

HOT SPRING

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The Sri Lankan Army in Mannar burnt 21 houses and also burnt down fishing nets, fishing boats, plastic boats and out-board motors at Mullikulam in the Mannar District on Saturday, April 11.

The Army while returning after the rampage arrested many male residents of the village and took them along with them. The fate of the arrested is not known yet.

DROUGHT No Relief to Tamils

The Government of Sri Lanka has asked foreign donor countries for help to grant relief to drought victims but Tamils have been kept out from the drought relief schemes of Government though the current drought has hit Tamil areas worst.

An unusual drought is being experienced in the Island now. The Northeast and the North-Central Provinces are classified as the dry-zone. Drought affects the dry zone area worse than the wet zone. It is in these areas that many irrigation tanks

are also found and large scale cultivation undertaken. As a matter of fact it is the farmers who are worst hit by drought.

There had been no rain in the Northeast after December last year and for four months the people are experiencing water scarcity and drought. Even in the South and other Sinhala areas there had been a failure of rains this year and all the people are suffering.

The Government of Sri Lanka has launched a scheme to provide drought relief for affected farmers and for this purpose has already approached foreign donor countries for help.

In reckoning the money required to provide drought relief, the Tamil Northeast has been left out by the Government.

The largest tracts of paddy fields and irrigation tanks in the North are found between Vavuniya North and Jaffna peninsula. Almost all people in this area are farmers. But it is reliably understood that in computing drought relief the needs of these farmers have not been taken into consideration.

The Government, it is further understood has included

Vavuniya, Mannar, Trincomalee and such other names in its drought relief programme but not the areas lying North of Vavuniya town or other areas in the Northeast which are not under Sri Lankan Army occupation.

It is pointed out that the purpose of including some of these Tamil areas is to give a wrong picture to foreign donors that the Government is not practising discrimination against the Tamils. For example, large paddy fields and irrigation tanks are located North of Vavuniya town but these areas have not been included for drought relief.

The Kilinochchi District which is entirely a farming area is completely left out. Similarly the Government's armed forces only occupy towns in the Northeast but the towns don't have paddy fields and farmers. The Government has included the names of towns it occupies but excluded areas out of army occupation for drought relief though it is these areas that require relief. Jaffna and Kilinochchi have been totally excluded though the Government's administrative machinery is functioning in these areas as well.

Annai Poopathy Commemoration Celebrations

Annai Poopathy celebrations which started on March 19 will end on April 19, the day Mrs. Poopathy Kanapathipillai passed away at Batticaloa having under-

meetings were held in almost every village in the Jaffna District and other Tamil Eelam territories.

A public meeting was held on Wednesday, April 15 at the court-yard of the Nallur temple where Thileepan fasted to death in 1987 during the Indian Army occupation. The meeting was organised by the Federation of Rural Development Societies.

Reports from Batticaloa also stated that Annai Poopathy celebrations were held there in liberated areas. The celebrations will come to a grand end on April 19 when public meetings will be held in many parts of Jaffna to pay the people's humble tribute to the heroic woman who laid her life in the cause of Tamil freedom.



taken fast in 1988 when the Indian Forces were occupying Tamil Eelam.

Every day, beginning from March 19, Jaffna witnessed a number of programmes to pay homage to Mother Poopathy. Token fasts and

Sinhala Army Amok Seven Hacked to Death

Reports from Batticaloa stated Sri Lankan soldiers hacked to death seven civilian Tamils at Mandur in the Batticaloa District on Tuesday, April 14.

The reports say that the Sinhala soldiers encamped at Mandur committed this cold blooded murder when they got out of the camp on patrol duty.

It is further understood that out of seven persons

hacked to death five persons belonged to the same family.

Thambimuthu Suppiah (55), his sons Komalan (25), and Rajendran (22) and daughters Saroja (20) and Sasikala (15) are five victims from the same family. The other two persons who were killed were women. They are Seenithamby Vallipillai (45) and Ponniah Karunammah (27).

One Dead - Five Injured

A contingent of Sri Lankan soldiers on patrol duty shot and killed one civilian Tamil and injured five others at Urani in Batticaloa. The incident occurred on Saturday, April 11.

According to the reports the Sri Lankan soldiers who were on patrol duty suddenly started firing at random in the village of Urani. A number of users of the highway sustained injuries as a result. One person died on the spot.

The reports further say that the Sri Lankan soldiers dragged the body of their dead victim and threw it behind way-side bushes. After two days the body was recovered by relatives of the deceased.

It is also reported that the Sinhala soldiers removed the identity card of the deceased and later claimed

that an LTTE cadre was shot dead. But our reports say that the dead person was a non-combatant civilian.

LTTE-Only Representative

The British High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr. Edward Hornfield, is reported to have said at Kandy that the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE should enter into peace talks and try to settle the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

The news further states that the British High Commissioner also told the Head of the Malwate Chapter, Rev. Rambukwela Vippassi Mahanayake Thero, that the LTTE was the only and real representative of the Tamil people and that both the

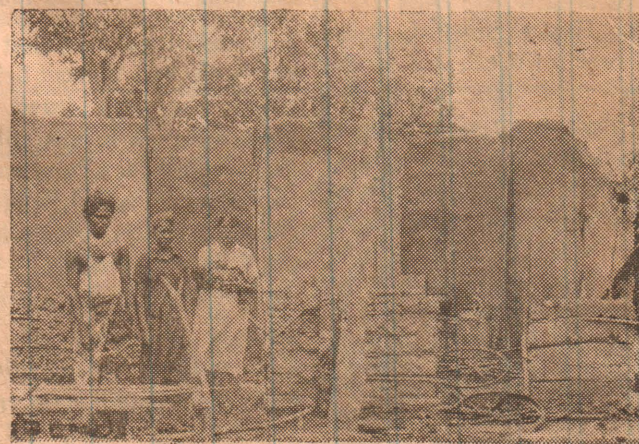
Government of Sri Lanka and LTTE should enter into peace talks.

Over 60 arrests in Kalmunai

Reports from Kalmunai in the Amparai District state that the Sri Lankan Army rounded up the Kalmunai area on Saturday, April 11 and arrested many Tamils in the area.

According to the same report over 60 Tamils were arrested in this area on that day alone.

Target: Million Houses Construction in Sinhala Rata Destruction in Tamil Eelam



The above is a picture of one of the houses completely laid waste by the Sinhala Army at Makiladitivu in Batticaloa District after the current war broke out in June 1990. A broken bicycle and other debris are also seen. Three poor inmates - one with an infant in her arms - are seen in the picture. While the Government helps building houses in Sinhala Rata its armed forces destroy houses in Tamil Eelam.

OUR READERS SAY

Economic Emancipation

Sir,

The role of the LTTE does not confine to merely liberating the Tamil Community from Sinhala domination but also against the more dangerous and imminent economic strangulation. This is a serious threat that has gripped the people in the North and East. Negated by nature's providence, the Tamils have to bear the yoke of nature's apathy and strive for their bare existence. As a Republican State, foreign intervention to redeem the Tamils from their sufferings, remain remote. This is evident by the lackadaisical manner in which our neighbour, India, the largest democratic State has handled our problem. Whilst the LTTE is pursuing its relentless struggle in achieving self-autonomy for the Tamils, we as a community can by our far-reaching measures stabilise our economy for a just and stable Eelam. The idea can be a reality, if we address ourselves to serious thinking.

Jaffna man is highly orthodox. His religious sentiments have se relegated him among his own fellow beings. Brahmins who occupy the highest seat of humanity have exploited those professing the Hind faith through religious rites and rituals. These observance become Standing Orders in Hindu homes and are inseparable. These concepts have been ingrained in the minds of the Hindus that it is rather difficult to controvert them from their beliefs overnight. They have to be introduced gradually and by convincing those wedded to these beliefs that the observances of basic needs, would suffice.

Funeral

A Hindu funeral - from the time of death up to the grave and the connected obsequies involve substantial sum, depending on the social, economic, educational background of that deceased's family. On the date of the funeral a minimum of Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 30,000/- is needed. The preceding religious rites which need no elaboration, involve a tidy sum. False sense of values among the Tamils is an attribute to their involvement in heavy expenditure. This hypocrisy has to be put an end to, in order to redeem the people from wasting funds which could be utilised towards useful projects.

Temple Festivals

Sinhalese are bestowed with natural resources and therefore can afford to indulge in luxurious spending. But certainly not the Tamils. A Jaffna farmer has to depend on his well-water to boost his products, unlike the Sinhalese on whom the nature has shown all the privileges. Basic pooja ceremonies ought to convince the deities. The LTTE should address their minds to these aspects seriously and introduce measures curbing extravagance. Even in regard to other domestic functions such as ceremonies connected with Puberty and weddings should be curbed, limiting luxury spending. If the people are unable to appreciate these measures, well then, some unpopular measures will have to be introduced.

Luxury is a costly means and anybody who is in affluence can indulge in and therefore without tears, they should be able to subscribe

to. Taxation on such spending can prove deterrent and in the same breath remove unnecessary wastage.

In the absence of Government control over administration and functions of State Institutions and Corporations, these functions are now within the realms of the LTTE. The public look forward for fair play and equity in the discharge of public duties and it is the duty of the LTTE to launch a drive to ensure that the taxpayer is not deprived of his due and just service from such Institutions.

Co-operative Societies play a vital role in this regard. At a time when consumers are in quest of their basic needs, some errant, unscrupulous Co-op. employees have begun to exploit the prevailing trend by painting wrong pictures regarding the supply of essential items. They have their own interpretations about the availability and non availability of essential consumer items. The old and the feeble have been made to make numerous trips to the Co-ops to obtain their basic rations.

Banks too, frequently run dry of liquid cash, as in the recent past. It is imperative that some remedy be evolved to overcome these short-comings.

D. Jeevananthan
Vathiry.

Discrimination Against Tamils

The Editor,
Hot Spring,

Dear Sir,

It is learnt that a group of hand picked Tamil students of the Matale district, who were trained to welcome and greet the President when he went for the Mahapola award ceremony were dropped from participating in their programme.

It is further revealed that these students were urged to prepare special uniforms costing 750 rupees per head to salute the President.

It might be recalled that a similar thing happened during the reception ceremony to H. M. the Queen Elizabeth II, when she visited

Ceylon in April, 1954. The displeased Tamils walked away in front of her stating that their language had been omitted.

I earnestly request the relevant authorities to treat all castes and creeds equally and not to discriminate or ill-treat a group of people, just because they are less in number.

It will fill volumes to mention all the various discriminations meted out to the Tamils of this Island since Independence I think no other member of the entire British Commonwealth (of more than fifty countries) has practised racial discrimination like Sri Lanka.

In this connection I wish to recall the golden advice given by the late President of the United States, Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower, during his relinquishment of office in January 1961. He said: "A communal minded, immoral and Godless nation will never prosper however hard it may try. Instead it invites its own ruin, disgrace and disappointment"

J. Arulanandam
Vayavilan

APPRECIATION

Gabriel Benjamin Vincent

Mr. G. B. Vincent passed away on 5-4-1992 at the ripe age of 81.

A teacher by profession, Mr. Vincent was born in Mullaitivu on July 8, 1911. He served in a number of schools as Head Master until his retirement.

After retirement from the teaching profession, Mr. Vincent was drawn into politics.

A born liberal revolutionary Mr. Vincent became an active member of the Federal Party. He unsuccessfully contested the Vavuniya seat as the Federal Party candidate in the Parliamentary general elections of 1960 and 1965.

Though unsuccessful at both elections, Mr. Vincent being a man who was drawn into politics by nationalist, liberal and socialist ideal and not by the lure of office, engaged himself fully and wholeheartedly in Party work. Very soon he became the Assistant General Secretary of the Federal Party and functioned as a full-time political worker. He was in charge of the Federal Party headquarters in Jaffna.

Mr. Vincent was a rare jewel among men. He read and read and acquired great knowledge in literature and philosophy. It would be most interesting to listen to his conversations. He could speak of

English literary men from Chaucer to Shaw and explain the thought and philosophy underlying English literature throughout the long period.

With equal ease he would expound political theories from the time of Plato to Bertrand Russel.

He was a simple man who led a simple life but with a great heart and perception. He had great regard for the late Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, the leader of the Federal Party.

Mr. Vincent who took to politics by the inspiring urge in him to set his country and people free and to establish a classless society

remained true to his ideals and principles.

A highly principled and honourable man he found himself at variance with his party leaders sometimes after the demise of Mr. Chelvanayakam. A split occurred in the TULF with some leaders like Dr. S. A. Tharmalingam leaving the TULF to form the TELF Tamil Eelam Liberation Front Mr. Vincent was one amongst the 'rebels'. He worked with the TELF for sometime which also ceased to function after July 1983. However he remained patron of the Eelam branch of the International Tamil Cultural organisation until his death.

Mr. Vincent who was aging gave up active politics after 1983 but always remained true and sincere to the ideal of the Tamil Eelam cause and socialism. Even in retirement he read a lot and always encouraged activists in the Tamil Eelam cause with his sincere advice and ready support.

Mr. Vincent's beloved wife Rosalin, (also a teacher) having predeceased him, he leaves behind three sons and two daughters and of course grandchildren too. A large number of old time friends were gathered at the funeral of Mr. Vincent which took place on April 6.

In Mr. Vincent's demise Tamil Eelam has lost one of her most sincere, honest and cultured sons. May his soul rest in peace.

C. K.

Please Mum, Dad & Teacher

*My hands are small, I don't mean to spill my milk
My legs are short, please slow down so that I can keep up with you.
Don't slap my hands, when I touch something bright and pretty;
I don't understand. Please look at me when I talk to you.
Let me know you are really listening. My feelings are tender;
Don't nag me all day long. Let me make mistakes without feeling stupid;
Don't expect the bed I make or the picture I draw to be perfect.
Just love me for my trying; Remember I am a child not a small adult.
Sometimes I don't understand what you are saying.
I love you so much. Please love me for just being me;
Not just for the things I do.*

Sent by :- S. M. Seenithamby
Vathiry Development Foundation

Sinhalese Colonization in Tamil Land - A PERSPECTIVE

(Continuation from Last Week)

Under the Rapid Mahaveli Development Colonization Scheme, the Government is projecting not only the image of the Sinhalese race but also Buddhism and Buddhist culture. The Maduru Oya Scheme has been hailed as follows.-

"Maduru Oya Scheme will reflect the glories of the Sinhala Buddhist culture that existed in Ceylon in the past". Officers of the Mahaveli Development Scheme have been exhorted to work not only for the uplift of the economic conditions of the settlers but also for the uplift of their religious lives. Every family has been encouraged to observe Buddhistic rites on every Poya day (Mahaveli Development Ministry, 1984). Under the Rapid Mahaveli Development Scheme, it is noteworthy to observe that 43 Buddhist vihares in B area and 41 vihares in C area were put up.

Conclusion

A basic concept of an ethnic group is the possession of a traditional territory. Oppressors who want to destroy an ethnic group indulge in plundering the traditional territories of that group and destroy its distinctive cultural evidences. In order to plunder the traditional territories where an ethnic group lived the usual modus operandi in the first instance is the colonization of those areas. These settlements done under the guise of development schemes are done with the express intention of destroying a nation itself. These colonization schemes plunder the traditional homeland of the original people living there and chase them away as refugees.

The colonization and settlements in the traditional territories of the Tamil people in the North and East under various names, carried out and are being carried out for the past half a century by the Ceylon Government, reflect these attitudes. Colonisation schemes were the weapons used by the Ceylon Government to obliterate and deny the Tamils their rights to their traditional homeland. These colonisation schemes were carried out with the specific object of changing the ethnic ratio. According to the Census of 1881,

there were 75,408 Tamils 5,947 Sinhalese in the Eastern Province but according to the Census of 1981 there were 399,788 Tamils and 243,129 Sinhalese. Thus during this period between 1881 and 1981 the population of the Tamils have increased by only 430%, while that of the Sinhalese has increased by 3988%. In consequence of these colonization schemes the Sinhalese who were only 4.7% out of the whole population in 1881 in the Eastern Province have multiplied to 24.9% in 1981. At the same time the Tamils who were 59.1% out of the whole population in 1881 have been reduced to 41% in 1981. Thus we see that in 1881 where there were 8 Sinhalese to every 100 Tamils, there were 61 Sinhalese to every 100 Tamils in 1981. This is the result of the colonization schemes that were carried out in the Eastern Province.

Tamil names changed

Another important feature in the Colonization Schemes that were carried out in the North and East, was that the places which already had Tamil names, were changed to Sinhala names.

Traditional Name	Present Name
1. Pathavil Kulam	— Padaviya
2. Muthali Kulam	— Morawewa
3. Patti Palai	— Gal Oya
4. Periya Kulam	— Namal Watha
5. Pudavai Kaddu	— Sagara pura
6. Ambal Eri	— Amparai
7. Manal Aru	— Weli Oya
8. Kumara Kadavai	— Gomarankadawala
9. Periya Villam Kulam	— Maha Divul Wewa
10. Panankaddy Murippu	— Pannikettiyawa

Apart from these, various villages with Sinhalese names like Dehiwata, Sirima pura, Abeyapura, Seruvila, Ambalangodalla were created in

the North Eastern territories. What do these reflect? Can development be achieved by changing the names of traditional Tamil territories or by giving new names? These must be considered as the attempts made to change the traditional Tamil territories into Sinhalese areas.

S. Varatharajah B. A. Spec. Econ.

Attempt to divide Tamil Territory

Weli Oya Scheme is being carried out with the intention of snatching the Tamil traditional territory. According to the provisions of the Indo - Sri Lanka Accord, it is said that Northern and Eastern provinces should be temporarily merged. It is on this account that Manal Aru (Weli Oya) which was earlier excluded, was chosen as a special area of the Rapid Mahaveli Development Scheme for immediate development in accordance with a Government notification in 1988. By settling Sinhalese in this District, the Govern-

ment ensured to drive a wedge to divide the traditional homeland territories, i.e. Northern and Eastern Territories.

By the enactment of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in November, 1987, Crown Lands were assigned to the Provincial Councils. The Mahaveli Development Project, however, was left under the Administration of the Central Government. That is how in

1988 the K; J; L; M; I territories which were earlier excluded from the Rapid Mahaveli Development Scheme, were included in this Scheme as Special Territories. Thus by a fiat, the Government brought these areas under its administrative control. All activities concerning colonization are being done with the specific objective of snatching away from the Tamils their traditional Territories.

Similarities between British Colonial Government and Sinhala Government

In comparison, there is a similarity in the land policy-colonization schemes in the North and Eastern territories

of the Ceylon Government and British Colonial Land policy. The British based their land policy and framed their laws with a view to suppress the liberation struggle going on in Kandy and Wellassa areas and destroy their independence by annexing the Kandyan and other Provinces. So too, the land policy of the Ceylon Government has been framed with intent to suppress the liberation struggle going on in the North and East and weaken the independence of the people living in these areas. The Government feels that they could achieve their end by annexing the territories where the Tamils lived bordering the Sinhalese. In February, 1985, President Jayewardene speaking on the Colonization Schemes said "If we do not occupy the border, the border will come to us"

This is the objective of the colonization schemes of the Government that is being carried out in the North and East. That is the lesson these colonization schemes have taught the Tamils in these areas.

ARMY SENTRY POINTS DESTROYED

The LTTE destroyed two Sri Lankan Army sentry points at Punnalaikadduwan North serving the main Army Camp at Palaly. Two Sri Lankan soldiers were killed in the attack. One LTTE fighter also died.

The LTTE recovered some weapons and also the dead body of one of the two

Sinhala soldiers who died during the LTTE attack. This incident occurred in the early hours of the morning of Saturday, April 4.

Lightening Attack

In a lightening attack on a Sri Lanka Army Patrol in Mutur in the Trincomalee, District on Friday April 10 LTTE commandos killed 14 Sri Lankan soldiers and also recovered a large haul of arms. In another attack at Punanai in the Batticaloa District, on the same day the LTTE killed 6 Sri Lankan soldiers and recovered arms and ammunition from the fleeing army. In the Batticaloa battle the Tigers lost one of their men.

Presidential Order Makes Confusion Worse Confounded

A BBC report says that following the recent order made by President Premadasa transferring the operation command of areas in the North East Province from the Joint Operations Command in Colombo to the respective Area Commanders of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Police personnel, the Area Commanders have jointly sent a request to the Joint Operations Command

through the Chief of Staff that the J. O. C. Chief, Hamilton Wanasinghe not to visit the respective action areas in the future.

The J. O. C. had brought this request to the notice of President Premadasa at the Weekly Cabinet Meeting. The President, however, has made an order that the J.O.C. Chief is free to visit any area of operation.

The request of the Area Commanders and the Order of the President seem to be at cross purposes and makes confusion worse confounded!

Sinhala Soldier Shot Dead

A Sri Lankan soldier was shot dead by the LTTE at Tellippalai area on Monday, April 6. The dead body and two hand grenades were also recovered.

The LTTE in a press release said that the soldier was apparently engaged in spying at LTTE sentry points when he was shot.

A / L EXAMINATION

Poor Predictor of Subsequent Performance

"The Advanced Level Examination is now known to be a poor predictor of subsequent performance at degree level," remarked Professor V. Dharmaratnam, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Jaffna delivering his Prize Day Address at Prize Day (1992) of Jaffna College, Vaddukkodai held on March, 14,

Continuing his Prize Day Address, Prof. Dharmaratnam remarked:-

A school is a community of teachers and students having traditions of its own and with a considered curriculum of study by the students under conditions of personal direction and restraint by the teachers. Curriculum here includes what normally goes as extra-curricular activities of the school. The quality of the school is judged by the quality of the students it produces and this in turn depends of the curriculum, the quality of the teachers and the type of interaction between teachers and students. By far the most important would be the quality and outlook of the teachers and thus the selection and education of teachers is of key importance in the field of education.

When Jaffna College was founded in the nineteenth century, liberal education was at its zenith in the West and the curriculum introduced into the College reflected these values.

There is a tendency nowadays to judge the success of an educational institution mainly if not solely by the performance of its students at various public examinations as well as in various sports. While performance at examinations can certainly be used as a criterion for success it must be remembered that one of the primary goals of education at a College is to teach the student how to learn during the period he or she is at the College. In this connection I would like to recall the criticism by T.H. Huxley over a century ago of the examinations then prevailing in England. 'Students' he said 'work to pass not to know and nature takes her revenge. They do pass and they don't know.' I feel this criticism is valid for a sub-

stantial percentage of the Advanced Level student population and I consider it a very undesirable feature in our present educational set up. We have to produce students who not only pass but also do know.

The A. L. examination is used both as an attainment examination as well as an examination to determine suitability for university education. It is now known to be a poor predictor of subsequent performance at degree level. But the aggregate mark obtained at A. L. examination still continues to be the only determinant for university admission. Thus students, partly through fear, to achieve the highest possible aggregate mark have been driven to exclude other wide ranging activities and concentrate on getting as much tuition as possible.

As you all know access to tertiary education particularly University Education is still very restricted. Around 150,000 students sit the A L. Examination and around 30,000 qualify to enter the University system but only 6,000 are admitted each year. Thus the great majority of students who qualify for admission are kept out of the universities for want of accommodation. Also since 70% of the admissions is done on the district quota and only 30% on the basis of merit, a large number of students in the Jaffna District with considerably high marks are deprived of the opportunity of a University education. Further their whole school career had been directed towards preparing them for entry to the universities. Naturally this causes great deal of disappointment and frustration to both students and parents.

University education particularly in the science based courses is capital intensive. With the present intake of about 6,000 students there are about 20,000 students in the universities and the state expenditure on the university system in 1989 was about 870 million rupees of which about 630 million rupees was for recurrent expenditure. The cost of journals, books and equipment is rising fast and the money voted for the library is not even sufficient to

maintain the subscription of journals which were subscribed to in the 1970's. The list of journals is being pruned each year and in spite of this, the money left for the purchase of books is negligible. So you have an idea of the cost involved just to maintain facilities for 30,000 new students each year, leaving aside the initial capital outlay required for buildings, equipment and books.

Resources are scarce and obviously there are other pressing demands on it. However it would be a good policy to try and provide opportunities for everyone to have their potentialities developed as fully as possible. This would mean that spectrum of education should be broadened and its level raised as far as possible.

What an efficient economy need is the supply of people

with a range of skills and an extent of understanding which will make them capable both of rapid learning of an initial task and of subsequent adaptation to changing demands.

I would like to congratulate Jaffna College for its far-sighted and pioneering effort in establishing its technical Institute in 1973 with the prime objective of helping school leavers to learn the technical and vocational skills and become technicians and craftsmen on basic engineering skill and for subsequently establishing the Agricultural Institute to train students in modern scientific agriculture.

Higher education should create (I) a scientific and technological background at least to understand the

Tamil, though well developed from the literary point of view, does not have sufficient literature in Science and Technology. Thus while Tamil is important for universal education as well as the development of the national culture, a good knowledge of English is essential as we cannot afford to neglect the study of the latest developments in Science and Technology.

A core curriculum for the schools should consist of Tamil (Language and Literature), English and Mathematics and this could be developed at least up to the O. L. with English to be taught as a second language and as a source to knowledge, Mathematics as a discipline and as a language of the sciences and Tamil as our heritage. The other subjects may be chosen to foster the development of desired academic or technical competencies bearing in mind that specialisation and vigorous immersion in a few subjects is more desirable than smattering of many subjects.

In Jaffna College you have the great liberal traditions of self-reliance and independent thought as well as the facilities including a first class library and the experience of successfully setting up the Technical Institute and the Agricultural Institute to work an effective scheme to prepare students for all types of further education: academic, technical or on the job. All that you need is the right type of rapport between the dedicated teachers and well motivated students and confidence on the part of parents to allow it to work.

The Principal, Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan presided Mrs. Dharmaratnam gave away the prizes.

Prof. V. Dharmaratnam

results of new advances in science and technology (II) to create a sufficient number of scientists who are able to do research in terms of our needs. (III) a sufficient number of persons making a serious study of the cultures for the maintenance and enrichment of national culture.

The main aims of higher education are the advancement of learning and the development of the students intellectual skills and academic competencies. The fulfillment of these aims has to be essentially student's own achievement - a matter of the student's own perseverance. There is an essential aloneness in the role of the student which emerges contingently whilst studying and during examinations. The staff are only one kind of resource to which the student has access. The library is another important source.

MUSINGS BY NESTOR

"Only when the last Indian leaves the shores of Lanka (then there was no Sri Lanka), I will die a happy man". Thus declared the late Bandaranayake of the Sinhala Only fame. "Only when the LAST OF THE EELYOM TAMILS leaves, India's shores, I will die a happy woman". That appears to be the last will and testament of M/s Jayalalitha. (of course she cannot die a happy man). That is probably the vow M/s Jayalalitha, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has taken.

Press reports indicated that when Rajiv Gandhi, after becoming Prime Minister came to Tamil Nadu, he spent only five to ten minutes with M. G. R. but spent a full forty five minutes with M/s

Jayalalitha. In the long narrative of Mahabharatha, there are several incidents which indicate that Draupathy was primarily responsible for the relations between Pancha Pandavar and Duryodhanan getting strained. Although women change their mind often, a woman's inveterate hatred towards some one is invariably a very long term affair. One wonders whether M/s Jayalalitha was not responsible for Rajiv Gandhi's hatred towards Eelyom Tamils. The manner in which Eelyom Tamils are being repatriated today clearly shows that M/s Jayalalitha had nursed a long-drawn out hatred towards Eelyom Tamils although during the life-time of M.G.R. she was tactful in not giving expression to her hatred towards Eelyom Tamils.

One is inclined to think that possibly it was M/s. Jaya Lalitha who advised Rajiv Gandhi to order the Indian troops to fight against the Tamils. Several Army commanders had written and spoken to the effect that it was a wrong decision to have waged a war against Eelyom Tamils. Rajiv Gandhi, as is well-known, never consulted his Cabinet. M. G. R. was too ill in his last days to give any advice on the Eelyom Tamil question. It is not unlikely that M/s. Jaya Lalitha in Tamil Nadu was the advisor to Rajiv Gandhi at the time Rajiv Gandhi made what is generally agreed today as a wrong headed decision.

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Women and their Sacrifice in Freedom Struggle

From the dawn of history, women played a key role in the building up and development of society. But there was a feeling among menfolk that women were weak. The earliest idea of keeping women confined in homes is becoming progressively obsolete.

Women were subjected to many social disabilities during and before the nineteenth century in India. They were forced to practise "Sati" self immolation. Raja Ram Mohan Roy a renowned Bengal reformer dared forth to reform the Hindu practice and emancipate the women from the shackles of social injunctions "Sati" was abolished and Raja Ram Mohan Roy advanced further by supporting widow remarriage. Bengal educationist Iswar Chandra Vidyasahar played a unique role in promoting Hindu widow remarriage. In this way nineteenth century saw the beginning of the women's freedom in the social struggle.

Yet another milestone was reached by Mahatma Gandhi by promoting women in taking part in the freedom struggle. Gandhi himself praised the sacrifices made and demonstrated by a Tamil woman Valliammai in South - Africa, in the initial stage of his experiment with satyagraha during the Indian civil rights struggle in South Africa. It was in 1925 Indian national poetess Mrs. Sarojini Naidu became the President of the Indian National Congress after Mrs. Anni Besant who became the President in 1917, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose felt and uttered "when the women folk of India awakes the real freedom of India is not far away". He organised in 1928 "Mahila Rastriya Sangha" a women's body of political activists.

A worthy sacrifice of women in the Indian freedom struggle

It is interesting to quote one incident which was well related by Negley Farson special correspondent to Chicago Daily News. He said, "I witnessed the 1930 Gandhi movement in India. One of the bravest things I have ever seen was the way those Hindus marched out on the field and grouped themselves in little knots. Hindus hate physical pain, but they knew what they

were in for that day. Some of them quiet confidently believed that they would soon be dead. In each group the Indian women in their orange robes of sacrifice made a thin ring around the men. They would have to be hit first.

"In a few seconds that field was a shambles of reeling bleeding men, men holding their heads with blood oozing down between their fingers, men trying to ward off blows with their bare fore - arms... women shrieking and tearing at the Policemen's clothes... throwing themselves before the swishing lathis (Bamboo sticks)" It is a clear

Ragunathan

demonstration of bravery and sacrifice amidst intolerable physical pain and suffering for the dedicated cause of cherished ideals - independence..... by the women."

Another woman who earned a reputation of being a brave woman soldier in the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian National Army was none other than "Captain Luxmi". She was a model of example to many young freedom fighters. A tower among women was the wife of

Mahatma Gandhi - Kasturi Bai, who was the first woman to die in prison in the cause of the freedom struggle.

A Mother's Martyrdom

Mother Poopathy was the first mother ever to come to the fore in demonstrating to the whole world that women folk are always in the front line in the fight for the restoration of lost rights and equality.

Napoleon Bonaparte once said to the French mothers "Give me good mothers. I will give you a good nation". These words of Napoleon came true in our case too. Mother Poopathy's fast unto death roused the awakening among the women and the youth. The world has witnessed the martyrdom of Masweeney of Ireland, Jatin Das of Bengal, Sri Ramulu of Andhra Pradesh, Bobby Sands of Ireland and Dileepan of Tamil Eelam, but Annai Poopathy's martyrdom was a shock and surprise to millions of tender mothers and woman all over the world, who strives for the establishment of human freedom and the restitution of lost rights. Her sacrifice and martyrdom have created a new vista.

Breaking the Customs

Many women came out of their shells to the forefront to take up active and constructive role. New awakening created fresh effort for the women to break the tradition bound communication system and transport. Almost all young women and the middle aged women started working hard by learning to ride on bicycle to attend to their daily needs and duties. Thus they created a new pattern of life and a way in the accomplishment of peaceful life and the maintenance of economic austerity in times of such a crisis as the present. The economic blockade and pressure given by the Government and encouragement rendered by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam led the women of Tamil Eelam towards bringing about a new economic and adventurous way of life in times of needs. The cumulative effect of the economic blockade is the creation of a new cultural and economic Renaissance. Many cultured and refined women of all walks of life started thinking about their political, social and economic plight.

Capture of Kokavil and Mankulam

With regard to the other aspect of women participation in our struggle, the brave women of Tamil Eelam held their heads up by their deeds of bravery and sacrifice. They were praised all over the world for their bravery and

resourcefulness. Even though our Tamil race in Eelam was not trained for the last 480 years in marshall arts, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam achieved remarkable success in the field of battle under the dynamic leadership of its commanders. In the Kokavil and the Mankulam Army Camps capture women fighters played a unique role, no less than that of their male counterparts. Running through the camp was thought to be a utopian idea. The women freedom fighters along with their brother freedom fighters made every bit of their sacrifice strongly felt over the entire length and breath of Tamil Eelam. Their bold, adventurous, unprecedented active participation and the accomplishment of their mission reminded one of the heroic achievements of Napoleon Bonaparte in the capture of the bridge in the small town of Lodi upon the bank of the river Adda in Austria.

Passing directly through the town they crossed the river which was about 200 yards in length. The bridge was well fortified with Austrian Batteries but Napoleon's forces crossed the bridge despite heavy fire from the Austrians and created history.

Women are, no doubt today exerting their every nerve and sweating out their best to win back their social, economic and national freedom. By their sincere contribution and dedication to the emancipation and the development of the Tamil freedom struggle, along with their sons and brothers against the oppressors and suppressors of their cherished rights they have come to the fore.

Politics in Sri Lanka and the West

Excerpts from the speech delivered by Mr. M. Thirunavakarasu at the 12th Anniversary celebration of Marumalarchi Kalagam of the University of Jaffna on 16th March, 1992.

Politics and history cannot be understood by anyone without a basic knowledge of Economics. In the same way, one cannot expound the intricacies of internal politics without an understanding of international politics.

Present politics of Sri Lanka is determined to a great extent by international factors and the continued liberation struggle pursued by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Great strides have been achieved by mankind in the spheres of science and technology. In the context of these changes, a small group of people in a

limited area could meet the consumptive needs of the entire world. Japan and West European countries produce more than half the necessary consumer goods. Politics thus means the acquisition of capital outlay to produce such goods and the promotion of sales. These countries do not even constitute one third of the entire world's population, yet they are in a position to cater to the entire peoples of the world. This achievement has been made possible by their remarkable advances in the fields of science and technology.

These scientifically and industrially developed countries by selling their finished products to other parts of the world, are in a position to control the whole world economically. It is by the economic domination they exert over the Third World countries they acquire this

vast wealth and are able to stabilise their own economies and produce armaments and perpetuate researches in space.

In addition, politics is a field where events taking place are weighed in their correct perspective and decisions taken. Such decisions

have an economic bearing. Everything in the world is dominated by politics. Thus everyone from a great scientist to the ordinary man is bound by politics.

During the period of the Cold War, the political impo-

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Musings by...

(Continuation from Page 4)

Nestor has never met or seen Pirabhakaran but has carefully studied Pirabhakaran's horoscopic chart for the simple reason that in the prevailing context, the future of Eelam Tamils is very closely inter-twined with the future of Pirabhakaran. Pirabhakaran has superexalted Jupiter in the third house. The third house as every amateurish astrologer knows indicates self discipline, capacity to inspire and enforce discipline among followers and of course all the martial qualities of a

war leader. In Tamil it's *நெஞ்சு உறம்*. Jupiter of course gives all idealism possible for a man. In fact four planets in Sri Ramar's chart are in the same position as in Pirabhakaran's chart. Further comment is unnecessary. It must be clear to everyone that one who cherishes so much hatred towards Eelam Tamils cannot really love Tamil Nadu Tamils.

Should not the World Tamil Conference avoid Tamil Nadu for its venue?. Matunga in Bombay has a large Tamil population and Bombay has facilities for an international Conference.

HOT SPRING

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OPPORTUNE MOMENT

Recent news relating to changes in the command structures of the armed forces of the Sinhala State and the attempts already let lose in the Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Amparai areas by the Government forces to repeat their pet performance of genocidal attacks on Eelam Tamils are a clear indication that the Government of Sri Lanka has chosen the path of military subjugation of Tamils to maintain the fabric of the Baudha Sinhala state.

A number of countries the world over reiterated the need to arrive at a solution without resort to violence. The LTTE for its part made it clear that it was ready to enter into talks to arrive at a solution.

The LTTE also received some Catholic and Christian leaders from the South when they came over to Jaffna and also invited any Baudha - Sinhala clergyman if he was so disposed to visit the North and discuss matters with them and also see for themselves the real position in the North.

Whilst the LTTE took up this position the Government has taken the opposite stand. President Premadasa has of late even abandoned his lip - service to peace process as a means of settling the Sinhala-Tamil conflict and his army men are talking about the military solution and are already engaged in an attempt at military conquest.

The military solution - or in other words - the suppression of the Tamils militarily and the imposition of Baudha - Sinhala rule at the point of the gun over the Tamils - over those Tamils who may still survive the attacks - has been one that was openly advocated by Mr. J.R. Jayawardene when he was President. It is also the view of all Baudha - Sinhala rulers. If the Tamils persist in their stand that the Sinhalese should restrict their right to rule themselves only and not claim the right to rule the Tamils also then it must be a military solution.

As everyday passes the naked Baudha - Sinhala imperialism stands exposed. After 1983 and until 1987 the Eelam Tamil cause received some measure support from the Indian ruling class. It has now been proved beyond all doubt - that the Indian ruling class would even betray the Tamils if it suited its interests. Indian ruling class support for Tamils then was purely motivated by political gains for themselves.

But today after a battle with the treacherous Indians and continuing battle with Baudha-Sinhala imperialism, the Eelam Tamils find themselves in a much better position when countries remotely connected with Eelam Tamils are willing to raise their voice against the genocidal attacks on Eelam Tamils.

The Scandinavian countries, Switzerland, Australia - and now even U. K., have all shown their concern over the war which is depleting all resources of Eelam Tamils - both in men and material. Today we have greater world sympathy than at anytime before. This is clearly shown by sentiments expressed by the various states referred to.

This is the opportune moment for winning more and more international sympathy for the Tamil cause.

Ministry Stultifies itself

The Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Home Affairs has foiled its own Circular No: 37/91 which purported to provide relief to those public officers who had been affected by Treasury Circulars and Public Administration circulars issued from time to time to implement the Sinhala Only Act of 1956.

It is reliably learnt that the Ministry of Public Administration has categorically stated that those officers who lost increments under the previous Treasury and Public Administration circulars will not be paid the increments which they had otherwise earned and the payment of which was withheld from them solely on account of their failure to pass the Sinhala proficiency tests.

The Ministry of Public Administration has also now categorically stated that the provisions of its latest circular No: 37/91 do not apply to officers who retired under Treasury Circular No: 700 of 4-9 66. It will be recollected that Treasury Circular No: 700 permitted Tamil officers who were not proficient in Sinhalese to retire if they had put in ten years service.

A large number of Tamil officers retired under the provisions of Treasury Circular No: 700 because of the inequities perpetrated by the implementation of Sinhala as the official language. In the light of the present interpretation to Circular 37/91 none of these officers will receive any benefit though the Circular purports to afford

relief even to officers presently out of service.

The Secretary of the Federation of Northern Pensioners told "Hot Spring" that currently the Public Administration Ministry is misinterpreting the Circular instead of interpreting it and said that the comment of "Hot Spring" that the current circular is 'an eye-wash' has come true.

Proselytisation Urged!

Rev. Mathampagama Assigi Thero is reported to have urged President Premadasa, who is in charge of the Baudha Sasana Ministry to ordain at least 100 Tamil youths as Buddhists priests. The Thero is also reported to have offered co-operation to the President for this programme of proselytisation.

Tamils in Sri Lanka are predominantly Hindus. There are no Buddhist Tamils. Similarly the Sinhalese are Buddhists. There are no Hindu Sinhalese. Religion is again a fundamental divide between the two peoples, apart from other differences including language.

It is also interesting to note that this Buddhist

priest who is so keen at proselytisation is also one of the Buddhist priests who seek to visit Jaffna.

Artillery Shells Attack Avarangal

The Sri Lankan Army stationed at Palaly started artillery shell attack on the village of Avarankal.

As the shells were directed against civilian dwellings there was tension in the village.

A number of houses were damaged as a result of the explosion of shells.

A young woman named Ponnambalam Susila and her son Jeevathanan sustained personal injuries.

Homage to Thanthai Chelva

A public meeting to commemorate the fifteenth death anniversary of the late Tamil Leader, Thanthai Chelvanayakam will be held at Maheswari Vidyalayam, Nayanmarkaddu, Jaffna on April 26, Sunday at 5.00 p.m.

The meeting will be chaired by Mr. S. Kanapathipillai,

retired teacher from Ariyalai. The organisers have also arranged to place Flowers

at the Thanthai Chelva Memorial Column.

Special prayers will be held at temples and churches to invoke blessings for the Tamil Eelam cause.

SPORTS

Football

In a Soccer Tournament organised by Ariyalai, St. Antony's beat Ariyalai by 3-2 in the tie breaker penalties. The match was played at Ariyalai on 10-4-92.

Referees' Day

A Soccer Referees' Day has been scheduled for May 3rd, 1992 at Jaffna Hindu College.

Those who have passed the Soccer Referees' Examination will be awarded certificates by the Referees' Association. Sixteen new referees have qualified.

- Vijayakumar

Politics...

(Continuation from Page 5)

stance of Sri Lanka was due to its strategic geographical position. In other words, during the period of the Cold War, Sri Lanka's political importance was not greatly dependent on its economic factors. Its primacy rested in the military and strategic spheres. However, with the ending of the Cold War and great strides made in Industrial development, the strategic importance of Sri Lanka has diminished but because of its geographical position in the region, it has acquired commercial importance.

Foreign investments as well as political changes taking place in Sri Lanka are with a view to make it the World Entrepot for trade in the South and South East Asian region. During the Cold War because of the enmity with the Soviet Union, the US and

Western countries gave political importance to Colombo. This position has changed today.

The interests of the Western countries will be greatly enhanced to the extent the ethnic crisis is resolved in Sri Lanka. It is when peace prevails in the country their interests will be safeguarded. Thus Western countries are pressurised to find a solution to the Ethnic Crisis. Hence the interest evinced by them. The West will always put forward proposals favourable to it. So too, other political parties. But the resolution of the Ethnic Conflict will result only to the extent the interests of the people are satisfied.

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