

HOT SPRING

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The International
Recognition of Sovereignty

The problem with international recognition of sovereignty is that there is no generally accepted formula for determining which nations are in fact sovereign and no formula for assessing when recognition should be given or withheld. Peoples and governments often neglect to examine the basis for their conclusions

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INTERVENE APPEAL TO:

PRESIDENT CARTER FOUNDATION

USA Tamil Sangam moves:

The Ilankai Tamil Sangam, the Association of Tamils of Sri Lanka in U. S. A. has requested the President Carter Foundation to mediate in the TAMIL - SRI LANKA conflict.

The letter signed by the President of the Sangam, Mr. J. M. Rajaratnam and Secretary, Mr. S. Selvachandran states that the Sangam had not sought the approval of either of the warring party about the Sangam decision to petition the President Carter Foundation.

Exclusively Sinhala Army.

The letter further adds that the Sri Lankan Government's Armed Forces, who are recruited exclusively from only one of the two warring communities, strikes members of the other community

with impunity and regardless of whether or not they are combatants.

Legal immunity against Atrocities.

Well over 90 percent of people killed by government forces are uninvolved civilians. The legislature in Sri Lanka (dominated by the Sinhalese) has so far passed two motions providing legal immunity for the security forces for their actions.

Reign of Terror

Vigilante groups believed to be in Government employ, terrorize civilians. Unarmed

civilians are abducted; dead bodies (some headless, others with burning tyre - necklaces) are left at street junctions. There are no estimates of the disappeared and attempts at assessments have been thwarted by arrests and further deaths of those attempting to collect data.

Indian Failure

The Government of India intervened in 1987 but failed because she entered the scene with her own agenda rather than as a mediator. India was mainly

concerned with the increasing American and Israeli influence in the Island. This is apparent from the fact that the 1987 Accord deals mainly with India's regional security; the reference to the Tamil question in the Accord is rather cursory.

India did not want Sri Lanka to have a federal structure. India armed and trained some of the rebel groups and wanted these groups that were loyal to India to gain power in the Tamil regional government. The net result is that Indian intervention failed.

Foreign Mediation necessary

Though certain other Governments notably Australia, Canada and Norway amongst others have indicated their willingness to mediate, their efforts have not come to fruition.

The Association has said that it believes that an independent non-governmental organisation such as the President Carter Foundation is better equipped to act as a mediator than "Governments" and has called upon the Foundation to intervene in a meaningful way to avoid death and destruction and to find a lasting political solution.

NEW YEAR BEGINS WITH A BANG

New year is usually celebrated with bursting of crackers. In Jaffna, this year due to the ban on chinacrac-

kers were available. To compensate this loss, Sri Lankan Helicopters went about firing from the air at various places in the Jaffna District until LTTE cadres returned their compliments at one point, after which the helicopters turned tail.

But at Vavunia, the Sri Lankan Air Force seems to have lost its hilarity and took

seriously to bombing at Kattiyakulam where about 10 houses were reported damaged. Of course at Vavunia it was the Avro planes and marchetti bombers that were in action.

At the same time a young man named S. Sutharsan (21) suffered gun shot injuries when Sri Lankan soldiers at the sentry point of the Vavunia barricade opened fire.

158 Persons "Disappeared" in one-day from one place

The Amnesty International Report for September, 1991 on Sri Lanka - the North East refers to the case of 158 refugee Tamils being arrested at the Eastern University at Vantharumoolai,

Batticaloa in a single day on 5th September, 1990. The arrests were made by Sri Lankan Armed Forces. The whereabouts of the arrested are not known.

According to the A. I. report - the case was brought to the notice of parliament too. Responding to the query in parliament, A. I. report says that the Ministry of Defence issued a statement dated 17-10-1990 wherein it stated that cordon and search operations were conducted at Vantharumoolai Eastern University camp on 05-09-1990 and only 31 persons were taken in for questioning. They had all been released within 24 hours.

A. I. Report further adds that though according to the Defence Ministry statement 31 arrested persons were released within 24 hours of their arrest, to A. I.'s knowledge none of these 31 persons had been seen by the Peace Committee or even the member of parliament who raised the matter in parliament.

The A. I. report further adds that although the arrest of a further 127 people had been witnessed on 5-9-90, the Ministry's statement makes no mention at all of the fate or whereabouts of these people.

Who is violating the law and order situation in the North - East? Isn't it the Sinhala Armed forces of the Government of Sri Lanka?

A New Office & Hostel for A. R. O. D.

A new office for the Association for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled (AROD) and hostel for the disabled persons for training in self-employment programmes will be opened on Saturday, January 18 at No. 16, Colombuthurai Road, Chundukuli, Jaffna at 9-00 a.m.

The Secretary of the AROD told our correspondent that the Association has already commenced training programmes in tailoring, needlework, rattaning of chairs and art and sculpture. Residential facilities will be provided for disabled trainees by the Association.

Disabled persons anxious to avail themselves of the training may apply to the Secretary to the Colombuthurai

AROD Office. The Secretary also said that the Association would like to have the services of a person experienced in handling disabled persons to work as the Administrative cum Welfare Officer at the office of AROD. Interested persons may apply to the Secretary immediately.

The AROD also plans to have community based Rehabilitation programmes where the disabled persons will have the opportunity to train themselves for self-employment project or programmes in their own community or areas in the field of their choice. The Association will make suitable arrangements for their training and rehabilitation through appropriate institutions.

Who benefited by the Accord?

Who benefited by the Peace Accord?

J. R. Jayewardene once asked the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Dixit, having in mind LTTE's assertion that India did not come to Sri Lanka to help the Tamils but came to further her own geopolitical interests.

After a good look around, Mr. Dixit asked: "Do you want the truth?" and when I replied, "Yes", he said, "India stands to gain most, not Sri Lanka nor the Tamils". Dixit went on to say: "New Delhi is concerned only with the interests of India, not the welfare of the Tamils. If the interests of India and the Tamils are the same, we help each other. India's first priority is to further her own interests".

Quoted from J. R. Jayewardene's recent interview with a Colombo daily.

Where did they get this news from?

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Sir,

The Sri Lanka Monitor, a news bulletin produced by British Refugee Council in its October 1991 issue (No.45) states in an article as follows:-

"Peace moves brokered by Tourism Minister S. Thondaman fizzled out in late October after the Tigers rejected a 12 page programme for talks."

Where did Sri Lanka Monitor get this information from? As far as we are aware the Tigers never rejected any peace proposals. All what we are aware is

that the Tigers told Mr. Thondaman that a task of the magnitude which Mr. Thondaman had undertaken cannot be accomplished by correspondence and invited him to come over to Jaffna for discussions. Mr. Thondaman has also accepted the invitation. Though the Tigers invited Mr. Thondaman to come to Jaffna as late as December 10, Mr. Thondaman has not yet been able to come to Jaffna. It is understood from local press reports that Mr. Thondaman is preoccupied with talks with Sinhala leaders and even the Buddhist clergy who have risen against his proposals. The press reports also say that Mr. Thondaman has

not abandoned his plans to visit Jaffna but has postponed it to find time to canvass Sinhala opinion in his favour or at least neutralise them and prevent active opposition to his proposals.

Whatever it be, I consider it unfair for the British

Refugee Council to come out with a completely untruthful statement, that the LTTE rejected programme for talks in its official bulletin.

I would earnestly appeal to the international community through the columns of your

paper to verify from the LTTE their versions in regard to any question that may come up for consideration and not to depend on, versions supplied by the Government of Sri Lanka or the so-called 'national news media' based in Colombo.

Jaffna.

K. Mylvaganam.

Death Donation Scheme

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Dear Sir,

With regard to the above, I quite agree with Mr. Thiruchelvam's (Pensioners Association Nallur) view on the above matter, which appeared in HOT SPRING dated 29-12-1992.

A "Death Donation Scheme" is really welcomed by every pensioner (including widows drawing pensions). Though, the scheme is good, the pensioner who subscribes to the scheme must be absolutely certain the scheme is organised by a well-established society.

In this regard, I request Mr. Thiruchelvam to discuss this matter with the authorities of Bank of Ceylon who appear to have mooted several schemes for common benefits.

Thanking you

P. M. Coomarasamy
Kaithady.

MALINGERING

The political adviser to the LTTE, Dr. Anton Balasingam's observation that the Sri Lankan government is averse to a political solution to the existing ethnic crisis, and spotlighted in your issue of 22-12-91, confirms even to lay minds that the State is malingering over this issue being cured politically.

The role the Britishers played in this country is implicit. They conquered and ruled us. It was due to the untiring efforts and struggles by both Sinhalese and Tamils that Independence was granted. If the Tamil opted as a separate entity at that crucial time, the British rulers were bound to accord the request, decreeing the Tamils as a nation of people with their own entities. The present generation is saddled with this ugly task of having to liberate themselves from the sins and omissions of their forefathers.

The advocacy of federalism, if well-intentioned, would have appeased the Tamils - a state within the state. Even this political philosophy has been misinterpreted as a division of the country by some Sinhala extremists. Two such attempts have been foiled. These are clear examples of the type of politicians who have adorned the Island's Parliament. The plight of the Tamils remain the same after Independence, except for that colour of the skin that ruled them and continue to rule them.

The Island's transformation into a Republican State was a hurried exercise to silence the voice of the Tamils. This exercise has deprived the Tamils from voicing their protests before any forum.

The State by its own conduct is responsible for its present predicament.

People have begun to lose faith in Courts also and have taken the law into their hands. Why? Their functions being usurped by the Executive, the people who have a grievance, have been deprived of seeking their redress in Courts. There has thus set in a state of anarchy.

The problem in North-East is purely of a political nature and therefore, a political approach is the only remedy to a lasting solution. But if a communal touch is given, the turn of events can be worse.

The Youths in the North-East have abandoned all hopes of approach to the burning question of the day. They have lost all hopes on their political representatives and dismissed them as mere pawns in the hands of political leaders. They have also studied from experience of the recent past that purported proposals and promises of the successive leaders are dilatory tactics to revamp the state machinery against the Tamils with a view to overpower them and rule them as a subject race, until total extinction.

Dr. Anton Balasingam has felt the pulse of the State correctly. His diagnosis is that the State is malingering in giving the rights of the Tamils. His judgment that the State is not poised for a political settlement, should convince the entire Tamil community and therefore the whole Tamil community should march forward in the struggle launched by the LTTE in liberating the entire community from Sinhala imperium.

Yathiry

D. Jeevananthan

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Dear Sir

The LTTE is all but the logical consequence of all the misdeeds of the Sinhalese leaders right from the time of Independence.

This is inspite of the Sinhalese people themselves - a very tolerant and good-minded lot. There are two eminent politicians of India who realised the above fact, namely, the late Mrs Indira Gandhi and M. G. R. and they always acted on that belief.

But alas! what is happening in India today. There are some 'boneless' words there now who seem to have some hallucinations, the result of which is the unjustified and inept attitude they are taking towards the LTTE at present.

Is there need for revising the Charter of the United Nations

24 October 1995 will mark the 50th birth anniversary of the United Nations. 26 June of the same year will mark the 50th anniversary of United Nations Charter Day as it has come to be called. The Charter determining as it does the structure, functions and continuity of the world body was drafted and promulgated against the background of conditions prevailing during the second World War and its aftermath.

The last five decades have witnessed enormous changes in the balance of power arising from decolonization and the emergence of new sovereign states which have affected quantitatively and qualitatively the working of the entire UN system.

They have not for a moment thought that if the Sinhalese naval rating who attacked Rajiv Gandhi at a Parade of (dis) Honour held in Colombo, had scored a bull's eye, the consequences would have been much the same, as what happened later, in which case they would have driven out of India all the Sinhalese there and invaded Sri Lanka.

Cannot they for a moment consider the parallel therein? Cannot there be a connection to that and what happened at Perambuthur? If there is a doubt, who deserves the benefit of the doubt?

A Senior member of the Sri Lanka Cabinet, Mr. Thondaman wants the LTTE to be given its due place in which event, a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem is imminent as would have

happened, had those two eminent far-sighted giants, Indira Gandhi and M. G. R. lived!

But the 'powers that be' in India today, would have none of it - they insist on jacking up the wrong tree, ruining both countries in the process.

Many a man seem to be crying from the rooftops today that the LTTE should put down their arms.

What is the instigatory factor to LTTE having arms?

With a little common sense, anyone can see that once that factor is removed, the arms of the LTTE will automatically be laid down.

So simple as that but yet so much misery, so much loss of precious lives are being caused. Why, Oh Why is that Mr. Editor?

V. Subramaniam
Atchuvally

entirely different circumstances to resolve problems confronting mankind at the turn of the twentieth century. It is obvious that the Charter of the United Nations has to be restructured if it is to serve as an effective instrument to surmount the challenges that lie ahead.

It is therefore incumbent on all right thinking persons within and outside the United Nations to support the need for the setting up of a Commission with far reaching powers to report on the revision of the Charter in the light of changes that have taken place globally since its promulgations fifty years ago. The new Charter could come into force in 1995 if and when all things come right in the following years.

The supreme importance of such a revision cannot be overemphasised.

UNAJU

Who is the Master?

Your Excellency,

Instead of writing a tale of horrors of the current war, I humbly beg to submit these questions for your honour's conscience and that of the other Parliamentarians, Buddha Sanga and Sinhalese Brothers to answer, and other nations to realise.

(1) How many Executive Presidents are ruling Sri Lanka?

(2) Have North and East been merged permanently and brought under Army Rule?

(3) What factors conspired to generate the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and when did it erupt?

(4) Who are the perpetrators of this periodic outbursts of communal frenzy?

(5) Who are the political leaders who incited and masterminded these anti-Tamil flare ups for political gains?

(6) Innocent Tamils have been brutally murdered and even burnt to death. Thousands of them had been driven out from their homes and villages. Their houses and material belongings have either been destroyed or looted by the members of the Security Forces and Govt. goondas. Most of them have fled to foreign lands as political refugees fleeing from state terrorism. Those who could not afford to seek asylum abroad have sought refuge in the near-by jungles and forests. That the human rights situation is at its lowest ebb in Sri Lanka is known and condemned in all civilized lands through out the world. Who is responsible for all these?

(7) That 15,000 millions of rupees have been set aside to buy Military Hardware to completely eliminate the Sri Lanka Tamils is world knowledge now. Is this not State Terrorism in the extreme?

(8) Who is the master in the present political situation, is it the Head of the Armed Services or the President? or Buddha Sanga?

(9) Who is the authority in the North and East? Is the the President reduced to the level of a mere-figure head by the Security Chiefs?

(10) The President has time and again proclaimed from many a political platform his keenest desire to bring about a peaceful solution to the ethnic crisis. But in the same breath he has also been secretly prodding the armed services to launch

Armed Services Chief? President? or Buddha Sangha?

AN OPEN LETTER OF QUESTIONS

relentless attacks on the North East. Or is it that the Service - Chiefs are no longer under your control?

(11) Where else in the world has the priesthood dared to instruct and intimidate the rulers to prolong the bloody military offensive against a section of the peoples of Sri Lanka whose only crime is to have demanded equal treatment in all spheres of life like their Sinhalese brethren?

(12) Several International Agencies and heads of governments have time and again expressed their deep concern and willingness to help evolve a just honourable and lasting solution to the ethnic problems plaguing Sri Lanka. In this respect the Australian Prime Minister had been particularly keen to bring about a speedy settlement. Why have you not cared to listen to their anguished and persistent appeals to stop this bloody war, if your talks of peaceful settlement are genuine?

(13) Donor countries have been persistently agitating Sri Lankan Govt to investigate the thousands of acts of human rights violations committed brazenly by the Armed Services and put an end to this barbarous practice. but what have you done about it?

(14) Non-combatants' places are singled out for artillery attacks, bombing and helicopter strafing. How do you characterize such activities?

(15) You have imposed a stringent economic blockade on the North East, thereby intending to bring the Tamils to their knees by starvation. Is this a brilliant strategy by the Head of a Buddhist country?

(16) In order to counter the menace of unemployment down south you have openly encouraged the Sinhalese youth to join the Security Services in their thousands to become butchers in the North East. Is this your solution to unemployment among Sinhalese youth?

(17) When the J. V. P. posed a serious threat to the

Government did you ever order the Air Force to bomb or straff their hide-outs?

(18) Honourable Minister Thondaman has made a most sincere attempt to bring about a just honourable and rational solution to the ethnic strife. But what have the power hungry politicians and Buddhist clergy on both sides done?

(19) What was the response of the Government to the suggestions made by the L. T. T. E. to stop forthwith all military offensives and lift the economic blockade to pave the way for a peaceful negotiation to the ethnic crisis?

(20) You have instigated the Security Forces to release on the hapless, and helpless Tamils in the North-East the most vicious and relentless attacks on all fronts. Is this the way to pave the way for a peaceful solution to the Ethnic Issue, as Mr. Gupta of India Today sarcastically asks?

(21) Christianity is a world Religion. Its adherents are found in every country of the world in millions. X' Mas is the most venerated religious time for Christians everywhere. It is the most fervent wish of Christians all over the world that at this time Peace and Good-will must prevail all over the Earth

to commemorate the advent of Christ as the Prince of Peace and Good-will. Why did you not give a holiday to your murder gangs at least on this occasion or even New Year Day?

Yours,

K. THIRUCHITTAMPALAM
Chavakachcheri,

Fishing Completely Banned in North

The Army has banned fishing virtually all over the North.

In a prohibitory order issued by the Army on December 30 it said that fishing has been completely banned in Chundikulam, Elephant Pass, Kalmunai, Ariyalai and Jaffna lagoon.

The prohibitory order also said that those found fishing in these regions stealthily would be shot. The order said that aerial attack would also be undertaken against such fishermen.

The prohibitory order issued by the Army renders

the entire fishermen in the North unemployed. Already no fishing can be undertaken in the seas off Jaffna because of the presence of Naval boats and Army occupation of most islands. The fishermen of the North have become totally destitute because they have been deprived of their means of livelihood. The present order makes the situation worse by prohibiting fishing even in any part of the lagoons. This order prevents even the few who did some fishing in parts of the lagoon from engaging in their work. Thus the entirety of the fishermen are rendered jobless by this most inhuman order.

Mr. Edmund Samarakody Passes Away

We regret to record the death of Mr. Edmund Samarakody on Saturday, December 4.

Mr. Edmund Samarakody was a founder member of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (L. S. S. P.) and actively engaged himself in political and Trade Union struggles. He was a senior member of the left movement and broke jail with others and went underground during World War II. He was a leading Trotskyist.

In the first general elections to parliament held under the Soulbury Constitution, Mr. Samarakody contested as a candidate of Bolshevik Leninist Party of India (B. L. P. I.) the Mirigama constituency against the late Mr. D. S. Senanayake who became Prime Minister afterwards. Mr. Samarakody, however became an M.P. in 1956 and continued to remain in parliament until 1965.

Mr Samarakody enjoyed the highest esteem of Tamils in this island as one of the very rare Sinhala political leaders who stood up for the rights of the Tamils. During the 1960-65 period when the L. S. S. P. renegaded, Mr. Samarakody stood by his principles and was expelled from the L. S. S. P. Mr. Samarakody, however continued his political and Trade Union activities and remained a staunch fighter for Tamil rights. He acknowledged the rights of the Tamils to an independent statehood in the light of gross discrimination against them and was severely critical of his former colleagues in the L. S. S. P. for the somersaults on the rights of the Tamils.

The Tamil people record with gratitude Mr. Samarakody espousing the Tamil cause by opposing in parliament the deployment of the Armed Forces in the North-East in 1961 to suppress the Satyagraha campaign of that year. When in 1980, Mr. Samarakody was invited to speak at Jaffna on a Human Rights Day seminar, he declined to participate if parties which supported the Sinhala Only Act also would be invited to speak. Of course Mr. Samarakody did not know that those parties were not invited. This incident shows the highly principled politician Mr. Samarakody was.

We join the thousands of mourners at the dath of Mr. Samarakody and convey of our heartfelt condolences to the members of his family.

Emulate the Indians and Deliver Tamil Eelam

The Sinhalese government of Sri Lanka appears to be following the disastrous path followed by the Indians to bulldoze the Tamils of Eelam in the same cockeyed and conceited manner.

Right from the start, the Indians tried their crooked best to out-manoeuvre the LTTE which was the most popular liberation organisation, with a view to eliminating it covertly. They used the other groups to collaborate with them and also created new groups of their own which were unheard of before the advent of the Indians. They used their defence forces to apply brute force indiscriminately against heavily populated areas to gain control of

MAYAVAN

Tamil Eelam territory, in the process killing thousands of helpless civilians. All sorts of heavy fire power were used by them including tanks and Bofors guns. They were fond of saying that they were adopting "Saturation Strategy" - saturating Tamil Eelam territory with herds of Indian army. Every village, every town and every nook and corner of Tamil Eelam was overflowing with IPKF camps. Indian army personnel were prowling day and night and were rounding up and harassing Tamils looking for members and supporters of the LTTE. Although they indicated that their strength was around 75,000, the actual number would have been well over double that number.

The Tamil people realised that the LTTE were their only saviours and that other groups have turned traitors to the Tamils' cause. Thousands of Tamil youths - both boys and girls started joining the LTTE movement and underwent military training inspite the hunting Indians. In fact, it must be stated that that the stupid repression propelled the growth of the LTTE in a big way.

The Indians installed their puppets in power to the floundering Provincial Council and although they staged an 'election' - the farce was rejected by the Tamils. They boasted as if it were an achievement. The Indians under-rated the intellect and integrity of the Tamil people and wishfully thought that the Eelam Tamils would behave in the same silly manner as the Indians and fall prostrate at the party in power. They failed miserably in this exercise.

It is utterly astonishing to see the Sinhalese govern-

ment following the same beaten track. Can the Sinhalese army who seem to be elated by their new acquisitions of planes, warships and tanks and other military hardware display anything new that the Indians did not use? Can the Sinhalese deploy more armed men than those deployed by the Indians? Stupidly enough like the Indians, the Sinhalese are making use of the same discredited Tamil traitor groups against the Tamils. Moreover, the LTTE is in a much stronger position - men, materials and battlefield experience - than when they were confronted by the Sikhs, Gurkhas, Marathas and what not.

In Tamil Eelam the Indians in their conceit committed the blunder of antagonising the LTTE which enjoys the wholehearted support of the Tamils. If a political solution to the ethnic problem in this Island is to be worked

out, it has to be worked out with the LTTE and no one else. Perhaps the Indians were not genuine in bringing about a political settlement which would have ensured normalcy in the Island's affairs and would have denied any leverage, for the Indians to continue to fish in troubled waters.

Every nation has its quota of guislings, Eddappans and Ehejapolas. The Tamil nation has its own quota and fortunately, the Tamil people have clearly identified them. The Sinhalese by encouraging these traitors can achieve nothing tangible because these people who collaborated with the Indians, bolted from Tamil Eelam overtaking the Indians. So clearly the intention is to make use of them against the Tamils and not to treat them as Tamil representatives.

If the Sinhalese government is sincere in finding a solution, the option is to discuss matters with the LTTE.

Their inclination to continue with the military operations only shows their perfidy to indulge in the luxury war and heap misery on the Tamils.

The Indians learned the folly of their misdeeds at a severe cost to their men and their morale and eventually accepted the only option left to them, that is to quit Tamil Eelam.

The Sinhalese, in their racist obsession, seem to be stupid enough not to realise that emulating the Indians and proceeding with the military option beyond a point, can get them into an intractable situation and lead them only to the same terminal. The only difference is that unlike end of the military path for the Indians, the end of the military approach for the Sinhalese will be the eventual liberation of Tamils by the deliverance of a Sovereign State of Tamil Eelam.

Multiplication is the name of the Game!

Recently a lady was travelling from Colombo to Jaffna. As is customary, she had to bare her assets at the Buffer

Zone Sentry Point at Vavuniya.

Her hand bag and other assets were closely examined but at the close of the examination and to her utter dismay, she found that her cash assets amounting to Rs. 3000/- had been pilfered.

Stricken by her sudden penny, she steeled herself to bring her plight to the notice of the Officer-in-Charge. He being a singularly merciful and understanding man asked the lady whether she could identify the soldier who examined her. The identification was done. The officer went up to the soldier and asked

him to hand over the money in his pockets to the lady which was promptly done.

Happily she put her cash back in the hand bag and resumed her journey. At the end of her journey she rechecked her cash balance and to her surprise she found that her cash assets had multiplied to Rs. 15,000/-!

Your guess in this multiplication game is as good as ours. It, however, reveals the philosophy of some of the soldiers at check points - "Live fast, die young and make a beautiful corpse". It also solves the mystery for the perpetuation of check-points.

Madhu Refugee Camp Swells

Large numbers of Tamils from some villages in the Vavunia District are reported to have sought refuge in the Refugee Camp at Madhu Church in the Mannar District consequent to Army operations in the Vavunia District.

The influx of additional refugees into the Madhu Camp has accentuated the accom-

modation problem at the camp. One report says that there are about 28,000 refugees in the camp which is a very large number to manage.

Reports also say that there is shortage of even drinking water. Mosquito menace is adding to the difficulties and the maintenance of health and sanitary standards have become a further problem.

mony will now realise where compromising on principles will lead to.

A situation has now arisen where all the Seven SAARC Nations, Malaysia and Zimbabwe should be sent out of the United Nations or all the International Watch Dogs like Amnesty International etc. should close "shop" and so too the United Nations.

Now the question remains as to 'who is going to bell the cat?' This has to be done very soon, otherwise mankind will be pushed back several centuries.

We have still not lost hope though we are still members of a Nation affected by Human Rights violations.

S. Alagaratnam

HUMAN RIGHTS

Since the inception of the United Nations, why even from our very young days, there was the impression that Human Rights were sacrosanct. But today, one is perplexed. First at the Commonwealth Conference at Harare, Zimbabwe, when Mr. John Major, the British Prime Minister ably supported by the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Brian Mulroney that Aid should be coupled with their performances on the observances of Human Rights. The Prime Ministers of Malaysia, India and the President of Zimbabwe raised objections to the proposal and very surprisingly, Mr. John Major and Mr. Brian

Mulroney dropped the matter.

Now at the SAARC Conference held in Colombo on 21st. December all the leaders of the seven SAARC nations have jointly bracketed Human Rights with Civic rights, political rights and economic and social rights.

President Premadasa has gone a step further and stated that 'coupling Aid to observance of Human Rights is regretted'. He warned that some people were speaking on false principles and were seeking to enforce a 'new colonialism'.

It is hoped that Mr. John Major and Mr. Brian Mul-

Refugees in their own Land

A total of nearly 50,000 families approximately numbering 250,000 persons are displaced from their homes in various parts of the North East and are living as refugees in various parts of the Jaffna District according to the Council of NGOs - Jaffna. This includes about 6000 families numbering 30,000 persons who came into the District from outside the Jaffna District.

An official of the Council of NGOs said that most of the displaced families are accommodated in houses of friends and relations in Jaffna.

As at 31.12.1991 - 10,948 families comprising 48,584 persons are accommodated in 166 Refugee Camps. Relief work is carried on at these camps by individual member organisations of the council of NGO.

Artillery Shell Attack

The Sri Lankan Army stationed at Karainagar launched artillery shell attack directed towards Ponnalai and Thiruvadinilai villages about 3 p. m. on Tuesday, December 7.

Reports of damage have not been received yet.

Seminarial Guidelines to Pharmacies and Drugists

A Seminar co-sponsored by the Regional Director of Health Services and the Food and Drugs Inspector, Jaffna District, was conducted recently for the benefit of those engaged in the Pharmacy Trade in the Jaffna District.

Dr. A. Kanagasabai, the R. D. H. S. who presided at the seminar drew the attention of the participants to the grave situation that had arisen in view of the present shortage of drugs and the resultant exploitation by unscrupulous dealers who resort to malpractices. He said that an important obligation is cast on the dealers in drugs to exercise utmost caution in handling drugs belonging to

Schedule II of the Ordinance which should be sold only to those who produce prescriptions from Registered Medical Officers or Practitioners. He further said that several complaints have been received in regard to the frequent abuse of this requirement by Pharmacy owners. He wondered whether all the pharmacies in Jaffna are equipped with the necessary legal requirements as it is an offence to run a pharmacy without the assistance of a qualified pharmacist or an authorised medical practitioner.

Mr. T. Mahadevan, Inspector of Food and Drugs in his address explained in detail

the various provisions in the Cosmetic Devices and Drugs Act which is the Act now in force governing the activities of private pharmaceu-

tical business. He invited all Pharmacy owners to co-operate with him in the year 1992 to provide yeoman service to the consumers of Jaffna District who have hitherto suffered for want of quality drugs on reasonable prices. All unregistered pharmacy owners were advised to apply for registra-

tion and the others for renewal of their registrations, if they have not done so.

The President of the Pharmacy Owners' Association, Mr. S. Sivapatham and the Secretary, Mr. S. Sri Ganeshan also spoke. Mr. T. Mahadevan proposed a vote of thanks at the end of the Seminar.

New Year Message

Service Chiefs beat War Drum

Sri Lanka's Chiefs of the three Armed Forces have in separate statements released to the public beaten the war drum.

The Army Chief, Maj. Gen. Cecil Waidyaratne has promised to root out 'terrorists' from the Northeast before the new year is out.

He has promised to root out terrorism for ever from the Northeast.

The Air Force Chief Air Vice Marshal Terrence Gunawardhene has said that modern air crafts recently purchased would be put in action during the new year to attack the LTTE.

And not to be out done Navy Chief, Rear Admiral

Clarence Fernando has said that the Navy would guard the coast day in and day out during the new year. New recruits to the Navy would be taken this year. The Navy would not allow the terrorists to smuggle arms or other contraband into the Northeast during the New Year.

Students' Difficulties in the North - Jaffna Citizens' Committee Appeals to Minister of Education

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee has appealed to the Minister of Education and Higher Education seeking his support for the amelioration of the difficulties faced by the students in Jaffna District.

According to the Jaffna Citizens' Committee there are 250,000 students. No lights are available for them either at schools or at their homes. They are not able to buy even

kerosene for their need because of the prohibitive price of kerosene as a result of non-supply of the required quantity to the North.

Also the students experience great difficulty because of the short supply of school stationery such as exercise books etc. Also school uniform clothing for shirts, shorts and longs are in short supply.

The Citizens' Committee has also pointed out that the only mode of transport is the push bicycle for which tyres, tubes and other parts for repairs and maintenance are not available.

The Citizens' Committee has requested that a special shipload of these items required for students be sent to Jaffna for distribution to the students under the supervision of the Regional Director of Education and the Government Agent.

NEW MEDICAL CENTRE AT NALLUR

A new medical centre for displaced persons now living in and around the Jaffna Municipal limits was opened on Monday, December 30 at Nallur.

Consequent to the large influx of refugees into Jaffna and deterioration of health and sanitary standards, there had been a big demand for medical care at the Jaffna Hospital, which finds it extremely difficult to cope with the work. In order to ease the work load at the Jaffna Hospital and in order to alleviate the difficulties of the sick who have to walk to the Jaffna Hospital, this new medical centre has been sited near a refugee camp.

The new Medical Centre was opened by Dr. S. Kanagasabai, The Regional Director of Health Services with the help of Dr. S. Theivandran, the Municipal M.O.H. and Mr. S. Balasingam, the

Municipal Commissioner on the initiative of the Kavay Branch of the Red Cross Society.

It is understood that over hundred patients are being treated daily at this centre after its inauguration.

Football -

In a match played at Ariyalai grounds on 4.1.92 St. Nicholas beat St. Roche's by two goals to one, after leading one nil at half time.

In another match at the same venue, Ariyalai Club got the better of Poopathy by five goals to one. Mr. Thambirajah officiated.

Netball

At the Netball Tournament conducted under the auspices of the Eachammodai Community Centre for the 'Veera Vengai Angela Cup', Telipalai Grasshoppers beat St. Antony's Passaiyoor by 20 points to 14. The game was officiated by Miss. A. F. Rubasingam.

Vijayakumr.

THIS ISLAND

They have made this Island their home.

Also difference there is in name.

Singhalese and Tamils are products of mankind,

But to each other they have no kind.

The former was banished from nativity,

The latter is here due to proximity,

In a span of five thousand years of dharma,

We are here to work out past karma.

Pearl of the Indian ocean?

But homeland of double nation.

Aryan ancestry is a myth.

Human heritage is the truth.

Abraham Lincoln turns in grave,

To watch the majority very brave,

Prechers of the brand of democracy,

That manifests sure brand of hypocrisy.

Democracy was intended to count heads,

Presently it threatens to break heads.

D. S. and son Dudley were honourable men;

Also honourable was cousin Ko alawela.

His affirmative answer to Principal Handy

Found him in Colombo not so handy.

Banda and his consort Srma were no less honourable,

In ruler Dahan, architect of one day election,

Was unfortunately not their selection.

Sacred pacts were broken with impunity,

Glucose ended F. R. Jayasooria's fist,

S. D. ended J. R. J's infamous march - past.

Ramanathans diagnosed the disease,

But ease they could not prescribe.

Ponna and Chelva paraded the peace procession,

Although Sunha advocated aggression.

N. M. & Colvin paraded the Parity procession,

But they fell prey to Saree's concession.

Philip never minced words about his intention;

Although he was nearing his extinction.

Comrade Pieter now in Political exile

Also showed his prowess for a while.

And so the merry-go-round went on,

Until we discovered, the bullet is superior to the ballot.

Whither are we going?

— Poopal.

Where are they?

Last week we published the names of 30 Students - the bulk of them in their teenage - who are reported "disappeared" after having been arrested and taken to the Sevena Army Camp which was in Embilipitiya-Ratnapura District. We now publish the names of the balance sixteen documented by the Amnesty International.

No.	Name	Age	Employment	Arrested by	Date of arrest
1.	M. Sirisena	27	Trader	Army	14-08-1989
2.	I. K. Premaratne	—	Worker - State Paper Corporation	"	04-10-1989
3.	A. Sugathadasa	38	Clerk, Postal Dept.	"	19-11-1989
4.	N. A. Jayatilake	27	Selected as a teacher	"	11-11-1989
5.	P. A. Perera	25	—	"	18-12-1989
6.	P. A. Wickremage	49	Cultivator	"	19-12-1989
7.	H. U. Chandralal	24	—	"	24-12-1989
8.	H. U. Chaminda	18	Student	"	"
9.	W. P. Nandasena	32	Driver	Armed men in civilians	26-12-1989
10.	H. D. S. A. Somaratne	17	Student	—	27-12-1989
11.	U. K. Sellaheva	16	"	—	30-12-1989
12.	W. K. M. Wickremasinghe	18	"	Armed men	04-01-1990
13.	H. P. Palitha	19	"	—	"
14.	P. L. W. Piyasamantha	16	"	Army	"
15.	P. L. A. Piyasamantha	18	"	—	"
16.	W. Samaraweera	30	"	—	07-01-1990

Who is answerable for the "disappearances"? The Sri Lankan Government remains stone-deaf to the pleadings of the relatives of the disappeared persons.

HOT SPRING

VOL: 2 SUNDAY 12th January 1992 ISSUE 14

MEDICAL FACULTY SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED

In the second half of the fifties Tamil intellectuals started the Tamil University Movement with the object of setting up a full fledged Tamil University at Trincomalee for the Tamils. They were prompted to do so because they fully realized the message behind the Sinhala Only policy.

Unfortunately with the take over of all schools by the Government in 1961 and the Government exercising a monopoly as it were in education, the efforts of the Tamil University Movement came to a halt. Thus ended, tragically, a move by Tamils to have a University of their own.

In 1972 the Government of Sri Lanka converted Parameshwara College, a private secondary school founded by the Late Sir Ponnambalan Ramanathan, as a Campus of the University of Sri Lanka and also took over the undergrads department of Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai an American Missionary School which was preparing candidates for external university examinations as those of the London University.

The Tamils were robbed of their property which was again doled out to them as if of Sri Lankan Government's benevolence!

Anyway the Tamils made the best use of the Campus in spite of standardization of course - by which scheme Tamil students were required to obtain higher marks than their Sinhala counterparts to obtain University admission.

The Campus later on grew into a University with of course limited facilities.

The Medical faculty also was started later and now moves are afoot to have it closed. Rightly the University Students Council and the University Teachers (Medical Faculty) Association have protested against the move.

It must be said to the credit of the Jaffna University that it was never closed down for long periods inspite the prolonged war for a decade or so in Jaffna. This is in contrast to the closing down of the Universities in the South during the insurgency there.

In spite of the fact that the Jaffna University has a proud record of having functioned against all odds, the Government saw to it that the students of the Jaffna University did not gain a leverage against the Sinhalese Students whose Universities were closed for considerably long periods.

The Government is not satisfied. They want to see that the University is slowly strangled to death. Hence the proposal to close down the Medical Faculty. The Engineering Faculty may abort.

Lack of staff and some 80 students out of 408 seeking admission in other Universities are held out as reasons for this move. Both can be cured.

If teachers are not available locally why not recruit suitable teachers from abroad? Why permit students who have been selected for one university to opt to go out to another? (The same facility is not extended to students always.)

No one needs much acumen to see through the Sri Lankan Government's schemes. If the Medical Faculty is allowed to be closed down, one day the entire University will go out.

Looked at from any angle it is the duty of every Tamil to lodge his strongest opposition against any move to close down the Medical faculty.

JAFFNA UNIVERSITY

Attempts to Close Down

Medical Faculty

University Teachers & Students Strongly Protest

The Jaffna University Students' Council and the University Teachers Association (Medical Faculty, Jaffna) have strongly protested against the move to close down the Medical Faculty of the Jaffna University.

The Chairman of the University Grants Commission recently wrote to the Vice-Chancellor of the Jaffna University conveying the decision of the Commission to close down the Medical Faculty of the Jaffna University.

It is learnt that the decision of the Commission to close down the Medical Faculty was due to the "lack of adequate teaching staff at Jaffna and the fact that some 80 students of the faculty had sought and obtained admissions in other Universities - in the South". The total number of students of the faculty is 408.

The students Council in its protest resolution has said that the decision to close down the Medical Faculty of the Jaffna University is another step in the programme of genocide against the Tamils perpetrated by the Government of Sri Lanka.

The steps that the Government took to deny education to the Tamils started with "standardisation of marks for University entrance and proceeded along destructive paths in the form of burning libraries, schools, aerial bombing where arson is not possible and now has entered the stage of openly closing down educational institutions.

The resolution also condemned teachers and students who under false pretexts went over to the South merely to avoid living in a war zone but pointed out that the Faculty is for the students here and not for those who want comfortable living elsewhere. Out of 408 students only 80 students went out to Universities in the South. This would not have been possible if normal rules were followed. These students were accommodated in other Universities with the ulterior motive of closing down the Faculty in Jaffna in due course.

The University Teachers Association has in a lengthy note detailed the grave dangers that are inherent in the decision to close down the Medical Faculty at Jaffna.

The Teachers' Association has pointed out that the Government attempt in 1987 to close down the Jaffna Hospital failed because it also served as the Teaching Hospital. If the Medical Faculty is closed down the Jaffna Hospital will cease to be a Teaching Hospital and facilities available at the hospital will be greatly reduced. Any attempt to

close down the Hospital as in 1987 can also succeed.

The Teachers' Association has also said that if Medical Faculty is closed down, the Engineering Faculty would not come up, the Agricultural Faculty recently started may also be closed down and the entire University can be closed down in course of time.

The Association has also pointed out that it was the Jaffna University that accommodated Tamil students from Universities in the Sinhala areas when they were compelled to flee those areas during the 1983 pogrom. Then all Tamil students wanted places at the Jaffna University.

The University Teachers Association (Medical Faculty) has called for unanimous opposition of the people to any attempts to close down the faculty of Medicine.

SIX TAMIL YOUTHS ARRESTED

Reports from Trincomalee state that six Tamil youths were arrested from the villages of Sambur and Pachchanoor in the Mutur AGA's Division by the Sri Lankan soldiers.

According to the reports the Sri Lankan Army arrested 3 Tamil youths at Sambur on the Monday, December 2.

The arrested persons are Velupillai Uthayarajah (28), Vyramuthu Arumai Thurai (26), and Senthil (29).

On the following day on December 3 the Sri Lankan soldiers arrested three other Tamils at Pachchanoor. The arrested persons are Geethan

Senchudar (20), Ganesh (20), and Anthony (26).

The reports further state the relatives of the persons arrested have not been able to obtain further information in regard to the persons arrested.

The Intern...

(Continuation from Page 1)

about which nations are sovereign and which are not. If a nation in fact operates as sovereign with the consent of its people that nation is a Sovereign Nation whether it is recognized as such or not"

The First Nations: Indian Governments in the Community of Man

A Week of Three - fold Significance

The Coming Week is important for Tamilians world over for three reasons :-

1. Pongal Day - Day of Thanksgiving and Festival of Harvest;
2. New Year falls on Pongal Day - 2023 years after Thiruvalluvar - commences on this Day;
3. 14th. January is the 117th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, who obtained four Doctorates, viz. in Music, Religion, Philosophy and Medicine. He drew attention of the world to the Philosophy of World Affirmation in Thirukkural - the Gospel of Mankind.

Let us resolve to devote at least one hour a week to study our National Book - Divinekural and work towards Peace for which Schweitzer was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

A. N. Yohanathan

Founder - President

Divine Thirukkural Society & Y. M. D. A.