

HOT SPRING

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AID GOES SOUTH

Two hundred dairy heifers intended as a donation to the Jaffna peninsula by the Australian NGO - Human Rights - First the Child - will now be sent to Government farms in the South on the suggestion of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture of the Government of Sri Lanka.

It is learnt that Mr. Len Reid of Human Rights - First the Child - visited Colombo in December, 1991 and met the Prime Minister, Mr. D.B. Wijetunge, to obtain his permission to visit Jaffna penin-

sula. At the meeting Mr. Reid had said that his NGO had been endeavouring for more than three years to send 200 dairy heifers to Jaffna peninsula. He had also sought permission to visit Jaffna and

meet the Mallakam Rural Development Society President and the Vice Chancellor of the Jaffna University. The heifers were an intended donation to the Mallakam Rural Development Society and Mr. Reid wished to visit Mallakam to assess the situation himself. The permission was refused.

At the meeting Mr. Reid had with the Prime Minister the Sri Lankan Agriculture Minister was also present. Both Ministers had suggested to Mr. Reid that he sends the cows to Government farms

in the South. Mr. Reid had agreed to do so at a later date provided air freight charges and health tests were funded by the Sri Lankan Government.

Mr. Reid in a letter addressed to Mr. S. Sribaskaran has said that it is still the intention of his NGO to introduce livestock breeding programmes in the Jaffna peninsula at a more appropriate time and also to arbitrate on the ethnic violence "as soon as divine providence again rules in Sri Lanka."

Bombing at Puliyanikulam

News reaching Jaffna from Vavunia stated that three Sri Lankan Air Force bombers carried out extensive bombing of Puliyanikulam in the Vavunia District.

According to preliminary reports a number of civilian dwellings have been damaged. No further details have been received. The bombing took place on Friday, March 13 forenoon.

Another report says that a Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter carried out aerial strafing at Kumulamunai in the Mullaitivu district. A tractor and another vehicle are reported to have been damaged.

Lightening Attack at Manal Aru Sentry points destroyed Arms recovered

In a lightening attack carried out by the LTTE at Mankindi in Manal Aru near Mullaitivu, the LTTE destroyed three Sri Lankan sentry points and also recovered a haul of arms and ammunitions including one A. K. L. M. G.

The LTTE said that the attack which took place

Tuesday, February, 3 night lasted only three minutes. 14 Sri Lankan soldiers and one LTTE fighter died. The Tigers recovered many arms and ammunitions.

The Government which referred to this attack said that seven soldiers died and thirteen were wounded.

BOMBERS AT IT AGAIN TWO INJURED - FIVE HOUSES DAMAGED

Two Sri Lankan Air Force bombers dropped 4 bombs in the thickly populated Kondavil area close to Jaffna town. Two persons were injured and two houses were completely damaged. There

was further damage to other property.

At about 10-00 a.m. Sunday, March 8 two Sri Lankan Air Force bombers dropped four bombs. One bomb hit the house of Kandiah Nirmalakumar and the other hit the house of Tharmalingam Tharmarasa. Both houses were completely damaged.

The inmates of both houses ran out of their houses at the approach of the bombers and thus were saved from personal injuries. In one house tobacco valued at Rs. 300,000 which was exposed for drying up was damaged

and in the other house some poultry were left dead apart from destruction of sundry house-hold goods.

Two other bombs which were dropped fell inside a garden and exploded.

Apart from the complete damage to the houses of Nirmalakumar and Tharmarasa three other houses in the vicinity were also partly damaged.

Also a cyclist and a small boy who happened to pass along the road sustained injuries. The cyclist Elayathamby Amirthalingam (38) of Kopay South was admitted to the Jaffna Hospital with serious injuries.

The small boy Manickam Ratnam (4) also was admitted to the Jaffna hospital.

Envoy's Views are Personal Says Foreign Minister

Mr. Harold Herath, Sri Lankan Government's Foreign Minister is reported to have told pressmen in Colombo that the views expressed by Mr. Neville Kanagaratne, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner for

India were those of the High Commissioner and not the views of the Government of Sri Lanka.

Earlier, Mr. Kanagaratne, speaking to newsmen in Madras had said that peace can only be achieved by talks with the LTTE and that the Government would consider rescinding some of its pre-conditions for talks with the LTTE.

THERE AND HERE

"I sometimes think that if the mutilated bodies of the dead were laid out on the floor of this House, it might bring move closely home to those who sit in it (House) the consequences of the decisions they have made."

- British M. P. William Ross quoted in Newsweek February 3 - 1992 criticising Britain's security policy in Northern Ireland as a "JOKE".

"Do these shell explosions make such big noise", asked the Premier much surprised.

The Prime Minister D. B. Wijetunge was at Vavuniya attending the mobile secretariat work when at a long distance shells launched by the Sri Lankan Army were exploded. The Premier appeared shocked by the explosion and wanted to know what was happening.

On the day the Premier was at Vavuniya the army was engaged in shell attack at Sastri Koolankulam which caused shock and later surprise to the Premier.

From a News report appearing "UDAYAN" of 9-3-92

Widespread Firing

The Sri Lankan Army and Navy engaged in widespread firing from their camps at Valalai, Veemankamam, and Kadduvan in Valikamam North.

The Navy started firing from the seas off Thiruvadinilai, Mathagal, Poonakari, Kalmunai and Siththankurichchi.

This took place on the night of Thursday March 12 and continued till morning on March 13, Friday.

Musings of Mr. Meddle



15 'terrorist farmers' arrested at Chenkaladi. Army suspects they were responsible for the killing of 15 soldiers at Vetrilaikerni in the Elephant Pass area -

Has Elephant Pass leapt into 'army-held territory in Batticaloa'?

He thinks of Federalism

A Colombo report says that Mr. A. K. Ranasinghe, the State Minister for Information said that if peace could be restored by the setting up of a federal form of Government then the government should accept a federal form of Government.

It is to be noted that Mr. Ranasinghe has earlier too spoken of federalism as a means of solving the Tamil-Sinhala conflict.

OUR READERS' CHOICE

Thoughts on the Tamil Tragedy

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Since power passed into the hands of the Sinhalese leaders after independence, the Tamils and even Christians have been at the receiving end. Some of the most unjust and one-sided legislation were enacted by Parliament in the teeth of vehement opposition. Some of them are the Sinhala only Bill, the Schools take over Bill and laws to settle Sinhalese in Tamil areas, robbing the Tamil estate workers of their franchise standardisation of University entrance examinations, disqualifying Mrs. Bandaranaike from the first Presidential election, obtaining undated letters of resignation from party M.Ps, justifying the attack on the houses of the Judges of the Supreme Court because they "erred" in their duty, not to forget the infamous referendum instead of a general election and the dubious sixth amendment expelling 18 Tamil M. Ps from Parliament. These can easily enter the Guinness Book of Records, as they haven't happened in any civilized country before or even after.

Since 1947 there have been four major communal riots and all those killed were Tamils. But the riots of July 83 was the best performance of the Colombo criminals and communal minded politicians, as the army and Police sho-

uted Jayawewa to the rioters and murderers.

The Tamils did not raise their hand against the Sinhalese till then, even under such grave provocation. This gave the idea that state terrorism could bring the easily frightened Tamils of the North-East to their knees before the Sinhala-Buddhist raj-J.R.Jayawardene and his side. Kick Cyril Mathew strengthened the armed forces and established army camps at every nook and corner including one in the Jaffna Fort in the heart of the Jaffna Town. But J.R.'s 12 year fascist and racist dictatorship

produced only the opposite result. Instead of going down on his knees the youth stood firm on his feet. The hand that held the book now held the gun. The easily frightened Tamil was no more and July '83 straightened the back of the Tamil man. The challenge has been accepted and battle joined.

While thousands have died, lakhs have fled in terror to foreign countries and living as glorified beggars. Perhaps they are safe in any foreign land except in their own country. The Government should rid itself of the Satanic image of its predecessor just as the

former USSR has undone itself. Their new enlightened and liberal policy to let every race to rule itself, but be in a commonwealth for com-

mon good, is a fine model for this multi-racial Island too.

R. L. Thevathasan
Erlalai

Strange bedfellows

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

It is a foregone conclusion that the *Parliamentary Select Committee* will not find a solution to the Ethnic problem. It will meet the same fate as the *All Party Conference* mooted two years ago which did nothing! The Government has also put the lid on the Select Committee that it should not air any proposals put before them. This Committee has now called all groups and individuals which presented proposals to state their respective stands. It will be in the best interests of the Committee to go to the Parties and individuals themselves instead of asking them to come before it in Colombo, especially with transport difficulties.

As a matter of courtesy, it could pay a visit to Jaffna to ascertain the views of the various segments of the people.

If the Committee could make a jaunt to Canada at the expense of the rate payers' money to seek guidelines for their model, why cannot it go to the outstations as well to solicit the views of the people? Such excursions abroad only serve to show that the Committee is an eyewash.

War or Peace, that is the question. Actions from the citadels of power tend to indicate that it is war! So why fool the people with a Select Committee?

S. Jayaratnam

Chavakachcheri.

The Editor,
Sir,

Let me congratulate Nestor through the columns of your journal for re-naming New Delhi as Duryodhanan Janma Bhoomi.

The utter deceit and hypocrisy of Duryodhanan Janma Bhoomi makes me wonder whether a more apt name would not be 'SAKUNI JANMA BHOOMI'.

According to Mahabaram it was Sakuni who sowed the seeds of dissension between Duryodhanan and Pandava brothers. It was he who robbed the latter of their kingdom,

wealth and last but not least their wife also through the artful game of dice.

The efforts being presently made in Duryodhanan Janma Bhoomi makes me think that it can more properly be called 'Sakuni Janma Bhoomi'. Will Nestor agree?

Incidentally, there is no evidence that the Dravidian South was involved in the Maha Bharatha war of the North though the war is said to be the greatest in ancient times so far as North India was concerned.

K. Mailvaganam.

Jaffna

Anti Rabies Injections

The Editor,
Hot Spring,

Dear Sir,

According to the Mural newspaper of 1-3-1992 it is learnt that around 500 cases of dog-bites have been reported to the Teaching hospital, Jaffna for the month of January and February alone, in this year. It is not known how many cases have been reported in other hospitals. There are some people who never take treatment at all and just take some domestic treatment for such dog bites.

There is an acute scarcity in obtaining the necessary treatment for dog bites; both

in the government and private medical centres. It will be appreciated if action is taken to ease the shortages of the necessary drugs to arrest rabies. The people will be eternally grateful for such service. The voluntary association, particularly Kennel clubs, Animal-lovers associations can also help.

It is impressing to learn that the French medical team attached to the Base Hospital, Point Pedro, has been pleased to get down some special drugs to treat the dog bite patients. Their dedicated service is being highly appreciated and commended by the people.

J. Arulanandam

EVENTS: STUDENTS' SOCIAL

End-of-the-course get together of Jaffna Hindu College TACEP centre took place on February 29, Saturday at Cumarasamy Hall, Jaffna Hindu College. English language activities that won places at competitions were re-enacted. The function which was organised by the English forum of Jaffna Hindu TACEP was presided over by student president V. Cumarasamy.

Exhibition

A three day exhibition of local agricultural and industrial products was held at Jaffna Hindu College from March 7th to 9th, under the auspices of the Centre for Women and Development.

The exhibition displayed locally produced items. Many of them are alternate consumer products for those items which are scarcely available as they are brought either from abroad or from outside Northeast.

The items included agricultural and food products from

palmyrah and other local vegetation, Dairy farming and fisheries. Garments, handicrafts and coir products.

A noteworthy feature of the exhibition was the display of various constructions and light-engineering products of the several branch organisations of the Research Organisation of Tamil Eelam. The alternate sources of energy and alternatives to cement drew large crowd of spectators.

The informative material on technical courses provided under non-formal education was also displayed.

Co-operative Canteen

A fair Price co-operative canteen to ease the cost of living of the people, was declared open by the Assistant Commissioner of Co-operative Development, Mr. T. Sabaratnam on 6.3.1992,

near Sri. Bashkaran Theatre, Atchuvally Bazaar.

Anti rabies programme

On 7.3.92 an anti rabies vaccination programme was conducted by the veterinary field officers of this range, at the premises of St. Joseph's church, Atchuvally. Similar services were carried out at other centres of Atchuvally. A record number of dogs were vaccinated.

Prize Giving

A prize giving to promote religious education and bible based dramatic items ceremonies was held at St. Theresa Girl's College, Atchuvally on 8.3.92 evening.

Rev. Fr. J. Nicholas, the Diocesan director of the catechetical centre, Jaffna Diocese was the chief guest. A large number of people including Hindus graced the occasion and appreciated the various performances by the children.

Twins in Life

*In this Universe nothing is permanent
At the same time nothing is stagnant
Growth and decay take place daily
At last here the end is without gaiety*

*Men and women are partners in life
Merry or worry are products of husband and wife
Begetting offsprings and upbringing them
With discipline of mind like rhythm in anthem*

*Is the holy service entrusted to all
How many are successful without fall
Vigilance and love will always win
With ceaseless effort of humans without grin.*

*Pain or pleasure, gain or loss
Triumph or defeat, Dim or gloss
Are twins in life that follow each other
Whichever may happen why should we bother.*

— ANBEZHIL —

Musings of Nestor

CONCOCTING CASES.

The British introduced the principle that it is the responsibility of the State to inquire into and collect evidence against those accused of crime. This task of criminal prosecution is performed by the Police. The Police is therefore vested with the power to arrest suspects, interrogate them and hold them in their custody for the said purpose. These powers incidentally give the power or rather the opportunity to extract evidence through torture and threats of further torture. In addition, the practice of pardoning an accomplice, if he would turn Crown witness to provide evidence against another suspect, has come into vogue. This opportunity of torturing, threatening further torture and extracting evidence against an alleged accomplice or suspect has given the Police tremendous powers to misdirect the course of justice. Innocent persons can be prosecuted by fabricating evidence.

SATHASIVAM CASE

The famous Sathasivam case is a clear instance the Police has of giving untold sufferings to innocent persons through an attempt to misdirect justice. The real culprit is allowed to escape. An Indian car driver who was very much in the scene in the Sathasivam family and who engaged the servant William disappeared from Ceylon within a few days of the murder. Sathasivam was able to get acquitted because he had the opportunity of being defended by a brilliant criminal lawyer and there was on the Bench an enlightened judge. The course of criminal justice gets frustrated when the Police are not honest.

Bandaranaike Case

In the Bandaranaike assassination case the accused Bhikku Somarama was sentenced to death and he chose, as his last wish before execution, to become a convert to the Roman Catholic faith. It is a matter of no mean significance.

The Court under the existing system is a passive personage and reaches conclusions only from the evidence led before it. It can make use of no other material. Since the Bandaranaike assassination was a political issue the public got interested and quite a lot of material

not placed before the Court became available to the public and the public reached its own conclusion which might be summarised thus: Bhikku Somarama was a person of much limited intelligence who allowed himself to be used as a foil; that the Buddhist Bhikkus were behind the assassination because Bandaranaike did not go to the full extent desired by the Bhikkus; that the actual gunman was a hired assassin, a trigger-happy busybody who threw off the Bhikku's robes in the lawn of the Prime Minister's residence, drove straight to Kataragama, made himself publicly seen and recognised at Kataragama and on return pleaded that he had shaved his head in compliance with a Vow. The Bhikku's garb thrown off by the real assassin was found in the lawn and came into evidence. The Police however did not produce or mark the said Bhikku's robes as a production. Although oral evidence brought to light the Bhikku's robes in the lawn, the Court could not pursue it, as the Police had not produced and marked it in evidence. The Crown did not bring in Srma Bandaranaike, as a witness.

POLICE HONESTY - CARDINAL.

The judicial process introduced by the British is undoubtedly very sensible but unless the prosecuting Police is truthful and brings out the whole truth, there is frustration of justice. The honesty and truthfulness of the Police in criminal prosecution is of cardinal importance.

Well, in reality the Police need not be, nor necessarily, be honest and truthful. If heavy bribes change hands or directives come from political authority, the Police will utilize all the opportunities it has to such ends. The passivity of the judiciary is of tremendous advantage to the Police: to seek to misdirect or frustrate justice. When the prosecution story falls flat, the judiciary does not question the Police why it did fabricate such a false case.

NESTOR'S EXPERIENCE

Nestor had a bitter experience as the first accused in a criminal case in which the very first charge was that the accused committed criminal trespass. But the virtual complainant in the

very first sentence under cross examination denied quite frankly the charge of criminal trespass. The judge remarks 'Then the charge of criminal trespass fails' but he did not ask the Police why they included such an untrue charge.

There were several other charges involving unprintable words. The lawyer told Nestor that he should get copies of the subsequent statements in the Police Information Book under the law. The accused is entitled only to a copy of the first information, i.e. the original complaint. Nestor asked his lawyer how he could obtain them to which he as not entitled. The reply was, 'Give a bigger bribe.' Ultimately the relevant statements were copied but these were not certified copies. These statements had to be put sentence by sentence under cross examination and these belied the charges framed and the oral evidence against the accused. All the accused were acquitted of all the charges. The Police Inspector smiled to Nestor when the Court announced the acquittal.

LESSONS

The lessons to be learnt from the very brief rehash of the foregoing three cases can be summarised thus;

1. The Police have plenty of opportunities of concocting or suppressing evidence.
2. The principle of judicial passivity results in the Court never inquiring or giving thought to the fact of concoction of evidence or charges; similarly the Court gives no attention to the suppression of evidence. It reaches its conclusion from the material before it.
3. The doctrine that the accused is presumed to be innocent until the contrary is proved has only a very thin veneer of truth. When the Police concocts cases and collects evidence the etc, the accused will have to be intelligent and alert and his lawyer apart from being intelligent and honest must take a genuine interest in defending his client. Very few lawyers have these attributes to an adequate degree and that is why a very few criminal lawyers were able to earn a seven figure income - the inevitable result of supply and demand.
4. The accused will have to throw away a lot of

money not merely to expensive lawyers but to various parties in bribing the Police.

RAJIV GANDHI'S CASE

In cases which the Police concoct in response to political directives they do release to the Press evidence which they allege they have collected purely to do propaganda and misdirect public opinion. In the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case the Police is doing propaganda work very vigorously.

The public would like to ask a few questions from the Indian Intelligence Service which is said to handle this case.

1. The Indian Police claims to have reconstructed the body of the young woman who committed suicide in the process of assassinating Rajiv Gandhi. Could they say whether she did marry and had children. Medical experts could answer this question;
2. Since they claim that they have the identity of the father, they should be able to trace back his antecedents and obtain the young woman's Birth Certificate and ascertain her real name, etc. THANU is certainly not a name found in Lanka;
3. Have they ascertained the schools where she studied and identified some at least of her class-mates or school-mates?
4. Have they found what she was doing in India earlier? How long was she in India? Did she serve in employment anywhere in India? If so, have they made enquiries from her employer or her co-workers?
5. The Liberation Tigers have nothing to gain by assassinating Rajiv Gandhi. There are several persons in India who are keen to end the Nehru dynasty. There were

earlier attempts to kill Rajiv Gandhi.

6. LTTE is reported to have sent emissaries to New Delhi and interviewed Rajiv Gandhi. This should have been by appointment. How was the appointment secured and through whom?

Rajiv Gandhi would have maintained a diary. Where is this diary? What note has he made of his interview? The meeting between the emissaries?

Since the attempt of the LTTE to mend fences with Rajiv Gandhi, the latter should have discussed this move with his close political associates or advisers. What information has the Police about Rajiv Gandhi's reaction to the LTTE's move? Have the Intelligence Service any information on the matter?

7. A Press Report indicated that when the assassin who was struggling to find a place in the queue waiting to garland Gandhi, the latter beckoned her and she went straightaway with her garland and that was why the metal detector was not applied to her. Was this clue pursued? Was the Police Officer with the metal detector questioned? This clue might mean that the assassin was previously known to Rajiv Gandhi. Probably she might have been one whose near and dear ones were killed by the Peace Force and that she had met him earlier and pleaded her case with him. Whatever clues the Indian Police might concoct the determined manner in which the assassin carried out her plan suggests that she was a person with tremendous determination and acted in revenge.

It is reported that President Premadasa considers that he would not enter into any Agreement with India that would jeopardise any negotiation or settlement of the ethnic problem. *The Government of India's attempt to involve Pinarayi is definitely an attempt to prevent any negotiation or settlement of the ethnic problem. Hypocrisy resigns Supreme in New Delhi. i.e. Duryodanan Janma Bhoomi.*

Jaffna Christians' Union:

Stop War and Negotiate

The Jaffna Christians' Union at its annual general meeting held on Saturday, March 7, at the Young Men's Christian Association Hall at Jaffna, passed a resolution requesting the Government of Sri Lanka to—

- (1) withdraw the embargo placed on essential supplies of food, drugs and fuel to the north,
- (2) to proclaim an immediate ceasefire, and
- (3) to initiate talks with the LTTE without any preconditions.

The resolution was moved by the Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India and seconded by Rev. Govindarajan, President of the Northeast Methodist synod.

The Jaffna Christians' Union also resolved to conduct joint thanksgiving service in Jaffna town to commemorate the 95th birth anniversary of the late leader Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam which falls on 31st March.

Power Politics will not pay

We have heard enough of political 'vocals' from time to time. Politician is one who is interested in Politics but a Statesman is a statesmanlike politician. We can leave this matter for research to experts. But what we studied in schools is that a politician is concerned about the elections and a statesman is worried about the next generation.

POLITICIANS

In Sri Lanka, inconsistency had been the order of the day. The public are fooled and made to believe what politicians say are truths coming down from heaven. When politicians acquire power, they have man, method and machinery to do all they want. This 'power' wields immense authority by which one can hold himself on a high pedestal. This type of political authority had been misused by politicians to take vengeance on their political opponents.

BROKEN PROMISES

The Tamils as a race had been subjected to many miseries and untold hardships. The large majority of Sinhalese politicians have made solemn promises. We are aware that these politicians are quick to promise and slow to perform. We have witnessed this for a long period as the majority had failed to honour the words that came from their tongues. Of course, they have missed the 'Kural' which speaks of guarding the tongues.

WAR OR PEACE CHALLENGE

War or peace was a hand-out of the state at Press Conferences. It has failed to take into consideration that Tamils are also sons of the soil and in no way subordinate.

The short-cut to political advantage has failed and it took nearly 35 years out of the 44 years of Independence to have a re-look at the Sinhala Only Act. The present problem of the Tamils may take another decade?

Between 1931 and now, we have had the following elections in Sri Lanka:-

1931 - State Council Elections

1936 - State Council Elections

- 1947 - Parliamentary Elections
- 1952 - Parliamentary Elections
- 1956 - Parliamentary Elections
- 1960 - Parliamentary Elections - March & June
- 1965 - Parliamentary Elections
- 1970 - Parliamentary Elections
- 1977 - Parliamentary Elections
- 1981 - Development Council Elections
- 1982 - Presidential Elections
- 1982 - Referendum
- 1983 - 18 By - Elections
- 1988 - Provincial Council Elections
- 1989 - Presidential Elections

In the history of a democratic nation, every election has a turning point.

The subjugated India which fought for its freedom and Nationalism during the latter part of 19th Century and early part of 20th century obtained its freedom on 15th August, 1947 after great sacrifices.

Now the liberated India which has forgotten the trials and tribulations experienced during the Independence struggle under the Imperialists is very keen in blighting the budding of Nationalism in our Tamil Eelam.

The following passages from the book "MAHAYOGI" (LIFE SADHANA AND TEACHINGS OF AUROBINDO) written by Patriot, Political Prisoner, Member of the Constituent Assembly, Minister for Information in the Government of India, Philosopher and Scholar, Ranganath Ramachandra Diwakar, an M. A., L. L. B. would serve as an eye opener.

Sri Aurobindo who was a Master of English Language was a tireless freedom fighter and the foremost pioneer of the Indian Freedom Movement. During the solitude of his jail life he received the mandate to be the instrument of the Divine. On the eve of his retirement to Pondicherry in 1910, Sri Aurobindo predicted that

COMMUNALISM

In the case of Sri Lanka, the apparatus for the maintenance of democracy had been communal from the time of the State Council days. No wonder this condition has been perpetuated to this day. The present day situation is a 'balance of Payments' of all successive governments. The governments in office never viewed problems of the Tamils in the correct perspective to find a solution.

Post 1983 is a period of turmoil for the Tamils. What has the government done so far? It has enacted acts in Parliament to suppress the feeling and spirit of the Tamils for an indefinite period of time! If not, what is the remedy?

NO CREDIBILITY

Pacts, agreements, trust, good will, understanding, confidence and committees have had no meaning as far as the

Tamils are concerned. This is very clear now even in the minds of the Sinhalese. But the Sinhala politicians have failed to grasp this point. If one scanned the past Newspapers of Sri Lanka, the problem of the Tamils would have covered columns in great proportion which according to paper weight would run into tons. The so-called advisers and consultants do not appear to re-read the hasty and inconsistent speeches made by the politicians and advise them about eating their own words.

If this is done, they may have to hide their faces in shame.

VULTURE RULE CANNOT PROLONG

What is needed today is a true leader who could express his mind freely with-

Es-Ke-Te

out reservations with regard to the present crisis. Until such time, Tamils will continue to suffer hardships and even annihilation at the hands of those in power. Whom are we to turn for help in the absence of food items, medicines, electricity, transport, fuel, children's milk foods, stationery and clothes

for school-going children, raw materials for industrialists, water pumps to irrigate fields, batteries (at least to hear curfew announcements), newsprint, items like camphor for religious ceremonies, stamps, newspapers, cement to repair buildings damaged by aerial bombings and push bicycles (the only available form of transport)?

If all such items are banned in the name of preventing violence and terrorism, why cannot one consider these acts of the State as a high form of dictatorship? Countries which were subject to this form of vulture rule have dismantled themselves and have shown to the world that this type of misrule cannot go on indefinitely and this will cease to operate not by those in power but by the Hand of Providence.

Various reasons are being adduced for the continuing onslaught on the Tamils. But there appears to be some re-thinking among the Sinhalese, if some opinions expressed in the Media are taken as guide.

Will the ordinary Sinhalese rise to the occasion and throw out the politicians who are more concerned about party politics and building personal monuments at public expense?

INDIA!

HARK - LISTEN

Your Sons Speak

after a long period of war, world-wide upheaval and revolution, to begin in about 4 years. India would achieve freedom.

QUOTATION FROM "M HAYOGI" (LIFE SADHANA AND TEACHINGS OF AUROBINDO)

"His call to sacrifice was a new gospel; it thrilled as in the first decade of this century as nothing else did."

"Political freedom is the life-breath of a nation. Without it a nation cannot

AHYILYAM

grow, cannot expand. The work of national emancipation is a great and holy yajna of which boycott, swadeshi, national education and every other activity, great and small, are only major and minor parts. Liberty is the fruit we seek from the sacrifice, and Motherland, the goddess to whom we offer it; into the seven leaping tongues of the fire of the yajna we must offer all that we are and all that we have, feeding

the fire even with our blood and lives and happiness of our nearest and dearest; for the Motherland is the Goddess who loves not a maimed and imperfect sacrifice, and freedom was never won from the gods by a grudging giver."

"Nationalism", he said, "is an Avatar and cannot be slain."

"There was another very important development in the political world and that was the birth of modern nationalism. In the hands of Giuseppe Mazzini, the great Italian patriot, it evolved into a new type of regional religion which supplied great fervour and zeal to freedom movements everywhere. He can be truly called 'the prophet of Nationalism'. Each people, he said, has a duty to perform and a destiny to fulfil in the world and they must do it. Freedom from foreign rule, he added is the first condition of being able to do so. By 'each people' he meant a group or groups of people living

together in a geographical area and bound by ties of race, language, culture, and by common history, common memory, common suffering, and above all common economic, social, and political interests. This idea emphasises the common interests of people living within certain defined territorial boundaries. It has the effect of converting a merely geographical expression in the form of a country into a mass of people awakened to their common interests and bound by a bond of brotherhood based on as many natural common ties as possible. This great idea has at some time or other during the course of the last century profoundly influenced almost every country and every people in the world. In fact, recently every new political awakening of people in different countries has been due to the urge of modern nationalism". That in essence is the basis of the democratic principle of self-determination and autonomy.

WHAT A FATHER - WHAT A SON

The late Mr. Philip Gunawardene was regarded as the founder of the Left (Marxist) movement in what was then Ceylon. He was one of the founder members of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP).

When the LSSP decided to merge with the Boleshevik Sama Samaja Party (BSP) Mr. Gunawardene had differences of opinion and led a group in the LSSP called the VLSSP. The other group under Dr. N. M. Perera was called the NLSSP. Mr. Gunawardene entered into a United Front with the Communist Party (CP).

Towards 1956 Mr. Gunawardene's VLSSP joined the late Mr. Bandaranaike's SLFP to form the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) which won the elections. An MEP government was formed in 1956 with Mr. Philip Gunawardene and P. H. William Silva of the VLSSP accepting important ministerial portfolios under Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike who became Prime Minister.

B - C Pact

In 1957, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike entered into the Bandaranaike - Chelvanayakam Pact to avert a political crisis which was in the offing in respect of the Tamil question. Mr. Philip Gunawardene, as a member of Mr. Bandaranaike's government representing the V. L. S. S. P. group in the MEP was consulted by Mr. Bandaranaike in regard to the provisions of the B - C - Pact. Mr. Philip Gunawardene supported the Pact and to his credit it must be stated that he was never associated with anyone on the Government side who were suspected of trying to sabotage the implementation of the Pact.

The UNP opposed the Pact, the LSSP opposed the Pact and the CP welcomed the agreement.

Mr. Philip Gunawardene and his colleague P. H. William Silva later had to go out of Mr. Bandaranaike's Government. Mr. Bandaranaike continued his government as an SLFP government allowing Mr. Philip Gunawardene to snatch the name MEP. So from that time onwards Mr. Philip Gunawardene's V. L. S. S. P. became MEP.

D - C Pact

Subsequent political changes saw Mr. Gunawardene take the side of the UNP. In 1965 Mr. Dudley Senanayake of the UNP formed a government as Prime Minister and

Mr. Philip Gunawardene was now in Mr. Dudley Senanayake's government as an important and Senior Minister.

Prior to Mr. Dudley Senanayake being called on to form the Government in 1965 he had to prove to the Governor-General that he could command a majority in the House. The UNP on its own strength did not have the required majority in the House. Therefore Mr. Dudley Senanayake concluded an agreement with Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam and secured the Federal Party's support for him to form a government. In the Government thus formed Mr. Philip Gunawardene accepted ministerial portfolio.

The Dudley-Chelvanayakam Pact was opposed by the SLFP and the LSSP and CP. But Mr. Philip Gunawardene's

MEP was in the government of Mr. Dudley Senanayake and Mr. Philip Gunawardene supported the Regulations under the Tamil language (Special) Provisions Act presented in Parliament by the Government as one step in promoting the various provisions of the Dudley-Chelvanayakam Pact.

Philip Supported both Pacts

It will thus be seen that while all Sinhala political parties, UNP, SLFP, LSSP and CP have objected to one or the other of the two Pacts - namely the Bandaranayake - Chelvanayakam Agreement and the Dudley - Chelvanayakam Agreement, it was only Mr. Philip Gunawardene and his MEP that supported both Agreements!

It must be said to the credit of Mr. Gunawardene,

that unlike the other Sinhala parties which tried to woo the Tamil voter in the North east too, Mr. Philip Gunawardene made no such attempts by fielding Tamil candidates at parliamentary elections anywhere but did not attempt to break up anyone of the agreements entered into by the Tamil

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leader with the leaders of both major Sinhala parties.

Dinesh on be ten track

After the demise of Mr. Philip Gunawardene and succession to MEP politics of his son, Dinesh, one finds Mr. Dinesh Gunawardene beating the Sinhala Chauvinist drum which had often been beaten by many others with disastrous consequences to the

ordinary peoples of this island though the drum-beaters may have gained temporary personal gains.

Mr. Dinesh Gunawardene's latest attempt to make a scape goat of Tamil students in his attempt to become a Sinhala hero shows that he is one who cannot learn anything even after bitter experience.

Does Mr. Dinesh Gunawardene not know that it was the government's dirty, low attempt to knock Tamil students out by the infamous "standardisation" formula which provided the occasion for the growth of militancy amongst Tamil students? Perhaps he knows but does not care because of his insatiable political ambitions amongst the Sinhalese.

Prodding To War

The Island's lead story in its Saturday Edition of March 7, 1992 is a classic case of attempts to let loose havoc based on blatant and malicious lies.

The headline reads "Jaffna Tamils await army for liberation". Strangely the story does not bear the name of the worthy reporter of the Island who invented the story. According to this worthy, he has got his story from "a top ranking military source".

Anonymity questionable

Then in the next paragraph the worthy says that "the officers" who gave him the information "wanted their anonymity maintained."

According to the report "they" (the officers not the top ranking military source) had told the worthy anonymity that "hundreds of Tamil Civilians trekked to Army units and even made 'voyages for mercy' to distant places like Vavunia to plead with the Army that the final liberation operation in Yalpanam be expedited."

Imagination runs riot

The report adds: the average Tamil civilian in Jaffna had cultivated a fear that the Government would stall the imminent push into Jaffna following reports that a major operation to defeat the Tigers' stronghold in the Northern

peninsula would endanger the lives of the civilians."

This part of the report is not a quotation from the "top ranking military source" or "the officers who wanted their anonymity maintained". Therefore this is report emanating from the worthy anonymity's fertile imagination.

"The way these innocent Tamil people come appealing to us to come and rescue them is not only heart-rending but nails to death rumours that the Army should not mount an attack on the Tigers because there are Tigers among the civilian population" - the anonymous officers have told the worthy anonymity!

Facade of Mercy

The story ends: "We are going to Jaffna to free those innocent Tamils from the atrocities of the LTTE. Our mission becomes more morally persuading because the Tamil people in Jaffna want such a mission launched now without further dilly-dallying" military sources said, adding that "any attempts to frustrate the plans of the security forces foray into Jaffna could only demoralise the men at the war front whose morale right now, is very high."

It would be a matter of great explanation to the innocent reader - the reader has to be innocent to gulp all the trash put in print in the mass media - if the Island could

answer the following questions, on behalf of the worthy anonymity whose "story" (scoop) has hit the headlines in its Saturday edition.

Who is fooling whom?

1. Who gave the worthy anonymity the story - "top military source" (mark the singular) or the officers who wanted their anonymity maintained? (mark the plural) Who is fooling whom?

2. The Saturday (-3-92) edition of 'the Island' has ten separate news items in its first page. This news item is the Lead news. Except for this news item which is the lead news and two other small news items - one in relation to taking six persons for contraband offences against the custom laws into custody and the other in relation to a Magistrate fining some traders for offences against regulations under the Food Act - the other 7 items bear the name of the reporter or carry the name of the news source. How is it that the Lead story paternity remains an anonymity?

Credibility - too thin

3. According to this report the Yalpanam (Jaffna) Tamils have gone to Army units - even made 'voyages for mercy' to distant places like Vavuniya. So the Vavuniya Army Unit is the furthest in distance to which these persons had made 'voyages for mercy'? Did these Tamils also go to other Army camps in the North nearer home - say to Elephant

Pass, Palaly, Karainagar or any other in the islands? The report suggests though indirectly - that there were such 'mercy voyages'. Does the reporter think "the innocent civilians" cross the LTTE barricades surrounding these camps to go tell the Sinhala Army not to waste time in attacking Jaffna?

Deserted Islands - Give the lie

4. According to this report the Jaffna people are enthusiastically waiting to welcome the Sinhala army. If so why did the people of the islands abandon their homes, property and everything and run into mainland Jaffna when the Sinhala Army entered these islands? Why did these Tamils run away into LTTE territory? Does the worthy anonymity not know that even the Minister for Home Affairs very much lamented the fact that in the islands where over 10,000 lived only 400 are living after the Army entered? Why did these Tamils who are supposed to have gone on 'voyages for mercy' shun the Sinhala Army so much and on their own volition run into Tiger hands?

More civilians than Tigers killed

5. From June 1990 the Army had been trying to capture Jaffna. All the armed forces of the Government had

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HOT SPRING

VOL: 2 SUNDAY 15th March 1992 ISSUE: 23

Sinhala Leaders must have minds of their own

Foreign Minister of the Sri Lanka Government has, it is reported, said that the views expressed by the Sri Lanka Government's envoy in India, Mr. Neville Canekaratne, to pressmen in Madras are his personal views and not those of the Government of Sri Lanka!

It is said that an ambassador is a person who lies abroad for the sake of his country. It looks that in so far as the Sinhala Government of Sri Lanka is concerned the Foreign Minister lies within the country! The world has rarely known of instances where ambassadors give expression to views that are not those of their own Governments. If they do they generally find asylums in other countries!

What concerns us is not whether Mr. Neville Canekaratne's views are his own or that of his government. But what we seek to tell people - especially the Sinhala people - is that they have always thought it fit to elect Governments which have no minds of their own on the Tamil question - though all say that it is the burning 'national' question!

When Mr Thondaman placed certain proposals to try to work out a solution, the Government hurriedly said that Mr. Thondaman's views were not that of the Government but his own. And equally hurriedly the Opposition started alleging that President Premadasa was behind Mr. Thondaman's proposals. Both the Government and the Opposition did not place alternate proposals.

No Sinhala politician wants to take a bold decision and tell publicly that the Tamils are as much entitled to rule themselves as the Sinhalese are entitled to rule themselves.

However all political parties amongst the Sinhalese have always advanced the theory of the Sinhala right to rule the Tamils. A very few Sinhalese who speak otherwise are sent to the political wilderness by the combined effort of the Baudha - Sinhala chauvinists.

But what is most disappointing is that the Sinhala rulers have no mind of their own except the desire to rule the Tamils. By now every Sinhalese leader should realize that this is not possible in the last resort.

The Tamils for their part have tried every means of trying to secure their right to rule themselves. First it was submission of their case by eloquent arguments, followed by agreements worked out with Sinhala leaders which later ended in nothing.

The Tamils tried to achieve at least some rights by peaceful campaigns. The Sinhala answer was the repression of the Tamils. The repression which was originally administrative and legislative turned out later to be repression by thuggery and state terrorism. Today it is genocide, of the Tamils in their own homeland by the Sinhala states armed forces.

The Tamils have paid for dearly all these years and are continuing to pay for with their life and blood. These sacrifices are being made by the Tamils only to win their right to rule themselves - not to rule the Sinhalese and much less to provide a sphere of influence for some alien under pretext of geo political interests.

It is time that the Sinhala leaders realized this. It is no use trying to cheat the Sinhala people and vie for power on the wave of Baudha - Sinhala Chauvinism. After all when the war is over the Sinhalese and Tamils will continue to live peacefully in this island.

Seven Army Sentry Points destroyed - LTTE also recovers arms

The LTTE in a news release said that its cadres attacked and destroyed seven Sri Lankan Army sentry points at Thattuvankoddy near Elephant Pass

in the early morning of Wednesday March 11.

The news release also said that 10 Sri Lankan soldiers

were killed in the attack and the rest escaped to the Army Camp at Elephant Pass. Two LTTE men also died in the operations which lasted only ten minutes.

The LTTE also recovered a large haul of arms including 1 RPG, 5 RPG shells, 1 RPG propeller and one AK LMG.

Later reports said that two Sri Lankan bombers and two helicopters straffed the area the whole day. No reports of damages has been received yet

Soldier killed at Poonakari

A Sri Lankan soldier was killed at Madduvil Nadu in Poonakari when the LTTE carried out a sudden attack on an army sentry point on Tuesday, March 10 early morning.

The other soldiers are reported to have escaped to the Army Camp.

The LTTE recovered some weapons and the dead body of the Sri Lankan soldier, who died.

Three Tamils Shot Dead

Three Tamil civilians who were proceeding to Mallikaitivu in Muttur were shot dead by the Sri Lankan Army.

The names of the deceased are Kaliappu Sountharajah (35) Perinparajah Ravi (25) and Kuttiyan (25). The Army men are reported to have removed the dead bodies of

these men to the Pachchanoor Sri Lankan Army Camp.

Another report says that the Sri Lankan soldiers at Sampur also in Muttur arrested a Tamil civilian, Shanmugam Thangeswaran (22) and took him to their Camp. No further information has been received in regard to the fate of the arrested person, Shanmugam Thangeswaran.

Arrested when working in fields

A report from Batticaloa states that 15 Tamil women who were working in fields at Chenkaladi were arrested by the Sri Lankan Army and taken to the Army Camp.

No further information about the arrested women has been received.

Prodding to...

(Continuation from Page 5)

carried co-ordinated attacks. How many Tigers did they kill? And how many non-combatants paid for with their life and property only to satisfy an insatiable desire of the Sinhalese government to rule the Tamils? Does worthy anonymity think that Jaffna people are not aware of what has happened in Jaffna simply because the government has stopped electricity supply and also banned batteries which can be used to work our radios?

The whole strain of the lead story is to prod the Government and the Army into military ventures. Of course anonymous journalists in their closed offices with fans and lights working can go on encouraging war, they do not lose anything. It is the Sinhala lads in the field who have to pay for with their lives for the jingoism of the ilk of anonymity.

Without any disrespect for these Sinhala lads, judging from the rate at which they are abandoning their weapons and even their dead comrades' bodies and escaping to safety, frustration of plans

for attack of Jaffna cannot demoralise them. On the other hand these Sinhala lads must soon be wondering why they should risk their lives merely for the sake of some Sinhalese desiring to rule the Tamils.

Goaded the Army

Sometimes back the Island published an alleged interview its reporter Ravi Raj had with the LTTE leader Mr. V. Pirabakaran. The LTTE denied Mr. Pirabakaran even met this Island reporter. One false story having been exposed has it struck any bright brain that a second false report would make the original false report seem real?

SPORTS

Cricket

Jaffna Central College drew with Jaffna College at the latter's grounds.

Scores:- Jaffna Central 223 & 170 for 6 dec. Jaffna College 198 & 42 for 3 at close.

St. John's drew with St. Patrick's at the grounds of the former.

Scores:- St. John's 242 for 8 dec and 30 for 2 St.

Patrick's - 198 for 8 dec.

These matches were played over the week end.

Volley Ball

At a well organised tournament by the Nallur South

Community Centre St. Antony's beat K. K. S. United by three sets to two. The Antonians deserved to win.

Rajaratnam and Nagendran officiated.

Vijayakumar

Pedestrian Killed

Rayappu Alphonse (21) of Pulopalai, Palai who was going along a road at Nagarkovil died when a helicopter attacked from above the sky, states a report received in Jaffna.

A BITTER PILL!

As Indian Foreign Secretary, J. N. Dixit, landed in London on his return journey from America back home he had to swallow a bitter pill - a decision of the European Parliament calling for a resolution of the Kashmiri problem by the Security Council on the basis of the right of self-determination for the Kashmiris.

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