

## HOT SPRING

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No. 13

January 10, 1992 marks the eighteenth anniversary of the killings of 9 Tamils who had assembled opposite Veerasingham Hall, Jaffna to listen to scholars from various parts of the world make discourses on Tamil language studies and culture.

Unable to tolerate even Tamil education and culture, the Sinhala police went on the rampage at the meeting held on 10-1-1974, and strained their guns too which resulted in the death of nine Tamils.

The death of these innocents is commemorated annually.

# CONFEDERATION OR TWO INDEPENDENT STATES

## International Community must act Rev. Richard Wooton writes to Heads of Commonwealth

ending similar conflicts in the Indian sub-continent.

I am encouraged by the role being played by the European Economic Community in bringing about a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Yugoslavia and would urge that the Australian Government persuade the Commonwealth to play such a role in the conflict in Sri Lanka.

### Violation of Human Rights

"In the South, a popular uprising by Sinhala youth was met with severe brutality. In the North-East, the war on the minority Tamils have

continued, with aerial bombardment of Tamil cities with excreta and napalm and economic blockade of Tamil areas. About a million people lost their homes and are in improvised refugee camps; over 100,000 went to India and thousands have died; others are continuing to die from starvation."

The horrendous violations of human rights by the Sri Lankan Government have been detailed in reports by the International Commission of Jurists, the European Parliamentary Delegation, Amnesty International, International Alert, British and Dutch Refugee Councils, the Jesuit and Catholic Refugee Services and the World Council of Churches.

These are collated in the attached "Forty Years of Gross Consistent and Continuing Violations of Human

Rights by the Sri Lankan Government."

**Donors of aid-guilty of complicity in repression - Internal Affair is a fiction**

"Year after year, the International Aid Consortium, IMF, World Bank etc, have donated billions of dollars to the Sri Lankan Government, allegedly for development. In fact it is this aid which enables the Government to purchase sophisticated arms. Large consignments of arms have also come from China. These weapons have been used to kill tens of thousands of civilian people. The food aid to the Tamil areas has been less than 1% of the total requirement.

These donor countries and organisations are also guilty contributors to the slaying of

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## SINHALISATION-ANOTHER MOVE FREE TRADE ZONE FOR TRINCOMALEE

Mr. Sirisena Cooray, Minister for Housing recently said at a meeting at Trincomalee that the Government proposed to create a Free Trade Zone at Trincomalee which would

provide employment for large numbers of persons.

Prior to the general elections of 1977, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, then a leading light of the UNP, made a similar statement at an election propaganda meeting of the UNP and exhorted the voters to vote UNP for better 'development' and employment opportunities. But the Tamil voters of Trincomalee understood the UNP scheme and roundly defeated the UNP candidate there. Tamil opposition to the scheme made the former Government soft-pedal the matter but the new government seems to have decided to embark on the scheme after driving thousands of Tamils out and militarising the District with Sinhala Armed Forces.

The Tamil people well understand that 'development' in the language of the Sinhala politicians means SINHALI-

ZATION. The so-called 'agricultural development' in the Trincomalee District begun by the late Mr. D. S. Senanayake and pursued by successive Sinhala Governments was meant to colonise the Tamil District of Trincomalee with a view to change the demographic pattern of the District and to cut off the geographical contiguity of the Tamil homeland of Northeast by driving a Sinhala wedge between the North and East.

Apart from Sinhala colonisation by land alienation, the successive governments of Sri Lanka also have always pursued a consistent policy of drawing industrial and urban Sinhalese workers from outside into the Trincomalee District - again with the sole motive of changing the demographic pattern of the Trincomalee. The state's administrative machinery was fully used in a most discrimina-

tory way to bring in Sinhala workers into Trincomalee at the expense of the Tamil workers.

Tamil sources pointed out how in the late sixties Sinhalese motor vehicle drivers were brought into the nationalised Port of Cargo Corporation at Trincomalee from outside when local Tamil motor vehicle drivers could have been employed and also

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### Artillery Shell Attack

Artillery shells bursts believed to be launched from the Palaly Army camp were heard in various places at Jaffna.

The shell attack occurred on Sunday, December 29 - in the early hours of the night. No reports of damage were received-

### It's 3 Ps Now!

In a passion for originality President Premadasa came out with his three "Cs" theory - consultation, consensus, compromise - all a shillage no doubt.

His erstwhile colleague now turned enemy Mr. Gamini Dissanayake - has come out with a new set of threes. It is this time three Ps.

Mr. Gamini Dissanayake is reported to have said at a meeting at Kalutara that the country is being ruled by three Ps. Premadasa, - Pirabakaran and Paskaralingam (Secretary to the Ministry of Finance).

According Mr. Dissanayake the whole up-country has been handed over to another Tamil, Minister Thondaman.



OUR READERS SAY

# Are Tamil Students Not Citizens of Sri Lanka ?

Time and again your journal Hot Spring spotlighted the plight of the unfortunate G. C. E (O/L) and A/L students. It is a pity that the Government of Sri Lanka still does not recognise the importance of the value of holding the public examinations on par with those in the South. The Ministry of Education is coming under the Honourable President Premadasa who always boasts about his policy of no discrimination on racial and religious grounds. The Regional Director of Education, Jaffna has on his part done his best to hold the G.C.E (O/L) examination but what happened? Why bombing of

Examination Centres, declaration of curfew during the test period? Why sending the Question Papers in instalments? Why delay in sending the Identity Cards? Why no adequate staff and stationery? and why change of exam centres overnight making the poor students to run from pillar to post to know the new Centres? It is worse with Private Candidates.

Aren't they aware that the G.C.E (O/L) and A/L Students are already pushed back and are made Second Class citizens in the eyes of Sri Lankan Student population, as Sinhala Only Act of 1956 made the Tamil public ser-

vants orphans in Public Service? Why deny the children of the Northeast-Tamil Eelam their legitimate human right to sit the Public Examination along with all other

Sinhala Students in the South and to avail of the opportunities that are given to others in the field of higher education and in employment. So why grumble over the Tamil Eelam

cry? Are they not right in their cry for freedom and independence?

Miss. Rita Jeyanthi.  
Jaffna

## What Price! Lunch and Meals

The Editor,  
Hot Spring.

Dear Sir

According to 'Uthayan' newspaper, one policeman who was on duty at the recent SAARC Summit has claimed Rs. 4000/- for one meal at a Five-Star Hotel in Colombo.

It is further revealed that the Paying Authority has

been puzzled about this claim to settle this Bill.

Sometime back one multi-millionaire from the United States of America flew to Paris to enjoy a lunch. His bill was 4000 US dollars. The tips were 1000 US dollars. Still he was not pleased over the Lunch!

On the other hand the minor staff of government hospitals are entitled to have

meals at the rate of only Rs. 10/- per meal. There is also widespread discontent among the patients that the food is either being pilfered or reduced in quantity. Most of them get their meals from outside.

How can we progress and prosper as long as lavish expenses are allowed? "An empty sack will never stand Upright"

J. Arulanandam  
Vayavilan

## No Claim Certificates Cause Non - Payment of Pensions

Many Government Officers who worked in the war torn Northeast and who sent in their retirement papers are

unable to get even their pension payments approved because the 'No-claim' certificate required to be attached to the pension applications cannot be filed by local heads.

Mr. P. S. Tiruchelvam, the Secretary of the Northern District Pensioners' Association said that it is a requirement in Government service that all pensions applications from officers desiring or having to retire on reaching age of retirement should be accompanied by a No Claim Certificate from the Head of Department that the state has no financial claim due from the officer on account of anything supplied to that officer during the period of his service.

This arises from accounting stores supplied as well as any advances paid for specified purposes.

In the case of many officers in the Northeast they have abandoned their places of work because of Army invasion. In certain cases even Government buildings have been destroyed. There is not much difficulty in finding out whether any recoveries from pensions have to be made on account of financial advances paid because such records will be available in the Head offices too. But as far as other stores are concerned the problem is great because many officers ran from their places or

work without handing over stores because no one would wait to receive.

Mr. Tiruchelvam said that local heads of Departments of Government are aware of the difficulties but unfortunately they are helpless because a policy decision by Government is necessary to

on the requirement of these No-Claim Certificates in respect of officers who were compelled to flee their places of work before retirement as a result of the war situation. The Government has to waive off the necessity for this No-Claim Certificate in respect of these officers, he said.

## SPORTS Soccer

At the Finasi played at St. John's College grounds on 21-12-91, St. Mary's beat Singing Fish by three goals to two in a Tie breaker. It was nil all at close and even extra time did not produce any result. Mr. A. Devaraja was referee.

In the Community Centres Final, St. Nicholas beat their neighbours St. Mary's by 2-1. Mr. Arulpiragasam officiated.

In the Football League Tournaments, St. Mary's emerged champions in most of the Tournaments.

St. Antony's - Best Volley Ball Team.

Greenfield Club - Best Basketball Team.

Centralites - Best Cricket Team.

Tellipalai Club - The Best Athletic Team.

Y. M. C. A. 'Family Nite' and Indoor Games Festival was held on 30-12-91. There was keen competition because of the numerous participants.

The winners in the Open Tournament were - Carrom - T. Ramesh.

Table Tennis - J. Mohan  
Badminton - S. Aruman  
Draughts - M. Thambithurai

The Chief Guest at the Festival was Mr. Thiagarajah and the visitors were entertained with a Magic Show by Mr. Aseervatham.

— Vijayakumar —

## Payment of Risk Allowance Bank Employees seek GA's help

The Jaffna District Bank Employees say that the Risk Allowance paid to other employees of Government in the District have not been paid to them for the period January 1989 to December, 1989.

The Bank Employees of the Jaffna District have sought the assistance of the Government Agent, Jaffna to secure them the payment of this allowance.

According to the Employees this allowance was paid to all Government employees in the District including local Government Employees and University employees. They also say that according to Press Note issued by the Ceylon Bank Employees' Union it was agreed by the Senior Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Finance that the Banking sector was included for the payment of this Risk Allowance.

The Bank Employees of the Jaffna District have requested the Government Agent, Jaffna to take up this matter on their behalf either with the Prime Minister or the President.

## Round - up and Arrests of Tamils

Reports of regular round - up of Tamil villages and arrest of civilian Tamils in the occupied areas of the Batticaloa and Amparai Districts have reached Jaffna.

According to the reports hundreds of Tamils have been arrested in these areas of the two Districts in the second half of December last.

No further reports in regard to the arrested persons have been received.

## Seasons Greetings from North to South

Christ was born in a Cattle Shed  
To the tinkle of the cow's bell  
Eelam babs are born in refugee shed  
To the roar of a different 'Bell' (Heli)  
Just out of the womb  
They see our heroes' tomb  
Blast of the bomb they hear  
Fails to make them fear  
Herod killed the two year olds  
Prema kills the two month olds  
Not by the Sword  
But by his words (orders)  
With no SMA and economic blockade  
That failed in the last decade  
Dharmishta to preach  
But no settlement to reach  
All he preaches  
Sends his soldiers in cruches  
The war he heads  
Drives the Lankan economy dead  
Eelam could survive  
Can Lanka revive?  
Jesus cared for the oppressed  
Lankans make us depressed  
All are full of joy  
When Christ is thought  
Not the Eelam boy  
As he is always fought  
When we think of peace  
You don't take with ease  
Forget your hate  
For Lanka's fate  
If you fail to stretch your arms  
New horns too will fetch the arms  
So on this joyful day  
Let's think of a way  
To live in peace  
Or fight for a piece  
We wish you well and pray  
You are not made the Politicians' prey.

Kokuvil (East)

K. Sivasubramaniam



# Military Excesses and War Crimes by Security Forces for Public Inquiry

Recently the USSR (which exists no more) asked the former East German President Eric Honecker to quit the USSR within seven days or in the alternative face a deportation order to Germany. The reason for the expulsion order was due to a request made by the German Government to the USSR to hand over the former East German President to face charges in that country for the violations of human rights he had committed while in power in what was East Germany. It is believed that he ordered the killings of East German civilians who dared to cross the Berlin Wall to seek political asylum in West Germany.

Violators of human rights or those who have committed war crimes irrespective of the positions they held in the past, are brought to book and in this context the former East German President too, was not an exception. For the time being, North Korea might offer to take him but what will be his fate when the two Koreas decide to merge or when like the East European Countries, North Korea too abandons Communism and becomes a free state.

The fate awaiting the former East German President and the experiences suffered at the hands of Security Forces in Philippines, before the fall of President Marcos; in Iran before the fall of the Shah and in Argentina after the revolution following the Falkland War, seems to have created some sort of panic in the minds of the Security Forces in Sri Lanka. Already visa was refused to a retired Security Forces Chief by a Western Country. It is understood that the refusal was prompted by the part played by him in the past in making people "disappear". Eichman of Nazi Germany was hunted down in far off Argentina after a lapse of many years and kidnapped to Israel to face charges and death sentence there for sending thousands of Jews to the gas chambers of death.

A former Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Waldheim, who after relinquishing his post, contested and won the Presidential election in Austria

himself, had to face aspersions made against him regarding the role he played in Nazi war crimes. In this case he was fortunate that there was no convincing proof against him on the accusations and he was able to win the Presidential Elections but everyone may not be that lucky to get off.

Violations of human rights, war crimes and military excesses are closely monitored by International Human Rights non-governmental agencies and therefore their findings and reports can in no way be influenced by governments. In fact their findings and reports do influence the grant of Development Loans by the Developed Countries, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In the case of Sri Lanka, the Aid Consortium meeting to be held in Paris had been postponed several times last year and is now scheduled

## VENTHAN

to be held in February, 1992. The reason adduced for this postponement was Sri Lanka's black records of human rights violations.

Perhaps, it was due to the forthcoming Aid Consortium meeting, Sri Lanka has decided to accommodate many suggestions made in the reports of Amnesty International, whereas it had earlier dubbed the "Amnesty International" as a "terrorist organisation" and disregarded all reported findings and suggestions published by that Organisation.

The Government of President Premadasa continues to remain in power mainly due to the support it derives from the security forces under it. So President Premadasa will not do anything that would expose his security forces even if they had committed any Human Rights violations, or war crimes. Even their military excesses will be easily explained away as mere symptoms of 'sun-stroke' or 'caught in the crossfire'. Sri Lankan Government and its security forces cannot always hide behind such unconvincing answers, as they both have numerous skeletons hidden in their cupboards. So Sri Lanka decided to take the issue about the link between Aid for Deve-

lopment and Human Rights to the SAARC Conference held in Colombo recently.

What appears to have bothered the Conference was the position taken up by some Donor countries that Aid for Development cannot be given to countries with bad records of human rights violations, as leading member-states of the SAARC have already been accused of human rights violations even by International Organisations like Amnesty International, International Alert, Asia Watch and the World Council of Churches which has its headquarters in Geneva itself. Of course amongst the seven member states of SAARC, Sri Lanka is leading the list of countries with records of human rights violations. So the topic that engaged the attention of member countries of the SAARC at its recent Conference held in Colombo was that the "Grant of loans for Development should not be linked to human rights violations in Donee countries."

## Objections raised by Human Rights Organisations to SAARC Declaration

International Human Rights Organisations are expected to voice their objections to the recent declarations made by the SAARC that the Economic Rights too are as important as Human Rights. A prominent lawyer and human rights advocate, Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam in a BBC interview broadcast to the SAARC region, has expressed disappointment over the declarations made by the Heads of SAARC countries. Instead of adopting a positive role, the SAARC leaders have taken a defensive attitude, he said.

This is the first time Human Rights Issues were included in the agenda of SAARC conference. Leaders of the South Asian countries have exposed themselves and acted as dictators arguing that development must be given precedence over human rights, said another prominent personage of the Human Rights movement.

SAARC Conference sources said that the very suggestion

to include Human Rights issue in the SAARC Declaration came from India. The same sources further added that human rights issue was included at the last minute in the drafting of the Declaration.

The SAARC Declaration further states that civil and political rights were inter-dependent on Economic and Social Rights and that they should be given equal importance. It further adds that it should not be viewed on a narrow political basis.

So now acting on the SAARC Declaration, as its Leader, President R. Premadasa has perforce to do battle against giving too much importance to Human Rights at the expense of Economic Development. Whatever be his pretensions, he is under compulsion to give cover to his Security Personnel who have been caught on the wrong foot while committing Human Rights violations or war crimes by engaging in military excesses not only in the Northeastern Province, where it is carrying on a confrontation with the LTTE but also in the South where it is suppressing the JVP Insurgency.

Thousands of civilians have been arbitrarily killed by the Security Forces and many hundreds were made to "disappear" either forcefully or involuntarily. The Case Study of many such persons have been well documented by International Human Rights organisations. Although President Premadasa is on a bad wicket, he has no other alternative. So he has to continue his battle to shield his Security Forces who have a notorious record of human rights violations.

The Tamils in general and the various Citizens' Com-

mittees in particular must assist the International Community in its documentation of human rights violations by providing truthful accounts of such violations supported by Affidavits obtained from either victims who have been subjected to torture or inhuman treatment or from their relatives. Due to prevailing conditions of postal delays and other inconveniences, such documents do not reach them in due time. Further, the Sri Lankan Government persists in its refusal to appoint an impartial and independent Commission to inquire into military excesses or violations of human rights by its security personnel. Even if a Commission is appointed, as in the case of the Vavuniya incident where the 'victims' happened to be Mediciens Sans Frontiere (MSF), it could well end up in a white-washing exercise.

So, the Citizens' Committees must draw a parallel from the 'de Kretser Commission' appointed by the Jaffna Public Affairs Committee to inquire into the incidents in the wake of the Tamil Research Conference held in 1974 where nine Tamils lost their lives. The Report of that Committee due to the foresight of a parliamentarian has found its place in the Hansard and become an authentic official document. Many more such incidents have happened in Tamil Eelam involving the Security Forces of Sri Lanka such as the massacres at Kokatticholai, Valvettiturai and Mandativu. The Citizens' Committees must hold public inquiries engaging the services of retired Judicial Officers into these incidents and do their best to have such findings published in English for wider publicity.

## Thondaman comes under fire from Gamini too

Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, former Minister and one of the leading dissidents from the UNP has severely criticised Mr. S. Thondaman.

Mr. Dissanayake has said that Mr. Thondaman now wears three caps - one is intended for the LTTE, one

for President Premadasa and the other for himself!

Mr. Dissanayake also has said that a referendum would be necessary to implement Mr. Thondaman's proposals according to the Rajiv Gandhi-Jayewardene Accord.



# GIVE UP MAHA WAMSA MENTALITY

## Face Reality

Dear brothers and sisters of the Sinhala Nation.

Fraternal Greetings to you!

Before I begin this letter, let me introduce myself to you. I am a retired public servant having retired from service prematurely owing to the Sinhala Only Act which had placed me in a disabled position in performing my duties as I was one recruited through the English medium. I was born in Kandy, brought up in Colombo, educated in Jaffna and employed in various parts of the Island. During my career, both as a student and while in employment, I had the pleasant opportunity of mixing and inter-mingling with members of all communities. Thus I have enjoyed the hospitality of many Sinhalese and in turn they have enjoyed my hospitality. Even today, some of them correspond with me regularly and thus we maintain and exchange cordial relationship which I believe is a manifestation of human qualities.

Whenever we discussed our problems during the

course of our various friendly interchange of ideas, I have always observed my Sinhalese friends not only expressing sympathy with the Tamils and their problems but also went to the extent of blaming the racial policies perpetrated against the Tamils by the Sinhalese leaders. They appreciated and understood our problems and said that the Tamils were being discriminated against in almost all fields and went to the extent of suggesting that an immediate solution should be found to alleviate their grievances. But whenever a Government in power tried to bring some proposals to resolve the problem, in agreement with a party representing the Tamils, the reaction of the Sinhalese politicians and Buddhist clergy had been all along, protests and anti Tamil propaganda, which ultimately resulted in the proposals or agreements being dropped by the Govt.

in power. Examples are the Bandaranaike - Chelvanayakam Pact and Dudley - Chelvanayakam Pact. The latest is that the C. W. C. leader and Minister Thondaman had submitted some proposals to the Government for ending the ethnic problem and already we hear cries of protests, both from Sinhalese political leaders and the Buddhist clergy. And we are certain that Thondaman's proposals also will face the same fate as the earlier ones met. What does it show? When it comes to politics, the Sinhalese become enemies of Tamils. They do not want to subscribe to the dictum "Live and Let Live". This attitude of the Sinhalese have developed ever since the publication of that myth called 'Mahavamsa'. This is what is known as Mahavamsa mentality. Mahavamsa, as you all know was authored by an unknown monk in the 5th

century A. D. and it purports to be a history of the kings of Ceylon. The first one among them is supposed to be Vijaya, the grandson of the union between an Indian princess and a lion and the rest are descendants of that race and Tamils and so on.

The longstanding Tamil presence in the Island on the other hand is based on solid evidence such as archaeological findings etc. Whatever it be, let us approach the question with modern civilised practical and logical thinking and on humanitarian grounds - universal respect for, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. This is what the United Nations has enshrined in its Charter on Human Rights. Articles of the said Charter say that all human beings

are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brother-hood. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security. No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel and inhuman treatment or punishment. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrests or detention.

These are some of the main provisions of the Charter on Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the U. N. General Assembly on 10th December, 1948. Sri Lanka is also a member of the United Nations and is obliged to strictly adhere to these principles. But in reality what has happened and what is happening in Sri Lanka is a gross violation of almost all these provisions, particularly when it comes to dealing with the Tamils. This is quite evident from the various reports published by International Agencies like the Amnesty International which is a

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## United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

### International Photographic Competition on the Environment 1991 - 1992

#### Focus on Your World

From the 1st to the 12th of June 1992, a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) will be held in Rio de Janeiro. 1992 coincides with the 20th anniversary of UNEP, the United Nations Environment Programme. June 5th is World Environment Day commemorating the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm at which the concept of UNEP was conceived.

The 1992 conference may be the last opportunity for governments and individuals to determine how best they

can safeguard the world environment for future generations. UNEP, sponsored by Canon Inc. is organizing a world-wide photographic competition to draw attention to the environmental issues which will be addressed at the Rio de Janeiro conference.

The competition invites the submission of photographs

with the theme "Focus on Your World", from professional and amateur photographers world-wide and of all ages and nationalities. The winning photographs will be exhibited throughout the world in a subsequent travelling photo exhibition which will generate global awareness of environmental problems.

## NO NEXUS BETWEEN WAR & PEACE EFFORTS

The President of Sri Lanka, Mr. R. Premadasa, is reported to have told a press conference in Colombo that there was no nexus between the current war and peace efforts.

According to Mr. Premadasa two bodies have been set up to resolve the long standing ethnic conflict. They are the All Party Conference and the Parliamentary Select Committee. Mr. Thondaman's proposals are before the Select Committee.

Mr. Premadasa further said that any one could make any effort to settle the problem. He would welcome all such efforts.

"But there is no nexus between war and peace efforts. The armed Forces will go on discharging their duties. It is the duty of the armed forces to rescue the people from danger." Mr. Premadasa is reported to have so replied a reporter who asked about army operations while peace efforts were being made.

Only and have been exhibited at the Notice Board of the Hospital. Only the designations or names of the posts have been written in English. All other information is in Sinhala only.

## SINHALA ONLY IN JAFFNA HOSPITAL

A report says that applications have been called for four posts from minor employees working in the Jaffna Hospital.

According to the reports the applications received from Colombo are in Sinhala

The most suitable competition entries will also be preserved in a UNEP photographic library which will provide a powerful visual presentation of today's most pressing environmental problems.

Send us your photographs. Show us your concern for the environment.

Director - General / South East Asia Centre for Environment & Development (SEACED).

## THE BAN

*The ban on things that sustain life,  
Is that which irks each man and wife.  
Alas! it pains none in the world outside,  
They enjoy all things we are denied!*

*Those who live in the developed lands,  
Raise no reproving voice or hand:  
At our misery they just look on,  
While the deaths by scarcity we daily mourn.*

*Should a man-made law sway superior,  
While by hunger and want man pine and suffer?  
Nay, if thus be, - civilization means nothing to me!  
The whole world a hypocrite, if this they fail to see.*

*When a tyrant holds us ransom for his desire to rule,  
Should the world look on and sit cool?  
Ah! shouldn't the eyes of Nature open  
To engulf him by disaster and raise our hope?*

*Fie! Fie! the wicked world;  
Its pretence turns our hearts cold.  
If there be one wise land on earth,  
To strike this tyrant, please come forth.*

— Ram —



# HOME GARDENS

The unprecedented high cost of all consumer articles, including vegetables, has induced everyone to explore ways and means of combating this situation. The sudden interest in home gardens is one of them. Having been associated with home garden activities through the Redd Barna Community Development Project and the UNICEF-M.C. Urban Basic Services Project for nearly ten years I wish to share my experience with the readers of your most informative journal. In order to conserve space I will make my comments as briefly as possible. If however, any one wishes to get any clarification I will be only too happy to give it.

## I. What is a home garden?

Vegetables, fruits, and other edible items grown in the premises in which one lives. Any cultivation outside the home surroundings will not come under this scheme.

## II. What are the benefits?

- The consumption of fresh vegetables and fruits will increase the nutritional level of the family.
- Supplement the family income.
- Useful hobby for the children.
- Good exercise, especially for the elderly people.

## III. The preparatory phase

i. Education: The field officers of the Departments of Agriculture and Health will carry out educational activities for about a month or two. The target groups will be Rural Development Societies, Community Centres, Cultivation committees, mothers at the clinics, Senior children in schools and any other suitable groups. This educational activity need not be separated from other routine work. Only some emphasis should be given to this aspect of the educational programme.

ii. Arrangements for the provision of seeds and seedlings. This is usually done by the Department of Agriculture. Government farms in the area can do this. Individual farmers who have experience in this work could be assigned this work, under the supervision of the Officers of the Dept. of Agriculture. Seeds and seedlings should be sold at a nominal price.

iii. Fertilisers and insecticides should be made available to prospective home gardeners. Sometimes considerable difficulty is experienced by the farmers to purchase these items.

Note: These preliminary arrangements could be discussed at a monthly staff meeting of the A.G.A., to which the M.O.H. and the Agricultural Extension Officer could be invited.

## IV. What can we cultivate?

The number of plants and the exact dimensions of the beds will depend on the availability of land suitable for cultivation and the amount of water supply. We can, however, give some suggestions based on the nutritive value of materials and suitability of the soil.

- Cow pea, green gram, black gram, beans and any other protein rich variety. (at least one kind)
- Brinjals, tomatoes, ladies fingers, bitter guord, pumpkin and any other vegetable fruits (at least three kinds)
- Cabbage (mulaikeerai), Ponnankarai, spinach, agathi, curry leaves, and any other leafy vegetables (at least three varieties)
- Manioc, sweet potato, king yam and any other edible yams (at least one variety)
- Papaw, Nelli, Guava, Mango, Plantain, lime, orange and any other fruits. (at least one each of two or three varieties)

## An Open Letter..

(Continuation from Pag 4)

worldwide movement independent of any government, faction, ideology, economic interest or religious creed.

For a period of about 4 decades all Sinhala political parties that represented the Sinhala Nation and governed the Island alternatively deliberately denied the very basic human rights of the Tamil speaking people. Practically almost all political movements of the Sinhala Nation including the Marxist parties turned a deaf ear to the Tamil problem. It had always been confrontation and not co-existence and the result is the Tamil Nation is forced to take their own inevitable political decision to struggle for an independent Tamil State. Such a State is not new to the Tamils. They were in fact having their own kingdom co-existing with the neighbouring Sinhalese kingdoms until they were conquered by the European rulers - the Portuguese, the Dutch and the Britisher. It was the Britisher who lumped us together for their own administrative convenience. When the so called independence was granted in 1948,

## V. Incentives :

i. Competitions : At least three months notice should be given to the people

If funds are available, it can be made an annual event.

An officer of the Department of Agriculture should be in the panel of Judges. Judges should take into consideration, among other matters, the proper utilisation of the land available and the provision of water in the premises or outside it. Prizes should preferably be cultivation implements.

ii. Issue of seeds, seedlings, fertilisers and insecticides at subsidised prices.

iii. Issue of at least one sprayer per G.S.O. level committee.

iv. Regular visits by officers of the Department of Agriculture.

v. Training of committee members as motivators.

(It would be helpful if assistance could be obtained from organisations such as Redd Barna, Unicef, Care, Norad or any other Non Government institution)

## VI Organizing the Community for action :

The success of any community project largely depends

on the most desirable and sensible action on the part of the Britisher should have been to have granted us independence separately before they left the shores of this Island. If they had done that noble act which was also obligatory on their part, both morally and legally, today we Tamils and you Sinhalese would have developed our own territories and progressed in every respect, recognised by the international community as the proud possessors of two independent sovereign States co-existing in the Indian Ocean. The last forty years of turmoil and tribulations coupled with our economic backwardness and underdevelopment could have been avoided only if the Sinhalese had been conscious of the foregoing facts and acted accordingly. Even at this last hour, I take this opportunity to appeal to every right thinking Sinhala brother and sister to give up your Mahavamsa mentality and face reality and be one with the progressive world so that we both Nations can march hand in hand towards progress and prosperity.

Yours fraternally,  
Arul P. Nesan.

on how the community is organised. Community organization, to be effective, must necessarily start at grass root level. For our purpose we can take the Grama Sevaka Officer's area as a unit.

i. A committee consisting of representatives of the Rural Development Societies, Community Centres, Cultivation committees and any other voluntary organizations. To this committee must be Co-opted the G.S.O, the Agricultural Field Assistant and the P.H.I. of the area as ex-officio members.

ii. At the Divisional (A.G.A area) level. The President

nts / Secretaries of the G.S.O. level committees will constitute the Divisional level committee. The M. O. H. and the Agricultural Extension Officer will be ex-officio members. The A. G. A. will be the Ex-officio president. He will co-ordinate the activities of the committee at the District level (G. A. 's level)

Proper planning and effective participation could thus be ensured. It has been our experience that if the G. S. O. level committee members are given a short course of training they become an easily available resource for the community. Apart from that any assistance given to the people could be channelled through them.

S. Ponnampalam  
Karaveddi

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THESE STUDENTS ?

Amnesty International has listed 46 Sinhalese persons as having "disappeared" after having been incarcerated at the Sevana Army Camp at Embilipitiya in the Ratnapura District.

The A.I. says that the relatives of these disappeared persons do not know their whereabouts or what has happened to them. All efforts made by the parents of most of the "disappeared" who are mostly students to find some information about their

'disappeared' children have proved futile to date. All their appeals to various high ranking officials including the Prime Minister and the President have proved to be of no avail.

The A.I. has criticised the Government of Sri Lanka for its failure to acknowledge responsibility publicly into the case of these 'disappeared' persons- We publish here 30 names of these unfortunate Sinhalese students:-

Name	Age	Arrested by	Date of Arrest
1. K. Rupasena	18	Army	2 - 8 - 1989
2. G. A. Rohana	18	...	2 - 8 - 1989
3. H. A. P. Gamage	20	...	3 - 8 - 1989
4. S. B. S. Priyantha	17	...	3 - 8 - 1989
5. N. A. Wijesinghe	19	...	3 - 8 - 1989
6. W. A. Somapala	18	...	18 - 8 - 1989
7. K. D. A. Stephen	18	...	8 - 10 - 1989
8. Rev. E. Sumangala Thero	31	...	9 - 10 - 1980
9. D. Ekanayake	17	...	11 - 10 - 1989
10. J. C. Dissanayake	17	...	19 - 10 - 1989
11. J. Hettigama	18	...	21 - 10 - 1989
12. D. D. R. K. Wijetunge	17	Armed men in civilian dress	6 - 11 - 1989
13. Y. V. A. Susil Kumara	16	Army	11 - 11 - 1989
14. N. A. C. S. Jayantha	16	...	11 - 11 - 1989
15. G. W. R. Ratnawera	16	...	16 - 11 - 1989
16. K. P. P. Kumara	16	...	17 - 11 - 1989
17. H. H. P. Wijesinghe	17	...	17 - 11 - 1989
18. D. K. B. Aratne	16	Army	17 - 11 - 1989
19. P. I. Malwaite	16	Armed Men	20 - 11 - 1989
20. P. H. D. Nihal	17	...	20 - 11 - 1989
21. S. H. N. M. de Silva	17	...	1 - 12 - 1989
22. R. I. R. Parana withana	16	Army	1 - 12 - 1989
23. K. Karunasena	19	...	1 - 12 - 1989
24. S. P. P. Handuwela	17	...	17 - 12 - 1989
25. P. L. Guruge	16	...	17 - 12 - 1989
26. J. P. Jayawarna	17	...	18 - 12 - 1989
27. Y. V. A. Susantha	19	...	18 - 12 - 1989
28. H. U. C. Rohan	18	...	24 - 12 - 1989
29. N. K. Guneratne	17	...	26 - 12 - 1989
30. N. Karunadasa	22	...	26 - 12 - 1989



# HOT SPRING

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## Stop Aid for Peace.

Mr. S. Thondaman placed some proposals before the Parliamentary Select Committee as a basis for the solution of the ethnic problem in Ceylon.

Baudha - Sinhala chauvinists have girded up their loins and are on the war path.

Already a new organisation has been formed called the "Guardians of the Sinhala Nation" under the leadership of a former Minister in Mr. J. R. Jayawardhene's cabinet, Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya.

A Buddhist monk has predicted an "eternal war" between the Tamils and Sinhalese if Mr. Thondaman's proposals are accepted.

At Kandy too, the Buddhist clergymen have met and decided to oppose Mr. Thondaman's proposals.

The President, Mr. Premadasa has whilst assuring the Buddhist clergy that their advice would always be sought by the Government, also said that unless the Tamil problem was solved there was 'danger of the country being divided'. Perhaps Mr. Premadasa is in a dilemma.

But the Sinhala politicians have never been true or honest in their dealings with the Tamils. One has to just recount what happened to the Bandaranayake-Chelvanayakam Pact and the Dudley - Chelvanayakam Pact. The evil mind of Mr. J. R. Jayawardhene was bent on retracting from the Dudley - Chelvanayakam Pact of which he himself was a co-draftsman.

Both the Buddhist clergy and the Sinhala politician are bent on retaining Sinhala hegemony over the Tamils. In this context, it would be impossible for anyone to instil some sort of sense into the heads of the Sinhala chauvinists.

After all the Sinhalese have every thing. The entire machinery of the State - the Legislature, Executive and Armed Forces are theirs. So why worry?

They can do things as they like. They can dismiss the Tamils as "Terrorists" and hide their own tyranny and the reign of terror they have let loose on the Tamils, if international criticism is heard. Even this international criticism comes from Non-State organisations. Therefore it is very simple to ignore them. Did not the late Mr. Ranjan Wijeyaratne call the Amnesty International a terrorist organisation?

The only thing that the Sinhala rulers want is foreign financial aid. No state has declined to provide aid to Sri Lanka which is committing a genocide of the Tamils.

World governments must take cognisance of the fact that it is the aid they give to the racist, terrorist, Government of Sri Lanka that is sustaining its illegitimate rule over Tamil Eelam and its people and laying to waste Tamil Eelam territory and its people.

As Rev. Richard Wooton has said this is complicity on the part of the international community in the reign of terror set in motion by Sri Lanka.

## BUDDHIST CLERGY AND POLITICIANS:

# Up in Arms Against Thondaman's Proposals

The Buddhist clergy of the Malwattha Chapter have lodged their strong protest against the proposals made by Mr. S. Thondaman. It is learned that the clergymen of this chapter had at a meeting decided to call upon the Government to reject Mr. Thondaman's proposals for peace. The Head of the Malwattha chapter Rev. Vipassi Thero has said that the proposals of Mr. Thondaman would hand over Northeastern province to the Tamils. They are completely opposed to the proposals.

Another Buddhist Priest Rev. Madige Pangnaseeka Thero has warned that Mr. Thondaman's proposals would entail permanent war between the Sinhalese of the South and the the Tamils of the North. The concept of traditional Tamil homeland is a novel concept introduced by the Rajiv Gandhi-Jayawardhene Accord. He has questioned whether President Premadasa was going to accept Mr. Thondaman's proposals even at the risk of losing his power.

In the meantime a new organization styled the

'Guardians of Sinhala Nation' has been organized under the Presidentship of Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya, a former Minister in Mr. Jayawardhene's Cabinet. Mr. Jayasuriya resigned his Ministership after the Signing of the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardhene Accord.

Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya has said that the new organization will fight to safeguard the unity of Sri Lanka and for the safety of Sinhalese people.

In the meantime former Minister Mr. Gamini Dissanayake has said that the whole of the country has been handed over to Mr. S. Thondaman and he rules supreme there. Former Minister Mr. Lalith Athulath Mudali has hinted that Mr. Thondaman's proposals could not have been made without the knowledge of President Premadasa.

President Premadasa was in Kandy this week and he met the head of the Malwattha chapter and told him that the Government had always followed the advice of the Buddhist clergy and would continue to do so. He is also reported to have

expressed his fear that there was a 'danger of the country being divided' if a solution to the Tamil problem is not found.

Mr. Thondaman had stated earlier that he was not perturbed by the opposition to his proposals but welcomed them as an aspect of democracy and expressed his determination to go to Jaffna but is now reported to be rethinking the matter. The Tamil daily paper published by the Lake House has carried a news that Mr. Thondaman may not go to Jaffna in view of the opposition to his proposals from the Buddhist Sinhala elements.

## Tamil Civilian Shot Dead

Reports from Trincomalee state that a Tamil civilian was tortured and shot dead by Sri Lankan soldiers.

The incident happened on Saturday, December 21 at a place called Ravadichenai in the Trincomalee District.

The report identifies the victim as Vanniar Packian.

## Confederation...

(Continuation from Page 1)

innocent people in Sri Lanka. It is time to recognise this international complicity in a program of murder, violence, and repression of minorities. Is it not a fiction that the war in Sri Lanka is an internal matter when the Government side receives such massive external aid?

## Tyrants call patriots terrorists

It is usual for tyrannical Governments to describe rebels and patriots as terrorists. The Sri Lankan Government has publicised to the world that militant

Tamil LTTE Group is a terrorist group.

I am concerned by some reports of LTTE's killings of civilians. However, I am also conscious that but for LTTE's defence, many more Tamils would have been killed by the Sri Lankan army.

## Tamil Nation and state must be recognised

There are certain considerations before a people could be regarded as a nation. Tamils had for centuries a flourishing kingdom. They have a recognisable identity, an ancient heritage and way of life, a common language with much literary tradition,

a tradition of learning, religion and democratic life, a traditional homeland which is economically viable, with scope for industrial, agricultural and maritime development, technical personnel with access to technical knowledge. They have also reacted to recent oppression with a common urge and consensus for their own sovereignty.

It is my view that the time has come to end this long and bloody struggle and for the international community to recognise the need for a Tamil Nation and State.

(Excerpts from Tamil Nation, London by Courtesy)

## Sinhalisation...

(Continuation from Page 1)

the case of Sinhalese from outside being brought into the Ilmanite Factory at Pulmodai in the Trincomalee District as watchers when there were any number of local persons available to be employed in this category. The same sources pointed out that even a strike by the Tamil workers against employment of outside Sinhalese did not budge the Govern-

ment from its determination to employ Sinhalese from outside when there was local labour available. The same story was repeated in the Flour Milling Factory and the Cement Factory sited in Trincomalee District. The present move is to Sinhalise Trincomalee District in a way other than by land alienation for agriculture. The three-pronged attack on Trincomalee takes place in various ways. Geographically the Padaviya colonisation scheme

is a wedge between Trincomalee and the Northern Tamil District of Mullaitivu; the Allai colonisation scheme is a wedge between Trincomalee and the adjoining Tamil District of Batticaloa on the south. The Kanthalai colonisation scheme cuts off large tracts of lands on the west. Similarly three categories of Sinhalese from outside are brought into Trincomalee - Some are farmers, others are fishermen and the third category is the industrial worker.

## INDIAN ALTRUISM !

A local newspaper carried a news item that certain Indian Newspapers had reported that while the Indian Government was moving heaven and earth to portray the Tigers as a terrorist movement in the international stage by involving the Liberation Tigers in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the moves attempted by Premadasa to recognise the Liberation Tigers as the sole representatives of the Eelam Tamils and conducting talks with them would disgrace India internationally.

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