colombo. In reprisal Home Guards killed and burnt a retired Municipal engineer, his wife, two daughters and a son.

SC Gives Time

The 'Daily News' of 5th July reported that the Supreme Court has granted the State four weeks' time to file objections to the fundamental rights application by Mrs. E.A. Kusumawathie, of Neelapola, Dehiwatta, presently of Ambalantota, Hambantota, challenging the action of state officials to

take her back to Dehiwatta from where she had come in fear of terrorists attacks.

The Attorney-General, the I.G.P. the OIC Ambalantota Police, Mr. D.D. Herath, G.A. Hambantota, Mr. K. Austin Fernando, Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Mr. Dhanapala former O.I.C. Hambantota Police Station, have been cited as respondents to the application.

ROBBERY AT ASHRAM

Three robbers entered the Ashram of 83-year-old Swami Ramage at Chankanai, at 1.30 a.m., on 9th July, gagged and tied his hands and removed a number of articles.

These included a 'Vel', a typewriter and some cutlery. They had searched for money but there was none as the Swami does not handle cash.

The Swami told the SATURDAY REVIEW that the robbers were 'gentlemen'. He suffered only a few bruises, as he put up a struggle. He said these were 'quite incidental, not intentional.'

We appeal to the militant groups to find out who was responsible for the robbery.

Upraised Hands Didn't Help SL NAVY MOWS DOWN 9 INDIAN FISHERMEN

Veluthevar Kanapathy, a fisherman from Rameswaram, is now receiving medical treatment at the Jaffna Hospital for injuries sustained at the hands of armed men in three Sri Lankan naval boats on 1st July.

Kanapathy told SATURDAY REVIEW that he and nine other Tamil Nadu fishermen were fired upon by men wearing green uniforms and helmets, despite showing a letter issued by the Lankan Navy granting permission to be in Sri Lankan territorial waters.

Recalling his harrowing experiences to the SR, Kanapathy said that he was the owner of a small fibre-glass boat named 'Sri Aanjaneyar'. On the 26th of June five men known to him had borrowed his boat to fish for prawns. Since the boat did not return by 30th June he engaged nine other men and set off in search in two other boats named 'Sri Rama Jeyam STP 23' and 'IP 23' on 1st July.

He obtained permission from Indian authorities to search for the missing boat in Lankan waters. Accosting a Sri Lankan naval vessel at high sea he stated his problem and obtained permission to conduct his search till 5 p.m. in Lankan waters.

At about 4.30 p.m., 3 fibre glass naval boats coming from the direction of Mannar surrounded the two boats. About 60 men in uniforms and civils were in them. They spoke to each other in Sinhala. Although he raised the letter of permission the men had started firing at them.

Kanapathy received gunshot injuries and fell through an opening on the deck into a part of the boat

which could not be seen easily. From where he lay he saw the armed men throwing the bodies of his mates into the sea. After ransacking the boat they washed the bloodstains off the boat. Unable to move for a while he lay in his boat which drifted for days.

On the 3rd night the boat stopped drifting. On the 4th morning he managed to lift himself up. He saw some rocks and a coast beyond; he swam a short distance and perched himself on a rock. Some men approached on a catamaran and took him ashore. He learnt that the place was Pungudutivu. After receiving treatment at the Pungudutivu Hospital he was later brought to the Jaffna Hospital and warded at 11 a.m. on the 4th.

The saga of the Rameswaram fishermen however had further twists. Nine bodies were washed ashore on the Velanai and Pungudutivu coast on the 2nd and 3rd. The two boats Sri Ramajeyam STP 23 and IP 23 were also washed ashore subsequently.

But last week the 'Sri Aanjaneyar' with its 5 man crew intact drifted to Pungudutivu. The crew alleged that they had been harassed by Sri Lankan Naval authorities.

SATURDAY REVIEW learns that the Indian High Commissioner has protested at the highest level to Sri Lanka over the incident. The Defence Ministry has initiated an inquiry into the matter.

Home Guards Slated

Trincomalee's Government Agent, Mr. D.M. Ariyaratne, lashed out at the district's home guards during a Peace Committee meeting held last week.

The G.A. was responding to a home guard's request that the Government should issue sub-machine guns to them. He (H.G.) had stated that if the home guards had S.M.Gs they would have counter-attacked the militants who attacked civilians at Andankulam.

Mr. Ariyaratne had replied by querying "Did the home guards defend the Sinhala people at Andankulam?" The home guards who kept away then, had later killed innocent Tamils travelling by bus at the 5th Milepost Junction, he said.