

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Vol. 4 No. 7

4th May 1985

Press Trust

Of India

Reports:

INDIANS SPIED ON SRI LANKA FOR KGB

Information about the internal situation in Sri Lanka as well as was collected by the Indian spy ring headed by Coomar Narain and passed on to the Soviet Union, according to a Press Trust of India News Agency report published in The Times of India.

The Soviet Union is the 4th country besides France, Poland

and the German Democratic Republic, to be involved in the espionage case that has rocked India, according to the charge sheet filed against 19 persons, including Coomar Narain, in the Additional Chief New Delhi Magistrate's Court.

DPL'S Quit

Three Soviet diplomats, who received intelligence reports re-

garding situations in countries in India's neighbourhood, left India soon after the busting of the ring on 17th January, the report said.

The charge sheet said that two of the accused—hosiery business man Ashok Kumar Jaithka and B. K. Aggarwal—who had business dealings with the Soviet Union, gave the documents to diplomats attached to the USSR embassy in New Delhi.

Jaithka and Aggarwal procured top secret RAW and intelligence bureau reports from another accused. H. N. Chaturvedi, acting as a linkman between Coomar Narain and the two businessmen.

It mentioned that the information regarding the internal situations in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and China were also passed on to the Soviet Union.

LANDMINES EXPLODE

According to official sources, there were several landmine explosions in parts of the Northern and Eastern provinces, towards the end of April.

On 26th April, a landmine blast at Muthur killed 7 soldiers and 2 'terrorists', the Government announced.

According to the Ministry of State, a landmine exploded at Polikandy in Valvettithurai area on 28th April, killing 6 service personnel including an officer. 3 soldiers were injured and admitted to the Anuradhapura Hospital. On the same day there was a

blast at Karaveddy in the Point-Pedro area but Government sources said there were no casualties among the soldiers. 4 civilians—including an old woman and a 14-year old were killed.

A landmine exploded at Ariyalai on 29th April killing 2 soldiers. 19 'terrorists' too were killed, according to the Government. 6 civilians, including a newly wed couple and a NRTB bus conductor, were killed and several others—among them a Grama Sevaka—were seriously injured.

CENSORED

War Fronts & Censors

In a war situation—which is the reality in parts of the Northern and the Eastern Provinces today—the Government may deem it prudent to censor news of the operations of the Security Forces, the numbers killed and injured, the property destroyed, etc.

That is the Government's privilege.

The public also has a privilege—to know what exactly is happening in the country, especially because billions of rupees of the taxpayers' money are being diverted from development to defence.

We admit there is a conflict of interests here.

But the attempt to keep the people in the dark could be counter-productive; it could give rise to all manner of rumours which could cause more harm than baring the basic truth.

The Americans realised the truth about Vietnam only when coffins began coming home.

Do the people of the South deserve a similar fate?

We have been prompted to make these comments in view of the official news emanating about incidents in the North and the East.

In the absence of means of making independent verification, because of communication difficulties, we do not know whom to believe.

The Only Government - Censored Newspaper in Sri Lanka

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. 170/-
Half-year — Rs. 85/-

India

Annual — Rs. 225/-
(Indian Rupees)

Singapore / Malaysia—

Annual — U. S. \$ 30

All other Countries

Annual — U. S. \$ 50

Cheques payable to

New Era Publications Ltd.

Advertising Rates

Contracts — Rs. 15/- per
col. centimetre

Casual — Rs. 20/- per
col. centimetre

WANTED: A PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

The following resolution was passed by the Citizens Committee for National Harmony at its session held in Trincomalee recently:

As Sri Lankan citizens of all communities, we appeal to the Government and the leadership of all political parties in the country to act urgently and with full commitment in order to seek and provide a just political solution which will put an end to the tragic violence which is threatening to tear our country apart.

We are convinced that for such a solution, it is necessary, above all, to agree on a system of government for our country which enables the people to participate fully and effectively in the administration and development of their localities through representative and elected institutions which are responsible to the people.

We firmly believe that such a system of government which devolves genuine responsibility and power to viable units below the national level is beneficial to all communities and all sections of the people.

We are fully convinced that it is not beyond the maturity, wisdom and ingenuity of our people to design this system.

While we recognise that the full implementation of any political solution will require a restoration of normal conditions we have no doubt that the announcement and offer of a just political solution will by itself immediately initiate the process which helps us to return to peace and reach a negotiated settlement.

We, therefore, appeal to the political leadership of all groups and the ruling party in particular to fulfil their grave responsibility to the people, act with courage and wisdom in this hour of deep national crisis and offer a just system of devolution to the country.

The signatories to the resolution are Ven. Dr. Hevanpola Ratnasara, Ven. Udalumada Gunarathana Nayaka Thero Sanga Nayaka for Eastern & Northern Provinces, Fr. Tissa Balasuriya o.m.i., Mr. Mazzahim Mohideen, Mr. Underwood Manivasagan, Mr. M. M. Aponso, Mrs. Subashini Varadhan, Mr. Godfrey Gunatilleke, Ven. Delduwe Dharmaratana Thero, Bishop Swithin Fernando, Fr. Peter Kurukula Arachchi S. J., Dr. S. R. Vethanayagam, Mrs. Bernadeen Silva, Mr. K. Sivapalan and Mr. S. M. A. C. Abdeen.

NEWS BRIEFS

TAMIL-MUSLIM AMITY

At a special sermon at the Jumma Mosque, Jaffna on 26th April, Moulavi S. Sathakathulla said that the mother tongue of Muslims had always been Tamil and they had throughout lived in amity with their Tamil brethren.

PEACE APPEAL

The Government Members of Parliament, both Muslims and Tamils, have jointly appealed for peace and harmony in the Eastern Province. They regretted very much that the two communities which have looked upon each other with love and understanding now mutually fear and distrust each other.

BY LORRY

As state drivers have refused to take vehicles to the North, the Education Department, Jaffna has made arrangements to transport school text books by private lorries.

NEGOTIATE—CP MP

Mr. Sarath Muttetuwegama stated in the course of a debate on the Extension of the Emergency that he reiterated the view of his party the C.P., that it was only through discussions and negotiation that the ethnic problem could be solved. There could never be a military solution.

The Face That Launched A Protest March

A love-affair that blossomed between a young girl and a person in uniform guarding a place of great historical and religious interest for Buddhists and Hindus alike, ultimately led to the abduction of a Brahmin priest and his family, trustees—some of them well past the Psalmist's span of life—being roughed up by marines, and the island being cut off completely from the rest of Jaffna.

All supplies cut off, and on the verge of starvation, the people of the island had no choice: they were forced, under the watchful eyes and guns of the marines, to stage a march protesting the abduction. Only then were communications with the Peninsula restored.

The residents say it was the guardian deities of the island (mentioned in the Manimekalai) which saved it from turning into another Troy.

AI's MAY DAY CAMPAIGN

We publish below a summary of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S campaign for May Day 1985.

In the worsening economic situation, many governments throughout the world turn to repression, imprisonment and torture of trade unionists who exercise their basic human rights, organising workers in defence of their economic conditions and living standards. Many such trade unionists and workers will spend the International Labour Day 1985 in prison for trying to organise their fellow workers in trade union activities or simply for the non-violent expression of their beliefs.

Basic human rights are spelled out in the United Nations Bill of Human Rights and in ILO Convent-

ions. Most governments which violate Human rights are members of the United Nations and are committed to these international instruments. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL — A Nobel Peace prize Winner and internationally known defender of human rights, annually organises, on the occasion of MAY DAY, a world-wide campaign to publicise the fate of these trade unionists and workers. Amnesty International has highlighted the following special cases for MAY DAY 1985, illustrating the way in which union leaders and workers are of ten targeted by the authorities because of their prominence in defence of human rights. International appeals and the pressure of public opinion could mean the difference between prison and freedom, or in some cases life and death.

CWF'S 25TH MAY DAY MASS

This year, the Christian Workers Fellowship (CWF) observed the 25th Anniversary of its May Day Workers' Mass which it has celebrated uninterruptedly over the years from 1960.

The first May Day Mass celebrated by the CWF was held early on Sunday May 1st morning in 1960 at the Y.M.C.A. Gym, Colombo Fort.

An important contribution has been made to this Mass by persons coming from a Buddhist background.

In fact today the CWF includes in its membership not only Christians of different denominations but also those who are not "Christians" in any institutional sense.

Midnight Raiders

A liberal, dedicated padre (whose links with the Christian establishment are rather informal) and two of his associates — all from down South — recently saw for themselves what it is like to live in Jaffna nowadays.

Having come down to Jaffna on a peace cum fact-finding mission, they put up for the night at a hostel run by an International organisation, located near the most important government office in Jaffna.

Towards the early hours of the morning, they were rudely awakened by the sound of gunshots on the road skirting the hostel. Their bedroom doors were kicked open and they were subjected to a barrage of questions before the midnight raiders went away.

The next morning (which happened to be a Sunday), the padre chose this incident as the text for his sermon. He had all the qualifications to speak on this topic—only a few hours earlier he had had first-hand experience of the nightmare life that people in Jaffna are forced to lead.

HOW IT ALL STARTED-L.T.T.E

This political pamphlet attempts to sketch a brief outline of the Tamil National Independence struggle in Sri Lanka and the revolutionary armed struggle advanced for that cause by the LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM. As a liberation movement the Tigers constitute themselves as the authentic revolutionary vanguard of the struggling masses, who by their deep dedication and commitment to the revolutionary tasks of national emancipation and socialist revolution have earned the name of FREEDOM FIGHTERS of the people. The movement emerged at the peak of national oppression as the militant expression of the determined will of our people to fight the oppressive bourgeois state machinery with armed struggle, which Lenin taught us, is the highest expression of revolutionary political practice. We wish to introduce our revolutionary organisation with its historical genesis, its militant struggles and

its aims and objectives with a brief historical note on the national struggle of the masses of Tamil Eelam.

The Tamil National Question in Sri Lanka is the burning political issue, and most crucial national problem confronted by the present dictatorship in that country. The Tamil nation as a whole is agitating for political independence on the basis of a universal democratic principle, on the basis of a nation's sacred right, that is, the right to

and language; having their own unique historical past. The Tamils have been living in the island from pre-historic times long before the arrival of the Sinhalese people from Northern India in the 6th Century B.C. The Sinhalese historical chronicles, 'Mahawamsa' and 'Culavamsa' record the turbulent historical past of the island, of centuries of violent power struggles and wars between Tamil and Sinhalese kings for political hegemony. The island was ruled by both Tamil and Sinhalese kings.

soon after the so-called national independence in 1948 when the State power was transferred to the Sinhala national bourgeoisie. The first major assault of this notorious racist programme was directed at the Tamil plantation workers through a legislation in 1949 which disenfranchised more than a million people, reduced them to statelessness and debased them without any civic rights. This infamous act of inhumanity marked the beginning of a thirty year history of national oppression, a planned systematic oppression, that seriously undermined the very foundation of the social, political, economic and cultural life of the Tamil speaking masses. The oppression, penetrated into various spheres of the conditions of social existence of our people and threatened the very survival of our nation. The gradual annexation of the traditional Tamil lands by Sinhala colonisation aided by the state; the forceful imposition of the Sinhala language on the Tamil speaking people; blatant discrimination and language practised against the Tamil youth in the sphere of education and employment; planned economic strangulation of Tamil areas—all these vicious forms of national oppression practised by all successive governments aggravated the national conflict.

This is the second in the series of policy statements of the Tamil militant groups that the SATURDAY REVIEW proposes to publish in order to let the world at large know their thinking because, so far, little has been published in the Sri Lanka media about the aims and objectives of these groups.

The publication of these statements is in no way an endorsement of their contents by the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Today's statement is by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) led by Mr. V. Prabakaran.

NOT CIA

We regret that, inadvertently, we allowed the publication of a sentence in the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) policy statement in the Saturday Review of 27th April, 1985, that certain persons were "on the payroll of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)."

To our knowledge, there is no truth at all in this allegation.

Our sincere apologies to all concerned.

Editor

self-determination, the right to secede and form an independent sovereign state. The Tamil speaking nation was forced into this inevitable political choice as a consequence of nearly thirty years of violent and brutal oppression practised by the successive chauvinistic ruling classes of the Sinhala nation. Years of peaceful struggle to gain the very basic human rights were met with vicious forms of suppression and the national friction between two nations became the major contradiction leading to the demand for secession by the oppressed.

The island, formerly called Ceylon is the traditional homeland of two nations: Tamil Eelam and Sri Lanka; two distinct social formations with distinct culture

From the 13th Century onwards until the penetration of Portuguese colonialism, Tamil Eelam lived as a stable national entity, ruled by its own kings. The Portuguese annexed the Tamil Kingdom yet ruled it as a separate national formation, as the traditional homelands of the Tamil speaking people. Dutch colonialism too, did not violate the territorial integrity of the Tamil Kingdom until British imperialism in the 19th Century brought about a unified State structure amalgamating the two kingdoms irrespective of ethnic differences laying the foundation for the present national conflict.

NATIONAL OPPRESSION

The Sinhala chauvinist oppression against the Tamil nation be-

Censored

(Continued on page 5)

NOTHING AGAINST THE SINHALESE - TIGERS

All our actions must be governed by our ideology of gaining our independence by breaking the restraints of Sinhalese chauvinism. We are opposing all state terrorism with this ideology. We have not done anything against the Sinhalese people. We vehemently oppose state terrorism and oppression against those who are crushing our freedom. We have been forced to take this step. We are clearly stating that none of our actions have been against the Sinhalese people.

The tyranny of Government action is directed towards the

destruction of the Tamil race. It is for this reason that our actions are directed against the Government. If the Government behaves in a humane and reasonable manner, there would be no necessity for it to procure arms and ammunition in such large quantities.

Censored

Censored

The Government that preaches "dharmista" principles has never observed or acted according to those principles. It calls the innocent youngsters taken into

custody by it as "Terrorists". They are tortured and killed. The whole world knows this.

Abeyasinghe's statement given over the radio will clearly show how well and in a humane way he was treated by us. We have nothing against the Sinhalese but we wish to live in this country with self-respect and dignity. Is it a crime to ask for our rights?

Let the tyrants answer this. We wish to tell the Sinhalese people that these tyrants are cheating the Sinhalese masses and carrying on false propaganda.

HUGS and BEAR - HUGS

The Editor

SATURDAY REVIEW

If any ruling party that has been elected to office democratically with an overwhelming majority can amend the Constitution at their whim, why cannot they do so now to accommodate another revision in government policy for autonomous regional councils?

Is there any law that says that a unitary state cannot consist of more units of Government bodies? Or is the word "unitary" used in the very narrowest sense now only as a means to oppose and disqualify the demands of the Tamils even before they could be mentioned?

It has always been the Tamil politicians who had to make endorsement to seek entrance to the discussion on their rights.

When the very initiation to the discussion itself is meant to subjugate the Tamils what hopes can they have at the discussion itself? And this unfair stepchild treatment is the very predicament from which they are trying to break free. So let understanding and humility be the prelude to the peace conference and not aggression and dominance.

When the stepchild demands for his rights to independently administer his policies in the area he is a greedy usurper, but when we appoint ourselves the sole heir to our motherland and aspire to keep it a Sinhala only domain patronising the minorities only to assure our own peace of mind we are protecting our rights!

Censored

LETTERS

Censored

Before other element of disruption creep in let us get down to reality even now, forget our Pride and give each other the HUG of love and friendship, not the bear - HUG of death and animosity.

Mrs. Lucille Crossette Thambiah
nee Fernando

Chilaw

BIG BULLY

The Editor

SATURDAY REVIEW

I read with mounting anger and disgust the article "Pollution via VOA" in the 30th March issue of your paper.

This outrageous proposal by the big bully, United States, to establish an extremely low frequency (ELF) transmitting station, under the cover of setting up a Voice of America branch, should have been turned down by the government at all costs.

The pollution of environment by radiation when this ELF station starts operating was the reason why it was not set up in the US itself.

Censored

Though Sri Lanka is a free nation, theoretically, practically we are in the clutches of the western superpowers by accepting from them economic aid which we need badly. We would not have been in need of such aid, or branded third-worlders, if only the greedy Europeans had not tainted our paradise

practice of the Public Service have been observed in the breach intentionally or wilfully in my case with utter disrespect to the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.

I was on medical leave, on a certificate issued by the District Medical Officer of Chavakachcheri when I was issued a letter for "vacating" my post in 1983.

I had worked in the River Valleys Development Board as a fisheries officer for sixteen years under very difficult conditions before I was absorbed into the Ministry of Fisheries. I was granted only nine annual increments in violation of the salary conversion under the Establishment Code.

I had been in the services of the Ministry of Fisheries from 1st August 1972. Though I am an old entrant for the purposes of the Official Language Act, I was not given a single salary increment, contrary to the tradition and practice of the Public Service Regulations.

The refund of my contributions to the Widows and Orphans Pension Fund, the Credit Council, the Thrift Society and the Public Service Provident Fund was not made.

I was one of the two officers recommended and released for training in Japan in 1964 by the River Valleys Development Board. I was granted no pay leave while the other officer was granted full pay leave.

It is injustices of this nature that cause the brain drain of scientific officers.

M. Kurumoorthy

Jaffna.

land and made us pawns of their conflicts and competition, from the 16th century onwards.

Miss G. Nathan

Colombo 6.

WELCOME

The Editor

SATURDAY REVIEW

Ven. Mandawala Pannawansa's letter in your paper on 6th April and the item "Monks' Visit" on 20th April both impressed me very much.

I am one of those individuals who will be happy to welcome a delegation of Buddhist monks.

Any attempt to bridge the Sinhala-Tamil gap must be accepted in good spirit by all Tamils and Sinhalese.

The Tamil militants should also do their part in inviting the delegation and explain their course of action.

Siva

Jaffna

VICTIM OF OFFICIALDOM

The Editor

SATURDAY REVIEW

I am a public servant from the Ministry of Fisheries. I was a victim of the whims and fancies of officialdom. Tradition and

FIRE - BUGS?

How best to destroy incriminating documents?

Make a bonfire of them and put the blame on the Tamil militants or the Security Forces?

Any persons in an institution in the North now "under fire" who are thinking on these lines may burn their fingers as well—because they are under close observation by those who are conducting an investigation.

Censored

TAMILS—2ND CLASS CITIZENS WITHOUT DOUBT

In my view my friend Mr. V. Dharmalingam, ex-MP for Manipay, must be congratulated on his very masterly and analytical comments on the "erudite" arguments expounded with such commendable skill in the "Island" of 24th to 28th February by Mr. S. L. Gunasekera who explored all avenues to refute the arguments of Mr. R. Balasubramaniam that the Tamils are treated as "second class citizens" in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Dharmalingam's counter arguments were serialised in the Saturday Review from 6th April to 20th April, 1985.

I have known Mr. Dharmalingam for decades from my school days. We received our education in the same school in Jaffna, where Mr. Dharmalingam was a stand-out student. I am convinced that Mr. Dharmalingam knows his onions even better than Mr. Gunasekera knows his.

Facts, however, must be faced. Except that Mr. Gunasekera is trying to draw the wool over everybody's eyes, his arguments can never hold any water. It can be proved without even an iota of doubt that since the dawn of Independence in this country the Tamils have been subtly, and sometimes even brazenly, relegated to the position of second class citizens.

TOKEN APPOINTMENTS

It is true that there are a few Tamils holding ministerial posts, diplomatic assignments and other top-ranking positions in the Public-service. But the paramount question is what is their number when compared to a population of 15 million Sri Lankans of whom at least 2.5 million are Tamils, if not more? Does this number of Tamils holding high positions in the country's administration even remotely justify the claim that the Tamils are holding a fair percentage of the top jobs in the public sector?

Censored

We can use all our ingenuity at quibbling but we must not under-rate the intelligence of the masses. A lot can be said about the Tamils being relegated to second place always, except in a few instances of an exceptional nature. But the less said about it the better.

Censored

Let us be more realistic in our reasoning. The arguments in this case are quite similar. If we have also in our land those who can fawn and flatter and tactfully ingratiate themselves with bigwigs and become big men, and if there are Tamils among such men then we may have a small number of 1st class Tamil citizens.

By **A. Saverimuttu**

PASSPORT TREATMENT

A son of a friend of mine, a Tamil, recently called over at the passport office in Colombo to obtain his passport. He carried with him all the relevant documents. At the end of it he was asked to bring his father's Birth Certificate. He had to rush back to Jaffna to obtain it. Will that happen to a Sinhalese? Of course not! Now when he takes his father's B.C. he may again be asked to bring his grandfather's B.C. Can Mr. Gunasekera, the champion of the Sinhalese, tell me what all this is?

A Tamil doctor friend of mine now living abroad has recently written to me saying that he is quite happy where he is and is doing very well and that had he chosen to live in Sri Lanka he wouldn't have enjoyed even a fraction of the benefits he now enjoys leave alone the happiness. But he also added a sad note and that is he said that, "it is better to live as a second class citizen in a foreign country rather than live as a second class citizen in your own country".

I do not wish to add more except to quote extracts of a letter written to the "Daily News" way back in 1970, by the late Mr. Shelton Fernando, an eminent Civil Servant who retired as Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Mr. Shelton Fernando incidentally is the father of Mr. Tyrone Fernando, MP for Moratuwa and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The letter is headlined "Arunachalam". Mr. Fernando was extolling the virtues of the late Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, the first Ceylonese Civil Servant whose premature retirement from the post of Registrar General because the Britisher did not want a Ceylonese to be the G.A., Colombo, turned out to be for the good of Ceylon. In the same letter Mr. Shelton

Fernando also pays a tribute to Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan as the doughty champion who fought the cause of the Sinhalese Buddhists in London during the riots of 1915 when the Sinhalese Buddhists were falsely suspected of sedition and their leaders incarcerated with always the fear that any night could be their last. It was Ramanathan, more than most, who fought the Sinhalese cause in London after fearlessly braving the submarine-infested seas of World

War I. So has written Mr. Shelton Fernando.

Mr. Shelton Fernando finally makes the plea, "Thus then when a new Constitution is being framed, it behoves all fair-minded and middle-path Sinhalese to be as reasonable as they can politically, to the largest

minority, the Tamil community, and discount the fanaticism of such Sinhalese extremists as are still arrogantly waiting the time, even in these days of Human Rights Declaration, when all our minority races will obligingly absorb themselves through one official language into one grand all-Sinhala nation."

That was the eminent Mr. Shelton Fernando who wrote those words. And it was because he felt that there was clear discrimination perpetrated on the Tamils by the Sinhalese. What further proof is needed to support the contention that the Tamils are treated as 2nd class citizens?

And now it is not only one official language but also the colonisation of traditional Tamil homelands. This letter of Mr. Shelton Fernando, is proof, that is if proof is necessary, that the Tamils since Independence have been treated as 2nd class citizens.

Anybody can write an erudite thesis on any subject but to get his facts correct is the all important thing. Mr. S. L. Gunasekera will do well to do a little re-thinking on this matter.

HOW IT ALL STARTED....

(Continued from page 3)

At the height of national oppression, when the struggle for political independence became the inevitable alternative, the Tamil political parties converged into a single national movement with the formation of the Tamil United Liberation Front in 1976. Confronted with steadily mounting national oppression, frustrated with failures of political agitations demanding basic human rights, the Tamil nationalist movement resolved to fight for political independence on the basis of the nation's right to self-determination. It was primarily a decision to secede and form an independent sovereign state over which the 1977 elections were fought and endorsed overwhelmingly by the Tamil speaking masses. Thus, it was the intolerable national oppression and the emergence of national conflict as the major contradiction that led to this inevitable political demand to secede which opened a new era in Tamil politics, a new historical epoch to launch a revolutionary struggle for national independence.

BIRTH OF TIGERS

THE TAMIL LIBERATION TIGERS are the historical product of the Sinhala chauvinistic oppression. They were the product of a revolutionary situation generated by the contradictions of national conflict. Caught up at the peak

of national oppression, constantly victimised by police brutality for political actions, the revolutionary ardour of the militant Tamil youth sought concrete political expression to register their protest. Disenchantment with the political strategy of non-violence, confronted with the demand for revolutionary political practice, the Tiger Movement gave its historical birth in 1972 as the armed resistance movement of the people. Structured as an urban guerrilla force, disciplined with an iron will to fight for the cause of national freedom, the Tigers launched a series of attacks against the armed forces of the oppressive regime.

The Government became alarmed at the growth and strength of the Movement, angered at the success of its military operations on the Government property and personnel, and above all, horrified of its growing support among the wider sections of the Tamil masses. On April this year (1978), when the Liberation Tigers launched a tactical attack of self-defence and destroyed a party of police personnel which was in hot pursuit to track them down, the ruling bourgeois dictatorship utilised the situation to intensify its policy of national suppression. A repressive legislation was rushed through the Parliament which proscribed the

Continued on page 7

WHEN SRI LANKA FIRST HONoured JAPAN

There is a very close relationship between Sri Lanka and Japan today—mainly in the fields of trade and aid. In the field of science and technology, Japan is one of the leading nations of the world and there can be no two words about it.

Many people may not know that Japan was a leading country in the fields of science and technology even before the blood-curdling disasters of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Sir Muttu Coomaraswamy was a member of the Legislative in the late 1880's. He was a great scholar and dramatist as well. As a councillor, he advocated the introduction of the teaching of science in Sri Lankan schools. As a result of persistent agitation by him, the first science teacher was appointed to Royal College, Colombo, in 1876.

Sir Muttu Coomaraswamy had a great admiration for the Japanese whom he held as models. This was in the context of science and technology. When he was a member of the Legislative Council (in 1876?), the first Japanese warship

called at Colombo. He was so delighted that he invited the captain and crew, all Japanese, to dinner and honoured them.

In this context, let me quote Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam who described this event:

"I remember as a boy that Sir Muttu Coomaraswamy was unceasing in his advocacy of the study of science and in his admiration of the Japanese, whom he held out to us as models. He looked forward confidently to their taking the high place...which they have now won."

throughout the siege of Port Arthur, had in his earlier days actually fought in chain-armour and carried a battle-axe. But here we are in Ceylon after a hundred years of British rule, still almost ignorant of Science as if it did not exist."

Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam has the unique distinction of being father of many movements—free and compulsory education, the establishment of a Ceylon University, a meaningful local government system and labour movement.

by **A. Theva Rajan**

Great was his delight when the first Japanese man-o'-war, manned and officered by Japanese, called at Colombo on its first voyage to Europe. He invited all the officers to dinner and entertained them. I shall never forget the impression made on us by that scene. It is a little more than a generation since Japan embarked on the police of seeking Western knowledge. Col. Teruda, who led the First Regiment

In his plea for a Ceylon University, he said:-

"The examples of Japan should be followed. Industrially, she was almost non-existent 50 years ago. Now, she is a formidable competitor to Europe and America. The steps by which she achieved her successes are well-known. She made primary education free and compulsory, not merely in name, as in

Ceylon, but in fact, and wiped out illiteracy among workmen and aristocrats alike.

"Numerous industrial, commercial and agricultural schools were opened in all parts of the country, so that youths should become skilled workers, not having to go far from their homes to acquire the necessary knowledge. First class technical institutions were maintained in large centres to give advanced training. The Central Technological Institute at Tokyo to which I have already referred is reputed to be better than any even in the U.S.A. or Germany, and is almost the envy of the world. Promising students were sent abroad by scores and hundreds to Europe and America to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge of engineering and various arts and crafts."

Most of us do not know that Sri Lanka held Japan in such high esteem and honoured her even a century ago. I recount these facts lest posterity and contemporary Sri Lankans and Japanese forget them.

DUTCH INJUSTICE TO TAMILS

Caught up in the problem of Tamil refugees seeking asylum abroad, it was the Swiss government which first sent a fact-finding mission to Sri Lanka.

The mission did a fine white-washing job (as reported in the SATURDAY REVIEW of 18th AUGUST 1984, under the heading "Swiss fact-finding mission big farce").

The outcome was that Switzerland, which makes so much money by exports to and manufactures in Sri Lanka—ranging from fertilizers and drugs to milk foods—decided to deport Tamil refugees in their country.

As far as Switzerland was concerned, there was no reason for any Tamils to flee Sri Lanka! "What a wonderful Dharmista country Sri Lanka is!" was the crux of the report of the "fact-finders"—after a hurried visit to Jaffna.

Now an official team from the Netherlands is in Sri Lanka on a similar mission. No doubt it will come to the same conclusion—without even visiting Jaffna!

In this context, the following report from The Hague by the Associated Press News Agency is very revealing.

The UN High Commission for Refugees and Amnesty International have criticised the Dutch Government for ignoring their appeals and returning Tamil refugees to Sri Lanka against their will, according to an Associated Press news agency report from The Hague.

Mr. Robert Van Lecuwen, a representative for the UNHCR in the Netherlands was scheduled to meet the Dutch Foreign Minister, Mr. Hans Van Den Broek, and the deputy justice minister to discuss the Tamil refugee problem.

Both the UNHCR and Amnesty International have requested that western governments not forcibly repatriate Tamil refugees to Sri Lanka.

The UNHCR lodged a formal protest with the Dutch Government about the forced return of Tamils, according to Mr. Van Leeuwen.

In a recent letter to the Dutch Premier, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, the Amnesty Secretary-General, Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, asked for an investigation into an incident in January in which the Dutch Government denied 45 Tamils entry to the Netherlands and sent them back to Sri Lanka.

The Tamils were on their way to East Berlin, and were to change planes in Amsterdam when Dutch authorities put them on a flight back to Colombo because they had no visas for East Germany.

Members of the Tamil minority 'may fall victim to arbitrary killings by members of the (Sri Lankan) security forces,' Mr. Hammarberg said in the letter.

The UNHCR spokesman, Mr. Van Lecuwen said that "the UNHCR has appealed to Western governments not to return involuntarily Tamils who have arrived in European countries and have expressed fear to return to Sri Lanka under the present circumstances."

And he added that the Netherlands was the first nation to send back the Tamil refugees, who be-

gan arriving here after anti-Tamil violence erupted in Sri Lanka late last year.

Since last January incident, the Dutch Government has not sent any more Tamil refugees back to Sri Lanka, according to a Justice Ministry spokesman, who added that there are more than 1,000 such refugees in this nation.

Of these, 967 have so far applied for political asylum here, he said. None of these requests have yet been granted, he said noting that under Dutch procedure, each political asylum case has to be handed individually.

P. S. We understand that the number of Tamils seeking refuge in Holland is now nearly 3,200.

EX — MP'S FATHER DEAD

The death occurred at Hulftsdorf on 22nd April of Mr. S. Sivasubramaniam at the age of 85.

He was a prominent social worker, a doughty fighter for peace among the communities and a prolific writer.

Among his children were the late Mr. S. Ambalavaner, prominent lawyer, and the former M. P. for Kopay, the late Mr. S. Kathiravelupillai.

His remains were cremated at the Kanatte General Cemetery, Colombo.

WHEN INTELLECTUALS BEGIN TO IN-BREED...

The SATURDAY REVIEW of 20th April spotlighted some of the shortcomings of the University of Jaffna. We would like to add something more.

It is not surprising that under the present educational regime—text books, notes and cramming—all the Universities of Sri Lanka have become, to an alarming extent, degree-awarding factories rather than places of learning or research.

Almost all the universities suffer from the age-old problem of intellectual (?) 'in-breeding'. In the University of Jaffna, however, this process of in-breeding seems to have been perfected.

This University seems to have certain departments specialising in only one discipline—that of the preceptor, the guru. Suppose a Professor, who has specialised in Epigraphy and Grammar, is appointed to the Department of Tamil, his first priority will be to recast the syllabus, enabling his specialised field to flourish. A Tamil Special Degree student opting for Modern Literature or Literary Criticism is virtually left in the 'wilderness'.

The same is even more true of the Depts. of Natural and Physical Sciences. Suppose you have a Professor of Botany who has specialised in Genetics, then it's likely that provision may not be made for the study of Microbiology, Ecology etc. or for appointments in these fields of study.

This pernicious system has blocked the flow of new ideas, stifled progress and, above all, created a situation in which the Head of a Dept. being senior to the other colleagues in his or her Dept. has a virtually absolute say in the running of the Dept. His colleagues—most of whom were his students—hardly dare voice their opposition. Since the fate of an individual member is decided by only one person, the spirit of competition is lost at the very beginning of tenure and every member of the Department has to promote himself or herself by **means other than teaching and research**. (One doesn't need much imagination to guess what these means are. Ever heard of Mutual Admiration Societies?)

Staff meetings in the faculties are not encouraged because that would result in the democratic air-

ing of views and the cut-and-thrust of democratic debate—something the Grand Panjandrums abhor.

As for the Administration, there are certain persons (personalities?) who know next to nothing about academics or academic matters. Just one example would do: an Assistant Registrar once asked a distinguished, internationally renowned Professor (when he took up his appointment as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine) why his Ph.D. Certificate was so small. Her tone implied a doubt about whether it really was a Ph.D. Certificate. The Professor promptly retorted by asking her whether she would like to see mat-sized certificates like the ones issued by the University of Jaffna!

The Administration also prints awful envelopes and letter-heads which are often used by the academic staff for overseas correspondence.

To turn back to the academic staff, there is a University Teacher's Association headed by one of its youngest professors. This Association keeps mum (perhaps on the principle that it is politic to

hear no evil, see no evil and speak no evil) except when a temple is robbed. The JUTA is one of the rarest specimens of its kind in the world. It did not strike when the staffs of all the other universities went on a strike for a pay increase. So far it has not voiced opposition to the new University Bill. What a pity that intellectuals should mimic the inmates of Schools for the Deaf and Dumb or the Blind. Could self-induced paralysis—due to fear of consequences—be the reason? Whatever the reason, this is nothing but intellectual treason.

We'd like to conclude by turning the spotlight once again on the Administration. There have been—and are—allegations that something other than merit is involved in the selection of clerks, typists etc. Need one spell out what this 'something' is?

When almost everyone in Jaffna stresses that merit should be the sole criterion for appointment to the public service, entrance to the Universities and so on, shouldn't the University of Jaffna follow this same principle in all spheres, whether academic or administrative?

YOUNG RESEARCHER'S GENETIC BREAK-THROUGH

A young scientist of the University of Jaffna has come out with some excellent results after his three-year research.

A breeding study was carried out by Mr. Siya Aathithan of the Department of Botany, University of Jaffna, for three years on the genetics of gingelly or sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) and yard long bean (*Vigna sesquipedalis* (L.)

pedigree method of selection, considering the characters such as yield, tolerance to diseases, consumer preferences and early flowering and this study resulted in the production of a new series of the yard long bean, namely the Jaffna University series:—JU-1, JU-2, JU-3, JU-4, JU-5, JU-6, JU-7, JU-8, JU-9, JU-10.

This new series possesses the following superior qualities:—(1) their

by Our University Correspondent

Fruw) in order to reveal the genetic behaviour of some economically important characters such as yield, quality and disease tolerance and evolve new superior varieties to improve these crops.

The existing potential varieties were selected and hybridization studies were effected. In the case of the yard-long bean, new hybrid selections were made following the

yield performance is almost double that of their original parent; (2) fibre content of the pods of new series is less than the better parental variety "Hawari" and hence these are tastier than the original parental varieties; (3) these new varieties are more tolerant to common diseases like bean mosaic and insect infestations, and (4) many of the new lines are early flowering types.

(Continued on page 8)

HOW IT ALL STARTED...

(Continued from page 5)

Tiger Movement. At the same time, the Government dispatched large contingents of military personnel to Tamil areas to keep Tamil Eelam under constant military surveillance and domination. Even with the intensification of the military and the tight screen of surveillance the Freedom Fights continue with their armed struggle, launch occasional strikes at chosen targets and evade all possible tactics to hunt them down. Though confronted with all odds, and obstacles, the Tiger Movement grows in its strength as the armed vanguard of the mass struggle, grows as the authentic national liberation movement to advance the cause of national freedom through armed struggle.

Our fundamental objectives are: Total independence of Tamil Eelam. The establishment of a sovereign, socialist democratic people's government.

Abolition of all forms of exploitation of man by man and the establishment of a socialist mode of production ensuring that the means of production and exchange of our country becomes the ownership of our people.

To achieve these revolutionary tasks we firmly uphold that armed revolutionary struggle is the only viable and effective path open to us to liberate our homeland. The armed revolutionary struggle advanced by our movement is the extension of the political struggle for liberation. Our guerrilla warfare, which is the mode of armed revolutionary struggle suited to our situation, will be gradually and systematically transformed into a genuine people's war of liberation. To this end, our liberation movement is working persistently to mobilise and organize the broad masses to actively participate in the national struggle.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has resolved to work in solidarity with the world national liberation movements, socialist states, international working class parties. We uphold an anti-imperialist policy and therefore, we pledge our militant solidarity with the oppressed humankind in the Third World in their struggle against imperialism, neo-colonialism, zionism, racism and other forces of reaction.

(This document was released by the political committee of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in November 1978)

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

IUF's Concern

The International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) passed an emergency resolution at its 20th Congress held recently noting with concern that "there has been a serious deterioration of the situation in Sri Lanka in relation to human and democratic rights, including trade union rights, under a continuing state of emergency since May 1982."

The resolution pinpoints the oppression the Tamil - speaking

people in the Northern and Eastern Provinces are subjected to, and the severe curtailment of normal trade union and political activity throughout Sri Lanka.

The IUF has also declared "its solidarity with the joint efforts of the 3 affiliates of the IUF in Sri Lanka, in association with other trade union organisations, to oppose the racist and repressive policies of the government of Sri Lanka."

MIRJE Backs Political Solution

The Movement for Inter-Racial Justice and Equality (MIRJE) has, in a May Day Message, called upon the working people of this country, particularly the working class, to recall "their glorious history of class solidarity, surmounting all distinctions of caste, ethnic or religious considerations in their consciousness as a class. The MIRJE calls upon them and their representative organisations (censored) to refuse to be manipulated by the ruling classes and to press for a just political solution to the ethnic conflict, a solution that will enable all persons of all ethnic groups to live in equality and in the enjoyment of their individual and group identities."

Repeal FTA: Unions

Ten trade unions—Govt. Clerical Services Union, Ceylon Teachers Union, Sri Lanka National Teachers Union, Ceylon Bank Employees Union, Ceylon Trade Union Federation, Technical, Transport and General Workers Union, Insurance Employees Union, Local Govt. Clerical Services Union, Workers and Peasants Liberation Front, United Workers Union—put forward the following demands among others at their joint May Day meeting: Withdrawal of the Emergency; Repeal of the 6th Amendment to the Constitution; Repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and other repressive legislation; Withdrawal of the armed forces from the North and East; (Censored) Release of all political detenus; Granting of Citizenship rights to estate workers.

YOUNG RESEARCHER'S ...

(Continued from Page 7)

In the case of gingelly, a total of six local and introduced potential varieties were included in the programme. Hybridization was effected in all possible combinations and thus the diallel method of crossing and analysis was performed.

The study, carried out under various photoperiodic conditions, revealed that evolution of new varieties with day neutral effect were possible with the new hybrid combinations. In another study, it was found out that our native variety, Kilinochchi local, in cross combinations performed much better than any other varieties studied. Hence, these cross combinations involving Kilinochchi local can be

included in the gingelly improvement programme.

With these investigations, Mr. Siva Aathithan submitted his thesis titled "Genetic Investigations of Sesame and Yard-long bean" at the University of Jaffna and was awarded the Degree of Master of Philosophy in Botany.

He carried out his research under the guidance of Prof. K. Theivendrarajah of the same department and Dr. P. Ganeshan of the Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka.

Mr. Siva Aathithan, who is at present attached to the University as a temporary member of the University staff, has been denied a permanent teaching post.

Is our University to continue its self-emasculation?

'Not Terrorists But Militant Revolutionaries'

— Shan

Mr. N. Sanmugathasan, Secretary of the Ceylon Communist Party, sends this May Day Message on behalf of the Ceylon Communist Party and the Ceylon Trade Union Federation:

In Sri Lanka, May Day 1985 is being celebrated in the midst of the worst economic and political crisis that the country has ever witnessed.

The economic policies of the Government have led our country to a serious economic crisis which is characterised by real unemployment, galloping inflation and the spiralling cost of living.

There has been growing opposition to these policies of the UNP among the working class and other toiling sections of the people. The government has sought to stifle these oppositions by every form of repression. The entire working class is seething with discontent.

Politically, the government is even more bankrupt. It has antagonised and lost the support of almost all sectors of the people. The country is being governed under a continuous state of emergency for nearly two years.

Censored

But the government's worst failure is its complete inability to solve the problems of the Tamil - speaking people. Faced with a challenge from Tamil militant youths who have taken to guerrilla struggle in support of a demand for a separate Tamil State of Eelam, the government has gone from disaster to disaster.

In the Northern and Eastern Provinces, there is virtually no civil administration.

Censored

That is why we call upon the Sinhala working people and the toiling people not to be misled by the communal propaganda of the government, but express their solidarity with the just struggle of the Tamil people. Those whom the government castigates as terrorists are, in fact, militant revolutionaries who are fighting for their just demand.

The UNP is the common enemy of the Sinhalese and Tamil people—particularly, the workers, peasants and intellectuals of both peoples. It is only the joint struggle of the revolutionary and progressive forces of the two peoples that can defeat the UNP and create the conditions for a just settlement of the Tamil problem and the satisfaction of the economic and political demands of the Sinhala people.

SPECIAL ISSUE

A special issue of the SATURDAY REVIEW will be published on 11th May to mark the visit to the North of the PEACE MISSION from the South.

A limited amount of advertising will be carried in the special issue.

Those interested are requested to contact our Advertising Manager early.

It is hereby notified that Mr. A. Satchithanandam of Eelanadu Ltd. has ceased to be Distributor for SATURDAY REVIEW in the North since 30-4-85. Dealers are kindly requested to settle all dues up to 30th April 1985 with Mr. Satchithanandam.

Those interested in distributing the SATURDAY REVIEW in the North are requested to contact the Circulation Manager immediately.

CIRCULATION MANAGER,
NEW ERA PUBLICATIONS LTD.
118, 4th Cross Street, JAFFNA.

NOT POLITICAL

Reference the news item (4th Column, Page 8) published in the SATURDAY REVIEW of 20th April under the heading "Monks' Visit", the 4th paragraph beginning "The Political Organisation for Humanity...." should read "THE BHIKKU ORGANISATION FOR HUMANITY"....

Printed and published by New Era Publications Ltd., 118, Fourth Cross Street, Jaffna, on 4th May 1985. Registered as a newspaper at the General Post Office, Sri Lanka under QJ 101.