

HOT SPRING

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HINDU wants war to continue!

The Government of India maintains that the war in the Northeast is an internal problem of Sri Lanka. But when moves are afoot to bring about talks between Government and LTTE, India does everything to see that such talks do not take place.

The latest report is that the "Hindu" has said that any talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE would be regarded as an unfriendly act towards India!

Govt. Forces in active battle Tigers inflict heavy losses

The Government has increased its war efforts in the Northeast. A curfew was imposed in the Northern Districts of Vavunia, Mullaitivu and Mannar effective from the midnight of last Sunday, February 23. The curfew is still in force. It was relaxed for one day in Vavunia and Mannar Districts but reimposed. The curfew in Mullaitivu was, however, not relaxed and continues to be in force from the 23rd.

Government reports said that the armed forces of the Government were making efforts to obtain more areas under control but there is a paucity of information from Government side.

In the meantime reports reaching Jaffna from Vavunia said that the fighting in Vavunia is continuing with the Air Force engaged in active bombing of some Tamil villages around Vavunia. According to the reports three armoured vehicles of the Government have been destroyed by Tiger fire. The Tigers said that two of their cadres died in the battle this week in Vavunia. The Sri Lankan casualty is not known.

In the meantime reports received from the East state that the Sri Lankan Army had suffered heavy casualties in Valaichenai in the

Batticaloa District. According to the reports the Tigers killed 20 Sri Lankan soldiers near Valaichenai when a contingent of 100 Sri Lankan soldiers moved out to round up Tamil villages nearby.

The reports further say that the Sri Lankan soldiers left the dead bodies of their colleagues and escaped to the Army Camp with injuries. The Tigers who recovered 20 dead bodies of Sri Lankan soldiers cremated the bodies. The Tigers said that one of their own own cadres also died in the battle. The Tigers also claimed to have recovered over 30 weapons and ammunitions from the Sri Lankan Army.

In the meantime the Sri Lanka Army has declared a night curfew in the Kuchchaveli and Muthalikulam A. G. A's Divisions in the Trincomalee District. The Government has established in all 171 armed forces camps or sta-

tions in the Trincomalee District and claims that this District too is under its control but the declaration of curfew and loss suffered there by the Sri Lankan Air Force with 20 Air Force men dying last week gives the lie to the Government claim.

Refugees' Huts Burned

During the process of military operations undertaken in the Amparai District in mid-February, the Sinhala armed forces are reported to have burnt a number of huts put up by Tamil refugees.

The report states that many Tamils who had been displaced from their homes had put up huts in the Kudumimalai jungles and were living in the jungle.

During the course of army operations in mid-February in the Amparai District Sinhala troops entered the jungles of Kudumimalai and burnt the huts of Tamil refugees there.

Sinhala Army Shoots to death 5 Tamils

Reports received from Trincomalee reveal that five Tamils were shot dead by the Sinhala army in the village of Raalkuli in the Mutur Division, Trincomalee District.

The incident occurred on February 14 at Raalkuli when

the Sinhala army opened fire on the village. The deceased have been identified as Nalliah Inparajah, Selliah Packiarajah, Logeswaran, Kanagaratnam Rajan and Thambirajah Sathiyaseelan.

Two persons, Velupillai Mohan and Thambirajah Siva sustained injuries.

Verma Commission passes Strictures on Congress (I) M. P.

According to reports from New Delhi, the Verma Commission investigating into the

lack of security arrangements in connection with the visit of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to Sri Perambudur in Tamil Nadu has passed severe strictures on the Congress (I) MP. for Sri Perambudur, Mrs. Maragatham Chandrasekar.

Readers will recollect that 'Hot Spring' in its last issue reported that M/s. Kumudavalli, a Congress (I) worker, had told the Verma Commission that Maragatham Chandrasekar had close links with 'Dhanu' the alleged assassin of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

Tamil Nadu Looks up to Pirabakaran

A Madras report says that Mr. Pannuruddi Ramachandran, MLA speaking at a public meeting at Thiyagaraja Nagar in Madras quoted a Madras Hindu report according to which an elderly person referring to the Karnataka troubles had said that Mr. Velupillai Pirabak

aran should be brought to relieve the Tamils. Mr. Ramachandran continuing said that when Tamils are in great peril they think of Pirabakaran.

Mr. Ramachandran severely criticised the Governments of New Delhi and Tamil Nadu for repatriating Eelam Tamils. It was like handing over rats to cats Mr. Ramachandran said.

Musings of Mr. Meddle



Witchcraft—a new technique in aerial warfare. - News

Wonder whether the same wizard prepared the oil sprayed on the chairs in parliament house at Jayawardhenepura!

Veerappan gets the boot

M/s. Jayalalita, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has relieved Mr. R. M. Veerappan of his Education

Ministry portfolio in the Tamil Nadu Government.

Earlier Mr. Veerappan, as Minister of Education made order that Tamil should be made the medium of instruction in all schools.

Education was originally a subject assigned to the state list under the Indian Constitution. Subsequently by a Constitutional Amendment Education was brought to the Concurrent List which meant that even the Centre could legislate on the subject affecting schools in the states. After the Constitutional amendment there are schools run by the Delhi government in the states too including Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Veerappan's order it is said, could ultimately lead to a friction between the State and the Centre on

Condemnation to Death says Nedumaran

Mr. P. Nedumaran, the Tamil Nadu leader and staunch supporter of Tamil Eelam cause, now on a tour of Europe answered some questions to the correspondent of Tamil Nation published from London. Here is an excerpt from Tamil Nation January 15 issue:

Ques : What is your opinion of the Indian Government's decision to send back Eelam Tamils who had sought refuge in Tamil Nadu?

Ans : To send Eelam Tamils back to Sri Lanka at this juncture is an inhuman act. To send them back before a peaceful settlement is reached, is equivalent to condemning them to death.

OUR READERS SAY

The Editor,
'Hot Spring'

Adverting to the suggestion made by Mr. Dinesh-Gunarwardene, recently in the National State Assembly, to the effect that the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination held in August, 1990 and the subsequent one held in the Tamil speaking areas in April, 1991 should not be compared and selection made for admission to the Universities, as the candidates in the Tamil speaking areas had the advantage of nearly eight months period for their studies. Surely this matured and very senior politician, a leader of a Political Party should think before he speaks. Is this one way of showing the Sinhalese that he is a champion of his people? Certainly it is pertinent to ask why the examination in the Tamil areas was not conducted in August 1990. Was it the fault of the students? It is the Government who conducts the examination and not the candidates. It is an open secret that there was a war declared in these areas, by the Government of Sri Lanka, against its own people and as a result Schools did not function for several months, the approved syllabus was not covered, there was indefinite curfew proclaimed

every now and then, supply of electricity was completely cut off, kerosene oil and other fuel supply to these areas were not made available - transport of these items were legally banned, food items and very many other things too, which are essentials for living purposes were not made available in these areas. Teachers, students, parents, were, for a good part of the day and night having fearful time in the bunkers. People living in the Tamil areas never had a square meal a day. So much so, how can anyone think of preparing for the examination as their life and limbs were in danger. I am really hurt that there are such narrow minded and short sighted

people living in the 20th century and what is strange, is that a few such people warm the chairs in Parliament and the poor people are maintain-

ing them at heavy cost-paying them high salaries, fat allowances, subsidised food, free board and postal facilities, including telephone services and substantial pension.

Mr. DINESH - Please note that the boot is on the wrong leg.

Yours truly,
M. Kanagalingam.

Meesalai

Cure is wanted not mere diagnosis

Editor,
Hot Spring

The common man knows only too well that the loud trumpeting of political leaders from the President downwards that the present crisis is due to the political parties. Being fully alive to the nature of the problem, there is a moral obligation on the part of the President to put the record straight (not fight shy) and find a lasting political and peaceful solution not on mere diagnosis.

The prime duty of the Head of a State is to give priority to the affected people. As a just and noble leader it is incumbent on the President to redress the grievances of the Tamils and permit them to return to normal and peaceful living. The vexed issues could well be sorted out with the LTTE with the co-operation of your party and the members of the Opposition. No time should be lost in this process and outside forces should not be

allowed to meddle in our affairs. Ear should not be lent to forces with a communal bias.

Discretion is always the better part of valour. So Create a climate of peace by lifting the food embargo, restoring essentials such as fuel, electricity and transport.

A cure lies in the recognition of Tamils as a people with a national identity.

S. Jayaratnam
Chavakachcheri

A 'GIVE AND TAKE' - THE MOTTO

Dear Editor,

The Sinhala - Tamil conflict has been going on for several years shedding much blood and causing agony and sorrow on both sides. It has defied solutions so far. The Government of the day - UNP or SLFP wanted the Tamil problem to be settled to the satisfaction of the Buddhist fundamentalists, the Maha Sanga and their ilk, though this is not a religious problem but a political one. For a

solution to succeed, it should win the acceptance of those who are directly and adversely affected by it and have the support of all reasonable and fair-minded citizens. In my opinion, if the Government forgets about the elections and sets out a formula based not on fantasy but on reality and reason, it is bound to succeed.

The Government has nothing to lose by conceding the Tamils the rights they are entitled to and the Sinhalese

their rights. But nobody should be under an illusion that the rights of the Sinhalese means the right to rule the Tamils, as the British once adopted. The Sinhalese have everything to gain. But those amongst them who are imbued with colonial and imperialist notions happily are on death's throes the world over, and are adopting moves to sabotage the peace process and justify military annihilation.

The reasonable demands of the Tamils should be conceded, preserving the sovereignty and unity of the country, though not the unitary character of the Constitution. There must be a policy of 'give and take' or the problem cannot be solved just 'gratis'. The Sinhalese leaders even at this eleventh hour should re-think their philosophy on a 'live and let live' basis which alone can bring mutual satisfaction to both communities.

Erlalai R. L. Thevathasan

It is reported in the Tamil Nadu publication 'Thinamani' that the Tamil United Liberation Front had been granted a sum of one million rupees by the Indian government. According to it, a delegation from the TULF headed by its President M. Sivasithamparam along with Messrs. Mavai Senathirajah, Joseph Pararajasingham, Thangathurai and others had visited India and had talks with Foreign Minister Mathavasingh Solanki, its Secretary, J. N. Dixit and other high officials.

ESTY

The outcome is that India agreed to part with a million rupees to the TULF. It appears that when the TULF delegation reached Palam Airport in New Delhi, they were whisked away by Foreign Ministry officials of India to a hideout and thereafter to 'South Block' building of the Foreign Ministry. It is here, it is supposed that the delegation asked for an aid of one million rupees and it was given. It is not known whether Mr. Neelan Thiruchelvam, one time alleged spokesman of the Tamils preferred by Jayawardene too accompanied this delegation.

TULF GIMMICKS

There is lot of speculations among the Tamils about this. There was also a news that the TULF delegation met President Premadasa and requested that civilians be avoided when aerial attacks are made in the Jaffna Peninsula during the government's proposed concentrated offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The logic of this humble request is that the government has all the rights to launch attacks in any form in the Jaffna peninsula against the Tigers who according to the thinking of these much learned personalities, are imposters holding the Tamils to ransom. Probably, is it the intention of the TULF, that if by any stray chance some innocent civilian gets hurt in a small way (because, in any way the Airforce and the army will be too careful in their bombings and firing to avoid hurting civilians) to use this 'Indian Aid' to alleviate their grievances by way of compensation. Or, is this some form of 'pocket money' for services rendered or to be rendered?

Everyone knows that for any aid to be granted by the Indian government a favourable report is a must. Who gave this favourable report? It is the Research and Analysis Wing of India, the famous RAW, whose miscalculations, misunderstandings and disinformation led to the debacle of Indian Foreign policy and the world's famous fourth largest army. Whatever it

is, the RAW would not have recommended this aid if it were not for the help the TULF is willing to give to India. Is the TULF going to spy or mislead the Sri Lankan government? This cannot be because it has high hopes of the Sri Lankan President. After all he has acceded to its request not to harm innocent civilians during aerial attacks. What else can it offer India? Of

course, the TULF and its stooges could sabotage Tamil national liberation. This, they can very well do with their past expert negative political background.

It is sad to see learned experienced politicians not learning by past experience. If one does not understand the ground situation and the political and military behaviour patterns, he should side step and not be in the way of those who know these things.

Cricket

St. John's drew with Jaffna Hindu in the match played at St. John's College grounds on 22. 2. 92.

Scores:-

St. John's College - 214 for 8 declared. Jaffna Hindu College 111 and 183 for 3 at close.

In a match at played Manipay Hindu College grounds on 22. 2. 92, Jaffna Central drew with Manipay Hindu College.

Scores.

Manipay Hindu 82 and 135 for 9 declared. Jaffna

Central 78 and 15 for no loss.

In another match played at the same grounds on 23. 02. 92, St. Patrick's drew with Manipay Hindu.

SPORTS

The Scores were -

Manipay Hindu 158 for 9 and 15 for 1. St. Patrick's 127 and 115 for 3 declared.

Volleyball

In a closely fought volleyball match played at Nallur on 24. 02. 92, Mohandas beat Centralites.

Soccer

Trinco Stars beat St. Roche's by 2 - 1 in the Soccer finals played at Kokuvil Tech. grounds on 25. 02. 92. This tourney was organised by Kokuvil Tech.

Basketball

Shabra is organising a Basket ball tourney for clubs and Schools. The entires close on 03. 03. 92 and the tournament is scheduled at the Jaffna Campus courts on 8. 3. 92

Vijeyakumar

Transformation Through Love

Imperialists are chiefly responsible for the turbulent turmoil of the whole world. Great geni like Bertrand Russell and Bernard Shaw condemned very vehemently the beastly action of the mighty big political powers of the world involved in intrigues to induce the weaker nations to wage war against each other and indirectly compel them to buy the arms manufactured by the same bullying big powers.

In our Tamil Elam also the war is being perpetuated by the big powers by selling arms to the Sinhala imperialists who are purchasing the arms with funds given as loan by the same big powers.

Before the Portuguese, Dutch and British Imperialists captured this Island of Ceylon, there were two distinctive and different Kingdoms viz The Tamil Kingdom and Sinhalese Kingdom. In 1833 only the territories of the two nations were enclubbed together by the British Imperialists for their own administrative purpose under one central government. Subsequently the Tamil people were named a minority. When genocide is being committed by the Sinhala Imperialist here the imperialists in the west and the east are aiding and abetting their counterpart cunningly and subtly.

"An eminent scientist asserts that there is now a spray for the control of every form of bug excluding, of course, the *Humbug*" - Robertson Davies in *Leaven of Malice*.

Like decoits the double tongued hypocritical Super Powers with sophisticated weapons in their possession meddle and dabble with the affairs of the meek nations and seek meed by intrigues and trickery. The whole world saw with surprise the budding of a bubble of Super Red Power from the revolution in 1917. That bubble could not exist in this impermanent world - not even for a century. With all the atomic and other weapons in its possession that bubble could exist for seventy four years only.

ALEXANDER'S STORY

Alexander the Great, the Mighty Power - Hungry Imperialist captured the Northern Part of India and ruled there for some time. He used to go incognito to the villages around his camp in

North India in order to learn the habit and manners of the strange new land into which fate had brought him. One day he found a man pleading with another to accept a pot of gold, which the other was refusing to look at! He came to know that the pot of gold was discovered under the soil of the field purchased by the man who refused to accept it. The buyer argued that he had bought only the land and was therefore not entitled to own the pot of gold; the seller said, he had no more right for anything found on or in the plot he had sold. Alexander watched this contest for some time. Both did not yield. At last, the village elders found a happy way out, the buyer's son shall marry the seller's daughter, and the pot of gold shall be given to the bride as dowry! Alexander felt elated at the height to which human virtue could rise; he was ashamed at his own adventurous ambition to conquer other's property by force of arms.

Lofty ideals

There is no ambit for the ambition of Big Powers for domination and subjugation of small nations.

"Small is beautiful is a meaningful saying. But the Big Demon is not amenable to reason. Shakespeare said:

"Reason is our intellectual eye, and like the bodily eye it needs light to see and to see clearly and far, it needs the light of heaven"

"The rose is fairest when it is budding new

And hope is brightest when dawn from fears

The rose is sweetest washed with morning dew
And love is loveliest when embalmed in tears".

— SCOTT.

The following couplets on justice and injustice in our *Thirukkural* which was acclaimed by Dr. Albert Schweitzer who obtained four Doctorates in Medicine, Music, Philosophy and Religion, as the philosophy of world affirmation will serve as an eye opener to the savageous unjust rulers of the whole world.

"Anthanan Nootrkum Arath thitrkum Aathiyai,

Nindrathu Mannavan Kol" The sceptre of the king is the firm support of the Vedas of the Virtuous and of all virtues.

"Kudi Thaliek Kol ochchu Maanila Mannan,

Adi Thalle Nitrukum Ula-ku."

The world will constantly embrace the feet of the great king who rules his subjects with love.

"Kolai Metrkondarin Kodi the Alaimetr Kondu.

Allavai Seitholukum Ven-thu."

More cruel than the man who lives the life of a murderer is the king who gives himself to oppress and act unjustly (towards his subjects)

"Manththukkan Maasu ilan Aathal Anaiththu Aran.

Aakula Neera Pira" Whatever is done with a spotless

mind is virtue; all else is vain show.

"Alukkaaru avaa Vekuli Innasol Naankum,

Elukka Iyandrathu Aram."

That conduct is virtue which is free from four

ANBEZHIL

things: Malice, desire, anger and bitter speech.

EDUCATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who inspired and originated the "Education in Human Values" Programme said as follows:

Present day education develops the intellect and

skills but does little to develop good qualities. Of what avail is all knowledge in the world, if one has not got good character? It is like water going down the drain. There is no use if knowledge grows while desires multiply. It makes one a hero in words and a zero in action.

Man's achievements in the fields of science and technology have helped to improve the material conditions of living. What we need today, however, is a transformation of the spirit. Education should serve not only to develop one's intelligence and skills, but also help to broaden one's outlook and make him useful to society and the world at large. This is possible only when cultivation of the spirit is promoted along with education in the physical sciences. Moral and spiritual education will train a man to lead a disciplined life.

Sinhala Colonisations must be disbanded

From 1952 onwards, if not from earlier times, the Tamil leaders' concern was Sinhala Colonisation of Tamil Homeland. Even though Mr. Bandaranayake and Mr. Dudley Senanayake agreed to refrain from doing this, at no time to this day, has a day passed without Sinhalese being planted in the Tamil Homeland - in many cases against the expressed refusal of many Sinhalese. The case of a Sinhalese lady going to Courts for help to prevent the Police from hunting her and forcing her to get settled in the

S. Alagaratnam

Eastern province, may be recalled; and so too Mr. J. R. Jayewardene's promise to release 5000 prisoners, if they agreed to be settled in Trincomalee.

Earlier, it was State lands that were given to the Sinhalese but now it is not only the lands of the Tamils who had run away as refugees but even the lands of the Tamils who preferred to remain or to return to their lands. These helpless people are chased out and Sinhalese planted in their lands.

In accordance with official census figures in 1921, the Sinhalese were 4.5%; in 1946 it almost doubled to 8.4% and in 1981, it went up 6½ times to 28.9%. Today, we are sure that it has gone up by 15% to 65%.

A Lesson from History

History has taught us a lesson. When the whole of Ireland was part of the United Kingdom, the Govern-

ment of the time, planted Protestants in Catholic Northern Ireland. When Ireland obtained her Independence, this Northern Province which became a Protestant majority area, was not included in the Independent Ireland. The result - the Catholics of Northern Ireland want to be joined to Catholic Ireland. Thus regularly there is a bomb blast not only in the Protestant pockets of Northern Ireland but even in England. Any British soldier is target for the IRA.

The maps of present day Israel published by the Newsweek Magazine and The Island is frightening. The whole of the West Bank annexed by Israel during the 1967 war is dotted with Jewish

settlements. It is now a near impossibility for any Israeli Government to grant any type of autonomy, even with very limited power to the Palestinians. This is a result of USA not being firm from the start and Yasser Arafat not going in for a 'Do or Die' a long-time back.

Today's refusal of USA to grant the promised Ten thousand million dollars long term loan to Israel is not going to solve the problem.

It has, therefore, become essential for all including the International Community to tell the Sinhala Government to disband all Sinhala colonisations in the Northeast. If this is not done, peace can never be restored.

IPKF Departure - No Mourning An Indian's Assessment

Anita Pratap, an Indian journalist reporting in the Indian Express says:-

"No one in Jaffna mourns the departure of IPKF. They are glad that phase is over and enormously relieved that their town has been completely cleansed of the undisciplined, uncouth cadre of EPRLF and other minor groups propped up by the Indians. The Tigers are easier to deal with - they are polite and well-behaved. And they follow a system.

The people admire the LTTE for their commitment and courage. Contrary to the expectations, the LTTE's popularity has increased after the Elephant Pass battle. People don't see it as a defeat for the Tigers. Instead, they glorify the fact that the Tigers gave a tough fight to the combined defense forces of Sri Lanka for 24 days."

Relentless Attacks on Tamils

Any sensible person, particularly an independent and sincere historian will agree that this Island was ruled as several Independent kingdoms before the European Imperialists; Viz:- the Portuguese, the Dutch, and the British stepped to our shores. Kotte, Kandy, Ruhuna and Jaffna were some of them. It was in 1833, all units were united under the Colebrooke reforms, purely for British administrative convenience.

When India attained her Independence on 15-8-1947, after a very prolonged agitation led by the late Mahatma Gandhi, Ceylon also obtained Independence automatically without any bloodshed.

When the first parliament was declared open on 10-2-1948 at the Independence Square, Colombo 7, by the Duke of Gloucester, brother of King George the VI, it was the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake, who was urged to give the main speech on that historic occasion. Mr. Bandaranayake, who was then the Leader of the House, broke away from the UNP and founded a new party called the "Sri Lanka Freedom Party". During the second parliamentary general election in 1952 he fielded a number of candidates to capture power but miserably failed. He could only muster a few members.

When the third general election was held in April 1956, Mr. Bandaranayake very crookedly introduced the notorious Sinhala Only within 24 hours cry - a trump card which eventually gave him a thundering and surprising victory. The UNP led by the late Sir John Kotelawala, the then Prime Minister, got only 8 seats. Mr. Bandaranayake who succeeded him, as the fourth Prime Minister, was shot and killed by his own race on 26-9-1959 at his home.

The following were some injustices and discriminations inflicted against the Tamils in this island, since Independence by the respective party leaders, most of whom have made the innocent people like snakes and mongooses, particularly since 1956.

In November 1948 the Indians and Pakistani residents were disfranchised. However, India viewed this draconian act seriously.

In the same year state aided colonisation schemes were mooted in the traditional areas of the Tamils to settle the Sinhalese community. The district of Amparai was carved out from Batticaloa in 1960 to continue such colonisations en masse with aid obtained from foreign countries.

In April 1954 on the occasion of H. M. Queen Elizabeth II's visit the reception committee failed to include Tamil language. Some leading Tamils viewed it as a discrimination and walked out of the ceremonies before H. M. the Queen. However the then Prime Minister Sir John explained it away as 'an accidental and unintentional slip'.

In June 1956, the official language Sinhala Only Bill was tabled in parliament. Mr. F. R. Jayasuriya, a Professor, launched a fast unto death campaign under the steps of the old parliament building.

J. Arulanandam

On that day the Federal Party led by Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayagam Q. C., launched a satyagraha movement at the Galle Face Green in protest against the Official language Bill. Some communalists disturbed them.

In 1956 a communal riot erupted in the "Gal Oya Valley", which was brought under control by a team of cosmopolitan security officials. A foreign explosive expert's prudential action to blast the entire explosive magazine at the said valley to prevent it from going to the hands of the trouble shooters also caused a terrific fear to the people, who thought that they will be annihilated if they fight one another. His wise step has been appreciated by the security hierarchy. In 1957 the Sri number plates in Sinhala was introduced. There was immense trouble between the two major communities for some years as a result of this Movement. Some leading politicians went to jail also.

In May 1958, still another riot crept in worse than the 1956 one. Thousands of people were transported in ships to Point Pedro, as it was found unsafe to send them overland amidst some boisterous and criminal people. Plenty of females were raped, tortured openly, robbery, arson, theft, murder etc. were rampant.

In 1959 the then caretaker Prime Minister once remarked

the Burghers should either mix with the local population or leave the country for good, as they are descendants of the European Imperialists. This tiny group of people are one of the most affected people in the Island. Their mother tongue is English. Their forefathers served the country in many fields of life. Now most of them have left the country for good to western lands. Only a very few are seen now.

There had been sporadic clashes between the Muslims and the Sinhalese even inside Mosques with bloodshed.

In 1960 the mission schools were taken over with much opposition from the educationist, particularly the Catholics. The late Archbishop of Bombay Rt. Rev. Dr. Valarian Gracias came and amicable settlement was reached between the state and the Catholic Mission.

In 1961 the Federal party again launched a Satyagraha campaign at the Kachcheris to protest against the injustices by the Government to the Tamils. Almost all the people gave support. After some months a detachment of Army men led by Lt. Col. A. R. Udugama was sent to break up the satyagraha. The satyagraha campaign was suppressed. However, the Army remained and established themselves at Palaly Airport premises. Later they acquired some lands that belonged to the Hindu Board of Education and extended their camps year after year. At the start they were charged to engage in anti smuggling and illicit immigration operations.

In 1961 the Catholic Mission Holy Cross Sisters were ordered to leave the Island immediately, purely on representations made by some Buddhist organisations, led by the late Mr. L. H. Mettananda, a leading educationist and principal of Ananda College, Colombo. Even staunch Buddhist people vehemently condemned the action to send the Sisters out including monks and priests of other non catholic faiths. As soon as the hospital Sisters were chased out in 1961 some Buddhist chauvinists slowly introduced Buddha's statues in all the wards and nurses' duty rooms of the general hospital, Colombo, except the Goudert ward which is meant for the Christian priests still. Several people including practicing Buddhist are laughing to see the statues.

In 1966 the Poya was declared as public holidays instead of Sundays. However, after experiencing financial loss, those who instigated it, agreed to restore the Sundays once again in 1970 during Mrs. Sirima's administration.

In 1972 a one sided constitution was promulgated which removed the Senate and section 29 of the Soulbury constitution, which guaranteed some safeguards to the minorities. It will be recalled that Mr. C. Kodeeswaran, an old entrant public servant filed a case against the government, stating that it cannot compel him at any rate, to study Sinhalese which was not necessary at the time of his joining the public service in 1952. The learned judge, I believe Mr. O.L.M. Kretzer held that Mr. Kodeeswaran had the right to decline to acquire proficiency in the official language. The displeased government appealed to the Supreme court, which over-ruled the judgement of the district judge. Mr. Kodeeswaran appealed to the Privy Council in London. It will be recalled that Mr. Kodeeswaran's case was pointed out by the South African delegate during the British Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Summit, when Mrs. Sirimavo, the then Prime Minister, proposed to expel South Africa from the Commonwealth.

In 1970 during the time of Sirima administration some misguided fanatics secretly installed a Buddhist statue at the Darley Road junction, Colombo 10, which was meant to build a statue of the late Rev. Fr. Le Cog. O. M. I., the then Rector of St. Joseph's College, Colombo. The statue and the Bo tree are still seen at the spot.

In January 1974, the world renowned International Tamil Research Conference at Weerasingham Hall, Jaffna

was purposely disturbed by police without any valid provocation. Nine people died on the spot. Those who were responsible for the crime were promoted. However private judicial inquiries were held and judgement passed which condemned the Police action.

In August 1977 another terrible riot was witnessed. Plenty of people were killed, raped, wounded, their properties looted, burnt and destroyed. Tens of thousands of people were shipped to Kankasanturai. I saw several people who were at the jetty get fainted and rushed to the hospital. The then President foolishly or purposely addressed the nation as: "If you want peace, I will give you peace; If you want war, I am at war". Most of the security personnel top brass hail from the Sinhalese. They simply kept quite during that reign of terror. The Sansony Commission report will testify in detail.

In 1979, the notorious Terrorist Prevention Act was introduced. It gave unlimited powers to the security persons, like in South Africa, under the pretext of national unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It will fill volumes to enumerate all the unholy, pitiful and disgraceful scenes, since that Act was implemented.

In June 1981 the Jaffna Public library was set on fire. It is revealed that some ministers were the cause of it. The Lionel Fernando Commission recommended 10 million rupees as compensation. But nothing so far has been heard about it. Rev. Fr. H. S. David died as soon as he heard the fate of the said library. He was a daily visitor to that library, as he was a voracious reader, who knew 33 languages grammatically.

(Continued on Page 5)

Others May but I Cannot

While millions go without a square meal a day
I cannot pray for more food for myself
While thousands of children die of starvation
I cannot pray for my daily food
While many suffer without human dignity
I cannot pray for God's gift

Below on earth when people struggle for their existence
Like a worm that struggles when bitten by ants
Looking up to heaven I cannot pray that I be elevated
Like a palm tree that grows heavenward

Faithless women and men pray for more blessings
Instead of saying enough is my greediness
And sharing even the last grain with seven others

Henry Victor

Rich Nations Cause Human Rights Violations says Centre for Society and Religion

Attempt to side-track Sri Lanka's Atrocities?

Recently a Canadian Fact Finding Mission under the Chairperson of Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson came to Sri Lanka to discuss matters relating to Human Rights, peace initiatives, the refugees' situation and other areas relevant to the present situation.

The Director of the Centre for Society and Religion, Colombo, Fr. Tissa Balasuriya, OMI sent a memorandum on behalf of the Centre to the Canadian Fact Finding Mission and the Secretary of the Centre, Mr. Newton Fernando has sent a copy of the memorandum to Hot Spring with a request that some publicity be given to it.

We are accordingly publishing the memorandum in its entirety - minus annexures.

However we are disappointed that the Centre has not expressed any views directly touching matters relating to the terms of reference of the Canadian Fact Finding Mission - viz. Human Rights, Peace initiatives, Refugee situation and other areas relevant to the current situation.

Hot Spring is published from Tamil Eelam, a land totally laid waste by the Sri Lankan Government and hopes to carry the message of the Tamils facing annihilation and genocide at the hands of chauvinist Sinhala Government guided by Buddhist fanatics.

It is inexplicable how the Centre could not even add one sentence relating to the atrocities committed by the Government of Sri Lanka or the sufferings of the people in Tamil Eelam, though the Centre has presented a two page memorandum.

The matters contained in the memorandum may be right or wrong but appears an exercise in intellectual dishonesty designed to hit the ball out of court and thus safeguard the authors of genocide in this island.

The Memorandum of the Centre for Society and Religion

We welcome you to Sri Lanka and pray that your mission be successful. We have worked for human rights and the resolution of the ethnic and political crises in Sri Lanka during the past 20 years of the existence of this Centre.

It is often stated that violation of human rights is concerned with civil liberties, freedom of speech and of association, rights of ethnic and religious groups, independence of the judiciary, freedom from arbitrary arrest and "disappearances". While we must bear the principal responsibility for our violation of human rights, and we share the concern for these, we wish to point out that, in the present world situation, there are many other factors which lead to such violations, and should not be overlooked.

Bearing this in mind, may we urge you to consider the broader and longer term causes of the violations of human rights in countries like Sri Lanka. The exploitation of the poor in the poor countries by the present world

order or disorder is a major cause for the poverty of the masses in our countries. This

Relentless Attack on Tamils

(Continuation from Page 4)

In July 1983 the worst riot was witnessed. I need not mention about it in detail as the people know it well. More people than in any previous riots were brought from Colombo in ships to the port of Kankeesanur. The occasion for this riot was the killing of some Army men at Tirunelveli.

In February 1987 the civil war started and the people around the security camps had to leave their homes en masse to safer areas. Quite a good number of them went to India, who were welcomed there with open arms and settled in different refugee camps. In March 1987 some patients died and many were injured at the Teaching hospital, Jaffna as a result of shell attack. Ales Commission was commissioned to inquire into the case. The result of the findings of the commission is not known.

In Mid June 1990, the present civil strife started. The people have been seriously

affected not only to centuries of colonial exploitation, but also to the economic and political order since the 1950s. At present the rich countries impose severe terms for the aid that is offered to the poor indebted countries. The foreign debt is due to the unfair terms of trade that have long prevailed in the world economy. The big transnational corporations dominate the world production and trade in many lines.

International institutions like the I. M. F. and the World Bank impose conditions which make the situation worse. The enforced 'privatization' of our profit-making public sector enterprises, often on very unfavourable terms, will further worsen our economic productivity and / or increase social inequality. The payment of the debt services deprives the poor of the basic essentials such as food and health services. The local elites and foreign companies are increasing their hold on the country to the disadvantage of the poor.

As you would have seen in other countries, these increase the social tensions, worsen unrest and eventually lead to more violence and repression by the State. We do not justify repression. But it is to be feared that the policies of the rich countries

and of their companies also contribute towards making the poor countries of the so called 'third world' almost unmanageable and ungovernable democratically.

As you are aware human rights includes social and economic rights, in addition to political and civil rights. The poor die in large numbers or live stunted lives as the rich and the rich countries appropriate the limited resources of the country and of the world. The Group of Seven, to which Canada belongs, effectively dominates the world economy, mass communications and even the politics of poor countries. The arms production and sales are another cause of the violation of human rights everywhere, in addition to being a waste of scarce resources. The pollution of the environment and the exhaustion of non-renewable natural resources adds to the burden of existence of the poor.

The reference from the report of Amnesty International to the production and sale of instruments of torture by Britain may help in the search for the complicity of the rich countries in this global tragedy.

The recent Assembly of the Third World Theologians held

at Nairobi, Kenya, with representatives from 26 countries came to the conclusion that there was a universal and desperate cry for life and survival from the poor in most countries of the world. Permit us to refer to their final statement.

We would therefore urge your delegation to enquire very carefully into these causes of violation of human rights, and also undertake a course of action that can lead to reforms in the rich countries such as on their policies concerning migration, the international debt, the reform of the UN institutions, including the I. M. F., the World Bank and UNCTAD.

Without such fundamental transformations in the life style and policies of the rich in both the poor and rich countries, it is difficult to expect that there will be lasting solutions to the problems of human rights in the poor countries, even with foreign aid.

Once again, we do not belittle our responsibility, but we would like to urge you to take the required steps in your own countries, while paying attention to ours. For our part we will continue to do what we can, in our rather desperate situation, which is almost outside our control.

planning to continue their business. Some became rich overnight.

In this connection I wish to remind the forecast of Sir Ivor Jennings who drafted the constitution. When asked about his constitution by some leading pressmen, it is learnt that he had remarked as follows:- "I drafted the constitution according to the ethnicity of the people of this country. However, I gave section 29 for the safeguard of the minorities of this beautiful Island who had already expressed their fears and anxiety. But, if the majority ill-treat the minorities, just because they are in power, the minorities will never allow that injustices. Instead they will revolt and cause endless troubles, one after one, which will eventually ruin this paradise Island in the East. It will happen within fifty years time, - if they do so." His predictions have been proved so far. The respective leaders who misruled since independence should bear responsibility.

In the south there had been similar wars by the

JVP youths. But the Government never used aerial, naval, shell attacks to suppress the JVP. It is only in the Tamil areas the reign of terror is being wreaked indiscriminately.

It is only in this country the Buddhist clergy dictate terms to the respective rulers to exterminate the minorities, if they raise their legitimate claims.

Their recent visit to the north has been praised in the southern press. It is a crying shame for religious leaders to encourage war and bloodshed.

Let us pray to God to stop all blood-shed and to restore peace and normalcy soon. This country belongs to all who were legitimately born and bred. It does not belong to a particular clan.

There is a Tamil proverb which may be translated as: "One who knocks on a passively receiving head with out any valid provocation is a fool. One who receives such knocks continually on his/her head is a damn fool".

HOT SPRING

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Why Penalise Tamil Students?

The G.C.E. (A/L) examination held annually in August was not held in the Northeast in 1990, because of the current war.

After much agitation the Government of Sri Lanka held this examination in April, 1991.

Candidates for University entrance are selected on the basis of performance at this examination. That 'Standardisation' is an additional factor to deprive Tamil students' University education is another matter.

Mr. Dinesh Gunawardhene M. P. and leader of the M. E. P. Party has told parliament that in selecting students for University from the 1990 batch, Tamil students from Northeast must be left out because they did not sit the examination in August, 1990, but sat the special examination held in April, 1991. Thus they had more time at their disposal to prepare for the examination and would therefore be scoring more marks than those who sat in August 1990. It would, according to Mr. Gunawardhene, reduce the chances of more Sinhala students entering the University because the Northeast students had more time to prepare for the examination.

We would like to ask from Mr. Dinesh Gunawardhene whether the examination was not held in Northeast in August, 1990 because of any action on the part of the students in this area.

Surely, Mr. Gunawardhene ought to know that the Government was not able to hold the examination because its armed forces were engaged in a cruel and devastating battle in the area.

Does Mr. Gunawardhene not know the number of schools themselves bombed by his Sinhala Air Force men? Does he not know that teachers, students and thousands of families abandoned even their homes to escape the wrath of the Sinhala armed forces? If the Government was not able to hold the examination, should the students be penalised - just because they are Tamils and some advantages conferred on other students merely because they are Sinhalese?

Does Mr. Gunawardhene not know that these unfortunate students did not attend any school after June 1990 but sat for the examination in August, 1991 just on the strength of preparations made at home under difficult conditions - No lights, no proper food, no library facilities etc?

And does he not know that the postponed examination was held in April, 1991 when there was a curfew in the North and Sinhala Air Force men were making hell on earth by aerial bombardment of Jaffna?

Mr. Gunawardhene cannot realise how difficult it will be for a student to answer a competitive examination paper when all around he hears the noise of aerial bombasts. He himself had no opportunity to live in a war-torn area. This was the unfortunate position in which many students in Jaffna were placed when they sat the examination in April, 1991.

Mr. Gunawardhene's speech in parliament also betrays the Sinhala Opposition of which he is a prominent member.

We hope the Government rejects Mr. Dinesh Gunawardhene's contention. Not only was the August examination postponed in 1990, but also the August 1991 examination has also still not been held. The consequences of the failure of Government to hold examination should not result in the penalisation of Tamil students.

Charms from the Skies!

On the morning of 25-02-92, the people of Jaffna were put up by the noise of a plane and several helicopters. As the people were accustomed to this phenomenon, they calmly took precautionary measures to withstand an air raid. But to everyone's surprise, it was found that these 'floating vehicles' were dropping handbills. One set of bills warned the travellers not to bring through Vavuniya prohibited articles to the North. The other handbills exhorted those who had deserted the Islands to go back. In the wake of these handbills, other sundry articles were dropped from the helicopters. A bag bound by electrical wires was also dropped at Kaithady. People ran helter skelter but nothing came off. An adventurous person opened the parcel only to find 'charms' in the form of a cut pieces of pumpkin, blood, lime fruit and some flowers etc. At Chunnakam an aluminium pot was dropped. It fell on a roof of a house and damaged some tiles. This pot was found to contain meat and crabs! Tamil people were once considered superstitious and believers in devils, black magic, witchcraft and evil

eye etc. Since the commencement of the aerial bombardment of the North East, they have come to believe that all the wicked spirits have taken refuge in the South and West of Sri Lanka. Now they don't care a devil for the devils. If the Sri Lankan Government thinks that it can scare the Tamils, it is now too late.

This latest technique in aerial warfare, is no doubt a sorry reflection on the armed forces. It reveals their inner weakness and their dilemma as to what to do

and what not to do. If they think that they could psychologically weaken the resistance of the Tamil people, it only speaks glaringly of their impotency and weak military strategy. Can anyone forget the excreta dropping tactics of the Sri Lanka Air Force during the siege operations of the Tigers for the Jaffna Fort?

Some people wonder whether the Sri Lankan Air Force have turned away from their usual calling and become 'Kattadiyas' (sorcerers) for a change!

MINISTERIAL CONSCIENCE PRICKS

Mr. Festus Perera, Minister of Home Affairs, Public Administration and Provincial Councils is reported to have lamented at a meeting held at Vavunia that in the Islands Division of Jaffna where over 40,000 people lived there are not even 400 people living today.

The people of the islands deserted their homes at the approach of the Sinhala army and are living today as refugees in the mainland Jaffna barring a few old

people who could not run away.

Does the Minister not know that the people of the islands have deserted their homes because an alien Sinhala force is occupying their land?

If the Minister is really worried that the islands are deserted, will he ask his Government to withdraw its armed forces from the islands so that the people may occupy their own homes and live happily and peacefully?

LTTE DENIES ALLEGED INTERVIEW

The Head Office of the LTTE in a note denied that Mr. V. Pirabakaran, the LTTE leader, had ever given an

interview to Franklin Raviraj of the Island.

The Island published in its Sunday issue of 23rd Feb-

ruary what appeared like a feature article, a story by Mr. Franklin Raviraj that he met Mr. Pirabakaran on 26th January, 1992.

A note worthy feature in the Sunday Island article is that a correspondent who travelled all the way from Colombo to Jaffna reports of an alleged meeting at which he apparently had not asked any question from the LTTE leader! The whole article contains, apart from some description about the travel of the correspondent, a short summary of what Mr. Pirabakaran is supposed to have said without any questions being asked. The story itself has been published almost about a month after the alleged interview.

The LTTE's official denial of the alleged interview makes a hoax of the entire article.

Six Tamils shot dead

Reports from Trincomalee state that six civilian Tamils were shot dead at Sampur and Seethanaveli in the Mutur Division of Trincomalee District.

According to the report the two villages were rounded by the Sri Lankan Army on Sunday, February 16. On that occasion the Sri Lankan Army opened indiscrimin-

ate fire and six Tamil civilians died.

The same report further adds that army search operations were set in motion in various villages in the area from January 21 and is continuing unabated. Already a number of killings of Tamils by Sri Lankan Army were reported.

RAMDAS CHALLENGES JAYALALITHA

Reports from India state that Dr. Ramdas, leader of the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) has challenged Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Jayalalitha to arrest him if she could on the score that he is a supporter of the LTTE.

The reports say that Dr. Ramdas, speaking to Pressmen at Palani and Tindukkal severely criticised the Tamil Nadu Government and said that it was the duty of every Tamil to render all assistance to the Eelam Tamils engaged in the battle for the Libera-

tion of Tamil Eelam. M/s. Jayalalitha has no right to deny this right to the Tamils.

Continuing Dr. Ramdas said that he and his party openly support the LTTE. He challenged M/s Jayalalitha to arrest him if she could for his open support to the LTTE. Tamil Nadu prisons can accommodate only 50,000 prisoners but if M/s Jayalalitha thought of arresting him over 200,000 volunteers would court arrest, added Dr. Ramdas.

128 Sinhala families Settled in one week

128 Sinhalese families have been settled in the village of Kokilai in the last one week. Kokilai is in the Mullaitivu District and on the boundary between North and East.

According to reports from Kokilai, these 128 families have been given newly built houses for occupation.

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