

HOT SPRING

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MANAL ARU

DEVASTATION GOES ON

TROOPS RUSHED - GENERALS VISIT SITE

The battle at Manal Aru is continuing for the fifth day in succession and reports indicate that Sinhala Army units from Vavunia with heavy vehicles are being rushed to Manal Aru to join the Sinhala soldiers pitched in battle there. The Sinhala Army at Manal Aru has already received heavy losses at Manal Aru.

The Sri Lankan Government announced an indefinite curfew in Manal Aru-Mullaitivu Districts, AGA's Division of Nedunkerny in Vavunia District, Kilinochchi District and Vadamarachy Division of Jaffna District from the 17th of this month. The curfew is still in force.

Manal Aru area was heavily bombed from the air; Naval boats launched heavy cannon fire and the Army Camps in the area launched

shell attack. With all these cover operations the Sinhala Armed forces encamped at Kokkuthoduwai started moving out with heavy vehicle support but were confronted by the LTTE and in the heavy battle that ensued the LTTE killed 26 soldiers of Sinhala Army and recovered a large haul of weapons including a 106 mm RCL, 5 shells thereof and a 50 Calibre gun. Eleven LTTE cadres died.

With heavy losses inflicted on the Sinhala Army on the first day, of the battle, the Government, responded with greater aerial bombardment, cannon fire from the seas and artillery shell attacks towards the villages such as Alambil and Chemmalai.

Reports said that the sound of the explosions were heard even in Vavunia.

Unabatedly the war at Manal Aru is proceeding for the fifth day in succession and Sinhala troops with heavy vehicles have been rushed from Vavuniya in aid of the Sinhala soldiers pitched in battle at Manal Aru.

Other reports say that Commander of the Sinhala Army, Lt. Gen. Cecil Waidyaratne

and later Lt. Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe, the Head of the Joint Operations Command of the Sri Lanka Govt. personally visited Manal Aru.

Fighting is going on without stop and according to the latest reports at least 45 Sinhala troops have been killed by the LTTE. The LTTE also

has destroyed six heavy vehicles of the Sri Lankan Army and recovered a large haul of arms. Thirty seven LTTE fighters have so far died.

Because of the heavy aerial bombardment, artillery shell attack and cannon fire heavy devastation and destruction to civilian property is reported. The battle is continuing.

Army Attempt Foiled

The Sinhala Army stationed at Kaluwanchikudi, 36 colony, Periya Porativu, Vellaveli and Palayaveddai numbering 600 came through various paths to round up Tamil villages in the adjoining areas. The LTTE confronted the Sinhala Army at 40th colony and battle ensued.

This incident occurred on March 15, Sunday. As a result of the battle given by the LTTE, the Sinhala army was forced to return to camp.

The LTTE said that one of its cadres died in the battle. The loss to the army could not be estimated but was believed to be heavy.

The retreating Sinhala army shot dead 4 Tamil civilians and also arrested another 5 persons whose fate is not known.

The LTTE said that the Army had to return with losses and not being able to accomplish round up of Tamil villages.

Musings of Mr. Meddle



'The security of the Tamils of India cannot be sacrificed for the sake of the security of Eelam Tamils'.

- Jayalalita, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Then what about the sacrifices of Eelam Tamils during Indian occupation of Tamil Eelam for the geo-political interests of India?

Sentry Attacked Soldier killed

In a lightning attack on a Sinhala Army sentry point near the Ceylon Theatre camp there on Sunday, March 15, the LTTE recovered some arms. One Sinhala soldier died and the others at sentry point escaped to the camp.

Indiscriminate Shelling & Bombing Houses in rubbles Two Dead - Several Injured

The Vadamarachy area came in for three phased attack on Monday, March 16. The towns of Point Pedro, Valvettiturai and the adjoining village of Thondaimannaru came in for heavy attack.

Seven planes and two helicopters were engaged in the attack from the air when simultaneously seven naval boats directed cannon fire and the Palaly army launched artillery shell attacks.

Aerial bombardment destroyed two houses at Point-Pedro apart from damaging other houses.

At Valvettiturai over eight houses were damaged. A number of civilians were injured and admitted to the Manthikai hospital.

over seven houses were damaged at Thondaimannaru.

The pounding of these areas of Vadamarachy continued

up to the forenoon of March 16. Large numbers of people left the areas for safer places.

From the afternoon aerial and naval bombardment stopped but artillery shell attack and firing from Army point at Valalai continued.

SHELLS KILL WOMEN

The artillery shells launched from the Palaly Army Camp that night took the lives of two women. The deceased

are Mrs. Thangaratnam Vivekanandan (47) of Valvettiturai and Mrs. Nallathamby Thangamuthu (60) of Kambarmalai.

INJURED IN SLEEP

A father and two of his sons who were asleep on the night of Tuesday, March 17 at their house were severely injured when a shell launched from the Palaly Army Camp hit their house. The injured Nagalingam Athasivam (42) and his two sons Jeevarajah (10), and Pirabakaran (5). They have been admitted to the Manthikai Hospital.

FORMER MP'S HOUSE DAMAGED

The shells also hit the house, of former TULF M.P. Mr. K. Thuraiatnam at Valvettiturai. He told pressmen that he and his family miraculously escaped.

Artillery shell attack and cannon fire continued in Vadamarachy till Friday March 20.

MOTHER POOPATHY COMMEMORATION CELEBRATIONS START

The fourth year commemoration celebrations of Mother Poopathy started on Thursday, March 19 and will continue for one month till April 19 all over liberated Tamil Eelam territory.

It will be recalled that Mrs. Poopathy Kanapathipillai, a Tamil lady from Batticaloa witnessing the

blood-bath indulged in by the alien Indian Army in Tamil Eelam territory started a fast demanding that the Indian Army should stop war against LTTE and enter into negotiations with it. The Indian Army tried underhand methods to disturb the Fast but Mrs. Poopathy Kanapathipillai stuck to her guns.

The fast continued for over a month at Maamankam in Batticaloa. Finally on April 19, 1988, Mrs. Poopathy Kanapathipillai passed away - a martyr who inspired Eelam Tamils against alien imperialist forces who tried to subvert the Eelam Tamil cause to further hegemonist designs of their own.

The celebrations started in Jaffna with meetings at various places,

OUR READERS' CASE

Grave Situation in Education

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

"I am going to punish you for disturbing the other class", said our principal, Mr P de Kularatne as he entered the Senior Prep A class at Ananda College, Colombo. Our English teacher was absent and we were making a little noise. The Prep. B class was in the adjoining room. We were all anxiously awaiting the 'sentence'. "You must come on Saturday for a special class" said the principal. Up went two hands. The principal looked at the student in the front row. He said that he had cricket practice that day. No wonder this student became the Minister of Sports in later life. Even a stadium is named after him. Looking

at the other student the principal queried "what is your problem?" He said that he had to take his oil bath that day. "How long does your oil bath take?" Two to three hours said that student. "Is there so much dirt accumulated in you that it takes two to three hours to clear it?" quipped Mr. Kularatne, with his inimitable smile. The whole class laughed and with that ended our **OUR PUNISHMENT** too.

The reason for my mentioning this very minor incident is to pinpoint a very grave situation in the education of our children. Mr. Kularatne, an eminent educationalist considered a class on Saturday as a punishment. What is happening today?

The children, irrespective of their grades (sorry, years) start their education at 5.30 a.m. and end up at 6.30 or 7 p.m. They are 'learning' for 10 to 12 hours per day on all the seven days of the week.

Let me illustrate my point by taking one case. This student happens to be the daughter of a friend of mine and I help her to learn English, whenever she can find the time to come to me. The schedule is this: 5.30 a.m. leave home for a 6 a.m. class in a teacher's home, return home by 7.15 and after a hurried breakfast leave home again to be in school at 7.50 a.m. when the bell rings. Return from school at 2.30 and leave home to be at the Tutor by 3 p.m. Come back home

by 6.30 - 7. p.m. On days the tutor is closed, go to two individual teachers' homes, in addition to the early morning class. Payments: Tutor Rs 80/-, two teachers Rs. 20/ each and one teacher Rs. 50/- The other expenses are too well known to need any mention here. Now, let

me ask a simple question: where are our EDUCATIONALISTS, MENTAL HYGIENISTS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXPERTS AND ABOVE ALL, SOCIAL SCIENTISTS?

Thank you.
S. Ponnampalam
Karaveddi.

Government Gazettes in the North

The Editor,
Hot Spring,

Dear Sir,

I regret to observe that the government gazettes published on every Friday, do not reach the north in time.

They are, more often than not, received here after a month or two. Therefore, they do not serve the desired purpose to the

people, the reason being that they are unable to apply in time for various government posts, foreign scholarships, tender notices etc.

It is vital that the government should take adequate steps to ensure that the gazettes are promptly sent to the north

J. Arulanandam
Vayavilan

EVENTS

Patrician Diary

Commencing with March 17th, the Patrician Collegiate Calendar is crowded with events of social significance for the Past and present Patricians. The week starts with Patrick's Day on 17th, the Inter - House Athletic Meet on the 18th where the spirit of friendly rivalry was conspicuous by the March Past with the strains of the College Band. Mathews House emerged champions with Bonjean House a close second.

The Rector's Day on March 19th and a climax reached with the Annual Cricket Encounter with their traditional rival - Jaffna College Vaddukoddai - the Battle of the Golds - an occasion for happy camaraderie and gaiety. Amidst the encircling gloom of military action and curfew, one could see the resilient patrician spirit, perhaps implicit in their motto 'Fide et Labore' - an implicit Faith in the Providence of God and Work regardless of results. So it was 'pack up your troubles and smile, and the world will smile with you'

Health Seminar

On 14.3.1992 a Health Seminar to diffuse public health knowledge among the people, was organised by the Red Cross Branch of Atchuvely South at their Office. The M. O. H. Kopay, Dr. Yogavayagar was the chief guest. The vice president of the said society presided over the Meeting. Special talks were given on AIDS, Typhoid, Malaria,

Rabies and environmental Sanitation.

On 14.3.1992 a new community centre named "ANNAI THERESA Community Centre" was set up by the parishioners of St. Joseph's Church, Achchunagar, Atchuvely West. The President is Mr. M.P. Rasanayagam Retired Vice Principal. The Hon. Secretary: Mr. Perinpanayagam The Hon. Treasurer: Mr. S. Selvaratnam.

"No Impact on LTTE" - CMU Secretary

Mr. P. Bala Tampoe, General Secretary of the CMU, addressing the General Membership Meeting of the Union held in Colombo to discuss resolutions placed before the membership, said that the Essential Services Regulations and Orders had no effect whatsoever on the LTTE in the Northeast. The only im-

pact of the Regulations was on workers' rights and the democratic rights of people.

One of the resolutions passed at the meeting called for the repeal of the Essential Services Regulations and Orders.

According to the report the trade union meeting had record attendance with about 5000 members participating. The Membership Meeting was summoned by the General Council to consider important resolutions for adoption.

The first resolution passed at the meeting called for the withdrawal of the Social Security Bill which is intended to replace the current Employees' Provident Fund Act. Mr Bala Tampoe, explaining the resolution stated that though the new bill is unofficially stated to be "shelved" the Union has to be vigilant against attempts to re-introduce it.

The second resolution called for the repeal of the Essential Services Regulations and Orders.

A third resolution called for the abolition of the Executive Presidency and of the President's power to make Emergency Regulations.

The meeting also passed another resolution condemning Police action in interfering with legitimate trade union activities.

'Tiger' in Deniyaya jungles!

"The Island" in its March 10 issue carried a news that the officer-in-charge of the Deniyaya Police arrested a Tamil, as a Tiger suspect in a jungle in the Deniyaya Police area.

Executive President of Sri Lanka

The Prescription of Executive Presidency, To the ailing Sri Lankan economy, A well considered master Plan; Of the now eclipsed cunning fox. Much hated by the proletarians, Dreaded even by his party politicians, Economic wizard of the first free Lankan cabinet, Entrenched himself well in the country's political net. Capitalists were all praise for your Policy. The fate of the country was nothing but bankruptcy. As co-author of the Colombo Plan, You hatched your future Plan. Many a defeat you have faced, But, the Senenayakes you have chased, Surrender to China Dick the Kelaniya seat, Did not drive you from the election heat. Execution of Rukman was the starting point, Others were only a trifling Point. Banda promised Sinhala Only in Hours 24, The prime move was from Junius in the year 44. Your down right communalism; Has helped to hasten Tamil Nationalism. Referendum made easy passage to play - 2nd Innings? Your burning desire for third Innings? Foiled not by constitutional sanction, But by the spectre of J. V. P. faction. The innovation of the P. R. system, Is a promotion of your political wisdom. Watching the situation very cautiously, The country requires your services urgently. One can fool some of the people all the time All the people some of the time But not all the people all the time

ARJUNA



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An Open Letter to my Sinhalese Friends :

Nationhood Not Negotiable

At no other period in the long and chequered history of this Island home of ours were so many people bearing such impossible burdens or suffering such agonising persecution and anguish of heart. We are living in a period in which tragedy is universal. There is a startling relaxation of traditions and of established law and order. We are at one of the most decisive moments in the history of this island. We must act and act fast if sanity is to prevail and peace established.

Today all peoples, be they Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and even others who have made this island their home are witnessing a period of agonising strain of grave anxiety and manifold disillusionment. Rightly or wrongly a blind impulse to destroy seems to have taken possession of us and if there is no check to it, we will take a long stride towards final extinction and prepare for an age of intellectual darkness and ethical barbarism in which our attainments of the past would be laid waste.

Peaceful co-existence inevitable

The Various races inhabiting this island with all its diversity with different languages, religions and social traditions are faced with the task of creating order in this island by discovering a way of life by which different groups can live peacefully without resorting to force to settle differences. This island is not intended to be a battleground of warring factions but a commonwealth of different groups to live in peace harmony and decorum. *No man's freedom should begin where another man's freedom ends.*

With a view to live in peace and harmony, constitutions have been framed by governments in power to administer the affairs of a country. History records that Julius Caesar, Augustus, Alexander the Great and a few others have ruled with great efficiency and acceptance; yet there are others who have by their misrule, plunged their countries into chaos and destruction and contributed in no small way to their disintegration.

Give an honest answer

To you my Sinhalese friends, I want to pose the following Question. *Tell us whether we had even one head of state since Independence who was acceptable to the Tamils? The answer is a definite NO.* Singhalisation was the tune played by all our leaders. But instead of

soothing the nerves of the Tamils it started acting as a cancer in the body politic of this island. Constitutions have been framed by successive governments with an eye on the next elections. It so happened that the Tamils have been adversely affected by these constitutions. Delimitations Commissions have reduced their Parliamentary strength. Dr. Ivor Jennings says; "There is no such thing as a constitution which is good in itself; it is good, if it suits the environment and the people who work it".

Constitutions illegitimate

May I say this in fairness to the Tamil Political parties of yesteryear? Of course there were some "yes men" even then who supported anything for their self aggrandizement. I refrain from mentioning the names of those good men at this stage.

The constitution of Dr. Colvin R. de Silva drafted in 1972 by the United Front Government and the Republican Constitution of 1977 were not approved by the Tamils. The Tamils

were not even consulted on such issues. However the constitutions appeared to be very democratic. The constitution of the DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC of SRI LANKA says among other things "all persons are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law". Thus it is seen that the Sri Lankan Constitution is saturated with the noblest of sentiments for Democracy. Much however depends upon the spirit with which the constitutions is implemented in practice, for even the best of constitution may break down if not worked on the right spirit. For example after so much of prevarication Tamil has been seen made an official language of this country. *We know that the Sinhala Government has not done this to rectify a fraud perpetrated on the Tamils for so long but it has succumbed to pressure from outside.* Today what do we see in practice? Several letters and even important circulars are sent out to the Institutions and people even living in the Northeast province in Sinhala only. Is this the way you

are going to win the hearts of the Tamil people? History will judge us by our performances and not by the piety of our pronouncements.

Masters at Misinformation

The composition of the security forces are well manipulated to see that the Tamils don't get a fair share. The Tamils have been progressively eliminated from the Public sector and private sector employment opportunities. You have been trying to tell the world that a Sarvananda, Siva Pasupathy, Rudra Rajasingham and Pasakalasingam are ruling this country. You can be dishonest, you are also entitled to be not fair by others, at least refrain from painting a wrong picture to others. Your Government propaganda machine is working overtime to spread misinformation. To be honest we cannot compete with you in this respect.

The concept of Provincial Council has now become a subject with wide acceptance. Almost the entire island realises now that it is necessary

to give very great autonomy to the North East provincial council. The Provincial Council as existing today does not go far enough to meet the aspirations of the Tamil people. No body has any right to deny the legitimate rights of the Tamil people, and they are not in a mood to accept anything that is doled out to them after so much loss in life, limb and property. The present situation has been created by the intransigent attitude of the Sinhalese. Please search your hearts and find out the reply for this statement. President Premadasa proclaims from various platforms that we are born Sinhalese; Tamils and Muslims by accident. In our next birth we may be born into a different community. We do appreciate his philosophical utterances. We are proud to have a President of this calibre. But the wilful deprivation of the legitimate rights of the Tamils, either with the eye on the next election, or to satisfy the vanity of the Sinhala people at the expense of the Tamils cannot be reconciled.

(Continued on Page 4)

OPPRESSION NO OPTION

I am in my early sixties, a Tamil in every respect, living in the Northern Region of Sri Lanka. Living in Sri Lanka and that too in a Tamil Speaking area is being made almost impossible by the Government, which is termed dharmista:-

I. P. K. F

In 1987 the Indian Peace Keeping Force or Peace killing force did lot of damage to the life and property of the Tamils. The purpose of their stay in this Island was not to help Sri Lanka or its peoples but to safeguard their own interests. There are many widows and orphans roaming the streets of North East now as a result of the operation of the Indian Army. But when a Sonia became a widow there was lot of sympathy from all corners of the world. Certainly she has not been made a destitute. Retribution is there for any-body, whether it be a prince or a pauper.

Peace Hopes shattered

With the departure of the I. P. K. F. there was hope among all the people that the fighting will come to an

end and there will be, much desired peace, in the Island. It is a pity, it is not so. Loss of life and limb and serious damage to the properties are here. Even in another 50 years time, these losses can't be replaced. This sorry state of affairs, is mainly due to the absence of sincere and honest leaders among the Sinhalese.

Sir. P. Ramanathan

I am reminded of a speech made by Sir P. Ramanathan (a respected statesman) at Ananda College on 3rd Sept

M. Kanagalingam

1904 His nationalism, unlike its current counter - feit was healthy and wholesome, constructive and creative, the nationalism that proclaimed the sovereign principle of live, and let live not that perverted brand which seeks to exploit and subjugate weaker peoples, which over the years has shed much innocent blood ... His speech was thought-provoking and soul-stirring on 'Denationalism of Sinhalese', He advocated the study of Sinhalese language

by the Sinhalese - He said If Sinhalese lips will not speak Sinhalese language who else is there to speak it? How is a nation to be lifted out of error, reformed and advanced into plains of higher knowledge except by its own language?

Sir P. Ramanathan at this meeting further said "I am no flatterer. I tell you that, having gone to many a land, I have not come across a finer race to look at or a race possessed of more reasoned - out philosophy, than the Sinhalese".

Shelter For None

Alas! What is the situation now? Sir P. Ramanathan will be turning in the grave, if he is to know the sufferings of the people of the North East. Is there any leader among the Sinhalese, a sincere and honest gentleman to accept, that the treatment meted out to the Tamils is - unjust and unfair? Is'nt there a Ramanathan among them? Killing innocent people by aerial bombing, shelling from army camps, slaughtering

people, is the reward extended by the present government to the people of the North East. In the Capital city of Colombo, there are advertisement boards planted by the Government reading thus:- "Shelter for all by 2000 years" I suggest that this board should be amended to read - shelter for none by 2000 years and planted in the North East. Houses, schools, temples, churches are being bombed and destroyed daily.

Determination greater

The armed forces resorted to carpet bombing of Valvetithurai, continuously for 3 days. What is the result? People who lived in well built houses are living in huts and shanties. Have they given up their demand for self rule? No - certainly not. They know that it is impossible to live with such a treacherous, and cruel lot. Surely the people of the North East richly deserve to be treated like human beings. The more severe hardship you impose on them - they become more and more determined to gain self rule for themselves.

EGOISM

Egoism, an inborn self-interest among the Tamils is the prime cause for the present predicament of the entire Tamil Community. Even at this hour the majority of them have not got rid of this inborn evil nature.

Unless the entire community take a serious thinking about this matter, the younger generation who have subscribed themselves to an armed insurrection, will have to go on their struggle relentlessly and indefinitely.

Tamil political leaders of the pre-independence era have failed in their political wisdom. They had the unique opportunity to have given the correct option of a self-rule by the Tamils, when the colonial masters were handing over the reins to the inhabitants. Egoism had egged their minds to earn a name in the history of their politics to curry favour with the Sinhala political leaders, by opting to be Ceylonese and Mr. D. S. Senanayake, the first Prime Minister was cunning enough to bring these Tamil leaders under a single banner. He went a step further by putting the Tamils in prominent positions in the affairs of the state, a cunning move, giving the impression in the minds of the Tamils that the Sinhalese are broad-minded. In his political wisdom D. S. Senanayake had felt that sooner or later the Sinhalese would be the rulers of the island and the rest would be a subject race.

Unlike the Tamils, the Sinhalese, notwithstanding

political differences or caste prejudices identified themselves as a race and community. Ceylon becoming a Republican State, has strengthened their feeling for the Sinhala community.

During the outbreak of the Che-Guevara Movement in April, 1971, the local Sinhala population made a concerted effort to bring this issue to an end by canvassing the misguided youths against furthering the movement in the name of the Sinhala community. Their anxiety gathered momentum day by day until the situation was brought to a halt. The Government of the day pardoned them as misguided youths.

In public and private issues too, there is wide gap between the Tamils and Sinhalese in regard to the interpretation of public functions. The Tamil bureaucrat will cover a loophole and apply in full force interpretation hostile to an affected party, while his counterpart, the Sinhalese bureaucrat will search for a loophole and interpret in

D. Jeevananthan

favour of the aggrieved party. In legal conflicts and confrontations too, a Sinhalese party is amenable to a compromise but not a Tamil. He will demand the pound of flesh. This may be an attri-

bute to Tamil lawyers gaining popularity as legal luminaries by their having to do more consultations and research studies in the various branches of the profession. The passage of the Sinhala Only Bill is per se self-explanatory. When English was the language of State and public affairs, the Tamils took advantage of it. The Sinhalese were subjected to severe hardships and draw backs penalising them in various forms. The Sinhala Only Bill came to their rescue, both as a language and as an axe to axe out the Tamils.

Notwithstanding these changes, even today the Sinhalese continue to maintain their cordial relationships with the Tamils by responding to official and personal favours, as against some Tamils who are bristling with egoism.

The purpose of this exercise, through this valuable

journal is not to pick holes in the Tamils, but to show that even at this hour of national crisis, a larger section of the Tamils have not got over their narrow outlook.

It would be most welcome, if some section of the educated Tamils dedicate themselves to imparting valuable ideas and teachings on community feeling among the people as this is indispensable and pre-requisite to our struggle for self-determination and identity as Tamil Eelamists.

The role of the LTTE does not confine merely to liberate the Tamils from Sinhala imperium but infuse and instil in the minds of the Tamil community the need to community feeling which is of paramount importance in the in pursuit for Eelam.

Suppression Impossible

On assumption of duties as Head of J.O.C, Lt Gen. H. Wanasinghe had made certain statements to the Press, and one such is that there shall be no *indiscriminate* bombings in the future, whereby he had admitted that the bombings hitherto have certainly been very very *indiscriminate*, contradicting the often repeated statements of H. E. The President and the former Minister

of State for Defence the Late Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne (in Press Conferences and Public Meetings in Temples and other places) that the bombings have always been directed against the enemy (L.T.T.E.) targets and not at all against the ordinary people and their properties.

Indiscriminate shelling

However he had failed to make a statement regarding

the *indiscriminate* shelling indulged in by almost all army and naval camps. Shelling is more lethal than bombing though the damage caused by a bomb is much more severe and extensive than that caused by a shell. In the case of bombing we are forewarned by the drone of bomber and could see where the plane is trying to bomb so that we could take adequate protection by getting into bunkers etc. We could ease also ourselves by coming out of the bunkers after the

course escaped. These offences take place in the eastern province especially in the Amparai District. These Home Guards have uprooted several Tamil Villages by chasing the Tamils to the Jungles or to the Refugee camps with a view to settle the Sinhalese in their houses. The huts of course go up in flames. If these people in the lower ranks behave in this manner, what use is there for a Government with a President a Board of Ministers and Defence forces with Generals Brigadiers etc. etc? We are also much agonised to learn from the Press that the Muslim (Thugs) Home Guards are taking this opportunity to convert the Hindu Tamils to the Faith of Islam at the point of the rifle.

Nationhood....

(Continuation from Page 3)

Bullet resorted because Ballot frustrated

It is presumed that the progressive Sinhalese, if there are any, will understand why the Tamils have taken up to arms to fight for their rights. As a last resort they are reluctantly compelled to take up to arms because they found out the uselessness of the ballot. The State is having a near 100% Sinhala army. Only an insane man will expect any sympathy from the Army. The destruction caused by the Sinhala army is too great to be written in this letter. Now the Govt. wants the Tamils to put down the arms before any talks could be held. The strength of your security force have reached the dizzy heights of over one and a half lakhs. You are having the most sophisticated weapons. Paris consortium has given you more than what you have asked for, to fight the Tamils. India, the regional power and your bully is also giving you full support to

crush the Tamils. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the film star idol SELVI Jeyalalitha is also in tune with you not knowing what she is doing.

non - negotiable

You have all the might; but right is not with you. You have all the laws but logic is not with you. You have even turned down the mediatory role of other multiracial countries. You want their money but you don't want their advice. It is often said that the unity sovereignty and independence of the country are non-negotiable. It would have been better if the word uniformity is also added to this. *Make no mistake. The right of the Tamils to live in the North / East province as a separate Nation is also non-negotiable.*

Once Mr. J. R. Jayawardena is reported to have told

Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayagam the non-violent Gandian "Thus far and no further" That means that he was not prepared to budge even an inch from his stand. But today with all your might you are prepared to talk with certain conditions. We have heard about talks, we have heard about conditions before. Even at this late stage if you are not prepared to give us our due rights the Maha-Baratha war will be re-enacted and the pandavas will secure their lands. *The young boys and girls of Tamil Eelam are not sacrificing their lives in vain* Even the ranks of Tuscany could scarce forbear to cheer.

The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government. If your *mantram* of Dharmista fails we will have to resort to some *tantram* to establish righteousness in this island.

CITIZEN Sinna Thamby.

Kavadi Velan

bomber had left the scene. If the bomber comes back, we could go into the bunker again. In the case of a shell it comes all of a sudden like a bolt from the blue. It is impossible to take protection against a shell because it is near and far and in all directions. If one shell bursts in our vicinity, we cannot say when and where the next shell will fall.

Home Guards Amok!

Muslim and Sinhalese thugs and hooligans have become very assertive and drag out Tamil people from the Refugee Camps and slash them with swords and knives. They have with the concurrence and connivance of the army men entered into Tamil Villages and raped young women and teenage girls. Army men also take part in this filthy act. Most of the raped women and girls are shot dead whereby they will not be in a position to tell others what had happened to them. A few of

I understand that 200 families have already been converted thus and they are continuing to do so. This takes me to the Medieval period in history when in some Islamic States in North and Central India selected people were asked to choose between the Sword and the Koran. Many had perished by selecting the sword, while the others opted for the Koran and embraced the Faith of Islam. Just imagine how you would feel if this thing happens to the *Sinhala Buddhists*. Who knows that a time might come for the Sinhalese to face this type of menace.

Maha Sanga - No Example

The Buddhist Clergy in this island think that they are the protectors of Theravada Buddhism not only here but also in the whole world. The president has openly said that he would always rule the island according to the dictates of the Maha Sanga especially the Mahanayakas (Malwatte).

(Continued on Page 5)

Night of Terror in Araly

Prolonged Semi-Starvation of the Villagers of Araly, the influx of thousands of displaced persons from Army occupied areas particularly from the Island Division and hundreds of Red Cross Refugee huts had infused into everybody in Araly a stoic approach to life. On 3rd of March 1992 they retired to bed at sunset due to scarcity of Kerosene oil not knowing what was in store for them at Midnight. At about 12 00 midnight a thundering sound was heard in Araly south, a congested highly populated area bur-

dened additionally with refugees of Red Cross shelters. The deafening noise was followed with wailing and crying. The terrifying noise and the wailing had struck the villagers with fear. The wailing was intermittently drowned by successive thunderous blasts. The people became aware that artillery shells were being directed towards Araly. The people ran hither and thither not knowing what to do in a pitch dark night of new moon day. They had no torch lights (batteries banned) and many did not even have box of

matches (exorbitant price). Knowledgeables directed the scared to get out of their abode and lie flat in depressions on the ground.

Thousands sang Hindu sacred Thevarams and the Christians recited their prayers. It was a cacophony of hymns, prayers, wails with intermittent blasts of shells. The most terrified were frozen to silence. The shelling continued falling at various intervals in various places spread over an area of about 2½ sq K. M. and shrapnels, whizz-

ing over the terror stricken people in lying position.

The random firing of artillery shell without any aim or target on a congested area suggests to a discreet observer that the artillery men had either gone berserk or inebriated, if not the guns had gone mechanically erratic.

When dawn descended the news broke out that the first shell itself had killed five persons who had sought refuge in Araly from areas vulnerable to Army and Navy attacks. The dead were Mrs. P. Valliammai (50yrs) P. Siva-

kumar (15yrs) P. Chandiran (10yrs) Miss J. Yogaranginy (12yrs) and J. Ranjithamalar (3yrs). There were a number of people with serious and minor injuries. Houses and refugee shelters were either destroyed or damaged. The Red. Cross Society rendered commendable service to those affected in this incident.

All the five bodies were laid side by side and a large gathering paid their last respects. A venerable gentleman of the area with high erudition, holding a Master's

(Continued on Page 6)

Suppression Impossible

(Continuation from Page 4)

The Mahanayaka of Malwate had gone to the theatres of war and blessed the troops to kill the Tamils and win the war.

It is no surprise that the Sanga does not follow the tenets of Buddhism. Most of them are Chauvinists. Knowing very well who they are H. E. The President has asked them to submit their proposals for the settlement of the Ethnic Problem. The blessings of the Mahanayaka worked very well but in the reverse! Within hours of his blessing the Arch Enemy of the Tamils - The Air Force - suffered a very severe setback by the explosions at the China Bay Air Base which rocked an area of about ten square kilometers around the Air port, where over 100 people (pilots, officers and employees) were killed and injured, 4 planes completely burnt while another 6 or 7 were damaged, an armament depot completely burnt along with 50 barrel bombs, and 24 strong buildings were completely destroyed. The damage to property and planes is estimated at 100 million rupees.

Examinations Disturbed

The Authorities of the Education Department of the North and East were allowed to hold the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination from the 9th December, 91. Just 2 days prior to the examination the Sinhala forces at the Palaly Army Camp surged towards the east engulfing 5 to 6 villages - Valalai, Idaikadu, Kathiripai, Paththaimeni etc. thus disturbing 8 examination centres. The people in these villages fled to Neervely, Kopay, Puttur etc. Hurried arrangements had to be made

to change the examination centres. Who is the Commander responsible for this move? I think he should be taken to task for this. At Pandivirichchan an Examination centre was bombed, but fortunately the candidates (178) had escaped and only the supervisor was injured. This is a serious breach of trust and the Pilot or the Commander who had ordered the bombing. I think is a Lunatic and should find his place in the Mental Hospital at Angoda.

Never in the South

During the J. V. P. Uprising the armed forces never resorted to aerial bombing or shelling, because it was a Sinhalese area they were operating but by an underhand method weeded out the J. V. P's and in that process acted like King Herod of the time of Jesus Christ killing many thousands of innocents as well. This is a burning question in the South even today. This was the time when headless or disfigured bodies were floating down the rivers of the South in the hundreds.

Pyrrhic Victory

After a series of debacles at Kokkupudayan, Kokavil, Kilinochchi and Mankulam the Army had been able to save the camp at Elephant Pass. At Kokkupudayan with all combined forces (Army, Navy and Air Force) they could not save the camp. In the other places like Kokavil, Kilinochchi, Paranthan and Mankulam even with the active participation of the Air Force they failed miserably. Elephant Pass was under siege for over a month and the Govt. pooled all resources. The army came to Vettalaikerni in five Navy ships with 2000 troops on

board. They were armed to the teeth with most modern weapons. Of course with heavy vehicles 30 to 40 with barges for bringing the vehicles from ship to shore. A cluster of gunboats (40) also came with the ships. No sooner the Army had arrived at Vettalaikerni Air Force started giving support by bombing the coast in addition to the gun fire from the ships and the boats. Troops came ashore and started the march of about 8 K. M. to Elephant Pass with an Air Umbrella of giant chinese bombers (Y 12 & Y 8) other bombers and Helicopters all the time raining bombs, 50 & 90 calibre fire motor shells and hand grenades. However the L.T.T.E. stood up bravely and inflicted a shock treatment on the troops some of whom ran into the bushy jungle while others got into disarray.

Is this a victory for Govt? The boys who had to contain the fire power of 8000 strong army men, the air and naval attack on their positions suffered heavy casualties while inflicting on the troops at least half as much casualties as their own.

It is a victory for the boys and girls numbering about a thousand to make the army Crawl this distance of 9 k. m. for 24 days. An Englishman who was watching the progress of the March had on the 21st jokingly said "Oh! They should have come to England by now" If it is a Victory, it is a victory for the Dragons of China, Eagles of Czechoslovakia, bombers of Italy and the Helicopters etc. from various countries

Cowardly attacks

Hitherto the Sri Lankan Govt. have been engaged in

an immoral and illegal war with the Tamils.

Not with a Nation of more or less your strength. They are at war with some boys and girls Freedom Fighters, in their country. It is and has been a separate unit in the Island from times immemorial. They are only using their rifles and other small weapons whereas you are using aerial and Naval tactics which is quiet illegal. In our Hinduism it says do not fight with a sword with a man unarmed. Give him a sword and then challenge him for the fight.

No Ethnic Problem?

There are lot of contradictions in the statements made by the H. E. The President, The Prime Minister and others of the Defence Forces. The President has admitted that a lot of injustice has been done to the Tamil community in the past decade by the successive Governments; (He himself has been one of them) and there is a lingering Ethnic Problem which has to be solved to the satisfaction of all concerned. He had asked every party (political, students and the Sangha) to submit proposals for the resolution of the problem. The Sangha had even opposed the Reasonable use of Tamil Bill. They will want the Tamils to be Slaves of the Sinhalese - making far reaching changes as disenfranchisement of the Tamils etc. Of course there is no use of the adult franchise which we now enjoy. The Prime Minister before his recent departure to Kuwait had stated that there was no Ethnic Problem in the North, and East, but only Terrorist Problem. This is quite contrary to world opinion. Probably he must have meant that terrorism is there to counter State Terrorism, and that is actually true. We who have been watching the growth of Terrorism in the North and East could vouch for this fact.

Theocracy?

Who said that there is Democracy in Sri Lanka? It is only The Baudha - Sinhala Cracy, headed by a President dictated to by the Mahasangha through the Mahanayakas. This could easily be called a Theocracy ruled through a lay president and Board of Ministers. When the last Englishman walked out of the front door, Democracy has quietly slipped out of the back door. This brand of 'Cracy' pays no heed to world opinion and the advice of experienced politicians of the various parts of the World. Who are these Wootons, Bishops, Canadian team, A. I. and other world organisations to advise this Cracy?

Discrimination Conspicuous

Is Defence Forces National in character? No, not in the least. Not even the police force, or Home Guards. As far as the National Flag is concerned the recommendations of the Flag Committee have been changed. The 4 Bo leaves have been re-introduced. You have made the flag ugly by adding the stripes. It is too long for the width. You did not want to give the minorities symbols within the flag, by making the flag tricolour or so. If you choose to give the minorities stripes outside the flag, why do you not think of giving something outside your unitary constitution - Federal or Regional Autonomy? Any way Tamils have not accepted the present flag as the National Flag and do not pay the due respect for a National Flag. We know the sinister purpose in H. E. the President asking all people to hoist the National Flag on the Independence day. On this day we are used to hoisting Black flags in our homes and spend the day in prayer to give us strength to reassert our independence.

HOT SPRING

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JAYALALITA'S DILEMMA

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Jayalalita, has a strange way of capturing people's imagination and support

When MGR died and succession within the ADMK was not effectively settled, Jayalalita announced that she would commit 'suttee' - i. e. self immolation of the Hindu wife - on the funeral pyre of her deceased husband. That 'suttee' is illegal in India or that she was not wife of MGR did not bother her much. In spite of the inherent illegality of her vow, she did make the bold vow - knowing of course that she would in any event not execute it. She however hoped to draw attention on herself and no doubt she did succeed to some extent.

Perhaps she thinks that the best way to win popular sympathy is to procure herself as a persecuted person.

Reports from Tamil Nadu indicate that in spite of Jayalalita, Congress (I) and the scheming Brahmanic-clique that is very much active in Tamil Nadu, popular sympathy for Eelam Tamils is beginning to surge in Tamil Nadu

For purely domestic political purposes Jayalalita and her Congress (I) partners thought it necessary to link the LTTE with the killing of Rajiv Gandhi. Once they took that false step they had to maintain it. This inevitably led them into the difficult situation of having to work against Tamil nationalist feeling.

Eelam Tamils are well aware that apart from Tamil Eelam the largest support for their cause comes from India - especially Tamil Nadu. Perhaps not able to understand this Jayalalita and Co. even started forcefully sending Eelam Tamil Refugees in Tamil Nadu back into the hands of the Baudha Sinhala government whose programme of genocide caused these unfortunate families to flee to Tamil Nadu.

Jayalalita's actions are now being publicly criticised. Not only are public meetings held in various parts of Tamil Nadu in support of the Tamil Eelam demand - but the demand is being made even within the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly where Jayalalita and her associates virtually dominate.

The writing on the wall is clear Tamil Nadu will always extend its support to the Tamil Eelam cause and anybody there who sets himself or herself against the people's desire will have to go out of public office.

As is the case with any power-hungry politician, Jayalalita too is making desperate attempts to tide off the Tamil nationalist wave in Tamil Nadu in support of Tamil Eelam. She thinks she can do this only by presenting the LTTE as a set of murderers who are intent on killing for killing's sake. She has therefore now invented the story of an LTTE plot to kill her!

We shall have to make it clear to Jayalalita and the small coterie of Brahmins who are trying to put out the flame of Tamil nationalism that Eelam Tamils are not interested at all in the internal politics of Tamil Nadu. But we do require the support of all Tamils and even others in India and we shall work to achieve it and are confident we shall have it.

AUSTRALIAN

Trade Union Raises Voice

The International Committee of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) has in a resolution called upon the Australian Government to exert its influence with the Sri Lanka Government to persuade the latter to abandon its economic blockade of Tamil Eelam and seek a negotiated solution to the conflict in Sri Lanka.

The ACTU resolution stated: "... having received reports of the continued destruction and repression in Sri Lanka, it noted the plight of workers in Tamil Eelam and particularly the plight of children growing up under deprived conditions calls upon the Australian Government to use its influence with the Sri Lankan Government to abandon the economic blockade, bring about a ceasefire, resume

peace talks and seek a negotiated solution to the situation."

The ACTU also requested the appropriate international labour organisations, including ILO, ICFTU and CTUC to organise visits to Colombo and Jaffna.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions is a powerful body in that country. Its past presidents include powerful political personalities in Australia such as Mr. Bob Hawke, former Australian Prime Minister, and Mr. Simon Green, a senior minister in the current Australian Cabinet.

When Seperate Diocese?

While the Anglican Church in the island has recognised the distinct cultural identities among the Sinhala people and set up two different dioceses - one at Kurunegala and the other at Colombo to serve the religious needs of the Kandyan and Low-Country Sinhalese respectively, up to now it has failed to recognise the distinct racial, linguistic and cultural identity of its Eelam Tamil

membership. The Anglican Church has dumped them in the Colombo Diocese. *When will the Anglican Church set up a separate Diocese for the Anglican Christians of Tamil Eelam?* This was one of the questions posed by a congregation Member of Anglicans, when the Colombo representative of the Church visited the North recently with the Christian Peace Mission.

Sinhalese Settled in Kokkilai Night...

It is learnt that 180 Sinhalese families have been settled in the coastal village of Kokkilai bordering the

Mullaitivu District in the North and the Trincomalee District in the East.

The Settlements are under protection provided by the Sri Lankan Army.

It is further learnt the Fisheries State Minister P. S. L. Galapathy visited Kokkilai along with other officials and promised to provide all facilities to the Sinhalese Settlement at Kokkilai.

(Continuation from Page 5)

Degree in Philosophy and a convincing exponent of Buddhist Philosophy came to pay his last respects and in course remarked "This incident is not surprising when Buddhist Prelates inspect Army Camps in the North with binoculars in hand like an Army General to perpetuate a war on non-combatant Public" Is it Pogrom?

By - Aralyuran

For Attention

Contributors are kindly requested to write briefly and legibly on one side of Paper only.

Mother and Daughter Arrested

The Sri Lankan Army rounded up the Talawai area in the Batticaloa District, on Tuesday March 10 and after arresting and torturing all people without distinction of age or sex took five persons along with them to the Camp. Of the five persons arrested and taken to the camp two

were women - a mother and daughter. The mother and daughter have been identified as Sangarapillai Maniammah and her daughter Komathi. No news has been received as to what has happened to the five arrested persons thereafter.

Bomb explosions in Batticaloa

A private bus plying from Arayampathy to Batticaloa was stopped at Kattankudi by Muslim Home Guards who threw a bomb into the bus which killed four passengers. This happened on Wednesday March 18.

Four persons are reported dead and a number of others were injured.

In a separate incident that took place the following day,

March 19 at Batticaloa town, a bomb exploded in a Muslim boutique killing three persons and injuring several others.

According to the BBC, Mr. S Joseph, TULF M.P. has told the BBC correspondent that the bomb explosions are sinister moves to undermine the developing cordiality amongst the Tamils and Muslims. The identity of the third force referred to by Mr. Joseph should be obvious to all!

SPORTS

School Cricket

Jaffna Central College trounced St. Patrick's College by 8 wickets in a school cricket match played at St. Patrick's grounds on 13th & 14th.

Scores:- Jaffna Central 195 and 18 for 2.

St. Patrick's - 150 & 61

St. John's drew with Jaffna College at the latter's grounds at Vaddukodai.

Scores:- St. John's 418 for 7 dec. Jaffna College - 311 for 9 dec. and 79 for 7

Basket Ball

In the Final of the Mid-Town Rotoract Basket Ball Tournament played at Campus Courts on 13.3.92. Shabra beat Jaffna Campus by 38-24. Mr. Thiagarajah was the Chief Guest who gave away the trophies to the winners. Vasanthakumar and Vignewara officiated.

Vijayakumar