

HOT SPRING

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No. 16

For Attention of
Rev. Vipassi Thero at Kandy.

"The Kandian chiefs put forward a scheme for dividing the island into three self-governing areas, (1) the Northern and Eastern Provinces in which the Tamils predominate, (2) the Kandian provinces, (3) the Southern and Western provinces populated mainly by low-country Sinhalese. Each of these three communities would thus be granted a government of its own..."

From the Donoughmore Commission Report

WITHHOLD AID - PLEA

JAFFNA CITIZENS' COMMITTEE
APPEALS TO DONORS

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee has written to all donor countries in the Sri Lanka Aid Consortium that the donor countries would be indirect parties to the slaughter, destruction and misery of the Tamil people.

The Citizens' Committee has further appealed to the donor countries to delay the grant of aid and persuade the Government of Sri Lanka to work out a peaceful political settlement to end the war in the North East.

The Citizens' Committee's letter reads as follows.

The Citizens' Committee of Jaffna wishes to thank the Aid Consortium for providing substantial aid to this country in the past intended for development purposes and continuing to do so.

We, however, regret to have to point out that the aid your countries so generously provided during the past few years, has helped

the Sri Lankan Government to continue a prolonged, unjust war against the Tamil people of the Northeast, Sri Lanka for asking for their universally accepted rights as Citizens of this country.

We are aware that your country is also now conscious of this situation from your attempts to delay the aid group meeting from last

October to February this year and calling for certain guarantees from the Sri Lankan Government. We are apprehensive of guarantees and undertakings by the Sri Lankan Government on this matter.

We are deeply concerned about the untold miseries caused to our people by a large scale war let loose on them by aerial bombing, artillery and gun-boat shelling, helicopter strafing etc. added by a planned economic blockade restricting even essential items like food, life saving drugs, fuel etc.

By the wilful cutting off of electricity to this district and bombing the only thermal plant and bin on fuels, every form of economic activity has come to a grinding halt,

resulting in total unemployment and famine.

We are of the view that if these aids continue, it will positively aggravate the present war and help the genocide of the Tamil people and the donor countries will be indirectly parties to the slaughter, destruction and misery of our people.

The Sri Lankan Government may argue that the foreign aid is used for development purposes. We contend that it is illogical to

accept that a government that can allocate over Rs. 1,500-millions (US dollars 375 million) budgeted for this war in 1992) can morally expect outside financial help for other purposes.

We are confident that your with holding aid will force the Government to come to a political solution, ending this war. We, therefore appeal to every donor country in the name of humanity to delay the aid and persuade the Sri Lankan Government to see reason and work out a just political solution to the ethnic problem.

Disappearances - A World
Record by Sri Lanka

According to a B B C report, Sri Lanka has created a world record on 'forced' or 'involuntary Disappearances'.

Although the full text of the Report of the UN has not yet been officially released, yet excerpts of this report published in the International Media indicate there will be a lot of questions raised regarding Sri Lanka's Human Rights Violations in the forthcoming Sessions of the UN Human Rights Sub-Commission which is expected to meet in Geneva sometime next week.

According to these reports more than 12,000 persons have disappeared in Sri Lanka

since July, 1983. UK and the Netherlands are expected to raise this issue before the UN Sub-Commission.

Carpet Bombing
Commemorated

The first anniversary of the carpet bombing of the Valvettiturai town was remembered by the citizens of Valvettiturai.

Valvettiturai was carpet bombed for four consecutive days from 20th January to 23rd. January 1991.

A meeting commemorating the anniversary was held at Valvettiturai on Friday, January 24th 1992.

BOMB EXPLOSION IN TRINCOMALEE
AIR BASE!

A bomb exploded within the China Bay Air Force Base in Trincomalee on Tuesday, January 21.

The explosion was reported to have occurred near the

armament depot. It was followed by explosions within the armament depot.

Reports said that a number of buildings were damaged. It is also understood that nine planes belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force were damaged, of which one has already been repaired, and another four

could possibly be repaired whereas, the other four have sustained vast damages and are beyond repairs according to Wing Commander Vijitha Tennakoon but he failed to mention any damage caused to the helicopters.

Immediately following the explosion, the Indian Radio announced quoting "independent sources" that the explosion could have been the work of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The Government of Sri Lanka was however more cautious though one report said that the forces were soon engaged in a search operation for Tigers.

Mr. D. B. Wijetunge, Prime Minister and State Minister for Defence who visited the scene after explosion reported to parliament that the incident was accidental.

The loss to the Government of Sri Lanka caused by this explosion is reported to be very heavy.

Buddhist Clergyman Blesses
Sinhala Soldiers

The Rev. Ranbukkula Vipassi Thero, the Head Clergyman of the Mulmatte Chapter of the Buddhist clergy is reported to have flown into the Army Camps at Palaly, Nainativu and Karainagar in the North and bestowed his holy blessings on the Sinhala soldiers now battling in the North.

The same report adds that this clergyman and some other clergymen were flown into the Army Camps in the North by the Sri Lankan Air Force and that arrangements for the clergymen's visit were made by Maj. Gen. Denzil Kobbekaduwa and Brig. Vijaya Wimalaratne.

The Clergymen are reported to have visited the Camps on January 18 and 19.

FOUR TAMILS SHOT DEAD

Four Tamil civilians died in Batticaloa on Tuesday, January 21, when Sri Lankan soldiers who were in hiding opened fire at a place called Kanchirankadu in the Batticaloa District.

The four civilians who died are reported to be Samiyar Tharaisamy, Tharaisamy Raza, and Sinniah Virasubramby - all of Sittandy and Eiyathamby of Bandarawela. Another civilian, Kirupai sustained injuries.

TWO CIVILIANS ARRESTED

Tirumeni Anaivan and Rasalingam Langan, two civilians from Arasadivu in the Batticaloa District are reported to have been arrested near Mothlinga Kovil in Arasadivu by Sri Lankan

soldiers attached to the Sri Lankan Army Camp at Kokkatticholai.

No further news in regard to the fate of the arrested persons have been received.

JAFFNA CITIZENS' COMMITTEE Spotlights Shortages & Shortcomings

In an appeal sent to the members of the Aid Consortium Countries, the Jaffna Citizens' Committee has detailed the sufferings to which the people of the Northeast are subjected by the Government of Sri Lanka and states that the foreign aid granted to the Government of Sri Lanka is encouraging it to go forward in its military quest of annihilating the Tamils. The Citizens' Committee has, therefore, called upon the donor countries to withhold aid to Sri Lanka. The letter reads as follows:-

"We the members of the Citizens' Committee of Jaffna, wish to reiterate our deep concern about the untold sufferings and losses of our people due to indiscriminate aerial bombings and artillery shelling by the Sri Lankan Security forces from the sea and land. We are conscious of the fact that the unending sufferings caused to our people are well-known to you

through the representatives of your country in Sri Lanka. The losses of civilian lives and irreparable damages to houses and property are inestimable and are continuing to be inflicted which will eventually lead to the annihilation of the Tamil-speaking people and their culture.

Further we wish to point out that tens of thousands of families have been displaced in their own land and are living as refugees in Welfare Centres sited in crowded school buildings and temporary huts which do not possess the basic sanitary facilities and proper medical care. The displaced persons have been deprived of their traditional employment and have lost their earning capacities, viz. Fishermen and farmers and employees in public and private enterprises are the main groups that have been affected most. More than 80% of the population are economically affected since

the violence started in June, 1990, and there is no economic activity at all. Traumatic experience of the displaced people cannot be expressed in words.

The onset of the present hostilities have brought further sufferings to the above mass of people by systematic and carefully planned out economic blockade in the supply of Medicines, Milk, Food, Fuel and other essential goods.

The food supply to the district has been unsatisfactory during the above period mainly due to the inadequate supply of essential food items. Authentic statistics available in this connection reveal a severe short-fall percentage-wise in the estimated requirement. The major portion (85% requirement of the food items) to the people of this district was transported by road and the balance by rail and a minimal quantity by ship. The disruption of road

and rail transport has resulted in their dependence on the transport by ship. But the small ships arrive once or twice a month only.

In addition to the above shortages the supply of drugs to the General Hospital, Base Hospitals and peripheral units have been severely restricted. Large percentage of life-saving drugs of the quarterly requirements specified in the requisition has been drastically cut by the authorities.

Very often stocks of essential drugs like anti-biotics, I.V. fluids, Anti-rabies Vaccine, Anti-snake venom serum, Polio Vaccine, Tetanus toxoid, Surgical dressings and other essential drugs Aspirin, Ergometrine, Flayll etc. are in short supply. Number of avoidable deaths have occurred due to the above shortage.

Due to the severe shortage of Food and milk foods, malnutrition has set in especially among the infants, child-

ren, expectant and lactating mothers. This is likely to result in a generation of anaemic and emaciated children and adults. The foregoing facts have caused innumerable cases of mental depression which have aggravated the position of already suffering masses.

Public transport has been completely paralysed and as a result a number of elderly and sick have lost their lives. We wish to impress on you that the continued financial aid provided by the donor countries in the name of preserving democracy, strengthening territorial sovereignty, unity and integrity is encouraging the Government to pursue further military action with a view to annihilating an ethnic group. In this connection we wish to spotlight that this very same group forms part of the country who have voted to elect the legislature and thereby preserve democracy.

In the light of the above mentioned facts we sincerely hope that you will withhold aid till such time as an acceptable peaceful solution is worked out with your participation."

Graduation Ceremony of the Association for Health and Counselling

On 18th, January, 1992 the Association for Health and Counselling held its 2nd Graduation Ceremony at 'Thodarpaham', 657/1, Hospital Road, Jaffna. 'Shanthiyagam' was shifted from its original Centre at Fourth Cross Street, which had been damaged by bombing and shelling to its new Centre at 15 Kichcheri-Nallur Road, Chudikul, Jaffna.

Dr. R. Ganeshamoorthy, its president was conspicuous by his absence abroad but the President Pro Tem Mr. Jeeveswara acquitted himself with much credit in welcoming the Guests and the Chief Guest, Prof. A. Thuraiyiah, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna.

There was an elite gathering of Doctors, Principals, Teachers, Priests, Nuns, Friends and Well-wishers at this memorable and pleasant occasion.

We could gather from the Convocation Address of its dynamic Executive Director, Dr. S. M. Selvaratnam that this Association is well poised for a 'take-off' with colours flying.

We shall definitely hear more of this Association when the history of this Ethnic War comes to be written. It will surely be written in gold for its redemptive mission of love and mercy.

Dr. Selvaratnam eloquently put forward his theme on the origins of 'Shanthiyagam', its progress during the past three years and a vision for the future where he stressed the need for a 'Chair in Psychology' at the Jaffna University. He cited examples of Nicaragua, El Salvador, South Africa and Northern Ireland where the pattern of the war is similar to the one now engulfing us. This certainly is an awesome thought and we should come to grips with such a 'period of transition'.

The Vice-Chancellor in his address stated the prospects for a solution of the current

conflict are still remote in the context of a 'Mahavamsa syndrome' permeating Society in the South, so we have to learn to live with this situation and try to maintain some semblance of normalcy. We must discard our selfish traits and learn to be altruistic and it is in this situation that 'Shanthiyagam' as its name implies will play a positive and dynamic role in 'this transition period where tension, anxiety, frustration and insecurity are crises'. We must produce leaders who are self-reliant and 'education must be 'development oriented'. We must thus 'learn to be good and

do good to others' and these are the watch words of 'Shanthiyagam' too.

Mr. P. Tharmanayagam, Manager, People's Bank, Chavakacheri proposed the 'Vote of thanks' on behalf

of the Graduands in a fitting manner for the occasion and the gathering adjourned in keeping with the Chinese adage that the way to the heart of man is through the stomach.

Sunlight Improves Eyesight

(Swami Sivananda)

Sun is the presiding God for the eyes. He bestows health, vigour and vitality. Sit in the sun in the early morning and evening with your eyes closed. Slowly move your head from side to side. Allow the sun to shine directly on your closed eyelids, for ten minutes.

Now come to the shade. Cover the eyes with palms and hands for five minutes. Avoid any pressure on the eye-balls.

Your eyesight will improve. There will be no necessity for wearing glasses. Practise this for one or two weeks. You can continue this for a month also.

Jaffna District Govt. Pensioners' Association Meeting

The first Annual General Meeting of the Jaffna District Government Pensioners' Association was held on Saturday 11th January, '92 at Kumaraswamy Hall at Jaffna Hindu College, presided by the President of the Association, Mr. A. V. A. J. Wijayarathnam.

The Annual Report and the audited Statement of Annual Accounts were unanimously adopted after discussion.

The members of the outgoing committee were unanimously elected to hold office for the current year also.

The Death Donation Scheme established by the Association was inaugurated. The Medical Insurance Scheme for pensioners operated by Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation was explained in detail to the house and members interested were requested to contact the Treasurer of the Association and obtain the necessary application form and other details.

SPORTS

Volley ball

St. Antony's beat Mohandas S. C. by three sets to two in the best of five sets final played at Aryalai on 19.1.92

Yogendran and Damian excelled for the Antonians, while Mahalingam and Sundaralingam stood out for the losers. Messrs. Rajaratnam and Ehamparam officiated.

A school boy, young Subetran was considered the best spiker who excelled in other matches.

Classes For Soccer Referees

Class for Soccer Referees has been started at St. Patrick's College on 25th January, 1992.

These classes would be conducted every Saturday and Sunday thereafter commencing at 9-00 a.m.

Those beginners who are anxious to join these classes are requested to contact the Secretary, Jaffna Soccer League.

An examination will be conducted in March by the Jaffna Soccer League.

- Vijayakumar -

Musings by Nestor

Valmiki's Ramayana is the earliest work in literature to make reference to the Island called Lanka. Lanka gets very prominent mention in Ramayana as the land of the race ruled by Ravana. Epics are of course exaggerated but they are not fictitious narration. There is a skeletal truth behind the narrative.

Lady Ramanathan, who made a special study of Ramayana, has gone to the extent of depicting on a map of India, the route followed by Rama and Sita accompanied by Lakshmana. She has identified various place names and rivers mentioned in Ramayana and the place from which in South India Ravana seized Sita.

In the Island of Lanka, there are several place names associated with Ravana legends. On the Road from Pelmadulla to Balangoda is a mountain range and it is called Ravana Kapolla. It is not necessary to retail the legend, which as usual is highly exaggerated.

The two rocky islets off Tangalle, which have been named as Great Base and Little Base by the Westerners is known in Sinhala as Maha Ravana Kottuwa and Kuda Ravana Kottuwa. A cleft in the rock at Koneswaram temple is called Ravanavettu. The description in Ramayana of Ravana's Capital is considered to have similarities to the terrain around Sigiriya. Place names such as Ravana Ella, Sita Kottuwa, Sita Eliya and Sitawaka are obviously connected with folklore relating to the incidents in Ramayana. Folklore specifically locates the place where the final battle took place and Ravana slain; a place close to the battlefield is specified as the place where his remains were buried.

The Epic poet comes into the picture very much later. Folklore and legends constitute the source material for the Epic poetry. If the personages involved in the incidents are really of Epic dimensions, could folklore and legends persist? Once the legends are woven into the Epic poetry, the narrative of the epic survives for long. The folklore originates around the time of the incidents. The folklore lasts only if the people of the day continue as a group with ethnic and linguistic homogeneity. The Ravana legends and folklores, particularly those associated with specified places could be preserved if only the same ethnic and linguistic group of people continued to live

in those areas. It is clear that the Ravana race continued without extinction or migration. It inevitably follows that the Sinhala people are the progeny of the race ruled by Ravana. Hanuman and the ethnic group which formed the army which fought for Rama are obviously Dravidians and the Aryan arrogance of Valmiki chose to call the Sinhalese Rakshasas and the Dravidians who helped Rama as monkeys.

Ramayana also mentions that persons of the Ravana race used to infiltrate into South India. Similarly groups of the race represented by Hanuman infiltrated into the

given a place in legends and folklore.

The Rakshasas and monkeys of Valmiki Ramayana are ordinary human beings - the Sinhalese and Dravidians - the present day Tamils. Of course they were of different ethnic origin and have naturally inherited a predisposition to dislike each other. Rama exploited the inherent disposition of the Dravidians to dislike the Sinhalese to raise an army from among them and fought the epic battle described in Ramayana.

The legend of Prince Vijaya coming over to the Island by ship from Lala in Bengal or Bihar is an absolute fabrication - fabricated with a purpose. Initially Buddhism spread rapidly over India both in the South and the

of the hatred of the Buddhist clergy who transmitted their hatred towards the Tamils to the lay Sinhalese flock and that is how the identity between race and religion, i.e., Buddhism and the Sinhala race vividly presented in Mahavamsa arose. The obstinacy of this hatred deepened because there were no Sinhalese elsewhere in the world. The collective ego of the Sinhalese thus got fortified and entrenched with an identity with Buddhism.

The story that Prince Vijaya came with 700 followers and founded the Sinhala race is absolute fabrication. A few simple questions are enough to explode the myth.

1. So far no one has identified the legendary country of Lala ruled by Sinhabahu

fishing community would have revolted.

5 Unless these boats were piloted by trained crew, the boats would have drifted back to the Indian coast. Even if trained crew piloted these vessels, the risk of such vessels drifting in different directions could not have been avoided. That all such vessels kept company across for more than a thousand miles of a wide ocean is an impossible myth.

6 Had trained crew piloted these vessels, there would have been among the Sinhalese a caste with expertise in shipping. When the Muslims came from Arabia and landed near Chilav, the Sinhalese got excited at the sight of a ship and gave the Mus-

Who are the Sinhalese?

Island of Lanka. Hanuman could not have performed his feats of espionage in an entirely strange Island. There were Dravidians living in Ceylon at the time of Ramayana. A big army could not have crossed across what has been called by the Westerners as Adam's Bridge if the people on the other side were of a hostile race. Evidence from Ramayana clearly indicates that in the time of Ramayana itself, the Northern part of the Island was occupied by Dravidians and the central hills and the South by the Sinhalese and they constituted the people ruled over by Ravana. Hanuman is the earliest Tamil leader to be

North. But in a very short time Hinduism re-asserted itself; the Hindus abandoned their new faith and went back to their old religion. This was a big defeat for the Buddhist clergy.

The Sinhalese who previously had no coherently spelt-out religion stuck to Buddhism with much dedication. This naturally led the Buddhist clergy to develop a strong sense of affection for the Sinhalese and hatred towards India. The Buddhist clergy in the Island naturally looked upon the nearest Indian population with much hatred. Thus the Dravidians (the Tamils) became the target

with any particular kingdom mentioned in ancient Indian history.

2. Unless the so-called country did border the Bay of Bengal, the king could not have commandeered any vessel from his subjects.

3. Maritime tradition in ancient India has been claimed only by the Dravidian States of the South.

4. 2500 years ago there could have been only fishing boats and catamarans. At least 70 to 100 such boats would have been required to transport 700 men. Had a king commandeered such a large number of fishing boats, the

lim the name 'Marakkala Minisu' people having ships.

7. A pertinent question arises: what was the monsoon that prevailed when Vijaya and his men were sent out. If it was the South West monsoon, they would have just drifted back to the Indian coast. If it was the North East monsoon, they would have landed somewhere between Trincomalee and Tangalle. The story of rounding and then going Northwards is an improbability.

The story of Vijaya and his 700 men founding the Sinhala race was fabricated solely to obliterate the Ravana race ancestry.

THE SILENT SAGE OF THE ROSARIAN MONASTERY

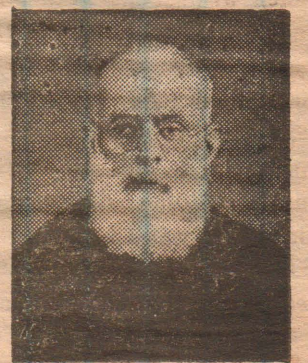
It is well-nigh impossible to pen-portrait the life, work and times of an ascetic priest as 'the Silent Sage of Tholagatty' or 'Mowna Swami' as he was called and known throughout the Jaffna Peninsula. He amply deserves, however, a silent tribute on His 106th birth anniversary which falls on March 7 this year.

Human in form; humane in action; an unfailing fountain of love and compassion; a reservoir of that rare spiritual fervour; a commissar of Catholicism; a vedhanti in values, he magnetised all who went to him, sinner or simpleton, scholar or agnostic. He was indeed a symbol of self-abnegation that toiled for 20 out of the 24 hours a day, praying, meditating, preaching and counselling. His 'dhasan' and guidance dispelled the doubts, fears, and pain of all who went to

him with their tales of woe. TO ALL OF THEM, HE WAS CHRIST INCARNATE. He was verily a 'rara avis' of much Angelic Grace in the Lord's Vineyard on Earth. Many were the stories and numerous were the incidents in which THIS FRAIL MAN OF GOD was the Hero. He led many amidst that encircling gloom and uncertainties of life radiating grace, charm, wisdom and deep divinity.

WHO, BY GOD, WAS THIS MAGNETIC MYSTIC OF SUPERHUMAN DIMENSION? He was the REV. FATHER BASTIAMPILLIAI ANTHONY THOMAS, O. M. I. the pioneer and founding father of THE ROSARIAN MONASTERY AT THOLAGATTY, JAFFNA (SRI LANKA) perhaps an institution, the first of its kind in the East or for that

matter in Asia and in Africa! The genesis of this great institution was the result of the 'Rerum Ecclesiae' of His Holiness Pope Pius XI in 1926 urging the Bishops in the Afro-Asian region to promote and propagate indigenous forms of spiritual contemplation and perspectives as a means for the advancement of the faith. Thus came into being on the second of February 1928 'THE CONGREGATION OF THE ROSARIANS AND THE MONASTERY' housed in an abandoned Mission House at Tholagatty receiving the blessings of His Lordship, the then Bishop of Jaffna, Rt. Rev. DR. Guyamour, O. M. I., to whom belonged the credit for having chosen the OBJECT OF OUR VENERATION, Rev. Fr. B. A. Thomas as intrinsically suited mentally, physically and spiritually to head such an



organisation as the Rosarian monastery which in course of time flowered into a Mine of all Purity - the very manifestation of God, attracting thousands upon thousands from every strata of society and from all Faiths! It was a 'WONDER OF WONDERS'. It was like a child being drawn to its mother and vice-versa.

He received his baptism on the very day he was born as medical opinion doubted his survival. He was such a weakling and remained so even after becoming a priest! He was the proud recipient

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Leftists Disrupted Settlement

Today when federalism is suggested as a possible solution to resolve the National Question now facing the island and contain both Sinhalese and Tamils under the same polity, strong opposition has been raised in the South but the Sinhalese people little realise that it was Mr S W R D Bandaranayake and not Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam or the Tamils who first thought of adopting a Federal Constitution as far back as 1926, when he returned to the Island as a barrister after his Oxford education.

He always thought it a most suitable system to the peoples inhabiting the Island; the lowcountry Sinhalese, the upcountry Sinhalese as well as the Tamils. Perhaps, he may have implemented it, had he become Prime Minister in 1947 following the General Elections to the new Parliament under the Soulbury Constitution which was Unitary in form.

In 1947 no political party had a majority in Parliament but it was the Sinhala Maha-

Saba that had the majority amongst the members returned to Parliament. Although at that time he had joined the new political Party - the United National Party headed by Mr. D. S. Senanayake, he had not dissolved his own organisation which he continued to maintain until his defection in 1952. He accepted Mr. D. S. Senanayake as his leader and accepted ministerial office under him.

He was the first Minister of Local Government and he immediately set about drafting a Bill for Provincial Autonomy but when the Bill was ready to be presented before Parliament, Mr. D. S. Senanayake intervened by not giving the Minister of Local Government the required cabinet approval.

Although generally blamed as a rabble-rouser because of the 1956 Sinhala Only Official Language Act for which he was the architect, he was not a rabid communalist as the shrewd D. S. Senanayake was.

In the meantime another Kandyan Member of Parliament Mr. R. E. Jayatileke started an agitation for a federal set-up for the Kandyan territory.

Although Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake did not create an issue on the rejection of his Provincial Council Bill by the Cabinet by resigning his portfolio and crossing over to the Opposition, he had still not given up his

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ideal regarding the federal principle. That was perhaps the reason why he was able to come to an amicable settlement with Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam to grant Regional Councils to the Tamils with power for one or more Regional Councils to merge if they so desired, when he was confronted by a political crisis on the Language Issue. The Bandaranayake - Chelvanayakam Pact of July 26th, 1957 provided for a measure of political power to the Tamils and a certain degree of the Use of

Tamil for official purposes. The pact itself was an interim arrangement to persuade the Federal Party to give up its proposed Civil Disobedience Campaign but did not prevent it from continuing its demand either for a Federal Constitution or Equality of Status for both Sinhala and Tamil as Official Languages.

But yet the first objection to the Agreement came from a most unexpected quarter - the Lanka Sama Samaja Party. The Pact was signed on July 26th, 1957, as mentioned earlier, in order to avert the Federal Party Convention that was meeting in Batticaloa on July 27th and 28th from giving the green light to start the Civil Disobedience Campaign for which the Party had given one year prior notice at a Special Convention held earlier at Trincomalee. By signing the Agreement both Prime Minister S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake and Chelvanayakam had averted an imminent political crisis.

On the other hand Comrade Colvin R. de Silva whose

party had promised parity of status for both Sinhala and Tamil languages characterised it a 'sell out' to the Tamils. The very words of Colvin R. de Silva were 'Now Mr. Banda had conceded more than what we (the LSSP) would have given'. This statement revealed to the Tamils the LSSP in its true colours. It is an irony of fate that these very leftist parties are now shedding crocodile tears for the abrogation of the Pact blaming the United National Party and both J. R. and Dudley its leaders for campaigning against the Pact.

No wonder, when these two signed in their turn, the Dudley - Chelvanayakam Pact of March, 1965, the so called Marxist Left parties paraded the roads of Colombo City shouting rabid communal slogans like 'Dudleyge Bade Misala Vade'. When looked at the whole Tamil Issue from this perspective, one would realise that the leftists were the root cause of the whole problem. When Sir John Kotelawala gave a promise at Kokuvil to amend the Soulbury Constitution to grant equality of status to both languages, it was the Communist Party of the North which conducted

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The Silent...

(Continuation from Page 3)

of the anointing of the sick four times. But God sustained him and granted him a longer lease of life for such were His plans!

Completing his education, this weakling of a child, much against parental wish joined the St. Martin's Seminary Jaffna and took to the priesthood. As his health continued to cause anxiety, his mentors did not assign him pastoral duties; instead he was assigned to St. Patrick's College as a teacher of Mathematics and Catechism and to be in charge of the Non-Catholic Students' Hostel.

The end of this remarkable servant of God and servants of the servants of God and His children came on 26.1.1964 - exactly 28 years ago today, and he was laid to rest on 27.1.1964 at the very spot where he had triumphantly laboured for 36 years ministering to many, many. Let us rededicate ourselves and our sober wishes to His Grand Passion on His 106th Birth Anniversary in the midst of all our trials and tribulations.

J. Arulanandam

Vayavilan

ANNUAL AWARD

World Environment Day - 1992

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.

In the name of progress and commerce, the biosphere is destroying itself. Global warming due to green-house effect of excess carbon-dioxide, increased radiation effects due to the hole in the Ozone layer are the effects which are being felt on a global scale. At more localized levels there is pollution of the land and waters by toxic chemicals and waste products and by the wars of man. Man seems to be cancer on 'Gaia' or the living mother earth, and eating into her inwards and destroying her. Nuclear wars may even tear the planet apart at a future date and blast it into smithereens. All these evil effects are due to the activities of Man - the latest, the most advanced and the

most intelligent of all the living species on this earth that evolution has produced. The ethics of population growth, pollution and over-exploitation of nature by man is an area which man's own intelligence and ingenuity will have to tackle before long. Individuals, societies, nations and global organizations will have to take corrective steps as soon as possible to prevent a catastrophe.

The United Nations System gives due regard to journals / journalists in the process of continuous dissemination of information relating to the ideals and mission, and to the activities of the UN System, thereby enabling the general public informed for its cooperation and support to the UN System. The UN System is in urgent need of the peoples cooperation and support, more particularly to such issues of global scale as Environment & Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Nuclear proliferation, killer disease AIDS.

The News Papers published from Jaffna qualifying in the above respect would be considered for UNAJU's Annual Certificate of Honour (Award) - 1992 by an external Ad Hoc Committee for Award 1992, comprising citizens

from Jaffna enjoying excellent track record in Social Service-Social Justice. This award is of great significance in

view of the 'Earth Summit' (UNCED), and has 'Global Merit'.

- UNAJU -

The Poem Inborn

*Always endeavour to create a poem
With divine rhythmic movement and depth of sense.
Unless and until there is vision in the soul realm
Which will cause spiritual excitement immense.*

*An inspired word will not emanate
To express the experienced feeling innate.
Spontaneous urge will surge in the heart
To deliver itself in the verse with delight.*

*The vision may be anything in nature
Or god or man or the life of creature.
It may be of sensible beauty and emotion
Of truth of thought, pleasure, pain or devotion.*

*It is the soul which sees these things
Say the great saints and profound muse.
Intelligence, imagination and sense
Are instruments of the soul which shines.*

*The poem composed with spontaneous feelings neat
Is a source of solace to the heart.
Sympathy and serenity so sweet
Will sing and dance with bosom's beat.*

- ANBEZHIL -

Shanthiyagam is no Mirage but a Reality

We give below the First Instalment of the Convocation Address delivered by Rev. Dr. S. M. Selvaratnam on the occasion of the Second Graduation ceremony held at 'Thodarpaham' on 18th January, 1992. A report on the Graduation Ceremony is published at Page 2.

CHIEF - GUEST

We are honoured by your presence, Sir. We see in you a leader of a very important educational institution in this region. Since, it's the only University of its kind in the North, and since it's a war environment, we see your responsibility doubling, your burdens heavy, and your position at times precarious. Yet, we dare say that you, Sir, is the right person to lead this educational institution at this important stage of the history of the Tamils of Sri Lanka. It is precisely at this time, we believe, the University needs to play a leadership role, not just teaching, training, and producing graduates, but men and women who can think, reflect, and vision into the future so that the growing needs of the community can be met with.

We see in the Vice-Chancellor a prophetic leader, or at least a need for prophetic leadership. Let me define what I mean by the term - "prophet". A prophet is a person who can feel the pulse of the community, project the needs of the people years ahead by interpreting the present in the background of the past so that these needs are meaningfully met. For such thinking, visioning, and planning, the prophetic person needs to be feed internally and externally. We wish you, Sir, that freedom.

YOU AND WE

We are equally honoured by this distinguished body of guests here present. We invited you, ladies and gentlemen, on purpose. Because we esteemed you all as leaders of the community - each in your own right, and in your own chosen field, we decided to share with you as to who we are, what we are about, and why you should even care to know about us.

Hope you are not surprised at our audacity and initiative, or would you call this "aggressiveness"? We would refer to call it sharing, and

trying to open a channel for interpersonal communication process, which will eventually lead to interpersonal relationships and interdisciplinary study, research, and development for the good of the Community.

"SHANTHIYAGAM" - ORIGINS

"Shanthiyagam" - The Association for Health and Counselling began in mid 1988 with a view to meet the needs of the "tormented victims" as they called it then. They groped in the dark as it were, and called themselves "befrienders" - not sure of its real depth. However, one thing was certain, and that is - these pioneers were looking at something as an immediate need of our society, and we believe, that they rightly identified a problem and were looking at the right direction to resolve the problem.

When we joined this group and took over the responsibilities of this Association,

we began to lay the foundation for a center that would primarily meet the needs of our people from psychosocial and mental health perspectives. Thus, the goal of our center naturally got broadened. We feel that we visioned in the right direction and pioneered an academic and professional training program for the first time in this island nation. This is our second graduation ceremony.

THE WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

The nine long years of war in this region has to have its impact. What began as a guerilla war soon turned into a conventional war as well. What is unique about this war is that it is often fought in our homes, from our homes and in our neighbourhood. Thus, we are directly affected by this war. This may not be the place and time to do a deeper psychological analysis of this war and its consequences for this generation and for the generations to come - although such a study is very necessary - some salient and relevant factors need to be mentioned here so that we can understand the philosophy, the psychology, the spirituality, and the goals of Shanthiyagam - our Association.

What we need to accept is - painful as it may be - that we have seen an end to an era in June 1983 when the present war began. Going back to "the good old days" or hoping for a return to

that era would be considered "regression" in psychological terms. What we are going through now is a transition period. Transitions are times of disorientation and reorientation that mark the turning points of the path of growth (William Bridges, 1980).

Erik Erikson - a psychologist - when mapping out the developmental stages, discussed the developmental task of each stage. The transition period with its tension, anxiety, frustration, fear of the future, insecurity are crises of that particular stage. When these crises of the transition period are not resolved, chances are that we could get stuck in our developmental stage and may grow into the next stage with unresolved issues of the previous stage. Consequences could be neurotic and/or even psychotic disorders. The person can be affected in personally, and interpersonally thus disrupting his/her human relationships with others.

Daniel Levinson also a psychologist while speaking of different stages in an adult's development identified transition periods that could run into five years, and he calls them both gifts and burdens. We have experienced our transition years for the last nine years.

The life threatening question from a mental health perspective is: "How long are these transition years going to be?" In ordinary parlance, we ask: "When will this



war come to an end?" From a political perspective, some may even ask: "Will it end at all?" We can cite examples from Nicaragua, El Salvador, South Africa, Northern Ireland where this kind of a war has still not seen an end (an a community live through an endless transition period (s unde, contradictory in terms!), and mentally be healthy? Are we beginning to drop this turmoil turbulence, uncertainty, death, destruction, loss, shortage, and deprivation as the life-style for years to come? How does that affect our culture and our personality? Are we going to adopt a war culture as our normal patterns of life, and suffer the consequence? Are we going to be a sick society?

The death and destruction that this war has brought unto us is enormous. It is so overwhelming that we seem to have lost a sense of life. We don't seem to value life anymore. A society that grieved with relative a d friends for its loss in a big way - a society that d ue and cry over one death in a family can't have emotionally frozen now by so much loss in the family, and loss all around us.

(To be Continued Next week)

LEFTISTS DISRUPTED...

(Continuation from Page 4)

a post-card campaign requesting the Prime Minister to implement the promise he had given. Ten thousand printed post cards addressed to the P. M. were distributed in the North and people were requested to mail them after having signed them.

The two left parties followed one another and conducted public meetings in the subsequent week - ends in Kandy and Colombo Town Halls demanding parity of status to both National Languages fully alive to the turmoil that issue had created in the South. Both meetings were interrupted by violent intruders. The Communist Party subsequently issued a clarification as to what it meant by Parity of Status - Tamil to be the Administrative Language in the Northern and Eastern provinces and Sinhala would remain

the Official Language throughout the country.

These two left parties which successfully brought the UNP to its knees and forced Dudley Senanayake to resign his premiership by their One-Day Hartal of August, 1953, could have easily defeated the UNP Government at the hustings by forming a left United Front but to topple the Sir John Kotelawala Government, they made political issue of a promise he made at the spur of the moment. While still appearing as genuine crusaders for Tamil Rights, they signed an Electoral No-contest Pact and helped the Marajana Eksath Peramuna to sweep to power. If they were so genuine, they could have contested the elections throughout the Island by forming a left United Front themselves. They paid lip-service to

Parity of Status to both languages, when the Official Language Bill was debated in Parliament and by so doing they were able to retain their Tamil backing. Later they accepted ministerial office under the very plank of the mousethey chose to create. Thus the stand of the Leftists on the Language issue was an eye-wash. So how could they blame Banderanayake as a 'rabble rouser'?

All Marxist Socialist countries in Europe resolved the "Nationalities question" by adopting federal constitutions especially in the context of multi-racial or multi ethnic societies. On the other hand, in Sri Lanka the leftists and particularly the Communist Party did not put forward practical solutions based on the the federal Principle in their Election Manifestos but instead branded the Federal Party as a Communal Organisation. Had the left parties included the Federal solution to the National question,

there would not have been any need for the Tamil or Mr Chelvanayakam to organise a separate Tamil Party exclusively for the Tamils. If the Sinhala masses in the South are opposing today any moves to resolve the National Question by the adoption of a federal solution, the blame for it lies not with the Sinhala racists alone but the Marxist left parties are also equally to share that blame.

Here in Sri Lanka, the Leftists who condemn the federalists as communalists, are not socialists but simply racists. They revealed their true identity at the most critical times when they opposed the Dudley-Chelvanayakam Pact in March, 1965 for District Councils. In fact it was their concerted opposition that aborted this pact. Earlier even the Bandula-Chelva Pact for regional autonomy too was first objected to by Colvin R. de Silva a Sama Samajist leader. The Daily News of July 28th carried his statement.

HOT SPRING

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NOT AN INTERNAL PROBLEM

The Sinhala - Tamil conflict in this Island has long since ceased to be an internal matter.

In fact the beginnings of this conflict can be directly traced to foreign intrusion into the Island.

The Britishers lumped together two different nations into a 'strategic unity' for purposes of maintenance and conservation of the British Empire. But for this misfortune in history, the Tamil nation in the Island would not be sacrificing so much of its population and wealth as it does today.

The Sinhala Tamil conflict has caused tens of thousands of Eelam Tamils to seek refuge in almost all parts of the globe. Eelam Tamils have gone to all the five continents of the world because they just cannot live in their own homeland. Large numbers have gone to Europe and America (Canada) and Asia (India) as refugees. This shows the enormity of the problem and the global dimensions to which it had grown.

With the signing of the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene accord in 1987 the conflict was internationalised. Indian troops replaced the Sinhala troops and were soon engaged in war in foreign soil.

The exit of the Indian Army from Tamil Eelam soil has by no means stopped Indian participation in the Sinhala Tamil war.

We had reports recently that the Indian Navy caught a sea-going vessel belonging to the LTTE. The reports also further said that the LTTE had asked for the return of their ship on the ground that the vessel was captured by the Indian Navy on the high seas and not in the territorial waters of India.

India's co-operation with the Government of Sri Lanka in militarily subjugating Eelam Tamils is evidenced by the fact that India has already repatriated some Tamil refugees and handed them over to the government of Sri Lanka while the war is still on and international organisations have documented 'disappearances' and torture of Tamil refugees in Refugee Camps. The brazenness with which India has violated internationally recognized rights of refugees clearly demonstrates India's active role in the conflict between the Tamils and Sinhalese.

India has internationalised the Sri Lankan war. It is therefore now impossible for the international community to avoid its responsibility by continuing to think that the conflict in Sri Lanka is an 'internal matter'.

The more the international community misleads itself in this matter, the greater will be the woes of the Tamils. It is therefore time that the international community realise its responsibilities.

As a first step in the role the international community has to play to stop genocide in Sri Lanka, we urge all foreign-aid donor countries to stop all aid to Sri Lanka which is carrying on a war, the scale of which can by no means be described as a skirmish or a law and order problem.

We therefore urge all countries which are interested in peace which are concerned with human sufferings, which are interested in justice to stop all foreign aid to the Government of Sri Lanka which has no iota of right to rule Tamil Eelam and its people.

POINT PEDRO BOMBED GOVT. EMPLOYEE DIES ON DUTY

A government officer, postal delivery peon attached to the Point Pedro Post Office, died on the spot at Point Pedro when Sri Lankan Air Force Bombers bombed the Point Pedro town.

Sri Lankan Air Force bombers accompanied by a helicopter hovered over the Point Pedro town on Tuesday, January 22 at about 10-15 a.m. Two bombers dropped five bombs around the junction of 4th cross street in Point Pedro town.

S. Thedchanamoorthy (50) a postal peon attached to the Point Pedro Post Office who was returning after delivering letters died on the spot as a result of the bombing. Another old person N. Ganesan (68) was severely injured. A woman named Thevaratnam Maria Rosalin also suffered injuries. Ten houses in the area were badly damaged.

The Sri Lankan Air Force bombers also bombed another place called Manatkadu in Point Pedro about the same

time. A woman named M. Regina (48) died on the spot. Another young girl named Antony Niranjani (17) suffered severe injuries and was admitted to the Manthikai Hospital.

A number of houses in Manatkadu area were also damaged.

PENSIONS NOT PAID

Local Government Service Pensioners have not been paid their pensions for December, 1991 yet.

It is learnt that the Local Government Service Commission Department posted the individual pension vouchers to the recipients but did not send the schedule of pensioners to the various banks

and the Jaffna Kachcheri. Because these schedules have not been received by the authorities they are unable to pay pensioners who present their individual vouchers.

One Local Government pensioner told our correspondent that three festivals, Christmas, New Year and Thai Pongal fell within this period. The Local Government Service Department in Colombo had not thought it fit to pay the pensioners their December pension which should have been paid on December 5.

Artillery Shell Attack

Sri Lankan forces stationed at Karainagar carried out artillery shell attacks directed towards Pannalai on the night of Wednesday, January 22.

Reports state that a number of houses were damaged.

Also the Sri Lankan forces at Mandaitivu launched artillery shell attack towards Jaffna on Thursday, January 23 night.

The shells exploded in the coastal areas of Karaiyoor and Pannai around Jaffna town.

Three Tamils Shot Dead at Sampur

Three Tamils were shot dead at Sampur in Kottiyar Pattu, Trincomalee District.

These three Tamils died as a result of the Sri Lankan Forces opening fire in the Sampur village.

The deceased are Nagalingam Ravinesan, Kanagar Sivamohan and Chelliah Yogswaran.

The incident occurred on Tuesday, January 21.

Heavy Bomber Attack in Vavunia

News from Vavunia state that the Sri Lankan Air Force planes carried out heavy air attack for an hour in Echankulam and Kattayarkulam in the Vavunia District.

The attack took place on Wednesday, January 22 in the evening.

A large number of houses in these two areas are reported to have been damaged. The report also adds that the residents of Echankulam

have left the village as the bomber attack there was very heavy.

Air Force Attack in Mannar & Mullaitivu

Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed Murunkan and 11th Mile Post areas in the Mannar District on Tuesday, January 21.

The reports also further say that Sri Lankan Air Force bombers bombed the 3rd Mile post and 11th Mile post areas in the Mullaitivu District the previous day, Monday January 20.

Report of damages are awaited.

COMPULSORY REPATRIATION UN TO INQUIRE

The UN Sub-Commission is likely to go into the question of repatriating Tamil Refugees from Tamil Nadu to Refugee Camps maintained in the Northeast of Sri Lanka where government forces have gained control.

As already reported in our Issue of 19-1-92, Mr. K. Mahendrarajah of the LTTE has appealed for UN intervention to prevent the com-

pulsory repatriation of Eelam Tamil refugees from Tamil Nadu calling it a gross violation of human rights in accordance with accepted tenets of International Law especially in the context of documented 'atrocities' and 'disappearances' in Sri Lanka made by organisations like Amnesty International and allied organisations.

Statue of LTTE fighters unveiled

A statue depicting the LTTE fighters in action was unveiled on Saturday January 18th by Dr. Anton Balasingam of the LTTE in the presence of a huge gathering.

The statue was erected by the public in demonstration of their solidarity with the LTTE fighters in the cause of Tamil Eelam.

The unveiling ceremony was followed by a public meeting at which Dr. Anton Balasingam spoke.