

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Vol. 5 No. 27

26th July 1986

A Change Of Mood?

There is a definite change in the mood in the South over the ethnic problem.

Once hostile to any 'concessions' to the Tamil people, now there is a willingness to recognise that the Tamil people are also a part of the Sri Lankan Polity, that they cannot any longer be treated as 'Second Class Citizens'.

The change in mood is epitomised by National Security Minister, Lalith Athulath Mudali's recent challenge to the Buddhist clergy to come out with an alternative solution to the ethnic problem that has been proposed by President Jayewardene. We repeat, the President has gone as far as he could go as a Sinhalese leader.

We understand his predicament. Our sympathies are with him. But we condemn him for his vacillation over the problem that could have been resolved long ago — if only he had the guts to get to grips with the real issues.

So many thousands of lives have been lost — innocent lives of both Tamils and Sinhalese — because the President apparently had no guts.

It needed some injections, like the bomb blasts in Colombo, for him to get a grip to do what he should have done earlier.

Some people are still doing funny things, like whistling in the dark.

We tell the President: Ignore all the opposition. Go ahead. Do what has to be done. Do what is right.

The SATURDAY REVIEW was the only newspaper to fight consistently and incessantly for the fundamental rights of the oppressed Tamil people. It will continue to do so until final victory is won.

The Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW was the first to establish contact with the Militant Groups in Madras. That was in December 1984. If his advice had

been heeded by those in authority the Kokulai and Nayaru incidents and the bloodshed that followed thereafter would have been avoided.

Later, Mr. Bernard Soysa of the Trotskyite Lanka Sama Samaja Party, Mr. Vijaya Kumaranatunge, General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party and Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara of the Nava Sama Samaja Party also went to Madras.

We urge Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Anura Bandaranaike also to go to Madras.

Take the Mahanayakes with you. Then all your eyes will be a little less blurred. Eyes that should see reality, but continue to be in blinkers.

What are we all fighting for? A united Sri Lanka where all of us can prosper? Or a disunited Sri Lanka where all of us will perish? The choice is with the people, both in the North and the South.

We urge, in all sincerity, to all parties concerned, to accept President Jayewardene's proposals. These cannot represent the final solution. There are so many snags. But if these proposals could form the basis it could end all the blood-letting that has been going on so long.

Needless, senseless, unsavoury blood-letting.

Both Dutugemunu and Elara must turn in their graves if they hear what is happening in Sri Lanka now.

What is happening is a damn shame.

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RETURN OF THE SEVEN

Was it a mere coincidence that a Colombo Cinema is screening the old Western Return of the Seven (starring Yul Brynner) at a time when seven TULF ex-M. P.s have returned to the negotiating table?

Messrs. Amirthalingam Sivasithamparam, Sambandan, Yogeswaran, Anandasangari, Soosaitasan and Tiruchelvam have been engaged in direct talks with the President in Colombo.

The talks have been characterised by a determination on both sides of not breaking off talks first.

Sambandan and Yogeswaran seem to be the 'terrible twins' who are in a belligerent mood. In a heated argument with Dr. Colvin R. De Silva over the North-East linkage he had told the TULF that the only way to merge was to have a Referendum.

But Amir has won the hearts and minds of the South by his Rupavahini interview. The 'hearts' through emotion by saying 'Our Country, and the 'minds' through reason by pointing out that everyone has suffered.

The UNP back-benchers who were at one time Amir hecklers in Parliament are now sending secret telegrams congratulating the ex-opposition leader.

A new club A.A.A.A. (Appapillai Amirthalingam Anonymous Admirers) is likely to be formed soon.

NO HOPE, NO DESPAIR

—TULF

The TULF delegation which left for India on Thursday 24th July will return to Sri Lanka in August after consulting all shades of Tamil opinion on the on-going talks.

TULF Secretary-General A. Amirthalingam told SATURDAY REVIEW that the Party's Politbureau will meet in Madras and review the progress of the talks.

The Politbureau comprises Messrs. A. Amirthalingam, M. Sivasithamparam, R. Sambanthan, V. Anandasangari, V. Yogeswaran, M. Senathirajah and Alphonse Mary.

The TULF will also meet Indian Politicians and administrators in New Delhi. The Party will also meet Tamil Militant groups in Madras.

SATURDAY REVIEW learns that the Party President M. Sivasithamparam is scheduled to meet V. Prabhakaran of the L.T.T.E today (26th) in Madras.

Commenting on the progress of the talks A. Amirthalingam said that nothing has been finalised yet.

The T.U.L.F. will not give up its demand for a single Unit said Mr. Amirthalingam. On the question of re-demarcating the Eastern Province boundaries, Mr. Amirthalingam said, "We are asking for an extension of the Northern Province". He declined to elaborate further. He said however that President Jayewardene had not rejected the linkage concept altogether.

The TULF has also been wooing the Muslim Community. It has met

several Muslim delegations during the past week to espouse their cause of a single Tamil-speaking Unit.

The SATURDAY REVIEW learns that one of the points agreed upon is that each Provincial Council would have an Attorney-General.

Ex-Mannar M.P. Soosaitasan will go to Delhi to study ways and means of evolving a devolutionary finance structure for the Provincial Councils.

On the progress of the talks R. Sambandan said "We have agreed on some matters, we have disagreed on some matters; we have agreed to disagree on some matters".

What does Mr. Amirthalingam feel about the talks. "I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic".

PASSENGERS KILLED

34 persons were killed when a parcel bomb exploded in a S.L.T.B. bus proceeding from Vavuniya to Anuradhapura on Thursday (24th). 28 passengers were killed on the spot. 6 out of the 40 injured died later. Several of the injured are in a critical condition.

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UNDER 15 CRICKET

Jaffna Hindu College became under 15 Champions when they beat Kokuvil Hindu College by an innings and 79 runs. Jaffna Hindu scored 193 runs in the 1st innings while Kokuvil Hindu were able to muster only 62 and 52 runs respectively in both innings. The match was played at Deogupillai Stadium at St. Patrick's College last week-end.

OBITUARY

MRS. YOGAMMAH SUBRAMANIAM Chavakachcheri

Teacher, Chavakachcheri Hindu College, wife of Mr. V. Subramaniam (Retired Principal), mother of Dr. Seethaluxmy Murugeswaran (UK), Dr. S. Vijayaluxmy (Teaching Hospital, Jaffna), Dr. S. Kugathason, (Teaching Hospital, Jaffna), Mr. S. Sivathasan (UK), Miss, S. Jeyaluxmy (Vembady G.H.S.), Mas. S. Shanmugathasan of St. John's College, Jaffna and Mother-in-law of Mr. T. Murugeswaran (UK). Funeral took place at her residence at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 17th July 1986.

Dr. S. Kugathason

The Media Scene

AMITA ABAYESEKERA writes a column THIS IS MY ISLAND in THE ISLAND newspaper published in Colombo. Relating anecdotes and re-cycling 'humorous' stories for a daily column is a difficult task. On more than one occasion Amita becomes serious and pontificates on matters he knows nothing about like the "birth of a Nikaya".

Last week he has taken the SATURDAY REVIEW to task. Apparently he seems to be in an ugly humour over the news item The Missing Sprayers published on 28.06.86 in the S. R. In his column under the heading 'To the lamp post' on 21.07.86 Amita says: "The SATURDAY REVIEW, edited by my friend and one-time colleague Gamini Navaratne is a weekly news-letter published in Jaffna, catering mainly to Tamil readers.

"Right now the voice of reason and moderation is silent in the unhappy North and East, from lordly Bishops to the humblest laymen falling over themselves in their eagerness to curry favour with the 'boys' — for woe betide them if they don't; they will be only inviting a gory death for themselves, with or without benefit of a Kangaroo Court.

"Currying favour with the terrorists (or acting as apologists for every one of their dastardly deeds) as an act of self-preservation is one thing, but to cold-bloodedly invite their wrath and brutal vengeance on some hapless fool or even knave, is to negate every norm of justice and humaneness. And when a newspaper, however small and insignificant, does it, it is all the more shameful and shock-

From Swimming Pool To Hot Well

ing. Here's a news item from the SATURDAY REVIEW of 28.06.86, from which our readers can draw their own conclusions".

Amita waxes eloquent over the last line in our story: We now place the matter before the Court of the People.

Amita, like many Sinhala speaking people including Catholics, are either unaware or pretend to be unaware of the true situation in Tamil areas. Therefore we will ignore the ponderous verbosity dealing with the current situation.

But on his specific charge against the S. R. all that we say is this: What we meant by Court of the people was public opinion; for in the final analysis, it is the verdict of the people that is important. That was our intention in spotlighting the issue. We had quick results as the person concerned, who was not sighted for months, came to our office within a week and explained his position. We have asked him to either replace the sprayers or return the money within a stipulated period. Thereafter we intended to follow up our earlier story with the sequel.

Another issue which Amita is seemingly ignorant of is the present Judicial System in Jaffna. The Courts are virtually non-existent. Filling in this vacuum is the new system of People's Courts that is flourishing. Under different names like Peace Committee, Conciliation Boards, Arbitration Boards, Panchayat, etc. These People's Courts are meting out justice in a unique manner. People's Courts are not Kangaroo Courts or lamp-post killings.

Now why did Amita land himself from the Thomian Swimming

Pool at Mt. Lavinia into the hot well at Kinniya? Why, oh why, did he think that Court of the People meant a 'cold-blooded invitation' to the 'terrorists'? Is it a converse expression of thought which considers Tamil and 'terrorist' synonymous? If so Amita is drawing no distinction between People and 'terrorist'. Or is Amita in his own words trying to curry favour with the 'boys' by elevating them to the status of a Court of the People? If so he too is then an 'apologist for dastardly deeds'.

Why, oh why, did not Amita care to clarify the matter with his one-time colleague and friend(?) Gamini Navaratne before inviting readers to draw their own conclusion? Is he not negating every norm of justice and above all professional etiquette by inviting the People's wrath on the S. R.?

We presume that Amita considers the Northern Peninsula too as part of his Island. If so why not come to Jaffna, Amita, and see for yourself the People's Courts functioning? You can also visit the S. R. office and enlighten yourself that (a) we are not a news letter but a newspaper (b) that we cater to more Sinhala readers than Tamil and (c) that small is beautiful.

Come along with your ex-colleague friend, Amita, to this part of your Island. Only we can't guarantee immunity against artillery shelling and aerial bombardment.

But then this is your Island, Amita!

★Gamini Navaratne says Amita Abayesekera and I were never colleagues on the staff of any newspaper; we were never friends either.

SR Editor's Refugee Relief Fund

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following further contributions to the SR Editor's Refugee Relief Fund.

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A CRISIS OF MORALS

"The Cuban invasion fiasco demonstrates how far astray a man as brilliant and well-intentioned as Kennedy can go who lacks a basic moral reference point".—The late Chester Bowles, American Statesman and Under-Secretary.

There are few things said from the South that one is able to sympathise with entirely. Amongst these is the poignant piece by Gamini Akmeemana, 'I don't want this war', appearing in the *Lanka Guardian* of 1st July. There is no doubt that besides the immense suffering, this whole country has been debased morally by this war.

Most people in this country subscribe to the pernicious notion that 'means justify the ends'. The ends for those in power are not dictated by morality or commonsense, but by a sheer will to dominate. When the blind god of Nationalism reigns, lives are of no account. We are in a climate of moral relativism. Truth, decency and simplicity have ceased to have any value in themselves.

Many of our intellectuals would readily tell us, 'great movements in History dictate their own standards. There are no absolute moral values'. Few of them realise that they are almost quoting Hegel.

The Tamil response too has been influenced by philosophies drawn in turn from the same source—namely Marxism and Liberation Theology. The dominant notion here

by **Rajan Hoole**

is that the oppressed can do no wrong (however shocking their reaction to oppression) and that history is ultimately on their side. What these philosophies tend to ignore is that the ensuing moral debasement of the oppressed can be far more significant for its future than the venality of the oppressor.

We Tamils have lived through it all, and where are we? There is no doubt that the government is principally and brutally at fault. But

we have behaved badly in killing Sinhalese and even killing amongst ourselves. 'Dumping' is an interesting word. While the state uses its military juggernaut to kill Tamils and Muslims at Muthur and Adampan, we find ourselves helpless. International opinion which could have protected us is now indifferent. We are also worried about how we will handle ourselves in the absence of moral certitude.

There is no reason in logic or in history as to why history is on our side. But we live on slogans: 'there will be calm after the storm', 'dawn will follow night' etc.. Reason is harnessed towards digging up woolly parallels to excuse present folly, rather than towards clarifying future options: "why bother with civilian deaths, don't you know millions died in Russia?", "do not worry about our divisions. Don't you know how many liberation movements there are in Lebanon?", are things we often hear. The point often missed is that there is little prospect of liberation in Lebanon. The twelve million civilians killed under the Stalin regime were deaths after 'liberation'. God help us!

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

It cannot do us any good when some groups of Tamils attempt to humiliate and belittle the TULF. A group of lawyers from the Mallakam bar has asked the TULF to suspend talks in consequence of the killings. One gallant editor has even issued the TULF an editorial warning. The TULF has its faults and lapses. But, has any other group demonstrated that it is more representative of Tamils and cares more for Tamil lives and dignity? Where were the learned members of the Mallakam bar, our editors and intellectuals when April saw Tamil honour go up in smoke on the streets of Jaffna with the burning corpses of slain youth? I can only recall an editorial on the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Our guardians bark when he who is at the gate is not the enemy, and when doing so does not bring undue inconvenience.

— R. H.

APPRECIATION

P. RANGANATHAN

P. Ranganathan popularly known to his friends and associates as 'Renga' was born and bred in Trincomalee. He received his secondary and higher education at Jaffna College. He had innumerable friends in Jaffna so much so when I first met him in the District Court of Trincomalee, he was keen to know about his friends. Though he bridged the unity of the Sinhalese and Tamils in selecting his better-half he never forgot his Tamil and Tamil Literature. While in conversation he would not fail to quote chapter and verse from Tamil Literature, mainly *Thirukkural*, *Kambaramayanam*, *Seevakasanthamany* and the like.

As an Attorney-at-Law he earned a reputation of being able to conduct both Civil and Criminal cases alike and he always maintained the traditions of a lawyer to defend courageously without favour or fear.

In the words of Cardinal Newman, "The True Gentleman in like manner carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those with whom he associates: all clashing of opinion or collision of feeling, all restraint or suspicion or gloom, or resentment, his great concern being to make everyone at their ease and at home. He has had his eyes on all his company; he is tender towards the bashful, gentle towards the distant, and merciful towards the absurd. He can recollect to whom he is speaking; he guards against unreasonable allusions or topics which may irritate."

That such a Gentleman died at the hands of a gunman came as a shock. Ranganathan will be remembered as the Mahatma who believed in Unity and Freedom. May the Soul of Renga rest in peace.

— R. RUDRA

A Politician Is An Upon Which Everything Has Sat Except A Man

— E. E. Cummings

Here are some jokes about politicians compiled by S. M. ASAI-PILLAI.

Daniel O'Connor once in the British Parliament said of Disraeli, "He is not fit to wheel dung from a dung hill." The Speaker pulled him up and asked him to apologise. So O'Connor said, "I said he was not fit to wheel dung from a dung hill. I apologise. He is fit."

A candidate for Parliament on his rounds stopped by a cow-barn where a young girl was milking. Soon a voice came from a nearby house calling, "Who's there in the barn with you?" "A man", was the reply. "What kind of man?" was the next question. "A politician" answered the girl. There was a moment of silence and then a shrill cry came from the house, "You come right into the house this minute and bring the cow with you."

"What is the calibre of the Members of Parliament here?" asked a visitor of a veteran columnist in a certain country. The response was quick and to the point, "Large bores and small bores".

A new member of Parliament once in a debate said, "I cannot

bear fools". Pat came the answer from a veteran, "Why not, your mother could".

A young politician told a veteran, "Sir, I think I made a fool of myself in debate yesterday". The old man patted him on the shoulder and said, "Son, I assure you I noticed nothing unusual".

A well-known political egotist had been invited to speak at a dinner in a town. When he arrived he discovered there would be only a small gathering. Annoyed at the supposed slight the politician asked caustically, "Don't the people in this damn town know who I am?" "I'm not sure", answered the beleaguered Chairman, "It might have leaked out".

A candidate for Parliament while addressing a big crowd was confronted by his opponent who shouted, "You know you are telling lies about me". The former answered calmly, "I am pretty generous with this man, only telling lies about him. Supposing I started telling the truth about him".

An M. P. once wrote to a critic, "Dear Sir, This is to advise you that some crackpot is writing idiotic letters and signing your name". The critic wrote back to

the M. P., "Dear Sir, This is to advise you that some crackpot was here in my town giving idiotic speeches and using your name".

A letter received by an M. P. before the elections, "Dear M. P. why do they call you a dark horse? I saw your picture and you are not dark at all and you don't even look like a horse."

A member who represented a constituency in Parliament was a slow-moving, do nothing individual who was more often asleep than awake in Parliament. Finally, at home he just went to sleep and died. At the funeral the priest was called upon to deliver the oration. Somehow his subconscious thought about the man came to the fore as he said, "And the corpse has represented this part for twenty years".

CORRECTION

Swamy Ramage of Chankanai informs SATURDAY REVIEW that the robbery at his Ashram occurred at 8.45 p.m. on 8th July and not at 1.30 a.m. on 9th as reported under the heading "ROBBERY AT ASHRAM" in our issue of July 12.

LANKAN REFUGEES IN HOLLAND

Since the end of the second world War in 1945, tens of thousands of refugees have come to the Netherlands. Until the 1970s the inflow of refugees had been mainly from European countries. For instance there had been large refugee inflows from Hungary in 1956 and from Czechoslovakia in 1968. In later years the majority of the refugees who came to the Netherlands were from Latin America, Africa, Vietnam and Turkey. There are two types of refugees who are accepted.

The first of these groups is known as the invited or quota refugees. The number or, quota, of these refugees who will be accepted by the government is decided in consultation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since Holland is a signatory to the United Nations convention on refugees of 1951.

Between the years 1946-1985, the total number of invited refugees has been 18,700. These refugees are given the rights of refugees with A-status. By virtue of the article 15 of the aliens act, these refugees have the rights and obligations that the Dutch people themselves are governed by. However they do not have to perform military service and they have no voting rights at any elections.

The second of these two groups is known as individual refugees. Many people seek refuge in the Netherlands on their own initiative without the prior notification or approval of the UNHCR. These spontaneous asylum seekers who come from more than seventy countries are those who have been forced to leave their countries due to fear of persecution for political, or religious activities, or because of their racial identity, language or other factors. Today there are refugees belonging to one hundred and forty nationalities in Amsterdam.

In the period from 1975 to the first quarter of 1985 there have been 13,304 cases of persons seeking asylum on an individual basis. Of the persons seeking such individual asylum in the first quarter of 1985, 2067 persons had applied for asylum, along with 210 cases of a similar nature, carried over from the previous year in whose case no decisions were taken regarding the granting to them of the asylum they had applied for. Out of those whose cases were decided, persons who received A-status numbered 34 (6.7%), those who received B-status numbered 118 (23.2%), ordinary resident per-

mits were issued to 46 persons (9%) and 311 persons' applications were rejected (61.1%). The balance cases had been undecided. Those who are given B-status are those who do not qualify under article 15 of the aliens act, but who for humanitarian reasons could not be expected to return to their country of origin. Their needs are looked into and they are protected against being returned to their country. In fact the only difference between A and B status is that those who receive B status do not receive a refugee passport and receive instead the aliens passport in keeping with local passport regulations. This passport must be renewed periodically. Apart from this distinction those with B status receive much the same rights as those with A status.

There is a third category of persons who receive asylum of a sort, which amounts to little more than a residential permit. This status is similar to the students permit or C status. This status gives the asylum seeker the right to stay in the Netherlands with social assistance and permission to remain for more than a year with housing provided.

A few refugees from Ceylon whose cases have been decided come under this last category which is known as the C status.

There has been a new regulation made especially for the refugees from Ceylon. This regulation known as the RVVT (bed-bath-bread) regulation has been enforced since the 10th of April 1985. Up to the end of 1985, no refugees from Ceylon had been given A-status. 23 refugees from Ceylon had been given B status and 78 had been granted permits of residence by the Ministry of Justice. The Dutch Ministry is trying to 'Expedite' the study and processing of these refugees and a good number of cases have already been rejected. Most of those whose cases have been rejected have applied for a second time.

A study of the particular case of the refugees from Ceylon reveals that they had begun to trickle into the Netherlands after the July '83 holocaust. By August 1984 there were 325 refugees from Ceylon who had applied for refugee status. By March 1985 this number had increased to a little over 3,400, 2,615 of whom had applied for refugee status.

For a country where the number of spontaneous refugees has

fluctuated around the figure of 1,000 annually the sudden increase of this number to 2,000 in 1983 and to 2,600 in 1984 marked a sharp increase. Since part of this increase was due to the arrival of 3,400 refugees from Ceylon within a short period, this group received a lot of publicity much of which was negative since trends that opposed the presence of refugees had already surfaced within the country. This led to a corresponding reaction from the government.

The form the government's reaction took was that of a change in its original policy towards refugees under which anyone who had applied for refugee status was given social assistance according to the applicant's age. Under this policy, an individual used to get between 800 to 1200 guilders per month and was free to choose his place of residence and to purchase all necessary items according to his needs. This system did not create any social problems as the applicants felt they were being treated equally.

Under the changed policy however the camp system was introduced with effect from the 10th of April 1985. This made the refugees from Ceylon feel as though they were being treated differently and undue restriction was being placed upon their freedom. This brought a lot of frustrations and gave rise to various social evils, which in turn made several of the refugees from Ceylon leave the Netherlands for other countries.

At the end of December 1985, there were about 1,250 refugees from Ceylon who had applied for refugee status in Holland, and of this number 980 persons were in the 12 camps scattered throughout the Netherlands. Those in the camps are given the following facilities which are classified under the general heading of bed-bath-bread. The situation tends to vary from camp to camp, but in general those in these camps are given the following amenities; 1. Food items 2. Toilet goods 3. Other necessary things connected with: bed-bath-bread. 4. 20 guilders per week as pocket money. 5. 150 guilders once in three months for clothes. 6. 200 grammes meat and 150 grammes vegetables once in two days. 7. Change of bed sheets once a week.

In the month of March the Dutch parliament was very unhappy about the refugees from Ceylon living in Holland and asked the government for an immediate change in their situation and called for an end to

the camp system. This suggestion was welcomed by the refugees who hoped that they would once again be given the same welfare assistance as others and be allowed to live as they chose in the same way that other refugees were permitted to. This problem was to be taken up by the parliament on the 12th of March 1986 but it was postponed first to the eleventh of April and then to the 23rd of April.

However representatives of the CDA, VVD (Dutch ruling parties at the time) said the present cabinet should make the decision to abolish the bed-bath-bread regulation that was being applied to refugees from Ceylon. On the 13th of April after the parliamentary debate they decided to continue the system of bed-bath-bread. Following this decision, according to the national paper De Volkskrant on the 23rd of April, two camps, Ellecom and Wijk aan Zee were destroyed by fire and there were disturbances in other camps as well. The destruction continued on the 24th and 84 refugees from Ceylon went on a hunger strike in Hoens Broek. On the 25th of April, 40 refugees in Lochem went on a hunger strike. They demanded.

1. The letter from the Minister Brinkman (WVC) in which the date of abolishment of Bed-Bath-Bread regulation was announced.
2. The same treatment as other refugees to be given to them.

Following this, Minister Brinkman sent a letter to all the refugees from Ceylon, saying that he was disappointed and shocked about the destruction and asking them to respect legal order. The head of the health department of WVC however said that Holland does not treat the refugees from Ceylon properly and that Europe in general displays negligence in the way it treats refugees. Since the head of the health department is under the control of Minister Brinkman he hastened to say that he does not agree with what the head of his health department had said.

The association of Dutch municipalities had since the beginning of 1986 itself asked for a consultation with Brinkman (WVC), De Korte (International affairs), Kortevan Hemel (Law) and Kappeyne van de Coppello (Social department) on the issue of the refugees from Ceylon. At the time the departments had refused a consultation, but on the 28th of April they suddenly turned

up unexpectedly for a meeting of this association. The municipalities asked for understanding of the aggression of the refugees, saying that it was a result of the isolation forced upon them by the government. 89 refugees from Ceylon who were housed at Appeldoorn appealed to the people of Appeldoorn for understanding of their actions. In Assen 100 refugees from Ceylon held a demonstration in front of the town hall. Refugees in Heerlen and Oud Gastel also went on a hunger strike.

On the 1st of May De Volksrant published an article written by Mr. Florin of VVN in which he explained the grievances of the Tamil refugees and their situation here. In this article he objects to the plans of Mr. Brinkman to extend the bed-bath-bread regulations which he said were a total failure. His alternative is a situation in which municipalities help to find empty houses for the refugees while the government pays some money to provide them with a living.

Some of the underlying reasons for these protests are as follows:

1. Mental agony because of the fact that only Sri Lankan refugees are kept in the camp for a longer period. Married, unmarried, and youngsters without any of their family stay in the camp without being occupied and all the while thinking of the atrocities taking place in Sri Lanka and their inability to help their own people in their own country. Even the few friends who were staying together have been separated because of this camp system. Since these camps are at a distance from each other and the refugees lack the money to travel, these people cannot meet or invite their friends.

2. HOUSING

Except in a few camps like Appeldoorn, Asselt, Callanstoog, the accommodation creates further tension because of unhygienic living conditions, risk of gas leaking, especially in Maastricht, Oud Gastel, Arnhem and Hoensbroek where there is insufficient storage facilities, inadequate bathrooms, no proper hot water facilities in some camps and the problem of inadequate washing machines.

3. FOOD

Now they have to eat what is given by the authorities. They have no choice to buy what they want to eat. Even the infants in the camps are given the same type of food as the adults. The vegetarians are also treated like others. Inadequate allowance is given for clothes creating health hazards since they are unable to clothe themselves properly in the winter

time. Pocket money is not at all enough to attend to the day to day needs of individuals such as hair-cutting, travelling, etc.

In some camps the WVC employee or the housemaster understands the difficulties of these people and co-operates with the inmates. But this is not true in all the camps. Especially in one camp a WVC employee was responsible for creating tension in the camp.

On the 3rd of May three letters of readers were published in De Volksrant under the heading Aggression of Tamils. One letter from an anthropologist explains why outbursts of aggression are often seen with refugees (in general) and under which kind of situations they do or do not develop. According to him one of the most important studies in this field is S. Kellers' 'Uprooting and social change' (1975) which is about the refugees in Punjab. The same newspaper had one page article about refugees in Netherlands, stressing the tremendous difference in treatment of invited and uninvited refugees. Following this publicity there was to be a consultation between 12 municipalities which have refugees from Ceylon within their borders and a cabinet delegation consisting of Brinkman, Korte van Heme (law) Ruding (Finance) and Brokz (Housing). In the meantime 27 persons from four of the hostels accommodating refugees from Ceylon had been arrested and the refugees in these hostels had to move to temporary accommodation since the hostels had been seriously damaged.

Mr. Wiebengce of the Dutch liberal party said 'It must be spelled out to the Tamils, in big letters that here in Holland we are accustomed to use arguments rather than bricks and torches to push home our opinions'. The damage caused to the buildings housing the refugees in the course of this protest action launched by the refugees from Ceylon against the manner in which they were being given discriminatory treatment instead of being given the same facilities as other refugees, was estimated to be over five million guilders. Four national morning dailies carried editorials condemning the behaviour of these refugees from Ceylon. The Protestant Amsterdam newspaper 'Trouw' said that this action by the refugees from Ceylon had done them no good and would cause them further problems.

WVC asked Mr. A. J. Gortworst of the St. Nicholas group to bring these refugees from the various centres together for a meeting in the ministry buildings to settle a few things and to make a policy for the future. This meeting suc-

ceeded in giving these refugees the feeling that the government was taking interest in their situation and so the violence and hunger strikes were called off.... The WVC promised to hurry on with working on the proposals for both short and long term improvements in the camps being provided these refugees. On television, one of these refugees from Ceylon apologised for the violence and said that it was not the best thing that could have been done. The problem itself however is still not completely solved. It will be difficult for the WVC to find new accommodation. It is proposed that meetings between the WVC and the refugees from Ceylon be held every month so that the WVC can explain the policy of the Government to them directly and so prevent any undue misunderstanding arising.

In the Netherlands there are a number of voluntary organisations with different functions to assist the refugees. Almost all these organisations have taken up the stand that the situation in Sri Lanka is not safe for the Tamils to live, even in the South. The names of these organisations are:

VVN, SOCIAL PASTORAL WORK GROUP, CEBEMO, UNHCR, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, SRI LANKA WORK GROUP, NOVIB, CARITAS NEERLANDICE, DUTCH INTER CHURCH AID, even THE DUTCH EMBASSY in Sri Lanka and others. They have submitted a memorandum to the Government listing all the problems the Ceylon refugees face in the camps and pleading to the Government that the refugees should be given at least 'B' status.

The University Assistance Fund is involved in organising classes in Dutch language and to direct the people to the polytechnical schools despite the Government policy which does not assist these people to learn the Dutch language or any other useful skills. In the seminar held on the Restrictive Asylum Policy in Europe in Netherlands from 16th-18th of January '85, where 35 voluntary organisations from 13 West European countries concerned with refugees were present, these organisations too condemned the role of the Dutch Government. The Social Pastoral Work Group and VVN (Dutch Refugee Association) have regular meetings with the representatives of the camps to see to their needs. It is these voluntary groups whom the Government has been forced to turn to for assistance in solving the situation of instant protests it is faced with.

Ceylon refugees in Netherlands come under 3 ministries:

1. Ministry of External Affairs.
2. Ministry of Justice.
3. Ministry of Welfare Health and culture.

(1) This Ministry from the time of the arrival of the Ceylon refugees from 1983 up to now maintains the idea that the innocent Tamils are not persecuted in Sri Lanka if not for the periodic incidents and believes whatever interpretation is given by the Sri Lankan Government. On January 17th 1985 they had secretly deported 45 Tamils who arrived at Schiphol Air Port on their way to East Berlin. The Dutch government, without allowing them to continue their journey deported these people to Sri Lanka without the knowledge of the Dutch people. Tamils are intercepted at the Dutch German Frontier and sent back to West Germany even if there is no evidence that they had made an asylum request there or stayed in Federal Republic of Germany for a longer period. The explanation of the Dutch government as to why it had negated the UNHCR request not to send back Tamils to Sri Lanka and above all why it had interfered with travellers who are in transit, was vague and unsatisfactory. There is the feeling that they were acting in consultation with authorities of West Germany in a joint attempt to close the East Berlin loop-hole.

Due to the gradual increase of the refugees from 1983 to 1985 March and the pressure applied by the few voluntary organisations to give refugee status to the Tamils who have applied, they appointed an official delegation to visit Sri Lanka to investigate whether the Tamils were really being persecuted and to see whether these refugees can be returned to Sri Lanka. The team was in Sri Lanka from April 21st to 28 April. The outcome of the visit of this delegation is that they accepted that the situation in the North and East is not safe for the Tamils, but concluded that they can live in the south of Sri Lanka. Even this statement was strongly opposed by voluntary organisations in Netherlands.

MYTHS ABOUT THE REFUGEES

1. They are economic refugees. This is not true if one were to have an objective view of Sri Lanka. They have come out of the country in order to save their

(Continued on page 7)

CHIDAMBARAM PROPOSALS BARED

(By Our Political Correspondent)

Political analysts have noted an enhancement of substantive powers to Provincial Councils in the proposals sent to the Indian Government by the Sri Lankan Government, to solve the ethnic crisis.

The proposals based on discussions with the Indian delegation led by Indian Minister of State P. Chidambaram is a marked improvement on the earlier proposals submitted by President Jayewardene to the Political Parties Conference convened by him on June 25th.

The Chidambaram proposals envisage among other things institutional arrangements to provide for the Provincial Councils of the Northern and Eastern Provinces to consult and co-ordinate with each other on matters of mutual interest and concern; community oriented A. G. A. divisions, High Courts in each Province etc.

It also agrees to devolve upon the Provincial Councils powers similar to those granted to States and Union territories in terms of list II and III of the 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

The Sri Lankan Govt. sent the proposals based on discussions with Chidambaram to New Delhi with the request that it should be kept secret. These proposals were considered as a basis for further negotiation by the Indian Govt.

The proposals announced in Colombo however differed in content from these. The T.U.L.F. who had been shown the Chidambaram proposals pointed out the discrepancies and sought clarification through the Indian Govt.

Subsequently the Sri Lankan Govt. assured India that it would abide by the proposals submitted to India. Thereafter the T.U.L.F. came to Colombo for bi-lateral discussions but the Participants at the P. P. C. wanted to examine the Chidambaram proposals.

The Govt. released a document embodying the essence of these proposals on July 9. The proposals had significant changes in the Preamble, and the annexure on Provincial Councils. It also had further clarifications in the note on land settlement. It was identical to the case of the note on law and order.

The SATURDAY REVIEW on 5786 published the details of the President's Proposals to the P.P.C.

We publish here the relevant excerpts of the Chidambaram proposals that are different to that of those in the earlier Proposals.

PREAMBLE

The Sri Lanka Government has made certain proposals and states that the said proposals may be examined within the framework of the undermentioned principles to which the Sri Lanka Government subscribes:

(i) maintenance of the unity, integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka; (ii) the maintenance of the unitary character of the Sri Lanka Constitution; (iii) the principle of devolution of powers upon the Provincial Councils within the framework of the Constitution of Sri Lanka as proposed to be amended.

2. With reference to the Northern and Eastern Provinces, in order to allay the apprehensions of any community, the Sri Lanka Government is prepared to consider the following alternative suggestions:

(i) Suitable institutional arrangements to provide for the Provincial Councils in the Island especially in the Northern Province and the Eastern Province to consult with each other and act in co-ordination on matters of mutual interest and concern;

(ii) Suitable legal and institutional arrangements to ensure that the ethnic groups in each Province participate in the Government of the Province.

(iii) Establishment of units to give to the ethnic groups a large measure of local self-government under the control of the Provincial Government such as:

(a) community oriented AGA Divisions;

(b) Pradesheeya Sabhas in the AGA Divisions.

(c) Any other unit of local self-government

A detailed Note containing observations on the proposals of the Sri Lanka Government on the framework is appended as Annexure I. The Sri Lanka Government believes that further negotiations are possible to arrive at final agreement.

ANNEXURE I

PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

1. A Provincial Council shall be established in each Province. Law-making and Executive (including

Financial) powers shall be devolved upon the Provincial Councils by suitable constitutional amendments, without resort to a referendum. After further discussion, subjects broadly corresponding to the proposals contained in Annex 1 to the Draft Framework of Accord and Understanding of 30.08.85 and the entries in List II and List III of the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution shall be devolved upon the Provincial Councils. This will, however, be subject to the accompanying Notes relating to (i) law and order; and (ii) land settlement.

2. In the Northern Province and in the Eastern Province, the Provincial Councils shall be deemed to be constituted immediately after the constitutional amendments come into force. Elections to the said Provincial Councils shall be held immediately thereafter on the basis of proportional representation.

3. In regard to the other Provinces, the existing District Councils in a Province may, at any time, opt to constitute a Provincial Council. Where a Provincial Council is constituted in any other Province, the said Provincial Council may exercise legislative powers in respect of any or all subjects devolved upon the Provincial Councils. The Provincial Council may also resolve to request Parliament to exercise legislative powers on its behalf in respect of any devolved subject.

4. There shall be a High Court in each Province. The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka will exercise Appellate and Constitutional jurisdiction.

5. The leader of the party which commands a majority in the Provincial Council shall be appointed as the Chief Minister. The other Ministers of the Council of Ministers shall be appointed on the advice of the Chief Minister.

6. The Sri Lankan side has no objection to the proposal to appoint a Governor in each Province. However, this question may be further examined.

7. Any amendment to the Constitutional provisions or any other laws providing for devolution of legislative and executive (including financial) powers shall require a 2/3rd majority as provided in the present Constitution. Any further safeguards, for example a further requirement of a referendum, may also be discussed.

8. On the establishment of a Provincial Council, it may, by a resolution, decide to grant right of audience in the Provincial Council, but without a right to vote, to the Members of Parliament elected from the Province. Such resolution shall be in force for the duration of the term of the Provincial Council.

9. A Bill passed by the Provincial Council shall become law on certification by the Chairman of the Council. If the President is of opinion that the constitutional validity of the Bill has to be decided by the Supreme Court, he may, before the Bill comes into operation, refer the same to the Supreme Court for a decision thereon. Such reference shall be made within a specified period. This may be further discussed.

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Order By Sri Lanka Press Council

"CORRECTION"

In the "SATURDAY REVIEW" of November 30, 1985, a letter written to the Editor by S. S. Vasan of Jaffna has been published under the caption "Endless Jaw Jaw" and the following passage appears in this letter; "The Tamils in the Eastern and Northern provinces are going through unbearable agony and hardships which seem unending. Every day we hear of massacres of innocent Tamils. Certainly the government does not seem interested in an early negotiated settlement but appears to have opted for a military solution. The Minister of National Security stated that a military solution was easier. That

reflects the thinking of the government".

The Honourable Lalith Athulathmudali, P. C., M. P., Minister of National Security and Deputy Minister of Defence made a complaint to The Sri Lanka Press Council against this publication and denied having made the statement "that a Military Solution was easier". The Council held an inquiry into this complaint and found that the publication of the statement "that a Military Solution was easier" attributed to The Hon. Lalith Athulathmudali is untrue.

Editor, Publisher, Printer, Proprietor, S. S. Vasan.

Chidambaram Proposals Bared

(Continued from page 6)

10. The circumstances under which the President may dissolve a Provincial Council or remove the Provincial Government and the conditions and limitations under which such powers may be exercised, shall be further discussed and suitable provisions made.

11. Elections to the Provincial Council shall be on the basis of proportional representation. The number of members to be elected shall be determined having regard to the population and area of each District in the Provincial Council. The scheme of proportional representation may be discussed on the basis of the clarifications appended to the August 1985 document.

12. Disputes relating to the Provincial Council shall be decided by Courts on election petitions filed before them, in the same manner as is provided now in the case of elections to Parliament.

13. The Sri Lanka side desires that the concept, powers and functions of Pradesheeya Sabhas as units of local government under a Provincial Council may be further examined and discussed.

14. The Sri Lanka side also desires that the powers and functions of other units of local government, either in existence now or which may be created in the future, may also be further examined and discussed.

15. The above represents the cardinal features of the proposed structure of government in each Province. They will be supplemented by suitable consequential and incidental provisions.

MAHAWELI PROJECT

ANNEXURE III

1. The notional entitlement of allotments of the "Tamil speaking people" in the Accelerated Mahaweli Programme has been

estimated at	25,979	... allotments consisting of—
Sri Lankan Tamils	12,787	... allotments
Muslims	7,509	... allotments
Indian Tamils	5,683	... allotments

2. The entitlement of allotments of the "Tamil - speaking people" in Trincomalee and Batticaloa Districts distributed according to the ethnic population of the Districts would be approximately as follows: (subject to availability and further discussions in the event of changes in available land)

	Trincomalee	Batticaloa	Total
Allotments	... 12,700 (approx)	... 18,690 (approx)	... 31,390
Sri Lankan Tamils	... 6,960+19	... 10,440+30	... 17,400+49
Muslims	... 3,220+10	... 4,830+15	... 8,050+25
Indian Tamils	... 180+2	... 270+3	... 450+5
	<u>10,391</u>	<u>15,558</u>	<u>25,979</u>

3. Such a distribution would result in Sri Lankan Tamils receiving about 4,700 allotments more than they are entitled to, and Muslims receiving about 500 additional allotments. Indian Tamils would receive about 5,000 allotments less. The distribution then has to be adjusted to give the Indian Tamil community its due share, and this would result in their ethnic proportion in these two Districts being very significantly increased.

4. The balance allotments comprising of approximately 2,308 allotments in Trincomalee District and approximately 3,103 allotments in the Batticaloa District will be allotted to the Sinhalese.

5. It is therefore necessary to specify that—

"In making settlements in Systems A, B and D in the Trincomalee and Batticaloa Districts, the Government will do so in a way which will not affect the ethnic proportions of those Districts". Subject to paragraph 3 above.

Lankan Refugees...

(Continued from page 5)

lives and 90% of these people are from the age group of 19-40 who have left their wives, children and parents and fled the country. Their parents and families want them to be out of the country whether they have been involved in political action or not. In the Tamil cultural context it is the normal duty of any male member in a family to look after his parents and sisters. Had these people been in Ceylon they would have assisted the families with the earnings they had or assisted the families in the family agricultural programmes. Now they feel in conscience that they are unable to do this. So wherever they are they have a moral duty to support their families financially in whatever small way possible. Because of this, the little money they save they send home. Does this mean they are economic refugees?

2. A few have a reasonable amount of money. This is true if 2 or 3 members of the same family are abroad. The younger members of the family, give their savings to the eldest member of the family and it is his function to collect these funds and divert them to their parents. This does not mean that they have got money by illegal means. Of course we cannot deny that a few individuals are involved in getting money illegally and that some of them work without a permit to earn a little extra money whenever possible.

(Courtesy: CEYLON TODAY)

News Briefs

OFFICES SHUT

The Ceylon Tourist Board has closed four of its offices overseas—New York, Japan, Australia and Milan. The Chairman, Tourist Board has stated the low rates of arrival from these areas did not justify maintaining Tourist Board Offices. The drop in arrivals has been attributed to the current situation in the country.

LIAISON OFFICER

Col. C. J. Abeyaratne has been appointed 'Liaison Officer' by the Coordinating Officer, Brigadier H. H. Rupasinghe to look into complaints made by citizens in the Jaffna District. He could be contacted at the Army Camp at Palaly or by telephone at 23380 or 24451 in Jaffna or 33611 in Colombo.

VN Challenges Lankan High Commissioner

Text of a protest letter sent to the British Broadcasting Corporation by the Tamil United Liberation Front's ex-M.P. for Chavakachcheri, V. N. Navaratnam.

The interview given by the High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in U.K. in the Breakfast Time Programme of B.B.C.1 has been brought to my notice. Although I have not yet been able to see the video tape recording of the interview I have been able to listen to the Audio recording of the same.

I disagree with all the views expressed by the High Commissioner but there is one matter on which I am obliged to challenge his statement that the President of Sri Lanka at the end of the All Party Talks came to some agreement with the Tamil United Liberation Front but the T.U.L.F.

had gone back on the Agreement when the Leaders of the T.U.L.F. reached Madras on pressure brought by the Tamil Militants.

This statement of the High Commissioner is untrue and is highly defamatory of the T.U.L.F. which had the support of almost the entirety of the Tamil people of the Tamil Region at the last General Elections held in Sri Lanka and all local Government Elections held thereafter.

I am a Founder Member of the T.U.L.F. and have been Member of the Sri Lankan Parliament continuously from 1956 to 1983. I am personally aware of the substance and content of all the discussions the T.U.L.F. had at the All Party Talks.

I would request you to ask the High Commissioner whether in view of the challenge I am mak-

ing, he still maintains that the T.U.L.F. came to an Agreement with the President of Sri Lanka at the end of the All Party Talks and went back on this Agreement after they reached Madras. If he admits that he has made a mistake he owes an apology both to the T.U.L.F. and to the British public and this apology has to be tendered through the B.B.C. If however he maintains that what he has stated is true, I am confident that in keeping with the high traditions of fairness practiced by the B.B.C., you would give me or any other senior Member of the T.U.L.F. an opportunity to appear on the same or any other programme to prove beyond any doubt that what the High Commissioner had stated is untrue.

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

THE FALLING STAR

"Go catch a falling star" wrote John Donne. How do the Tamil people used to falling bombs and shells catch the film star who seems, to be falling?

Last year's most popular actor of the Sinhala Cinema Vijaya Kumaranatunge flashed across the political skies like a shooting star after his meeting with the Militants in Madras. He seemed the most reasonable, far-sighted and courageous Sinhala Politician on the Tamil question. But alas, within days the twinkling star began to lose its sparkle.

The Dematagoda rally saw boastful statements, "If the UNP or SLFP go to the North they will return in polythene bags but not we"; "we have bearded the tigers in their own den in Madras". There came the P.P.C. Committee stage, where his party was the sole objector to making Tamil as an official language; and now he says that it is the Tamil demand for a linguistic state which is blocking a solution.

What the Tamils need now is some Southerner who "would be constant as the Northern Star" on their crisis not a film-star who plays many parts.

So now some star-struck supporters have stopped star-gazing and are wondering whether the film-star is starry-eyed in politics.

But others say that the actor has not forgotten his lines after all. He wants to visit Jaffna in August and clarify.

The gala performance may be a box-office hit or a flop. Any bets?

WHERE'S SHE?

A complaint has been lodged with the Vavuniya Citizens' Committee and G. A. Vavuniya that Kanapathipillai Jeyamalini (21) was taken into custody at Station Road, Cheddikulam by Security Forces on the night of 12th July and has not returned.

He Walked In Jaffna

The guns in and around the Jaffna Fort were silent last Monday (21.7.86) when a dashing figure emerged from its ramparts and strode towards the Jaffna Hospital.

The Indian High Commissioner's First Secretary (Political) Hardip Puri made a brief visit to Jaffna to take charge of the Rameswaram fisherman Veluthevan Ganapathi who was receiving treatment at the Jaffna Hospital.

He was scheduled to arrive in Palaly at 8.30 a. m. and travel to Jaffna by car. But a last minute change by the authorities compelled him to travel by helicopter to the Fort. The authorities then wanted the patient to be brought to the Fort. Kanapathy did not budge from the hospital bed. Finally Puri came walking to the hospital.

During his brief stay of four hours in Jaffna Hardip Puri met a cross section of the Jaffna public comprising, Bishop Deogupillai, the Municipal Commissioner,

Lorry-Owners Association, the G. M. O. A., Jaffna Branch. He also visited the Nallur Kandasamy Temple and the refugee camp in Sankilithoppu.

Puri's observation in Colombo was "there is a strong constituency for peace in Jaffna". Although Puri was in a hurry, to the Jaffna public the visit was a significant event.

Ever since 1983 Jaffna has been talking about Indians like Parthasarathy, Bhandari, Venkateswaran, Chidambaram, Chhatwal, Dixit etc. But none of them have been seen in the flesh.

So Hardip Puri with his beard and turban personified India to Jaffna like the 'Air-India Maharajah'.

Also his name conjured up visions of a dainty dish.

But on his return to the Fort by car some sentries wanted him to proceed on foot.

So walking he entered Jaffna and walking he made his exit.

But he walked in beauty! and in duty!

'Navy' Tells Fisherman To Cut Brother-In-law

A fisherman from Inbaruddy in Point Pedro related to "SATURDAY REVIEW" the circumstances in which his brother-in-law was killed by men in a Navy boat on July 14.

Balasunderam Uthayakumar (22) told S. R. that the Navy had first wanted his brother-in-law to cut him with a sword.

Uthayakumar's tragic tale is as follows:

On July 14, 1986 at about 2.30 A.M. I let home with my brother-in-law Kathiramalai Jeyadas (28) in catamaran. Within fifteen minutes when we were about two miles from the shore we encountered a Navy boat which came towards us firing at random.

The Security Services personnel in the Navy boat ordered us to stop and when we stopped we saw four of them - one of whom wore a green coloured iron helmet and wore an Army Khaki-green-patched shirt and wore bells and was armed with a gun. The others wore banyans and shorts and bells, none were in Navy Uniform, they spoke to us in broken Tamil and were speaking to one another in Sinhalese.

They said "you are fishing and earning money and supplying food and money to the Tigers. Your Tigers have cut and killed our people in Trincomalee. You must be taught a lesson and then the Tigers will be tamed." They threw a rope and asked us to tie our craft to the Navy boat and dragged us further up by another two miles. They asked us to keep our hands on the ridge of the Navy boat and trampled our hands and hit us with our oars. They got our Kerosene can and poured it on me and tried to ignite me with a cigarette lighter but to the blowing it did not catch fire they gave a sword about 5 feet long and 6 inches broad with a pointed tip and asked my brother-in-law to cut me when I raised my hands in worshipping position and begged my brother-in-law not to cut me. As my brother-in-law was hesitating the man with the gun opened fire and one bullet struck my brother-in-law and he fell on our craft and simultaneously I too fell into the sea pretending that I too was shot. I remained in the sea for sometime since I could dive and I heard

another volley of shots being sprayed on my brother-in-law who was groaning in pain and then there was stillness.

Slowly without disturbing the water I began to swim back to the shore and I reached the shore at about 5.30 A. M. having swam about 4 miles.

I circulated the news of this tragedy and left with an uncle of mine A. Palanivelsamy in another craft towards our stranded craft, in the sea.

When we reached the stranded craft, we did not see the body of my brother-in-law but saw only pieces of flesh from his body.

On further search, we found a rope tied the craft and when we lifted it, it was heavy and we found it to be the dead body of my brother-in-law. It was fully naked and even his clothes which were new had been removed by the personnel who came in the Navy boat.

There were two gun-shot injuries on his chest, two deep stab wounds on his stomach through which the intestines were protruding, several cut marks on his hip, thighs, back, knees, buttocks etc. and the flesh on both his calves had been scaled off.

We brought the body ashore and it was cremated the following day.

SRI LANKA PULLS OUT

Sri Lanka has formally decided to pull out of the Commonwealth Games due to begin on July 24, as a protest against the opposition by Great Britain to impose sanctions on the Pretoria Regime.

Sri Lanka has become the 26th nation to announce its boycott of the 49 member Commonwealth.

A press release issued by the Foreign Ministry stated: The Government after careful consideration has decided to withdraw from the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh as a demonstration of Sri Lanka's solidarity with the people of South Africa in their struggle against Apartheid.