

HOT SPRING

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No. 34

STF INSPECTOR KILLED

An officer in the Inspectorate Grade of the Special Task Force was killed and two others sustained injuries when LTTE cadres attacked them on Friday, May 22 near Tirukovil in the Amparai District.

The STF Party was patrolling the area when they were attacked.

Combined Attack on Valvettiturai & Suburbs

Nine - including 08 month old infant killed

Schools, Temples, Public and Private Buildings Damaged and Destroyed

The Army, Navy and Air Forces of Sri Lanka launched a combined attack from the early morning of Thursday, May 28 in Vadamardchy. Valvettiturai, Udupidy, Thondamannar and Polikandy in Vadamardchy came in for a day long attack.

At 6.30 a.m on May 28, two super-sonic jet planes belonging to Sri Lankan Air

Force flew over Vadamardchy bombing Valvettiturai, Polikandy and other areas. Soon these planes were joined by three bombers, 2 helicopters and an Avro plane all bombing and strafing extensive areas in Vadamardchy.

While the Air Force planes were thus engaged in bombing the Sri Lankan Army

encamped at Palaly started artillery shell attack directed towards the same villages. At the same time Naval ships began to pound the area with volleys of cannon fire.

The day long attack left 9 persons dead and about 25 persons injured. All were non-combatant civilians. One of the dead is an eight

month-old infant girl J. Mayuri.

Temples, schools other public buildings and over 30 private dwellings were badly damaged.

The residents of these villages abandoned their dwellings and ran away to distant places for safety. One report adds that a number of residents of these villages were found to take shelter in temples away from the villages and underneath trees.

Valvettiturai Chidampara College Valvettiturai Sivaguru School, Udupidy American Mission Boys' College, Udupidy American Mission Girls' College, Valvettiturai Girls' College, Veerapathirar temple at Polikandy, Nedi-yakadu Pillayar temple, two multi-purpose co-operative society branches at Polykandy, a sub-post office at Polykandy, the Polykandy Rural Development Society building and a public library at Valvettiturai are some of the public buildings badly damaged and destroyed. Apart from these public buildings a number of private-owned shop buildings and dwelling houses were damaged. According to reports over 30 private dwellings were destroyed.

The following are the persons who died at Valvettiturai in Vadamardchy:

V. Navaratnam (55) and his wife S. Navaratnam (53) S. Ananthavel (47), Roshan Savuntharanayagam (23) and his sister Santhini Savuntharanayagam (27), S. Sivasambu (50), S. Nagaledchumy (27), K. Veerachelvan (19) and J. Mayuri (08 months).

The injured persons have been admitted to the Point Pedro Hospital.

Army Effort to Advance Repulsed 9 Tigers become martyrs in defence of Motherland

The LTTE repulsed Sri Lankan Army efforts to advance into further territory in Valikamam East and Vadamardchy on Thursday, May 28.

In the fight that erupted on May 28 between the advancing Sri Lankan Army and the -LTTE the LTTE

killed eleven Sri Lankan soldiers and wounded many. Two armoured Vehicles of the Sri Lankan Army were also destroyed. The LTTE also collected a few weapons from the Sri Lankan Army. Nine LTTE cadres fell fighting in the defence of motherland.

Towards evening the same day the Sri Lankan Army having suffered losses and unable to move further were forced to retreat to their camp.

The Sri Lankan Army's efforts to advance through Paththameni, Kathiripai and Thondamannar with air strike naval and artillery support was foiled by the LTTE.

Three civilians in the area were killed by the aerial bombardment.

Attack on Army at Mutur

LTTE cadres attacked a Sri Lankan Army contingent in Mutur in the Trincomalee District on Saturday, May 23.

The loss sustained by the Sri Lankan Army is not known. One LTTE cadre died in this attack.

Five Tamils Shot dead

Five Tamils were shot dead on Tuesday, May 19 at two different places in the Batticaloa District.

The report in this connection states that the Sri Lankan Army rounded up the villages of Unnichchai and Kaluwanchikudy on May 19.

According to the report three persons at Unnichchai and two persons at Kaluwanchikudi were shot dead during round up and search operations carried out by the Sri Lankan Army.

MANAL ARU

S. L. SENTRY POINT DESTROYED Two Soldiers Killed

In a lightning attack carried out by the LTTE on Thursday, May 28 at Manal Aru on a Sri Lankan Army sentry point, they captured and destroyed it.

The news in this connection state that on Thursday May 28, the LTTE attack on

a Sri Lankan Army sentry point between the Ceylon Theatres Army Camp and Munthirikaikkulam lasting a minute only resulted in the capture and destruction of the sentry point. The LTTE also recovered some arms from the Sri Lankan Army. Two Sri Lankan soldiers died

in the attack. There was no casualty on LTTE side.

For our Readers' Attention

From next month 'Hot Spring' will be published fortnightly.

Our next issue will be released on June 15, 1992.

JUNE 5

June 5 - 1947

Kandasamy a Tamil Trade Union leader was shot dead whilst going in a procession at Kolonnawa, near Colombo.

June 5 - 1956

(I) Kandasamy's memorial was destroyed by Sinhalese hoodlums

(II) The notorious "Sinhala Only" Act was presented in Parliament by the then Prime Minister, Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake.

(III) Tamils stage protest by performing Satyagraha at Galle Face Green, opposite Parliament under the leadership of late Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, Q. C., M. P.

(IV) Sinhala hoodlums first attack peaceful protestors (Satyagrahis) including Tamil members of Parliament.

(V) Sinhala hoodlums then turn attention on Tamil pedestrians, office workers and sundry others in Colombo.

(VI) Alien Sinhala colonists settled in Tamil Amparai attack Tamils in Amparai

June 5 - 1974

Militant student Sivakumarn takes his own life to avoid arrest by Police.

JAFFNA PUBLIC LIBRARY ARSON

Recommended Compensation - Rs. 10.2 Million

Eleven years ago, to be exact on the night of 1st June 1981, the Jaffna public library which was supposed to be, one of the largest in the whole of South Asia, was destroyed by arson with its collection of 97,000 books by the very men who were specifically sent to the north to maintain law and order in that part of the island during the District Development Councils Elections.

News Blackout

The men who performed the dastardly act had taken the necessary precautions to impose a blackout to prevent the world from hearing the news about the act of Vandalism, for the only newspaper published in Jaffna at that time "The Eelanadu" too was destroyed by fire the same time. Somehow or other even the so-called National Press in Colombo, Ceylon Broadcasting Corporation and the National Television Rupawahini were able to withhold the publication or Broadcasting of the news for about a week!

Cat out of Bag

To get the news about burning of the Jaffna Public Library released to the world outside some one had to fly over to Madras with the photographs of the burnt library and hold an international press conference there. Ever since then there is not a single journal or radio-station in the globe that had not failed to record the event with due follow up coverage.

On hearing the news about the burning of the Jaffna Public Library, the civilized world condemned it as an act of cultural genocide amounting to a crime against humanity.

But even then the political authorities in Colombo did not come forward to own up the crime committed by their men. They attempted at first to pass on the charge to the militants which was not possible as the library premises stood too close to the main police station. Further as later admitted by the former President J. R. Jayawardene at an international press conference the police officers specially sent to the North to maintain law and order during the District Council Elections, were housed at Duraiappah Stadium and Jaffna Central College. The Stadium was just behind the

Library and the Central College stood just opposite the library.

When the then Leader of the Opposition raised this issue on the floor of the House, the then Minister of Mahaveli Development who himself happened to be in Jaffna during the burning of the Library intervened in the Debate saying that the Inspector - General of Police had issued an order to apprehend the men but the police were not successful in arresting them, as they had deserted their posts, perhaps on getting wind about the I. G. P.'s order.

Commission of Inquiry

So a One-man Commission of Inquiry, headed by a former Government Agent of Jaffna, Mr. Lionel Fernando was appointed to assess the damages caused to property and premises within the Jaffna Municipal Limits during the specified period and it recommended the payment of compensation

When will it be paid?

Although the said Commission recommended the payment of a sum of Rs. 10.2 million compensation to the burnt Jaffna Public Library, that amount has not been paid to the Library to this date.

Recommendation put in cold storage

Perhaps at that time in order to avoid culpability in the crime the Government

VENTHAN

might have withheld the payment of the recommended compensation. The written instructions issued by the Government for the payment of compensation to the Government Agent of Jaffna excludes the sum of Rs. 10.2 million recommended to the Jaffna Public Library, while it had included all

other compensations recommended by the said Commission.

Now since President Premadasa himself has publicly exposed who the culprits were, the Jaffna Public Library Committee should not hesitate any longer to press its claim for the recommended compensation of Rs. 10.2 million which is its due.

Acts of Vandalism

Burning libraries anywhere in the world is called 'Vandalism' - named after a German tribe which sacked Rome in the 5th Century. Since the burning of the Jaffna Library, many more libraries have been destroyed by arson by the Sri Lankan Security Forces, such as the Wesleyan Methodist Hartley College Library with its one hundred year-old collection of books, the Globe Library

at Karalnager built with Swedish aid and the Library at Thikkam, Point Pedro with a collection of 2,000 books and many more. But how many of us remember the burning of our National Saraswathy Library of the Jaffna Kingdom at Nayanmarkaddu, when the King of Kotte invaded Jaffna.

Perhaps burning libraries is a past time for Security Forces of Sinhala Ratta, then as well as now. By their very record - both past and present - they stand stigmatised of 'Vandals'. Since the Tamil people have no accredited representatives in the Sri Lankan Parliament, no Tamil member of Parliament has so far dared to expose the non-payment of the compensation recommended to the burnt Jaffna Public Library.

OUR READERS SAY

Duty of Eelam Intellectuals

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Dear Sir,

I would like to appeal to the Tamil intellectuals still in this Island to come forward and answer the several points that are being put forward by the Sinhala Intellectuals. Every day one notices, this Island's History is being rewritten and Sinhalese people are slowly but surely made to believe that all Tamils are Kallathonis. One of these Sinhala intellectuals even goes to the extent of saying that a two thousand years old Tamil habitation in this island is a myth.

Should not our Tamil intellectuals write to the Colombo Press who publish these articles pointing out the facts supported by reference to books, preferably by neutral parties and rebut these claims (They could send copies of such articles to "Hot Spring" which could publish them if the Colombo papers do not publish these articles).

I notice that the expatriate Tamil intellectuals are doing these for example the Sacramento Conference held in California, USA on July 20, 1991 and the London Seminar held on February 15, this year.

But these are useful only to sway the opinion of the outside world, a real hard nut to crack, News of such conferences and seminars do not reach the Sinhalese public (although these do reach Colombo Press they are completely blacked out by them).

We have to reach the Sinhala people with the true picture of what was and what is happening in this Island. This can only be done by the Tamil intellectuals living in this Island - I therefore once again appeal to them to come forward and do their duty by their people.

S. Alagaratnam

Urumpirai,

Police Force

The Editor
Hot Spring
Sir,

Mr. Alagaratnam of Urumpirai South, Urumpirai, I am afraid, is bordering on contempt of court by his statement that it is the Police constable and the Grama Sevaka who dispense justice and not the judges. Police stations and Grama Sevakas are stepping stones to Justice.

There are numerous instances where a Constable

(Continued on Page 5)

Since we are fighting....

Since we are Tamils in North & East
And we are fighting for our freedom
For the last several years
We are living with so many "EARS"
And some of them are...
"TEARS"!
"FEARS"!!

Due to Lanka's inhuman actions
Our economics
Our development plans
Our future life etc.
Have met so many "AGES"...
"DAMAGES"!
"SHORTAGES"!!
"DISADVANTAGES"!!

By facing these "AGES"
Another "AGE" is developing
In order to face any challenge
In our minds daily and gradually...
"COURAGE"!

To win our freedom struggle
This "RATION" is very important
And this is very urgent
And it is everyone's duty
To extend further and further...
"CO-OPERATION"!

This is another "RATION"
Which is anxiously awaited by us!
For which thousands of lives
And several millions worth of wealth
Have been sacrificed during the past years
By our brothers and sisters...
"SEPARATION"!

□ □ □

— SARAVANAS —

NORTHEAST IS TAMIL HOMELAND

Baudha-Sinhala Chauvinists cannot wriggle out

The Sinhala Arakshaka Sanvidhanaya - a recently formed utterly chauvinistic Sinhala Buddhist Organisation has come out with a Public memorandum.

The Organisation is led by former Minister, Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya. Mr. Jayasuriya was a Cabinet Minister in former President J. R. Jayewardene's Ministry and resigned his portfolio with the signing of the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord of 1987. Until then Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya was a senior member of the UNP.

The organisation memorandum briefly sets out the following:-

1. The Sinhala people do not accept that the Northeast is traditional homeland of the Tamils.
2. The Sinhala people will never agree to the merger of the North East provinces.
3. The Government should not conduct negotiations directly or indirectly with the LTTE as long as it is in violation of Article 157 (A) of the Jayewardene constitution.

For purposes of elucidation it may be stated that this Article 157 (A) of the constitution was incorporated into his constitution by Mr. Jayewardene by the notorious 6th Amendment to the constitution passed in the wake of the July, 1983 pogrom. It is a well-known fact that the Parliament which passed that 6th Constitutional Amendment deprived the Eelam Tamils of any representation in the Sinhala legislature. Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya was in the Cabinet of Ministers of the Government when the notorious amendment Act was passed.

Now to deal with the views expressed in the memorandum let us first deal with the position of the organisation that the Sinhalese people do not accept Northeast as the traditional homeland of the Tamils.

GAMANI'S SILENT ROLE

To be sure the organisation is headed by ex-Minister and ex-UNPer, Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya. He was a member of the UNP until 1983. He should be taken to know at

least recent history in the making of which he should be deemed to have had played at least a silent role.

Does Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya not know that his party leader in 1965 - Mr. Dudley Senanayake entered into a pact with Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam? Does he not know that J. R. Jayewardene was associated with his leader, Dudley, in negotiating the settlement with Mr. Chelvanayakam?

Does Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya not know that in terms of the agreement entered into between Mr. Dudley Senanayake and Chelvanayakam all lands in the Northern and Eastern Provinces should be alienated only to the people of the two provinces and *where there is still more land for others is available for alienation preference in allocation of such lands should be given to Tamils living in the other provinces.*

PACTS - A POLITICAL RUSE?

Surely Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya was in the UNP in 1965 and did he pause to find out from his leaders Dudley and J. R. why they agreed for the condition referred to in regard to land alienation. Why did this Baudha Sinhala hero keep mum then? Or was he assured by his leaders that the agreement was not meant by the UNP to be implemented but only a political ruse to capture power?

Many a pretender speaks in the name of the people. It is therefore no wonder that Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya's organisation too speaks in the name of the people - as if it were the only Voice of the People (Baudha Sinhala) of-course goes without saying.)

It may however be relevant to point out here that not only Mr. Dudley Senanayake but even Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake entered into a Pact with Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam in 1957. Surely Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya should be aware of the contents of the Pact because his Party the UNP published maps showing the Tamil territory conceded by Mr. Bandaranayake.

Does Mr. Jayasuriya not know that apart from the

LSSP all other political parties supported one or other of the two Pacts and thus accepted Northeast as traditional Tamil territory? So when this organisation speaks of the Sinhala people as not accepting Northeast as traditional homeland of the Tamils who are the people whom it is having in mind and believes itself to be their voice.

N.E. IS TAMIL HOMELAND

The organisation also objects to the reference to North east as homeland of the Tamils in the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord. But one might at once point out to this organisation of which Jayasuriya is head, that one easily understands the organisation's

KUMARAN

objection to the clause in the Accord as it is a commitment by the Sinhalese even to the international community that Northeast is Tamil. Thus the organisation's insular objection has no meaning to the world any more.

The pretence of the Baudha Sinhala Organisation that it speaks for the Sinhala people does not cut much ice when all have accepted that Northeast is Tamil and has told the world community also that it is so.

Acceptance apart what does the organisation say about the subject. It says that the claim of the Tamils is false. Why? The memorandum does not set out one reason why the Tamil claim is false. Does the organisation believe that the Tamil claim is false only because the stupid mythologists of the Organisation say so.

The organisation says that "apart from other well-known historical evidence" and proceeds to draw attention to Wewagam Pattu, Bintenna Pattu and Panama Pattu and says that these areas never had a Tamil presence.

NO HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Now to answer this allegation one might say that Organisation had conveniently left out "other well-known historical evidence" because there is none! Could not the organisation come out with at least one concrete

historical evidence (not myth) without saying there are so many well known evidence without mentioning even one?

The organisation speaks of three Divisions and says negatively that there was no Tamil presence there instead of telling positively what was Sinhala presence.

These three divisions in the Amparai District were earlier part of the Batticaloa District. The census figures for the Batticaloa District are as follows:-

1827	—	Sinhalese	Nil
1881	—	"	4.75%
1891	—	"	5.21%
1901	—	"	5.21%
1911	—	"	3.74%
1946	—	"	5.83%

It is hoped that the organisation will now understand that it cannot cheat anyone because the figures are not Mahawamsa figures but figures compiled by a government which was neither Tamil nor Sinhalese.

MUSLIMS BE WARNED

Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya's organisation has gone one step further and is refuting the claim of the Muslim too by saying that they were settled in the east during the time of the Portuguese by the King of Kandy. This should be an eye-opener to Muslims who believe in opportunistic politics of betraying their own language, land and Tamil brethren for temporary and immediate profits. Sinhala Baudha imperialism, if it succeeds in destroying the Tamils, will not require much effort or time to deal with the Muslims. Anyway let the Muslims be forewarned of the intentions of Baudha-Sinhala imperialists who shed crocodile tears for them.

It is time that the Baudha-Sinhala chauvinists realise that they cannot reverse the factual position admitted even by their leaders.

NO CONSENT BY TAMILS

The next point that has been dealt with in the memorandum is that no talks should be held with the LTTE. The reason adduced is that the LTTE does not accept clause 157A of the constitution which prohibits the formation of a Tamil state. A constitution is sacrosanct provided the people have willingly framed it for themselves. Does the organisation not know that neither the J. R. Jayawardene constitution nor its predecessor the 1972 constitution were made with the consent of the Tamils. It is not necessary to delve into the history of the making of the 1972 constitution and Jayawardene constitution. Suffice to say that both constitutions lacked validity as far as the Eelam Tamils are concerned. They regard the constitutions of Sri Lanka as illegitimate.

Of course the Organisation has also spoken of the military aspects. We shall not dwell on it because we are not military strategists. But we shall not agree with the Organisation that the Government is willingly or deliberately giving the Tigers the facilities to attack the Sinhala soldiers. All we know is that the Sri Lankan forces are killing men, women, infants and even devotees in temples and claiming that they have killed LTTE. The approach suggested by Mr. Gamani Jayasuriya's Organisation can only help to aggravate this sad situation.

Finally one word of advice - The Eelam Tamils do not require the Organisation's concern. Let it look after its Sinhala Buddhists without worrying about the "terrorism in the north and east" or being over-anxious to "relieve the people of those areas of the agony they are undergoing."

ASHAMED OF THEIR OWN PERFORMANCE

"Politics, unfortunately, has bedevilled all previous efforts to solve the ethnic conflict. It is not necessary to labour the point that neither the U. N. P. nor the SLFP allowed the other side to implement a solution that would be acceptable to the Tamils....."

From Editorial - Ceylon Daily News - 24. 4. 1992

No wonder that the Daily News finds it difficult to analyse the causes. Reasons are clear. The treacherous intent is still not out from the hearts and minds of Baudha-Sinhala chauvinists.

Bofors give the clue to India's Sri Lankan policy

Words are not enough to express the shock and sorrow of the Tamils at the treachery of the Indian Government and at the irrational manner in which they are aggravating their misery. Tamils cannot understand as to why a large country like India should behave in this petty, puerile and boorish manner to add insult to injury to the legitimate liberation struggle of theirs.

Indian leaders adored

For generations Tamils in the Island adored India and her leaders. Like Moslems going to Mecca, Tamils go on a pilgrimage to the many Hindu Temples in India. It is a common sight to see the framed photographs of Indian leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Rajaji, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and many others adorning the walls of many Tamil homes. It is an irony that many of the Indian soldiers of the Peace keeping Force who frequently entered the Tamil homes and harassed the inmates under their 'cordon and search' operations, did not even know these leaders of their country

and there are many houses wantonly burnt down by them where partly burnt portraits of these leaders are still dangling.

India to Tamils' rescue?

The Tamils endured the repression of the Sinhalese governments and some gullible Tamils in their ignorance, entertained hopes that some day India will come to the rescue of the Tamils. India did send her troops to this Island allegedly to safeguard

MAYAVAN

the Tamils - not when the Tamils were being killed in large numbers during the pogrom of 1983; not when the Tamils were being massacred in Vadamardchy during the Sinhala army offensive there. It was only when the Sri Lankan Security Forces were in disarray after the Nallady Black Tiger assault and when the Air Force personnel had told J. R. Jayewardene that they cannot operate any longer in the Tamils areas.

A Reign of Terror

The period of Indian army occupation of the Tamil

homeland was a reign of terror. There was no law and order. The fundamental human rights of the Tamils were not respected. The Tamils were arbitrarily arrested, tortured and many leading citizens were murdered by the IPKF and their cohorts. It was a veritable nightmare for the Tamils. The Sri Lankan government or their law courts could do nothing to restrain these Indian army men, who were a law unto themselves. In their mad venture they killed more than ten thousand Tamils and caused severe damage to their property.

India's ill intentions

A look at the long list of Indian interference to strangulate the Tamil liberation struggle clearly shows India's ill intentions.

At Thimpu, the Tamils put forward four cardinal principles which were blatantly rejected by the Sri Lankan government. Instead of persuading the Sri Lankan government to accept these basic propositions which were essential for the resolution of the ethnic problem in the Island, the Indians spearheaded by Romesh

Bhandari indulged in arm-twisting the Tamils and ordered three Tamil leaders to quit India.

At Bangalore' pressure was brought to bear on Piraabakaran to accept the proposal to trifurcate the Eastern Province. When he quite rightly rejected this proposal, the Indians once again harassed the Tamils and the communication equipment of the LTTE was confiscated by the Indian authorities.

Tamils side - lined

The Indo - Sri Lanka agreement was entered into by Rajiv and J. R. without even consulting the Tamils and for the benefit of the Indians. Pirabakaran was enticed to come to Delhi, told of the impending Agreement and asked to toe the line. India simply brushed aside Tamil aspirations and imposed its own solution which did not even touch the fringe of the problem of the Tamils. A solution was thus thrust on the unwilling Tamils by Indian armed might.

Indian Duplicity

It is not only the Tamils who blame India for its duplicity. Many Indian Army officers who have since written books on this 'Indian Escapade', blame the Government of India for one reason or another. In one of these books it has been

stated that when the Army argued for a negotiated settlement after the Fall of Jaffna, the political authorities advised by their Intelligence Services and officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, smarting under the imagined insult the LTTE had meted out to them, refused to accept this course and wanted the militants to be taught a lesson and the military operations to be continued.

Greasing the palm

The irrational behaviour of Indian diplomacy reached a new nadir with the banning of the LTTE in India. They seem to be playing to the gallery forsaking all moral and ethical values.

To understand the petty behaviour of India, it appears one has to get a clue from the Bofors scandal. It has been stated that before clinching the Bofors deal, the Swedish authorities came to the conclusion that it was not possible to be successful in India, if politicians and officials did not get money under the table. In order to clinch a deal, one has to grease the palms of the top politicians in India. To date one Indian Intelligence officer dealing with the Sri Lankan affairs has been imprisoned for being in the pay of a foreign agency. It appears that many Indian decision - makers whose hands have been greased, are still at large and are continuing to decide India's Sri Lankan Policy.

Planning for Environmental Literacy

Development organisations around the world increasingly recognize that without an environmental component in their programme planning, sustainable development is at risk. Similarly, there is a growing understanding that in order for the environmental component in any given project to be effective, there must be an awareness of environmental issues as well as the active support and involvement of people at the grass-roots.

This requires the building of "environmental literacy" which in turn means environmental education, and lots of it. As the Brundtland report, Our Common Future, states in its promotion of sustainable development, "Education must be improved in relevance to local conditions."

As a relatively new issue on the development scene, efforts at fostering environmental edu-

cation have so far been sporadic and uncoordinated. But there is a growing sophistication within the UN system and the NGO community on ways to create, sustain and promote environmental literacy in developing countries.

Since the Stockholm Conference on the Environment in 1972, there is agreement on the principles underlying environmental literacy; it builds on the understanding that the earth's resources are finite, that the ecological balance is delicate, and that not only do people have the power substantially to alter the environment, they are also utterly dependent for their survival on the natural world. It fosters a sense of common responsibility for the environment and make people aware of how human activity affects all aspects of the natural, cultural, social and economic environment.

As far as environment literacy in the developing regions is concerned, people living in poverty cannot be expected at the same time to be spontaneously concerned with eking out a daily living and with such abstract concepts as environmental management and sustainable development. To have them perceive these as important, rather than as irrelevant to their situations, will require a long-term educational effort.

To begin, planners, policy-makers and educators have focused on the tasks of deciding just who should be targeted and what are the most effective means to foster a new consciousness. Some point to farmers and pastoralists, some to urban dwellers. Others argue that, given limited resources, the logical audience to target are the younger people, especially those still in school.

The medium must be chosen as well. Due to the high rate of illiteracy in developing countries, many use radio programming to ensure that the environmental message is carried to as wide a constituency as possible. Where television is available, teachers can take advantage of the many TV and video programmes on the environment. NGOs like the Television Trust for the Environment (TVE), are very active in developing very effective audio-visual products and provides for educating.

But, at least in countries with good primary school systems, printed materials have been found to be most cost effective way to spread environmental literacy. These include illustrated workbooks with hands-on field programmes tailor-made to fit

the needs of individual countries.

Effective environmental education programmes are integrated into all academic areas, and recreational and field activities. For example, Save the Children, an international NGO, has established summer programmes for school children which rely heavily on school gardens, bee-keeping and conservation camps. Children can also join in grassroots community activities addressing local issues like deforestation, water pollution and desertification.

Educators stress that a method for evaluating the effectiveness of these programmes must also be established so as to ensure the continuing relevance of the teaching materials. Another

(Continued on Page 5)

INDIA'S TIGER BAN

India's desire for hegemony over Sri Lanka has always loomed large over the political horizon. This desire is now reflected in a more imperialistic way. Probably this is the 'Big country - Small country' syndrome which High Commissioner Jha was speaking of.

The recent intervention by India in 1987 with the notorious Indo - Sri Lanka Accord was carried out with a camouflage as if India was very much concerned with the plight of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. It was said that the Sri Lankan Army was about to take over Jaffna after the Vadamardchy operations. Nothing of this sort would have happened. Even in Vadamardchy, the Sri Lanka army met with great reverses with the destruction of their Nelliady Central College Camp and attendant army casualties. But the gullible world was made to believe that India was genuinely bailing out the Tamils. We know what happened later.

Even this outward show is absent in the present intervention by India in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. By imposing a ban on the LTTE, India is manoeuvring with and through the Sri Lankan Opposition and the so-called Tamil groups who are in Colombo a flagrant intervention in the domestic affairs of Sri Lanka.

SLFP Tactics

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party was discredited during its term of office with the Left Parties

Police...

(Continuation from Page 2)

or a Grama Sevaka found wanting in the dispensation of their functions in their respective roles, have been dealt with for contempt of court or reported to their respective superiors for disciplinary action.

A police officer has a different role to play in the discharge of his functions. His success and promotion in his career depends greatly on how successful he is in his detections and prosecutions. For every stripe he will have to secure a conviction. Therefore he will move heaven and earth to seek his promotion. It is thus immaterial whether he is a graduate or not. Even trial Judges have observed in the midst of a trial the unreliability in a policeman.

before 1977. The SLFP and its partners worked against the common aspirations of the masses and indulged in anti-democratic, anti-trade union and anti-progressive activities. This resulted in its defeat by the U. N. P. Now the SLFP has been out of power for the last fifteen years with no prospects of a come-back. It has no clear-cut policies to put before the people. It is beset by

S. Thiagarajah

internal bickerings. Family bandyism is at its highest - Sirimavo goes one way, Anura another, while Chandrika yet another, while Hela-Urumaya is trying to snatch the leadership.

In this plight SLFP is an easy prey to the cunning Indians. By joining hands with India, it feels that it could be placed in power without much toil. It wants to destabilise Sri Lankan politics. SLFP wants Sri Lanka to ban the LTTE, forgetting the fact that Sirimavo herself had stated that to solve the ethnic issue, talks should be held with the LTTE through whatever available source. Does the SLFP think that the Sri Lankan Government is having a honeymoon with the Tigers? They very well know that there is a war going on between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tigers. Then why this ban? It is to help the Indian Government and bring about a mess in Sri Lankan politics.

How they have enjoyed the hospitality of a party involved in a crime and betrayed their hospitality by filing complaints in Courts. That is why a police officer is not considered dependable to record the confession of a suspect in his custody. Mr. Alagaratnam seems to think that there will be an exception to the general outlook of police officers, if they are graduates. Sorry, it makes little or no difference. Perhaps, Mr. Alagaratnam was influenced to make the above suggestion from the report of how four policemen who had beaten up a black driver until he became unconscious, were acquitted. This is a clear case of negation of justice.

D. Jeevananthan
Vathiry

Everyone knows that there is a war and to speak about banning the LTTE is only an exercise in the abstract when they are alive and fighting in the North and East. It is surprising that when it comes to Presidential elections or for that matter to gain power, the SLFP will not hesitate or be ashamed even to go to the Wannu jungles to woo the Tigers. People do not forget these deeds.

New Delhi and TULF

Now we come to the Tamil United Liberation Front. The leader of the TULF and his colleagues in Colombo once campaigned for Tamil Eelam. They have given up that now. They are now being revived by India which is against Tamil Eelam. India has always said that it stands for a sovereign Sri Lanka and would not support any separation. Now the members of the TULF are making frequent pilgrimages to New Delhi, where they are smuggled in and out of the South Block. Cash bribes are given in Colombo. They say that they are back in Ahimsa politics. What they want to do with Ahimsa politics, no one knows.

Non-entities going behind the Sri Lankan army and enjoying the remnants of the spoils of the big hunters have suddenly started showing a big change. One can easily discern the reason. They were and are still lackeys of India. One of them toed the Sri Lankan Government line for its own end - such as for obtaining the release of their incarcerated brethren in the Maldives. After all, these non-entities ate out of the hands of India. They have to be faithful even to the extent of cutting their own throats!

Left Parties

A similar attitude may be seen in regard to our so-called National Left parties, who are neither national nor left. They too are chauvinistic to the core. They see red through and beyond India in spite of its repressive undemocratic internal policies and a decadent foreign policy. They overlook its stand on Israel; the attitude on the question of handing over the two Libyan nationals; joint naval exercises with USA etc.

To have leverage in Sri Lankan affairs and to overcome the immediate problems created by Jayalalitha and

Valaipadi Ramamoorthy who are all mentioned in Rajiv Gandhi murder in some way or other, Narasimha Rao has banned the Tigers. He is quoted as saying (he may later say that he did not say so), "I am under pressure to ban the Tigers". But Narasimha Rao is not a babe and suckling. He is one of the most matured Indian politicians. There is a purpose behind the banning of the LTTE. It is to take revenge on the Tigers for the ignominious manner the Indian army had to quit Sri Lanka and also to teach President Premadasa a lesson for his anti-Indian stance.

To achieve this end, India is using the SLFP and the so-called Tamil parties and groups. Even the so-called left parties are also privy to it. In this process they will rake up all antiquated and exhausted accusations against the Government which were taken up by the Gamini-Lalith group and other recent matters like the Election Commissioner's Report, Auditor-General's Report, the Udugampola's Affair etc. to whip up anti-government feelings in order to destabilise the Government. But, will this bear fruit?

Mass Reaction

The Sinhalese as a nation have a long history and tradition.

Planning...

(Continuation from page 4)

way to ensure that environmental education in the schools remains in the curriculum is to include questions on the environment in national school examinations.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) recently launched a US Dollar 25 Million, five-year Africa 2000 programme, designated to form a network of Africa-based grassroots groups and NGOs in an innovative, continent-wide effort to combat environmental degradation. This unique opportunity to further environmental education was taken in the light of clear evidence that grassroots initiatives - not high-tech, high-budget projects - have had the greatest success in achieving sustainable development in Africa.

Efforts to stem environmental destruction in the

They remember their past. Even though they have been misled and misguided by their leaders to be chauvinistic and ignore the just demands of the Tamils, they recall their liberation struggles against foreign invaders. It is innate in them to resist all types of foreign intervention and treat with contempt the local sycophants of foreign powers and erase them from the political scene. The period 1988 - 89 is not too far to remember. What happened then cannot be solely attributed to the fear of the JVP. There was a genuine hatred towards the IPKF, and India's domination among the Sinhalese masses. Even though the JVP did not throw a stone against the IPKF, they used the inborn hatred of the Sinhalese people against Indian domination to make the people obey their writ in boycotting Indian goods and the like. This obedience was interpreted as fear for JVP reprisals. But this was a spontaneous obedience and should not be ignored.

Conclusion

Whatever is said about the ban of the Tigers by India, it is going to have its repercussions in India. It has unleashed the dormant Tamil, National consciousness in Tamil Nadu. The resurgence of this consciousness will definitely erupt in different ways. The present reaction of the SLFP to the ban of the LTTE by India is going to spell its doom. No need to say anything about the other quislings in Colombo.

South will ultimately succeed or fail depending on whether the people of developing countries see both the short and long-term benefits of taking action to save the environment. Any solutions to the myriad environmental problems facing the earth must start with the active involvement and participation of communities which are both responsible for, and victims of, environmental degradation.

Environmental education can become an integral part of every nation's educational system. As we know, our ecosystem can be saved only by changing people's behaviour. Changing behaviour depends very much, as is being increasingly recognised, on all our environmental education efforts.

- SEACED -

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The Parliamentary Select Committee

The main opposition party - the SLFP - has decided to refrain from participating in the meetings of the Parliamentary Select Committee.

The SLFP being the major opposition party has a large number of members in the Parliamentary Select Committee - second only to the number of the ruling UNP members.

The Parliamentary Select Committee is headed by a member of the SLFP - Mr. Mangala Munasinghe - who proposed such a Committee in parliament.

Though the second largest group in the Committee has ceased to attend the Committee on a resolution passed by the SLFP, yet the formal notice of demise of the Committee has not yet been announced. And for very good reasons too in the thinking of the Sinhala rulers.

We had pointed out in these columns earlier that the appointment of this Committee is for the sole purpose of doing nothing to solve the Tamil national problem but only to aggravate and perpetuate it.

We have now been proved right.

The appointment of Committees to put off a solution to the Tamil national problem is no novelty in the island's politics. This deceit was liberally practised by the former President J. R. Jayawardhene. The current exercise is only a continuation of the same old deceit.

As far as the Tamils are concerned, they have no doubts. The Sinhala parties of whatever hue will not of their own accord either individually or jointly come out with any solution, which will ensure a solution to the Tamil national issue. If anybody wants to believe otherwise we cannot help his being disappointed in the end.

We have to say this because some well-meaning foreign governments and NGOs saw in the appointment of the Parliamentary Select Committee a step forward in the resolution of the Tamil national problem. No doubt those governments and NGOs must be disappointed but we are not, knowing as we do the Baudha-Sinhala ruling class.

It would here be appropriate to ask certain questions:

1. Did the Sinhala rulers try to get a consensus before depriving the hill-country plantation Tamils of citizenship and voting rights?

2. Did they try to work out some agreement before they carried out mass Sinhala colonisation of the Tamil homeland?

3. Did they try to work out any agreement before making Sinhala the only official language?

4. Was there a consensus in promulgating the 1972 and 1978 constitutions?

At the same time answers to the following questions would clear the air:

1. Did Mr. Bandaranayake consult every one before he concluded his Pact with Mr. Chelvanayakam in 1957?

2. Did Mr. Dudley Senanayake do so in 1965 when he concluded a Pact with Mr. Chelvanayakam?

3. Whom did Mr. Jayawardhene consult when he entered into an accord with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi?

The answers to these questions will reveal the hypocrisy of the process of Consultation, compromise and consensus through Committees.

This is a matter worth considering by those well-meaning governments and NGOs.

As far as we are concerned, there is not a drop of tear for the demise of the Parliamentary Select Committee. We are only happy that an exercise in deceit stands exposed to the world at large sooner than expected.

ECHOES OF VATTRAPALAI

Lone Survivor of Family

Sinthuja will tell the tragedy

Sinthuja (06 years) is today the only surviving member of a family of four from Alampil who went to the annual Pongal Festival at the Vattapalai Amman temple in the Mullaitivu District. On that fateful day of the 18th of this month - when the Sri Lankan Army encamped at Mullaitivu started artillery shell attack aimed at the thousands of devotees who had assembled at the temple premises for worship.

Ten persons died on the spot while many were injured. Some of the injured died on the way to the hospital and some died after admission to hospital.

Navaratnam (30) of Alampil in the Mullaitivu District had gone to the temple like so many others with his wife Sivanesam (28) and children Sinthuja (06) and Yugaranee (02).

As the shells began to explode Navaratnam, like so many others, tried to run away from the temple and from death with his family. He ran to the temporary cycle park shed, took his push bicycle and ran back to take his wife and children along with him to safety.

He had Sinthuja (06) seated on the bicycle bar and his wife with the other child has just mounted the pillion career of the push bicycle and Navaratnam was on his seat ready to take off to escape death.

Sivanesam the young wife of Navaratnam found herself in a pool of blood on the ground. She didn't see anything else. She had gone unconscious.

When Sivanesam woke up from her unconsciousness she found herself in a hospital. The bewildered woman did not see her husband or her children who were with her ready to run away to escape death.

She asked those at the hospital where her husband and children were. Well, it was a difficult question for those with a heart to answer. They told her that her husband and children were being treated at the same hospital for their wounds. She seemed happy.

"Ignorance is bliss," muttered a man nearby. He knew that Sivanesam's husband, Navaratnam, and the infant that was on her lap

at that fateful moment had died unknown to her right at the moment the shell struck them and she fell unconscious. All around knew that stark fact but no one had the courage to tell her the truth. They are not the heartless brutes of the Sinhala Army which unable to contain its armed LTTE adversaries indulges in murder of only non-combatant

ring fast. She didn't know they had predeceased her.

Thus ended the story of a young family who had just gone to a temple - maybe to fulfil a vow as Hindus generally do. Still there will be some one else to tell the tragedy that befell this family!

Sinthuja (06) the elder child who was on the bicycle bar



civilians - men, women, children and infants all alike.

Well, Sivanesam passed two further days of agonising pain and passed away into the realm of the other world with a false sense of satisfaction and hope that her beloved husband and infant daughter, Yugaranee were very much alive and recove-

has survived minus her right hand. She is still warded at the Jaffna Hospital.

Perhaps she will recover. She will live and however long she lives she can never get the tragedy of her childhood days erased from her mind because her lost right hand will always tell her the story of murder of her parents and dear sister.

English Academy Day

The Cardinal Newman English Academy celebrated its Academy Day on Wednesday the 20th of May 1992. The Chief-guest of the Day Rev. Fr. Francis Joseph, the Rector of St. Patrick's College, emphasised the importance of English in maintaining the standard of Education to-day. He also spoke on one of Cardinal Newman's favourite themes - "Conscience"

The fourth issue of the handwritten Magazine of the Academy "NEW MAN" the mirror of the literary and linguistic abilities of the brothers, was published on that day. Prizes were awarded to the winners at various competitions.

Among the well-appreciated items of the day were two plays, namely "The Intrepid Intervention" and the "Intruder" by T. Aras-

anayagam. The "Intrepid Intervention" was based on a story from the Book of Daniel. It emphasised the necessity of speaking the truth at the right time and in the right place to establish justice. The "Intruder" produced by the students of 1st year Theology reflected the present political crisis in Sri Lanka. Through the tragedy that befell a family the play brought out the traumatic experiences that our people are undergoing now.

The Cardinal Newman English Academy of St. Francis Xavier's Seminary has stepped into its fourth year; its present president is Bro. J. Francis and the Moderator is Rev. Fr. Michael Savundaranayagam.

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