

HOT SPRING

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No. 22

Point of No Return For Them

"...We are one hundred percent behind President Premadasa..."

Pararajasingham Joseph, TULF MP
quoted in Sunday Times.
23-2-92

"Today one time Tamil Militant groups are helping the Security Forces to protect the innocent Tamils and Muslims in the North and the East."

President quoted in Sunday Observer
23-2-92

INDISCRIMINATE SHELLING :**Midnight Havoc at Araly**
Five Killed in Sleep

Artillery shell attack was launched from Army Camps at Mandaitivu, Mankumban, Karainagar, Kayts, Palaly and Poonakari in the late hours of the night of Tuesday March 3 and early hours of Wednesday March 4 towards various civilian dwellings in Jaffna.

One of several such shells that exploded at Araly killed 5 persons in the same family and injured six others. The deceased and the six injured persons were living as refugees at Araly. They are persons from Ponnalai who had left the place after the occupation of the island of Karainagar by the Sri Lankan Army.

Valliammai's daughter Logeswary who is also the mother of the two girls who were killed was severely injured and is admitted to the Jaffna Hospital. Five others who were staying in the same house as refugees were also injured.

Five families were staying as refugees in this house owned by a person named Vijayaratnam of Araly East.

Shells also exploded in the vicinity of refugee huts constructed by the ICRC near the Araly South Sivan Temple but fortunately no one was injured.

Consequent to this shell attack the refugees moved out of this area. There were shell attacks on Araly on Friday March 5 also and two houses were reported, damaged.

The shell attack launched on Tuesday - Wednesday night also hit coastal areas in Jaffna town such as Kottadi, Jaffna Fort area and Pannai and Karaiyoor areas.

The people who were fast asleep on the night suddenly woke up at the noise of the explosions and whizzing sound of travelling shells. There was high tension the whole night as the shell attack continued for hours.

People of Araly demonstrated against the indiscriminate shellings and handed over memoranda to the ICRC and G.A. on Friday, March 6.

Musings of Mr. Meddle

International Day to liberate women

- News -

When will Tamil Nadu observe a day to liberate itself from M/s Jayalalita?

Around 12-00 midnight of Tuesday March 3, a shell hit the house where there were other refugee families also. The deceased and one of the injured were fast asleep in their room when a shell suddenly hit the house they were occupying and exploded.

Ponnuthurai Valliammai (50), her two sons Sivakumar (15) and Chandran (10) and two grand-daughters of Valliammai, Yoganathan Yogananjini (12) and Yoganathan Ranjanimalar (3) died on the spot. Ranjanimalar's head was severed from the body.

Devastation in Vavunia

The Sinhala soldiers at Vavunia returned to their base on Wednesday - March 4 - after 10 days of devastation of villages around Vavunia town.

Reports from Vavunia state that over 5000 persons have left their homes as refugees to other places at the approach of the Sinhala army and in the midst of heavy aerial attack.

The report further states that over hundred houses in these small agricultural villages have been destroyed by aerial bombardment. An entire school building too has been completely destroyed.

Also the report says that the Sri Lankan soldiers were engaged in plundering and looting valuable property left behind by the fleeing Tamils.

The Government of Sri Lanka has announced that its troops have successfully carried out the operation named "Vanni Vickram III" and returned to base. If

destruction, plunder and loot are the objectives of the operation the Vavunia reports seem to justify the Government claims of a successful operation.

Indiscriminate Attack after losing Sentry Points

The Sinhala Army, Navy and Air Force engaged themselves in indiscriminate attack all over the Poonakari area on February 25, following the destruction of three Sri Lankan Army sentry points there.

Reports from Poonakari said that in the early hours of the morning of Tuesday February 25, LTTE cadres carried out a sudden attack on three Sri Lanka Army sentry points at Siththakuri-

chchi serving the Army camp at Poonakari.

The three sentry points fell at LTTE assault. The LTTE completely burnt down one Sentry points. According to the LTTE one of its cadres died but others returned safe after destroying the sentry points. The Sri Lankan soldiers had escaped to the Army Camp though some were wounded. Referring to the same incident the Government said that one Sri Lankan soldier died.

No Exams from 1989 Tech. Students Protest

Students of the Technical College in Jaffna have come out in protest against non-holding of examinations at Jaffna from the year 1989.

It is learnt that Technical College examinations were not held in Jaffna for the years 1989, 1990 and 1991 though examinations for 1989, and 1990 were held in about 21 other Technical Colleges in other areas of the island. It is understood that the 1991 examinations had not been held anywhere.

Jaffna students who have not been able to sit for the examinations from 1989 have protested to the Principal of the Technical College against continuing to hold

classes for the 1992 intakes without holding any examinations even for those who underwent courses as early as 1989.

TIGERS INFLICT ANOTHER HEAVY LOSS
LARGE HAUL OF ARMS

Fighting broke out between LTTE and Sri Lankan Army in Vadamardchy East when hundred Sinhala soldiers ventured out of their camp at Kattaikadu in vehicles.

According to the reports the LTTE attacked the convoy and in the fight that ensued 23 Sri Lankan soldiers were killed. Reports also said

that an army vehicle was seen burning.

The LTTE recovered 16 dead bodies of Sinhala soldiers. They also captured a large number of arms and ammunitions which included GPMG, LMG and RPG. Three Tigers also died in the battle.

The dead bodies of the three tigers were kept lying

in state along with the arms and ammunitions captured by LTTE at Chavakachcheri and later at Manipay. Large crowds filed past the dead bodies paying their respects.

As battle raged on the ground Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed the area but the fight continued. Later the Sri Lankan soldiers returned to their base depleted of men and arms.

2 Sentry points destroyed

LTTE cadres carried out a sudden attack on two Sri Lankan Army sentry points near the saltens at Elephant Pass in the early hours of Sunday, March, 1 and destroyed completely the two sentry points.

The Tigers also captured many arms and ammunitions from the sentry points and recovered the dead bodies of two Sri Lankan soldiers. Other soldiers who were wounded escaped to the adjoining camp.

OUR READERS' CORNER

Scarcity of birth certificate registration form-books

The Editor,
Hot Spring,

Dear Sir,

It is reliably learnt through the local newspapers that some 6800 infants birth at the teaching hospital Jaffna alone, are unable to be registered due to the scarcity of the relevant birth registration books.

It is further revealed that tens of thousands of birth applications are being piled up at the District Registry (The Kachcheri,) Jaffna without the relevant forms for issue of copies.

There are two types of birth entries in this country. For those who were born before 1954, only one side of the birth certificate form is used. For those who were born since 1954, both sides of the form are used to ascertain more particulars of the person concerned.

There is an acute scarcity of birth registration forms of those who were born since 1954. Only a fraction of the said form books were sent to the district registry, Jaffna from the Registrar General's office, Colombo. As a result new birth certificate applications to obtain birth certificates have been

temporarily stopped to clear the backlog of applications.

It has also been observed that most of the birth, death, marriage certificate registers of old people (before 1930) are not in proper order. Quite a good number of such certificates have been damaged or eaten by insects or rats etc.

It will be useful to microfilm all the old certificates or to get them photostated, in the interest of the people.

It is also kindly suggested to use high quality WATER MARKED paper for all future registration of births, marriages and deaths to ensure longevity.

A new unit mainly to help the north east people, at the central record room of the Registrar general's department has been opened. But, it is saddening to learn that there are dishonest practices to obtain certificates quickly.

The saddest point to observe is that some departments insist on only the certificates issued by the central record room, even if it is obtained from the respective district registries. There is no point in entrusting such registry responsibilities to the Govt. Agents,

if their attestations are not honoured.

It is very sincerely hoped that the respective authorities,

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Commenting on the news item demanding for stern action against the tigers in the northern parts of Sri Lanka by Miss Jeyalalitha the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister published in the Murali of 25-2-92, from nautch dancing to politics is all the experience she counts and naught else. She has forgotten how she happened to hold an office of Chief Minister from her film career, co-starring chiefly with M.G.R. who himself advocated a separate state.

The Tamils in Sri Lanka patronised her films and today she reaps the benefits. But for the films she would still be nautch dancing.

Tamils did not take to arms overnight. When all democratic approaches failed and when the youths were shut out from the halls of learnings they had to take to arms. They are not street urchins who are flexing their muscles.

particularly the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the Registrar General will look into these greivances and ease the sufferings of the people of all castes and creeds to obtain their required

certificates without any let or hindrance.

It is impressing to learn that the Registrar General Mr. D. S. Munasinghe is very keen to improve his department and is trying his level best to keep registrations up to international standard.

Yours respectfully,
J. Arulanandam

POLITICKING

They are mostly from parents who themselves have stood shoulder to shoulder with the Sinhalese and the Muslims and fought against the foreigners in winning freedom. Therefore there is every justification in the Tamils demand for Eelam for self-determination and self-respect. Let her strike her own conscience and ask if her statement merits any human justification. Is there any element of God fearing in her? A community negated with elements of human rights by another community.

Indian labour in Sri Lanka were branded as illicit immigrants and subjected to untold hardships and under Srimala - Sastri Pact vast numbers of them had to return to India. Even Indian Premier like Rajiv Gandhi was struck by a Sinhalese Naval rating under some pretext. If a Prime Minister of his standing could be treated in that fashion, the plight of the Tamils is foregone.

The Tigers frequenting Tamil Nadu were not motivated by mischievous minds. As Tamils they looked upon with hope a land predominated by Tamils. This is human nature. To give political touch to human problems reflects the mind of an individual, as one not worthy of emulation as a personality on men and matters.

A politician can be produced overnight but it will take several years to produce a personality of accepted standard and stature. By gone are the days when politicians fooled all the people all the time by their mob oratory. By passage of time people have studied the truth and falsity in these mob oratory, and dismissed them as figments, of the imagination.

It would be prudent, if the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu abstains from polluting her politics further by indulging too frequently in the Eelam Tamils' issue.

D. Jeevananthan
Vathiry.

AN APPRECIATION

Late Mr. Andrew Joseph's demise came to me as a rude shock in the issue of Hot Spring of 16.2.92. Surprisingly I did not know that 'Vadai Velan' was my good friend Andrew. In a moment I sat down and ran through all his contributions to the Hot Spring that were available with me then. To confess I was amazed that Andrew was capable of making such valuable and educative contributions as good as any professional journalist. I also could not concede that within a comparatively short space of time Andrew had made vast strides and amassed a wealth of knowledge of men and matters, historical, social, literal, religious and even scientific and political. He had proved himself to be an eminent writer. The style and matter in his contribution were thought provoking and his messages were characteristically pungent and injects one's feelings with copious courage and determination. If the Hot Spring prepares a Brochure or Hand-out of all his articles, such an exercise would be worthy and such a document will find place in any Library for the future generations to cherish and emulate.

Mr. Andrew Joseph fondly known as Andrew by his friends and associates was born on 4th February 1928 and would have celebrated his 64th Birthday this month and had come to his tragic end 3 days after his now last Birthday. Born into an educated Catholic family from Archduchy he had his primary education at St. Patrick's College Jaffna under eminent Rectors and Educationalists. His training at St. Patrick's in moral education and discipline were self evident in his life. Andrew and I were classmates at Hartley College Point Pedro in 1938-40 when his father was stationed at Point Pedro as an Excise Inspector. Andrew was very handsome as a young boy and excelled in sports and extra curricular activities at Hartley. His charm enhanced his performance. He left Hartley after a short spell in 1940 and I had not met him till 1946. I met Andrew for a second time in 1946 when we both joined the school of Agriculture. We parted ways in 1948 and again met Andrew for the third time in the Dept. of Agriculture in 1952. By that time Andrew had completed

4 years service in the same Dept. Ever since we had been friends and colleagues till his untimely end. In the Dept. of Agriculture Andrew proved to be an honest dedicated and efficient officer and rose to the rank of Asst Director of Agriculture. His contributions to the Dept. were many and varied. His main hobby was hunting and

was a good marksman with his famous three celled Torch strung around his forehead to focus his target.

Being a good catholic he would attend mass regularly and faithfully, followed Christianity both in precept and practice.

Andrew was a true soldier and a soldier never dies but fades into

antiquity. Andrew leaves his footprints on the sands of time and on the fertile soils of this country having served as an Agricultural officer for nearly 37 years.

I would like to convey my deep sympathies and those of his friends at Point Pedro to his bereaved family through your valuable column.

A. Perinpanayagam
Retired Asst. Director of Agriculture, Pulely.

JVP ONCE AGAIN

It is reported in the Colombo Newspapers that Somawansa Amerasinghe, the present leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna who is now in London has appointed Dr. Subas Chandra Fernando, the brother-in-law of Rohana Wijeweera as the Peramuna's representative in Sri Lanka. It is pertinent to note that the Supreme Court only recently absolved Dr. Subas Chandra Fernando of any connections with the JVP, after a long period of incarceration. This letter of authority it seems, has been posted from Paris. Further in an interview given to the Sinhala service of the B. B. C., Somawansa Amerasinghe has

said that his party i. e. JVP is already a recognised registered political Party. It is also revealed that Dr. Subas Chandra Fernando will shortly leave for London to meet the JVP leader further to the go

ESTY

ahead signal already given by the government.

Colombo papers say that this is a ruse by the Premadasa government to allow JVP to participate in the coming general and Presidential elections and see that the votes get split in favour of UNP. This is not a new phenomena. Premadasa is following the tactics used by Jayewardene in 1977 and

1982. During 1977 election campaigns Jayewardene announced that if he was returned to power he would release all JVP detenus including Wijayaweera. The result was that JVP supporters of both those who were killed and those who were in jail voted for the UNP. As soon as he came to power he kept his promise and released Wijayaweera and his clique. The JVP was recognised as a political party and Jayewardene used them against the SLFP and the opposition parties. We all know how the JVP functioned openly with massive rallies, especially May Day rallies, colossal

(Continued on Page 5)

Tragedy of Kurds - Lessons for all

The Kurds are a large race of people in the Middle East. They are not Arabs. However, they are Muslims and in numbers they rank the fourth largest racial group in the Middle East.

KURDS' LAND DIVIDED

The country of their habitat for over 3,000 years is divided among six states. The Major portion of Kurdish territory is within Turkey. Iraq and Iran also appropriate large stretches of Kurdish territory in descending sizes respectively. Some portions of Kurdish territory are under Syria and some under Azerbaijan and Armenia respectively.

The Kurd territory divided as it is amongst powerful states is a way from the capitals of the various states which have divided the Kurdish territory amongst themselves and lies as the mountainous terrain of these various states removed far away from the hub of activity in the respective capitals.

The Kurds remain a hardy mountainous people but not with much sense of national identity - lost as they are among the various more powerful states and the vague concept of Islamic unity.

The Kurds were first attacked by the Persians. Later with the growth of the Ottoman Empire, Kurdish territory was partitioned between Turkey and Persia, the former getting the major share of the territory.

Though there were attempts by the Kurds to throw away foreign rule in their respective areas they were not successful.

EARLY ATTEMPTS TO LIBERATE

In the 1880s there was an attempt to unite the Kurds divided between Turkey and Persia and liberate the Kurd territory but the attempt at revolt was crushed by Turkey and Persia acting together. Such is the history of imperialism throughout the ages.

The aftermath of World War I saw the further subdivision of the land of the Kurds.

Turkey was defeated in the First World War. Woodrow Wilson, the idealist President of the United States tried to liberate nations under alien rule by propagating a theory of autonomous development.

SOME HOPES OF FREEDOM

The Treaty of Sevres signed in 1910, after World War I provided amongst other things for the creation of a Kurdistan. The Treaty further provided that the setting up of a Kurdish state would depend on the majority wish of Kurds living in the specified areas, provided the Council of the League of Nations considered them capable of exercising independence.

TRAGIC END

The Treaty of Sevres was signed by the Allies and

Sultan of Turkey. But in 1922 the Sultanate was abolished and the rise of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk found the hopes of an independent Kurdistan crushed.

The Allies who had signed the Treaty of Sevres in 1920 did not go beyond the signing of the document even

KUMARAN

when Mustafa Kemal Ataturk proceeded to militarily crush Kurdish attempts to set up a state.

As a matter of fact world powers did greater harm to the Kurds by further subdividing their territory under the Ottoman Empire and attaching portions to Syria and Iraq after World War I.

IN TURKEY

In the large Kurdish territory still left with Turkey the Kurds continue to live as a persecuted people, suf-

fering all forms of repression. The Turkish rulers have invented the theory that the Kurds are "Mountain Turks" and do not recognise the separate identity of Kurds. In fact even the existence of the Kurdish language is denied. A one-time Prime Minister of Turkey, Nihat Erim, in 1971, denying the existence of the Kurdish language said it was only "a mixture of Persian, Turkish and Arabic with only 3000 complete Kurdish words." Remember what a Prime Minister of Ceylon once said. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon from 1956 to 1959 said; "No, Tamil is not an Indian language. It is one of the lowest of Indian languages."

Despite Turkish repression there have been attempts at securing some sort of autonomy for the Kurds in Turkey. However all these attempts have been suppressed with utmost violence. And because Turkey is allied to the Western countries the "democratic West" feigns not to see the ruthless persecution of the Kurds in Turkey.

IN IRAN

The Kurds in Persia also tried to found themselves as a self-governing community there but the centralised rule of the Shah of Persia defeated Kurdish attempts there too.

It will be remembered how after World War I, the Kurds in the Ottoman Empire were encouraged to think in terms of an independent state by the Treaty of Sevres. One of the causes can no doubt be that the Ottoman Empire was on the opposite side during the War.

The Kurds in Iran - however received a new inspiration to think in terms of independence by an altogether different cause. Consequent to the October Revolution in Russia, the Kurds in Iran too began to think of national freedom, and there were attempts at setting up an independent Kurdistan in these parts of Kurdish land attached to Iran.

INDEPENDENT KURDISH REPUBLIC OF MAHABAD

The opportunity for the establishment of an independent Kurdish State however came in 1941. In that year Britain and Russia invaded Iran as it was feared that the Shah might join the Axis powers in the World

I SPY - by PRIVATE EYE

RAJIV GANDHI & OLAF PALME

What have the late Rajiv Gandhi and the late Olaf Palme have in common. Well for a start they were both Prime Ministers of their respective countries. They were also keenly involved in ensuring world peace and equal treatment for all nations, both big and small. Which objectives may not have been appreciated by the war mongers.

Furthermore, it was during their tenure in office as Prime Ministers, that the large arms contract known as the Bofors Deal was put through. Now it is an established fact that this large deal has earned the stench of being an international scandal. It is also an established fact, that both these personalities were brutally slain by unknown assassins, who to this day remain well and truly anonymous, despite the feverish efforts of both governments i.e. Sweden and India.

Would it not be logical to surmise that they were both murdered by the very same source and that their murders may be linked very closely to the Bofors scandal. Could it not be, that there are very powerful forces both in Sweden and India, who may have believed that a live Olaf Palme and a live Rajiv Gandhi may spill the beans and thus land the guilty in the soup. After all as the Bofors scandal began to gather momentum, it also began to put heavy pressure on both Olaf Palme and Rajiv Gandhi, who may have finally caved in and exposed the truth, if only to save their own reputations.

We now know that this Swedish company, one of the largest arms manufacturers in Europe has been taken over by the Government of Sweden, which should now make the task of investigation, both in Sweden and India that much easier. But strange as it may seem, even after this take over of this company by the Government of Sweden, there has been no progress whatsoever in finding the truth to the serious charge of highly improper financial conduct. On the contrary, we witness studied leaks of an anony-

mous nature emanating from Sweden, the last of which directly accuses the late Rajiv Gandhi of having accepted an enormous bribe over this deal. We all know that 'dead men tell no tales' and that it is easy but utterly despicable to make such allegations, when the victim is no longer around to answer the charge.

We also know that the Government of Sweden has stated, that it would be damaging to the friendly relations between Sweden and India, if the details of the discussions between Palme and Gandhi over the Bofors deal was to be published. Surely the Government of Sweden cannot be blind to the serious damage being done to the reputation of both Gandhi and India and Sweden as well, by letting this matter remain unsolved. As such the Government of Sweden should publish and be damned all the relevant facts pertaining to this matter or bear the guilt for all times.

SARATH PAWAR

This Indian politician, a minister in the present Indian Government, has been thinking aloud about obtaining the services of ISRAEL to fight terrorism, possibly in Punjab and Kashmir. If so, he would do well to consult his counterpart in neighbouring Lanka, who would brief him about Israeli strategy on dealing with terrorism.

He would tell Pawar, that the first step is to classify as Terrorist, those involved in a national liberation struggle.

Having done so, the host government should mow them like rabbits, blast their homes with TNT and chase the remaining people to neighbouring lands to live as refugees and then colonise those lands with the government's own people.

But Pawar's Lankan counterpart would also tell him, that after giving such brutal advice to the host government, the Jews are likely to also advise the Sikhs and Kashmiris how to combat the Indian Government.

Fortyfour years and forty-four thousand young lives lost and we are back to square one. The tribal drums are beating again, the wolf packs are howling, and the parliamentarians professors and panjandrums are consulting - and consulting-and consulting! In this cacophony we lose sight of the real urgent problem, which is:-

(a) how to stop this senseless fratricidal war IMMEDIATELY

(b) how to ensure against a recrudescence.

At this stage telling people not to be scared about federalism is futile; no government can command the two-third majority required for such change in the constitution. Yet some substantial gesture is necessary. The Tamils have for too long been fed on a diet of broken promises.

Back to Square one

Perhaps the way out lies in something akin to the Canadian Meech Lake Accord whereby the Constitution Amendment of 1987 provided inter alia;

"that the Constitution shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the recognition that the existence of English speaking Canadians and French speaking Canadians in all parts of the country, but the latter concentrated within and the former outside Quebec constitutes a fundamental characteristic of Canada. The Constitution is also to be interpreted in a manner consistent with the recognition that Quebec constitutes a distinct society within Canada."

A two-third majority may not be necessary because it is not a 'change' but only a guideline as to how the Constitution shall be interpreted. Regardless of how the legal beagles argue this, if the President will have the courage to ram this through, it may well break the present deadlock.

But time is of the essence; because if an attack on Jaffna is mounted, the inevitable great loss of life will make reconciliation impossible FOR ALL TIME. In this connection it is pertinent to quote from an article submitted to but not accepted for publication by any of the Colombo based newspapers, but published in the Nor-

thern newspaper, 'HOT SPRING' of 22-9-1991:-

"The Sinhala Government should not make the mistake of thinking that they can crush and root out the LTTE as they suppressed the JVP. The latter was based on an ideology. Ideologies are seen outgrown or overturned - as witness the fall of Communism. But race marks her children more deeply..."

The Sinhala Government makes the mistake of basing its perception of Tamil feelings in the North-East on the reports of its informants holed up in Colombo and the Colombo Tamils who generations

ago cut their roots in Jaffna ..

Magnanimity is an attribute of strength. Despite all the alleged 'treacheries and atrocities of the LTTE' it is still the duty of the Government to extend the hand of friendship time and again to its recalcitrant sons..."

If the conflict can even temporarily be halted and the LTTE brought to the negotiating table, the next question is how to prevent a recrudescence. For this a United Nations Peacekeeping Force is the ONLY answer. Even a token force stationed in Mannar, Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Batticaloa and the Sri Lankan forces withdrawn to barracks, would prevent provocative incidents. The presence of a UNPKF is no derogation on the Island's sovereignty.

A. Ratnam

Tragedy of Kurds...

(Continuation from Page 4)

War II. Russia occupied most of the Kurdish territory in the North. The Russian influence in Kurdish territory prompted the Kurds to set up an independent republic. In 1945 the Kurds in Iran established the Kurdish Republic of Mahabad. Kurds from Iraq, Turkey and Syria offered their services to the new Kurdish Republic.

MAHABAD REPUBLIC BETRAYED

However there was a dramatic change in inter-state relations. The Allies entered into a treaty with Iran. Britain and Russia quit the territories occupied by them and Iranian forces marched against the

Kurdish Republic of Mahabad just one year old. In view of the Treaty entered into with Iran. The Russians did not make any attempts to defend the Kurdish Republic which they had helped to establish, Iranian forces having subdued Mahabad proceeded in 1947 to execute the leaders there of. Thus ended the story of the short-lived Kurdish Republic of Mahabad. The fate of Mahabad clearly shows how imperialist powers can act to cut the ground under the feet of other peoples and nations.

The outbreak in 1980 of war between Iran and Iraq inspired the Kurds in Iran to

once again try to secure their independence but after the war ended the Iranian government was better placed to meet Kurdish challenge,

Yet in Iran, the Kurds do not appear to have given up their desire to set up some sort of self-governing entity for themselves. There is still a movement of Kurds in Iran aiming to secure autonomy for the Kurds.

IN IRAQ

The second largest Kurdish territory is in Iraq. By a resolution passed in the League of Nations in 1925 Iraq was given this territory temporarily for the period of 25 years, but it has now become permanent. Iraq itself was a new creation after World War I.

Though a large slice of Kurdish territory and Kurds were thus assigned to Iraq attempts at rebellion have been made from time to time by the Iraqi - Kurds.

Both in 1932 and 1943 there were serious attempts at rebellion by the Kurds both of which were suppressed. Britain supported Iraq against the Kurds.

The monarchy in Iraq was abolished by an army coup in 1958. The initial signs of equal treatment to Kurds displayed by the military junta soon proved to be false.

In 1961 the Iraqi army marched into Kurdistan and the war continued for the next nine years. This period also saw several changes in the ruling class at Baghdad - most of them occasioned by the Kurdish war.

ALGIERS ACCORD

In 1970 the Baath Party captured power in Baghdad

and tried to reach an understanding with the Kurds. But within 4 years the Iraqi army and the Kurds were at war again. In 1975 Iraq and Iran arrived at an Accord at Algiers to end their own hostility. One of the direct consequences of the Algiers Accord of 1975 was that Kurdish resistance in both Iran and Iraq fell at the same time. Before the Algiers Accord Iran helped the Kurds in Iraq against the Iraqi regime. Similarly the Iraqis helped the Kurds in Iran against the Tehran government. After the Accord both states betrayed their Kurdish 'friends'. And today the Kurds in both countries remain an exploited minority.

LESSONS

The Kurds have long fought their oppressors - but still without success. What is the reason? No doubt one particular cause can never explain political events. Nevertheless, it would be clear from the changing vicissitudes of Kurdish fortunes or misfortunes that Kurdish leaders erred in relying on foreign help from the Turks, Iranians or Iraqis as the case may be. Probably the Kurdish leaders

mistook the support these countries gave them at various times. The Kurds would now realize that it was wrong for them to have trusted their temporary 'allies' at different times. All their temporary allies were by their own right imperialists who could not look upon with favour Kurdish nationalism. They tried to make use of the Kurds to achieve their own ends and when circumstances necessitated left the Kurds like hot potatoes.

The position of the Kurds in Syria is no better. Not much is known about the Kurds in Azerbaijan and Armenia. In any event large tracts of Kurdish land and people are divided amongst Turkey, Iran and Iraq. Their position in these countries call for utmost sympathy.

But the question is how far can the Kurds rely on international support. As a matter of fact imperialism has been responsible for the division of Kurd land and people.

The history of the Kurds is one that should be noted by Eelam Tamils as well.

Teach Us the Art of Tolerance...

*Open my mind Oh God
With unlimited love
That I may patiently
Consider the variety of percepts
Evolving from different human experience*

*Increase in my heart
The desire to break away
From all small and partial rightness
Which neither has boundaries nor fences*

*Teach me the art of tolerance
And beyond tolerance, the only way forward
Towards a new creation
For they are necessary not only
For our well being but also for our survival*

*Let me never resist or persecute
Nor even discriminate against anyone
For what they consider to be real
Except when that sustains and breeds
Injustice and intolerance*

Henry Victor

EXHIBITION

The Centre for Women and Development, Jaffna has organised an exhibition of local products by local women.

The exhibition is being held on February 7 and 8 at Jaffna Hindu College premises.

The Director of the Centre, M/s. Saroja Sivachandran said that the exhibition would serve to introduce local products to larger sections and thus help better marketing, facilities. She said that women's groups engaged in local production of various goods of utility value will benefit by this exhibition.

UPHOLD EQUALITY OF SEXES

International Women's Day

The concept of freedom of women has today reached grass-root levels, all over the world including Third World countries. But it is still questionable whether this awareness recognizes the philosophy underlying women's freedom.

The national movements that arose in the Third World countries and the Liberation struggles which arose in many lands, have made great contributions to the emancipation of women.

Women form more than half the population. In this

situation it is not possible to keep out women from the struggle. In our own land, though there are discernible differences between the sexes in political, social and economic spheres, the position of women has come to the fore with great changes. This change has become meaningful in that it has not been restricted purely to the awareness of women's rights but has become intertwined with national and political rights. The examples of the struggles of Namibia, El Salvador,

South Africa's SWAPO and our own Eelam struggles show that National liberation struggle and women's liberation struggle and women's emancipation must go hand in hand.

tion struggles. It may be that women's freedom struggles have to continue even after the success of national liberation struggles.

Our search for women's freedom does not end with celebration of the interna-

by **Saroja Sivaachandran, MA**

Director, Centre for Women & Development

In fact during national liberation struggles, women are worse affected than men. It is not possible to say that women's emancipation will succeed like national libera-

tional Women's Day on March 8th. If our women have to liberate themselves from shackles imposed on them by this society, we have to release ourselves from social constraints.

There appears to be a change in the thinking of men too in regard to women's emancipation. Yet the absence of intellectual approach betrays a lack of proper understanding of the concept of freedom of women.

Though there is a feeling amongst women that they are being discriminated against, women are still reluctant to bring out that feeling and achieve evolutionary changes, socially and politically. Many Eelam women are reluctant to identify themselves with movements for women's freedom.

There is an incumbent duty on women to work for their liberation against all restraints imposed on them by the state, the society and the men, male domination at home, sex offences against

(Continued on Page 6)

The liberation struggle of Eelam Tamils was and is used by other countries, political parties and people in different ways to suit their intentions and interests. How India and Rajiv Gandhi used this life and death struggle of our people to further brahminical autocracy is well known. The 'Operation Liberation' of the Sri Lankan armed forces, even though it did not prove as thoroughly successful as is made out or hoped for in some quarters, was really a failure, for resistance from LTTE proved vigorous and at the end of the week the Northern section of the Peninsula was barely touched. But this situation was seized upon by India. By entering the fray, as if to safeguard and protect the Tamils, India realized that it could achieve the long desired hope of establishing its hegemony over Sri Lanka. Mr. Jayewardene having created such an opportunity, tried his best to thwart this intention of India by seeking the help of Pakistan, China, USA and UK. As nothing came out of it, he had to ultimately submit and agree to the infamous Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. Thus Sri Lanka passed once again into the domination of another great foreign power to the detriment and aspiration of both Sinhalese and Tamils. In fact this intervention is being displayed as a good gesture on the part of India and it was said that they came to bail out the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam when they were about to be defeated by the Sri Lankan Army. This is most atrocious in the face of the subsequent history of the Indian Army's behaviour and the manner in which it had to leave our shores laking its wounds.

Indian Intervention

This is how India as a nation and neighbour used

Eelam War Exploited

our national liberation struggle for its own purpose. Even now it is continuing to interfere in our affairs. says Mr. Yogaratnam Yogi, Secretary of the People's Front of Liberation Tigers, in an interview to the BBC. Some Western Countries are keen to bring about a settl-

S. Thiagarajah

ment of our problem. They have even offered to serve as mediators. But India is using its diplomatic and other resources to foil the good intentions of those countries by involving falsely and purposefully the LTTE leaders with the killing of Rajiv Gandhi and is trying to tarnish their image and character in the eyes of the world.

Tamil Nadu Interests

We know how Jayalalitha the present Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, wooed Tigers during her election campaign. Ex-Chief Minister Karunanidhi is now reportedly saying that the Tigers have always been wise to pamper those in power in Tamil Nadu. He said this when he addressed a meeting held at Kanchipuram. He too was in power before the dissolution of his Government by the Centre. Did the Tigers pamper him too? Why is he always evasive? Eelam refugees, even cripples, are hounded in Tamil Nadu. They are being forcibly sent back into the hands of those from whom the refugees wanted to escape! When it suits them Eelam struggle is good. Otherwise it is not. Why this hypocrisy? Do not these people have any humanitarian angle in

their outlook? In its editorial, the 'Mann' (Earth), a South Indian journal describes Brahminical hypocrisy thus: "What is left unburnt by Hanuman and the Peace Keeping Force, is being set on fire by the Sinhala army. They are killing and raping. Reason: 'Tigers' sing the politicians and Brahmins". Whatever or whoever is the cause, destruction is done to the Tamils. That is the crux of the matter, says this editorial. If the Tamils get a land of their own - Tamil Eelam, then woe be unto the exploitations of the Brahmins. That is why most of the Brahmin-owned journals in South India have gone hysterical.

US Presidential Election

We now move to a Professor in Political Science who says that he spent 15 years studying the Society and Government of Sri Lanka. This political scientist is very much interested in the Democratic Party in the United States of America and he probably wants to see that a Democratic Party candidate becomes President of USA in the forthcoming Presidential Election. He also wants to exploit the ethnic problem towards this end.

This Professor, Robert C. Obrest has written a letter to Senator Kennedy of the USA. This letter published in the TAMIL NATION of 15.01.92 states that the current violence between the Government and the Tamil guerrillas has escalated to the point where the civil war is the bloodiest conflict in the world today and may be the

bloodiest internal conflict since the 1970's. He is urging Senator Kennedy to take action to solve this ethnic conflict for several reasons. One among them is that the interests of the United States will not be served by partition of Sri Lanka. A stable democracy in a United Sri Lanka serves the long term US economic and strategic interests in the region.

He is very much worried about the economic benefit and strategic gains of the USA. It is generally supposed that the USA was interested in the disintegration of the USSR. Why? One reason is market for the USA. Economic welfare at the cost of USSR. Similarly this Professor is not worried about

the aspirations of Eelam Tamils. His worry is economic interests of the USA.

Another reason why the Professor is urging Senator Kennedy is that this ethnic conflict offers Democrats in the House of Representatives and the Senate an opportunity to establish themselves with experience in helping to resolve a regional conflict without undermining State Department efforts, and he goes on to say that these efforts if properly used, could enhance the Presidential candidacy of a Democratic nominee. He wants to give an exalted position to his Democratic Party and is devising ways and means to achieve this end. He is asking Senator Kennedy to exploit our ethnic conflict for this purpose. In fact he is engaged in the Presidential Campaign for the Democratic Party. At what cost?

JVP ONCE...

(Continuation from Page 2)

Poster campaigns etc. targeting mainly against the opposition parties. When in 1982 Jayewardene announced his presidential election Wijayawera too pronounced his candidature. At the elections this badly affected the SLFP votes and JR easily swept the polls. Thus by correctly handling the JVP, the UNP secured its victory.

Premadasa knows very well the repercussions of the massive killings of nearly 50,000 youngsters during 1988-89. As Saravanan in his article in Eelanatham points out that at the rate of ten votes for each youngster it would amount to at least five lakhs of votes. Apart from this the votes of the frustrated youth and JVP supporters will be a fairly big number. If the JVP is not allowed to function openly, this substantial number of votes will

definitely go against the UNP in favour of either the Sri Lanka Freedom Party or to the newly formed Lalith-Gamini faction. This will strengthen the opposition. Premadasa cannot afford to let this happen. Only way is to recognise and allow the JVP to function openly. It is only then that these votes could be split. If the JVP operates openly, it will get the votes of its supporters. These votes by themselves will not enable the JVP to come to power either in the general or Presidential elections. The recognition of JVP means dividing and weakening the opposition. The JVP too will prefer this at this moment or its weakness which resulted from mishandling the whole process through its lack of understanding of basic military strategy. Therefore resurgence of the JVP also means rebuilding Premadasa's United National Party.

HOT SPRING

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STOP WAR and NEGOTIATE

The Government of Sri Lanka renewed its war efforts in Tamil Eelam with the imposition of an indefinite curfew from the early morning of February 24 in the Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Mannar Districts.

The curfew was relaxed for one day on the 26th in the Vavuniya and Mannar Districts only and again reimposed.

Curfew was withdrawn from 5 p. m. on 4th march.

What happened during this period of ten days?

Reports indicate that large numbers of Sri Lankan soldiers assembled in Vavuniya tried to move northwards into territory outside Sri Lankan Army's iron heels. The reports also say that newly purchased weapons and military vehicles from China were being put to the test in these operations - a deadly experimentation notwithstanding.

The results of the Sri Lankan Army operations is that a number of villages around Vavuniya town to the North and West towards Mannar District were laid waste by the Sri Lankan Air Force carrying out large scale bombing of these villages and the cowards in the Army Camps launching artillery shells which travel miles and take toll of persons who least suspect any form of attack on them and are about their own normal business.

It is clear from Vavuniya reports that after ten days of devastation and wanton destruction of the villages around Vavuniya the Army has returned to its camps in Vavuniya. Surely the Government needs no reassurance of its capacity for causing death and destruction with all the sophisticated modern weapons in its possession?

The war effort of the Sri Lankan Government to 'destroy the Tigers without causing destruction to civilians' has according to the reports taken the lives of only three Tiger cadres but destroyed a number of villages rendering over 5,000 families homeless.

The Sinhala heroes have also burnt and destroyed a school which, of course, is government property. The reports clearly make out that the Sinhala Army had successfully destroyed houses and properties of farmers and peasants, apart from enriching themselves by plunder and loot of civilian property.

We are not aware of the casualty amongst the Sinhala soldiers but one report says that three armoured vehicles of the Sri Lankan Army were destroyed by the Tigers.

When the Sinhala Government carries on a war in Tamil Eelam, despite the advice of the treacherous renegades of the TULF, it is quite evident that such war will only cause the death and destruction of civilians.

President Premadasa goes on talking peace and carrying out war. And his war inflicts wounds on Tamils which can never be soothed by sweet words. Still he persists in his double standards. Is it to hoodwink the international community - especially the donors?

Nobody can fool everybody all the time. So if President Premadasa sincerely believes in peace he must stop war.

The LTTE has time and again said that its doors are opened for negotiations. So let the Government stop war and enter into negotiations without hoping to impose its will on the Tamils who do not in any event wish to give over to the Sinhalese the right to rule the Tamils.

SEA TIGERS DAMAGE NAVAL BOAT

The Sea Tigers carried out an attack on a Sri Lankan vessel transporting troops and ammunitions from Karainagar to the Vettrilaikerni.

The incident occurred on Friday, February 28 in the Thalavady sea in Vadamara-dchi East.

As a result of the attack the vessel was damaged and could not proceed on its mission. It had to be towed away by other Sri Lankan Naval vessels.

The Tigers said that four of their cadres were killed in the attack. The Govern-

ment of Sri Lanka referring to this incident said that 2 Sri Lankan soldiers died.

ALL YOUTHS ARRESTED

All Tamil youths in the Tampalakamam Refugee Camp in the Trincomalee District have been arrested by the Sinhala Army according to a report reaching Jaffna from Trincomalee.

According to this report the Sri Lankan Army had

ordered all Tamils in Tampalakamam to stay in the refugee Camp there. The inmates of the Camp were not permitted to go out.

The report says that in the latter half of last month the Sinhala soldiers arrested all youths in the Camp and took them away. According to the report the relations of the arrested youths have not been told of the whereabouts of these youths. Parents and relations are reported to be in great anguish fearing 'disappearance' of the youths after arrest which is a very common feature in Sri Lanka.

Musings of Nestor

Degeneration of the 'Hindu'

Time was when the Tamil public of Eylom regarded with respect and admiration The Madras Hindu. It commanded respect and admiration for its forthright expression of views, of opinion founded on basic principles, fairplay and justice. But today, The Hindu has degenerated into an unattached Propaganda Sheet for the Nehru faction of the Congress called Indra Congress. It has no qualms of conscience; it has lost all sense of proportion; it wants the Indian public to regard Pirabaharan as India's Number One Enemy! Rajiv Gandhi who became India's Prime Minister by virtue of a superstition of dynastic greatness repeatedly proclaimed India's strong disapproval of a military solution to the Eylom Tamil's struggle for Swaraj. But now India threatens (it is a threat for all practical purposes) Sri Lanka Government against negotiations with Pirabaharan. In the South Ceylon the Sinhala racists bent on a Sinhala

Imperium over the Tamils are maligning Thondaman and his efforts to reach a settlement with Pirabaharan. What is the difference between the Sinhala racists and New Delhi? How can bloodshed and war be ended without a settlement? No settlement could be reached without negotiations. Perhaps the coterie in power in New Delhi i. e. Duriyodhana's Janma Bhoomi, wants President Premadasa to negotiate with the Ex-Chief Minister of the North east Province whom the Government of India is keeping as a guest of honour in some place in North India. The world knows how that worthy supporter of the Indian Peace Force was elected to power in Eylom.

Duriyodhana's Janma Bhoomi wants to have a puppet Government not only in respect of Eylom Tamils but also another puppet Government at Kotte. It failed in that endeavour and now seeks to prevent any settlement between the Tamils and the Sinhalese-

SPORTS

Cricket

In a match played at Central grounds, Canagaratnam M. V. drew with Jaffna Central.

Scores:- Jaffna Central 105 and 150 for 5 dec. Canagaratnam MV. 158 and 30 for 2 at close.

St. John's drew with Kokuvil Hindu at the former's grounds.

Scores:- St. John's 309 for 9 dec. Kokuvil Hindu 158 and 100 for 7 at close.

Jaffna Hindu College beat St. Patrick's College by 8 wickets, at the latter's grounds.

Scores:- St. Patrick's College 72 & 113 J/Hindu 123 and 65 for 3.

In a fifty over match played at the Campus grounds Jaffna University beat Manipay Parish by 51 runs.

Scores:- J/Campus 134 all out. Manipay Parish 83 all out.

Vijayakumar

Uphold Equality of...

(Continued from page 5)

women, unpaid domestic services and cultural and social inequality have to be fought against. Paternal social set up has to be changed.

Eelom War and Equality of Women

Today in Eelam territory women have to live with all the burdens a war imposes. We have very young widows, physically incapacitated and psychologically affected persons. But today women have made great advances also. We see even adult women cycling from distant places like Vavuniya carrying also merchandise. We can see women working in all fields today. This should not be merely considered as the needs of the war situation. This has

to be appreciated as a change in traditional concepts and that women have become resurgent. The current Eelom war has really served as an impetus to our women who are yearning to liberate themselves and build up socio-sex equality. Our women are struggling to live in the teeth of oppression by way of losses sustained by military operation and economic sanctions. Their determination will be a factor in building a society where man and woman are equal.

The new opportunities of employment now emerging help to reduce unemployment amongst women. The changes brought by the war situation can help to remove the secondary position of women

not only in work places but also help to secure equal education and employment opportunities and in political decision-making. It cannot be denied that the liberation struggle has instilled an awareness to respect the democratic and other rights of women.

All projects for development of women must begin at the grass-root level. Women must be found employment even beyond the traditional work assigned to them.

Self-employment projects have limitations. Income generated from these cannot remove the secondary position accorded to women. Therefore, all women must take this golden opportunity to spread the concept of equality of sexes.

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