

HOT SPRING

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Territorial integrity inapplicable

"The inviolability of a country's borders against invasion from the outside must be clearly separated from the right to statehood of any people within a state's borders."

Yelena Bonner, human rights activist quoted from New York Times in the publication "The Tamils Quest for statehood..."

Stunning Attack at Batticaloa & Trincomalee

In two separate stunning attacks carried out by the LTTE in Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts. 35 Sri Lankan soldiers died for one Tamil fighter.

Reports from Batticaloa stated that on July 29, morning the Tigers attacked a convoy of Sri Lankan soldiers at a place called Alankulam. The attack which lasted for only 12 minutes resulted in the death of 30 Sri Lankan soldiers. Many were wounded. One Tiger fighter also died.

The Army convoy was on its way from the Navalady Army Camp to the 6th Mile Post Army Camp when it was attacked at Alankulam just about a mile from the Navalady Camp.

A relief contingent from the Navalady Army Camp was also attacked by the

Tigers. One armoured vehicle was damaged and the Sri Lankan Relief Army, unable to proceed further, retreated to camp.

The LTTE covered a large haul of arms in this attack.

In the evening the same day a Sri Lankan Army truck was destroyed by a Tiger land mine when the truck proceeded towards Alankulam, the scene of the battle earlier in the day presumably to collect dead bodies. It is believed that S. L. Army personnel who travelled in the truck died and/or were wounded.

Later reports said that four Tamil civilians died when Sri

Lankan Army and Police opened indiscriminate fire on pedestrians in the villages of Thalankudah, Eravur and Urani.

Another report from Trincomalee stated that the LTTE attacked a Sri Lankan Army-Police Camp at Sambaitivu—a village five miles north of

Trincomalee town. The attack lasted for about 30 minutes. Five Sri Lankan soldiers were killed. There was no Tiger (Continued on Page 6)

Welikade Massacres Commemorated

A mass meeting was held on Monday, July 27 at the Avarankal Sivan Temple premises to commemorate the death of 50 political prisoners in Welikade jail in July, 1983.

The largely attended meeting was presided over by Mr. Kumaran, the political head of the LTTE in Valikamam.

Mr. V. Balakumaran of the LTTE, speaking at the meeting said that the Welikade massacres were a black

day in the history of the whole world.

"While Tamil prisoners were being massacred by thugs and convicts, a Sri Lankan helicopter was hovering over the premises. Parliament was sitting nearby. Some persons who were eye-witnesses to this tragedy are now in Colombo and India and are in the pathetic position of not being able to recollect or recount the tragedy," concluded Mr. Balakumaran.

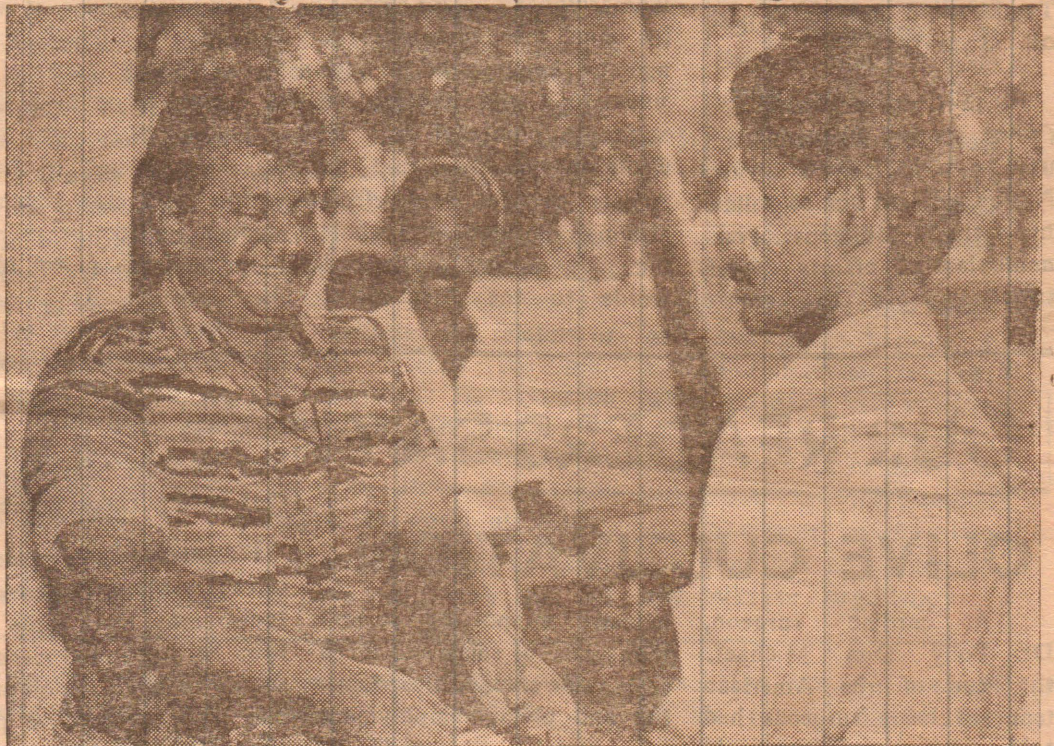
Several other LTTE leaders also addressed the meeting.

Posts of Translators

Vacancies exist for qualified translators (English to Tamil) with knowledge and experience in the field of technical and scientific terms and where necessary they must be sufficiently proficient to coin such terms in Tamil. Terms of Salary and employment prospects negotiable. Kindly report in person with testimonials to the following address during working hours on any day.

Technical and Scientific Publication,
'Sri Vidhya'
Aiyandar Koviladi, Thalladi Lane,
Thirunelveli, Jaffna.

Leader Makes Award



LTTE leader Mr. Velupillai Pirabakaran handed over prizes to eleven LTTE fighters who excelled themselves in the successful attack on the Sri Lankan Army Camp at Vannankulam in Chedlikulam. Picture shows Mr. Pirabakaran handing over a prize to Tiger fighter Eelavan. The ceremony took place on Tuesday, July 21.

Buddhism practised by Tamils also

— Prof. Peter Schalk

"Buddhism has been practised amongst Tamils between the 4th and 13th centuries A. D. There is, however, no evidence to suggest that Buddhism was the predominant faith," said Professor Peter Schalk of the University of Uppsala, Sweden delivering a lecture at the Jaffna University auditorium on Tuesday, July 28. Professor Schalk was speaking on the subject of Tamil Buddhism.

Professor Schalk referred to various countries where Buddhism was practised. He also said that there was evidence of Buddhist pract-

ices both in South India and Eelam. Buddhism was not the predominant religion but it had concentrated pockets in Nagapattinam, Kanchi and Madurai. Evidences of Buddhist practice in a few parts of Eelam suggest that the Buddhist culture in these parts were akin to the Nagapattinam Buddhist culture.

Manimekalai is the primary text in Tamil on Buddhist values. Some texts from Maduraikkanni and Netunavatai are also taken as evidence for the practice of Buddhism amongst Tamils even during the Sankam age,

Prof. P. Balasundarampillai, Dean of the Faculty of Arts presided.

For Readers' Attention

Due to numerous requests from our readers it has been decided to publish 'Hot Spring' weekly as from this week.

Our next issue will be published on Sunday, August 7 and thereafter on every Sunday.

Musings by Nestor

Presspersons do not appear to be inclined to leave Kumar Ponnambalam alone. Another Press Report states that before being admitted to the President's audience, he was searched from top to bottom. Kumar can have mental solace from the fact that another worthy from Ceylon, viz. Dr. N. M. Perera, had to face such a check when he visited Cuba supposed to be a comradely country. But the Comrades in Cuba were apparently not convinced that he was a communist comrade; perhaps they thought of him as a reactionary cum constitutionalist. *The trouble with Kumar is that he creates the impression of stepping into two boats. One cannot be both on the side of the fighters as well as the Fifth column.* His father showed in very clearly how the Tamils could pursue the path of Swaraj.

More than a decade ago (when Kumar Ponnambalam used to seek Nestor's advice) Nestor advised him to follow his father's footsteps. Ponnambalam's efforts over twenty years to secure

constitutional safeguards for the Tamils was not really unproductive of gains. The inclusion of Article 29 was the direct result of Ponnambalam's untiring efforts over twenty years. It is the duty of the intellectuals of today to build on the intellectual or constitutional base of the case for Eelyom Swaraj.

A polity is something sacrosanct because it is built on consensus. But the Polity of Sri Lanka, claiming jurisdiction over the North and East, as it does is founded on fraud and a clear breach of faith. The perfect legitimacy of the Tamil demand for Eelyom Swaraj and the complete lack of legal validity for the Sinhala Sri Lankan claim to encompass the North and the East was adequately and repeatedly conveyed to Kumar Ponnambalam by Nestor much more than a decade ago and he appeared to have understood and imbibed the same. In point of fact he wrote in the *Virakesari* an Article to the said effect although he spoilt the whole thing by writing at the end words to the effect that

these were his personal views. He did not however act upon the advice of Nestor to place before an Open Session of the Tamil Congress a Resolution to the said effect (The said article in the *Virakesari* was really penned at the instance of Nestor) Kumar Ponnambalam and other Tamil politicians are fully aware of the legitimacy of the Tamil demand for Eelyom Swaraj and the lack of legal validity for the Sri Lankan claim to encompass the North and East and are really observing a conspiracy of silence not to outline and propagate the legitimacy of the Tamil demand for Swaraj and the total lack of legal validity of the Sri Lankan claim for sovereignty over North and East.

Jurisdiction Challenged

Another incident is worth remembering. Kuttimany and his associates were charged in the High Court of Colombo. The whole Court went aghast when the Tamil youths, in a stentorian voice, challenged the jurisdiction of the Court to try them as they were citizens of Eelyom

and the incident on which they were charged did not take place in Sri Lanka but in Eelyom. But the Tamil United Lawyers' Front which volunteered to defend Kuttimany and the others did not pursue or press or support the plea of no jurisdiction put forward by the accused. Instead the Tamil lawyers told Court that they would raise the lack of jurisdiction in the Supreme Court. What Rubbish? If you yourself go to a Court, you admit its jurisdiction. Jurisdiction could be challenged only when you are forcibly taken to a Court with an indictment. Kumar Ponnambalam used to appear in some politico-criminal cases. Nestor advised Kumar Ponnambalam to select an appropriate politico-criminal case and challenge the jurisdiction of Sri Lankan Courts on the grounds that the incident took place in the Northern or Eastern Province and that the Sri Lanka and its Courts had no jurisdiction over the place where the incident took place (exactly as Kuttimany pleaded) Politicians can talk nonsense but a Judge cannot. When

confronted with unchallengeable legal position, talk nonsense and a constitutional crisis will emerge.

Nestor trusts that at least now (after being checked to nudity) he realizes the soundness of Nestor's advice that he should follow his father's policies. Father, G. G. Ponnambalam posed before the British the demand for constitutional safeguards on the footing that the population of the Island was not homogeneous, that it consisted of two different nations, the Sinhalese and Tamils and that Britain who put them together should provide constitutional safeguards to protect the numerically weaker Tamils.

The demand for federalism was really an ill-conceived interlude conceding that the Sinhalese and Tamils formed one people and that the need was only a change in the mechanism of Government. A federal demand does not relate the constitutional position of the Tamils with Article 29 of the Dominion Constitution which pre-supposes the conditional character of the polity. It is the conditional character of the polity which caps the thesis of two nations and provides the sheet-anchor for the Liberation Tigers' demand for a sovereign Tamil State of Eelyom.

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OUR READERS SAY

OLIVE CULTIVATION

A cardiac surgeon, Dr. Tony Don Michael, the head of the American team of heart surgeons had told a press conference in Colombo that the "arteries of patients in Sri Lanka were narrower and the cases were more complicated than in the States". (Page 7 Sri Lanka News dated August 21, 1991). He had also told people "to avoid heart disease was to avoid smoking, avoid coconut oil, eat more fish. Check cholesterol level and avoid heavy meals at night".

In U. S. A. and Canada people will not touch coconut oil or biscuits or other food products containing coconut oil. They will not touch coconut oil even with a ten feet pole. They have developed such aversion to coconut oil.

It is high time we should find a substitute oil especially for those who have cholesterol problems. Export of olive oil will bring in much wanted foreign exchange. In California olive growing is a multi million dollar

industry supporting several thousands of small and large scale growers and their families and giving employment to several thousands of people. In spite of the large scale production of olives in California, olive oil is expensive and they have to import olive oil from other countries because of the large scale consumption. In the Supermarket a bottle of 32 FL. OZ (946 ML) Extra Virgin Olive oil (No Cholesterol) cost U. S. Dollars 9.29 (Rs. 390.18). People are health conscious and there are people who have the money to buy olive oil at this high price. Olives are also good to make pickles, sweet preserves, salads etc. The ponnac is fed to animals. Oil producing varieties of olive plants and plant cuttings can be imported from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, China etc. These countries are closer to home and air freight will not cost much. Perhaps Air Lanka will transport them free of charge - low or

not grow the olive plants from the seeds as it will take long time to bear fruit and may have got cross pollinated.

Pakistan had introduced olive trees over 20 years ago. India may have done that too. Sri Lankan Government should import the oil producing varieties of olive plants and sell them at a subsidized price to farmers, planters etc. who are interested to plant them. Olive plants can be planted between tea bushes and coconut trees, in marginal lands where other trees or crops will find it difficult to grow. Olive trees contribute to soil conservation. Olive trees will grow very well in the Jaffna peninsula and the Dry Zone (Vanni) areas. On 11th September 1991 I visited a 50 acre olive plantation in the desert (maximum 10 inches of rain per year) of Southern California. This olive plantation is making lots of money.

Do not wait for researches to be done by the Agricultural Department (Research & Horticulture Division, Kandy) which did not even acknowledge my letter dated 20th March 1991 on the subject of Date

pala, gotu kola, karapincha and jasmine. Their research will take several years of delay, waste of time and money and narrowing of more human arteries. Use common sense as your guide. Import the olive plants or the cuttings and plant them and then take it from there. Research findings can be obtained from other countries, F.A.O. etc. Sri Lankan Government's help, support and encouragement are very important. Wish all the best for the olive growers. Your readers could write to me for more information etc.

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Havoc by Navy at Pt. Pedro

The armed forces of Sri Lanka are taking the Government and the people for a ride. This is evident from the news item published in the Sunday Times of April, 26th '92. The news item was published on the front page, under heading - 'Navy nets big tiger catch' - The L.T.T.E

Sea Tigers, were dealt a crushing blow this week, when the Navy sank 11 of their crafts off Pt. Pedro - the Navy Commander said. There after the news item narates that the Vice-Admiral Clancy Fernando said that a possible transfer of weapons from a merchant vessel - etc. Why the merchant vessel was not crushed, is a simple question anybody will be tempted to ask. These people by their cock and bull stories are not only making an ass of themselves, but misleading the Government and the peoples of Sri Lanka.

According to local news papers, in this episode, two people died, one Umapathy Sivrajah, father of eight children and one P. Sellathurai father of five children. They are ordinary fishermen, hailing from Pt. Pedro. Claiming these people as sea tigers is nothing but absurd. The Navy after killing ordinary civilians and damaging their fishing crafts, should not issue false statements.

It is most unfortunate that senior officers should stoop down to such low level, most unbecoming of them and the responsible position they hold.

Meesalayan,
Meesalal

Lalith Chases Another Lost Cause

Furtive or Open Attempt Cannot Succeed

Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali was projected as an 'intellectual' and did enjoy much power during the time J. R. Jayewardene was in power. But this 'intellectual' did lot of silly things and proved himself to be not all that he was projected to be.

As the notorious Minister for National Security in the Jayewardene Government, he devastated Tamil Eelam and ensured stiff opposition from the Tamils to all of Jayewardene's manoeuvres. His handling of the war only helped to bring in a foreign country into the scene and pretending to be a Sinhala hero he kept mum about the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord but allowed speculation that he was opposed to it! Perhaps there was the 'intellectual' need to play safe to retain his position because he probably would have hoped and wished more than anybody else - that he would be the successor to J. R. Jayewardene - that is if the latter bowed out. In the end however it did not happen.

Then he announced a dramatic turn in the affairs relating to the JVP. Finally 'Senanayake', his letter and all the stories about the JVP coming to terms were all proved fake. Lalith had only been given a long rope and he avoided hanging himself with it by eating humble pie.

His most dismal failure came when he entered the conspiracy of the impeachment motion against President Premadasa. In this too the Keselwatte plebian outwitted the Oxford educated 'intellectual' and today Lalith finds himself out of ministerial portfolio, parliament and the UNP and is not sure whether he is leader - or only co-leader with Gamini Dissanayake - of a new political party which is bound to have only a temporary existence.

Exercises in intellectual dishonesty

The Colombo press and other government media occasionally keep on reminding the Tamils that there is a conglomeration of all sorts in Colombo called Tamil parties or groups. This conglomeration we are told recently met Lalith too and Lalith has tried one of his fast ones on this conglomeration.

Lalith appears to have shown his 'intellect' to this conglomeration. In reply to a request from the conglomeration that Northeast must remain merged he has said that the boundaries of the Eastern province should be re-demarcated. He has not told that he would support merger on that condition. What a clever display of 'intellect'? But he has exposed himself by saying that the Muslims and Sinhalese should be allowed to decide on merger.

Lalith's complaint is that the boundaries of the east are not satisfactory. They were created by colonial masters according to their own wishes. The colonial administrators rode on horse back and demarcated the areas for their own convenience.

Lalith says that the situation is NOW different and the communities and their identities should be recognised

according to a new re-demarcation of boundaries in the East.

What interests the Tamils is his remark that the colonial masters demarcated the boundaries for their convenience. Does he not know that the colonial masters - be it noted again for their convenience - really destroyed the boundaries separating Tamil Eelam from Sinhala Rata and brought in a unified

KUMARAN

state? It is because the colonial masters removed the demarcation between Tamil Eelam and Sinhala Rata - not physically but administratively - that today Lalith and his ilk - the Baudha Sinhala chauvinists all speak of unity, territorial integrity and so forth. We do know that the crocodile tears for unity is being shed - not because the Baudha Sinhala chauvinists are really concerned over the unity of the two peoples but because this cry of unity will ensure the right of

the Sinhalese to rule the Tamils for ever and for ever.

In any event it appears that Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali has only heard of colonial masters riding on horseback and demarcating boundaries ONLY IN THE EAST. He has not complained of the boundaries being unsatisfactory elsewhere.

Lalith has said that the situation is NOW different and therefore a re-demarcation of boundaries in the east is necessary. But this is a dangerous proposition even for him. The situation is now different in the hill country too and if boundaries have to be re-demarcated to 'recognise communities and their identities' a Tamil hill country province too has to be demarcated according to Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali's proposition. He may ride on a donkey's back and see for himself the position there.

Non - negotiable

The Tamils know how Sinhalese people have been introduced into the east deliberately by the Sinhala Govts.

to change the demographic pattern of Tamil Eelam. The furtive attempts at land grabbing are now openly and brazenly undertaken by military attempts. Both methods of Sinhala chauvinism are opposed by the Tamils.

If Lalith believes he can fool the Tamils he is mistaken. It appears that even the conglomeration which trumpets that it has joined 'the democratic process' and 'main stream politics' (echoes of their Master's Voice) but moves with arms under Sinhala Army protection as if both are comrades - in-arms has not gulped all what Lalith said. After all the territorial integrity of Tamil Eelam is not negotiable.

The trouble with Sinhala chauvinists is their refusal to appreciate that the island is not one country though the colonial masters unified the administration for their convenience. The geographical expression Ceylon - comprises two countries Sinhala Rata and Tamil Eelam.

(Continued on Page 4)

VERY LIMITED ASSISTANCE ONLY

Jaffna Red Cross Branch Resigns in Protest

The Jaffna Branch of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has resigned as a body stating that it is not possible for the Committee to carry on its tasks in view of the lack of active assistance from the National Head Quarters in Colombo. The letter of resignation addressed to the President of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society states that the Branch Committee had only very limited assistance from the National Head Quarters, Colombo, or ICRC or the Federation (IFRC).

The letter signed by the Jaffna Branch President and Secretary, Dr. C. S. Nachchinaraniyan and S. Sivanantharajah respectively reads as follows:-

You are fully aware of the fact that as the war situation worsens and the people in this part of the country are displaced in large numbers in their own homeland, SLRCS Jaffna Branch Head Quarters has taken upon itself the task of providing relief to them. It is important at this point that problems like unemployment, destitution and semi starvation be looked into.

The following steps were taken by the SLRCS Jaffna Branch Head Quarters to deal with the situation, but unfortunately with very limited assistance from the National Head Quarters, Colombo or the ICRC or Federation (IFRC).

(a) The Branch had been active in forming Divisions, Units and circles to enlarge the projects of First Aid train-

ing and disaster preparedness. Through the development of the branch we were in a position to carry our basic needs of the humanitarian activities quickly and effectively.

But the National Head Quarters failed to facilitate and encourage the branch development. If there is no branch development at this hour of need to meet disaster situation, we cannot imagine any other suitable time for this.

(b) The continuing armed hostilities have disruptive effects on transport communication. The seriousness of this was explained many times to you, but it has not been a priority for the National Head Quarters, SLRCS, Colombo or the Federation or ICRC. An overhead projector allocated to Jaffna more than a

year ago for P. H. C. educational programme is still lying in Colombo due to lack of assistance to transport.

(c) It is indeed very painful to note that when so many other NGOs bring fuel, educational material and drugs, the National Head Quarters, Colombo with federation, and ICRC delegation, etc. has never been in a position to help us with these at such a critical hour of need. We requested for one barrel of petrol that could last for two months to be transported by ship enabling the branch Executive Committee to function. We were not supplied with same but several governmental and non governmental organisations are transporting many barrels of petrol every month by ship.

(d) Emergency stocks of food, drugs, clothing and big tents were not made available even to provide the basic needs for the displaced.

(e) In order to help the families of the displaced fishermen to earn their living without depending on 'relief' a fishing project for 9600 families was submitted to ICRC, reluctantly we had to

accept the offer of providing nets and gears to 3200 families only by the ICRC. One year has lapsed since the beginning of discussion in June 1991, we are sorry to note that no steps towards materialising the project has been taken so far.

We note with regret that we are unable to carry on with the tasks we took upon ourselves, under the prevailing attitude of the National Head Quarters Colombo.

We take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for whatever help and co-operation extended to us during our tenure of office.

Copies of the above letter have been sent to:

1. Head Sub Delegation, ICRC, Jaffna.
2. Head of Delegation in Sri Lanka/ICRC Colombo.
3. President, ICRC, Geneva.
4. Head IFRC Delegate in Sri Lanka, Colombo.
5. President, IFRC, Geneva.
6. Regional Delegate NOR Cross, Colombo and
7. President, NOR Cross, Norway.

Industrial Potential - Jaffna District

Fruits and Vegetables

Possibilities for Industrial projects from fruits and vegetables could be listed as follows:-

Cordials from Palmyrah, mango, tomato and grapes.

Jam from palmyrah, mango and tomato.

Sauce from tomato and chillies.

Chutney from mango, tomato and chillies.

Wine from grapes.

Pickle from chillies.

Preserves from ash pumpkin.

Starch from dried and powdered plantain, and a project for the

Canning of mango, jak and plantain.

Root Crops

A project for the manufacture of starch and sago from manioc could be started almost immediately. This could effect a considerable saving in foreign exchange. There are also possibilities of manioc earning foreign exchange as it could be exported in a semi-processed state for use as raw material for starch making abroad. Provender industries and those for manufacture of poultry food could also be based on manioc. Also available are beet root, potato and sweet potato which with their sucrose and starch content should be able to promote many industries.

Groundnuts could provide the raw material for a margarine and soap making Unit. Groundnut cake left after the extraction of oil can be used in the provender industry.

Palmyrah

A project to make Jam, Cordials/Essences from the palmyrah fruit alone or in conjunction with other fruits such as tomatoes are strong possibilities.

A milling unit should be established to convert the par boiled roots (Pulukodiyal) and the roots in a raw and dried state (odiyal) into flour. With sufficient publicity, this product should have prospects of an export market too.

A project to bottle toddy as an alcoholic beverage is strongly recommended. In due course with improved methods of tapping a quality juice could be provided to produce a more refined product analogous to mediated wines which could be sold under brand names.

A project to manufacture jaggery out of sweet toddy and the manufacture of toffee

using the palmyrah fruit and jaggery should also be considered. A unit to make woven products (quality baskets and other containers) out of the leaves is also possible. palmyrah leaves could also be used as raw material for the manufacture of paper.

Fisheries

A sizeable expansion of fish production through mechanization of craft and adopting new techniques is a pre-requisite for the industry.

The setting up of a plant for the canning of fish and turtle flesh should be given immediate consideration.

A rapid expansion in supply and the scientific processing of Beche-de-mer, prawns and lobsters should be encouraged as there is an increasing demand for these products abroad, particularly for Beche-de-mer in countries like Singapore.

The setting up of a fish meal and liver oil extracting plant should also be considered. The processing of by-products like shark fins for an export market in Singa-

pore and the production of animal feed should also be encouraged.

An expansion in the production of dried fish depending inter alia on the expansion in production of fresh fish with better curing and processing methods is also necessary.

A processing unit at the estate for dried fish along with one for Beche-de-mer, prawns and other sea foods should prove useful.

The setting up of ice factories should also receive priority.

Animal Resources

Judging from the livestock and poultry raised in the North Ceylon there should be prospects for provender and poultry food industries. A modest tanning plant is also possible, as there is an annual production of 4,800 pieces of skin. Egg production could be increased so as to reach markets outside the peninsula. Increased milk production can lead to the production of butter and cheese which in turn could also yield skimmed milk too.

There are also possibilities for the manufacture of chicken essences and canning of meat and soups.

Tobacco

Cigar making units adopting modern mechanised methods of production for bringing about changes in the size and quality of cigars to suit the present day consumer tastes could be established. Packing in attractive cigarette type boxes should promote sales. The manufacture of 'Manila Cigars' which has a foreign demand potential should also be taken up. Expert advice from outside may be called in to assist in the production of such types of cigars, as this would have to be a modern cigar making unit and catering to an export market and turning out a very refined and sophisticated product.

Fibres

Palmyrah Fibre: Extraction of fibre from the bifurcated base of the leaf stalk of the palmyrah palm is a well developed industry in South India. This fibre could be processed and dyed too. Much useful information as to its

use and extraction should be available in South India since such fibre has been introduced and exported for generations. There are prospects for such units in the estate.

The fibrous rib of the leaf is also an article of trade and could be used for the making of quality brooms and brushes. (They are now used for weaving of basket ware and 'onion koodus'). Commercial exploitation of this product should be given priority; especially because it was once given a start with some equipment and machinery by a private entrepreneur but we could not pursue the venture solely due to lack of finance.

A Unit using the soft fibre of the seed, which is comparable with coconut but superior in softness of texture, for making mattresses and upholstery should also be given consideration. This unit should work in collaboration with the Units which utilize the pulp of the palmyrah fruit for producing food items.

Regenerated fibre could also be produced from the palmyrah stalks.

(From IDB report)

COLOMBO NEWS

Outrageous Chauvinism-Media Twist Vannankulam Debacle and Nehru's Retreat

The Tamils in Colombo thronged to the Kathiresan Temple, Bambalapitiya during the recent Adi Vel Festival and offered Pooja to Lord Murugan to bestow upon President Premadasa strength so that he could bring peace to the country. This is news from Colombo. How could Mr. Premadasa bring peace to the country, when he had cut the soil under the feet of the Tamils by declaring that the UNP was against the North East merger, the main plank on which any solution to the ethnic problem rests? It is not all the Tamils in Colombo who are offering pooja to Lord Muruga for this purpose but it is only those who stay close to Kathiresan Temple who have high hopes for their own future at the feet of Mr. Premadasa.

It was earlier said that it was the Britishers who were famous for their policy of 'divide and rule'. But the Hela Urumaya group is also now playing this game.

Recently Mr. Tilak Karunaratne, Member of Parliament and Secretary of the Hela Urumaya has taken upon himself the burden of fighting for the rights of the Muslims of Sri Lanka. Referring to the four point formula placed by the Colombo Tamil groups, the Hela Urumaya has released a report. The report condemns these Tamil groups as outrageously chauvinistic. It has also criticised

S. Thiagarajah

the Muslim Council and states that they are being taken for a ride and that they have been beguiled into accepting a Muslim Council which would be subordinate to the Tamil-dominated Provincial Council. Hela Urumaya has become the Muslim Araksaha Sabha. It is using the word 'chauvinistic', whereas the mother of Hela Urumaya, the SLFP is now more chauvinistic than what it was throughout and motivated pro-Indian in addition! What can you expect from Hela Uumaya which is throttling

the neck of the SLFP itself in its vehemence against the Tamils?

Chauvinism

Speaking of chauvinism, the Sinhala mass media is openly exhibiting this sentiment in a big way. Recently, there was a cartoon in 'The Island' depicting Thondaman riding an elephant with a 'rod' controlling it. The insinuation is that the 'rod' controls 6 lakhs of voters. This cartoon is, no doubt used to point out that Mr. Thondaman is controlling the UNP with his six lakhs of votes of the Tamils of Indian origin. Can anything be worse than this? Suppose the SLFP comes to power with not enough majority to rule the country, will it not seek the favour of Mr. Thondaman, if he is returned to Parliament in all the electorates where the Tamils of Indian origin could decide the winner?

Media Twist

There is another interesting story and picture published by 'The Island'

(Sunday Edition) of 12. 7. 92. In its anxiety to boost the morale of the armed forces and to satisfy the war mongers among the Sinhalese, a photograph was published in the front page of 'The Island' and its caption read as follows:- "A wounded Tiger in the offensive being waged by the Security Forces in the Jaffna Peninsula being carried away by his colleagues". The photograph actually shows a badly wounded soldier being carried away on a makeshift stretcher by two of his

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Lalith...

(Continuation from Page 3)

It is only on a recognition of this fact that unity between the peoples of both countries can be achieved and built.

Recourse to any other step-even shedding crocodile tears for the Muslims who have nothing in common with the Sinhalese - is not going to lull the Tamils. So let Lalith abandon exercises in intellectual dishonesty even if it be for the amusement of the conglomeration only.

A PAGE FROM MY DIARY

International Indifference & Indian Treachery aid Sinhala racism

23rd July 1991 - On this day Sellakili who attained martyrdom in 1983 is being commemorated. Naturally I recollect the traumatic events of July 1983.

Like so many other Tamils I had been leading a posh life in Colombo. I was so absorbed in my profession and leading such a mechanical life that I was completely oblivious of the larger political context in which we Tamils were living.

The race riots unleashed against the Tamils in Colombo City itself was a rude shock to many Tamils. On the 25th July 1983 from early morning Sinhalese mobs were attacking Tamils. Their houses and vehicles were burnt. The entire Wellawatte area was enveloped in thick black smoke from the burning of properties of the Tamils. Not knowing what to do I was watching from the balcony of the house where I was staying in Wellawatte. How characteristic of us, the Tamils, that we were so unprepared and individualistic and defenseless that each family was anxiously waiting until each one's house was attacked.

Although I have heard of race riots against the Tamils from 1956 onwards this was my first personal experience. I had to flee from my own house with my family and undergo humiliations and agony in the process of trying

to escape from organised hooligans who were visibly aided by the Sinhala Security personnel. We had to spend the night in the compound of the burnt out house and the whole house with my large collection of books acquired over a period of over two decades, large collection of Cassettes of my favourite devotional songs, my radio, television and my new air-conditioned Datsun car, all

S. Selvarajah

the foreign acquired clothes and all the belongings were burnt to ashes. We escaped with virtually only the clothes we were wearing on. The streets of Colombo were littered with a large number of burnt out cars. It was Vel festival time and all the decorations were burnt out and the temples were flowing with Tamil refugees. Two days later when the curfew was lifted the streets were jam packed with Sinhalese people and buddhist monks on a sight seeing spree. They were enjoying the sights of the burnt out Tamil houses and the properties and were indulging in looting wherever possible. The worst was that black Friday when a number of our friends got killed by the Sinhalese mobs.

The shock and pain of mind of the July 1983 experience was so intense that I decided

that I shall not live among the Sinhalese any longer. The humiliation suffered was such that I did not feel like going abroad once again and leading a comfortable life which will be emotionally a hollow one. I felt that although I was leading an exemplary life I was humiliated because I was a Tamil. So my family and I took a conscious decision that we shall go back to our home town and lead a simple life which will be more meaningful.

Our life in the Jaffna Peninsula since 1983 continues to be an eventful and meaningful one. In the history of a nation only very few people will be privileged to live in such a glorious period though under very trying circumstances. Tamils who have been very good obedient servants under the various Colonial rulers and continued to be so under the present Sinhala Colonial masters failed to assert their right in the past. Now under the present youthful leadership Tamils have begun to assert their right to their own statehood. Tamils who could not even defend themselves in an organised manner have now made such tremendous progress that their liberation fighters have so organised themselves that they are able to carry out offensive actions against a marauding oppressor.

Of course, the racist Sinhala government which was

orchestrating mob attacks against the Tamils to cow them down in the past in Sinhala areas has now started carrying out wholesale military operations on genocidal scale to destroy the Tamil homeland. We have undergone far worse incidents of attacks by the Sri Lankan army and the Indian army than the race riots of July 1983. On a number of occasions we had to abandon our town and the entire people of the area had to flee.

On a number of occasions hundreds of ignorant Tamils of our village were massacred both by the Sri Lankan Army and the Indian army. Our own houses in our homeland are being damaged and destroyed. For days together we had endured massive air attacks. Naval attacks and heavy artillery attacks which are still continuing. Now we are enduring the economic embargo under a siege of the Jaffna peninsula. There is no electricity or transport facilities for over two years. But none of these oppressive measures have shaken us the way we were shaken when we were living in the midst of the Sinhalese.

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Musings by Nestor

(Continuation from Page 2)

Had Kumar Ponnambalam posed before President Premadasa the legal position that there was 'no Mandate' to create the Republic of Sri Lanka from the voters of the Northern and Eastern Province his humiliation of being checked to nudity would have been worthwhile. His willingness to be subjected to a check to nudity could be regarded as an act of heroism. It could be an act of moral courage to vindicate the claim of Eelam Tamils for self-determination. He could be deemed to have fought the battle on the constitutional plane to state our cause before the world at large.

There is really no occasion to have talks with the Sri

Lankan Government, except, as Pirebhakaran observed at the time of the Thimpu Conference-

- (i) to agree to demarcate the boundaries of Eelam and Sinhala Lanka; and
- (ii) to formulate proposals for a BENELUX type of Union between Eelam and Sinhala Lanka.

The merger of the North and East cannot become a subject of discussion or talks; when we deny legal validity of the Republic of Sri Lanka to encompass the North and East, the question of the merger of the two Provinces has no place in any talks or negotiation.

COLOMBO NEWS....

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comrades. This photograph was taken by Mr. Greg English for Asia week. This same source had supplied the photograph to the Sunday Times too. Sunday Times also published the same photograph in its front page on 12.7.92 and had as its caption 'Troops in operation Balavegaya carrying a wounded soldier on a make-shift stretcher...' Can you beat this? Is it not misreporting or twisting of facts? It is nothing but a deliberate lie. If you are getting bashed, is it journalism or fair reporting to say the exact opposite of what happened? A look at the photograph will reveal on which side of the fence the injured party is. This is going too low.

Vannankulam debacle

In this context, it is interesting to note how the news of the successful wholesale annihilation of the Vannan-

kulam Army Camp (Vannankulam has been re-named by the chauvinistic Sri Lankan Government as Katupotha) has been reported in Colombo. The Island of 13.7.92 reported that about 400 strong Tiger detachment, called Unit 19, had attacked this Camp. It was also reported that a large number comprised Tigresses who played a lead role in the attack. The number of the attackers was bloated to belittle the attack without realising the fact that the Tigers had taken the fight into enemy territory itself, by passing several army check points and sentries. The same incident was reported in the Daily News of 13.7.92. Here too, in order to assuage and hoodwink the Sinhalese masses, it stated that the Security Forces had given a fight and even killed the Tigers who had been engaged in the assault on this Camp.

It said "Heavy casualties were reported as Sri Lanka Air Force Sia Marchetti fighter-bombers and helicopters located and attacked late Saturday evening a group of 100 terrorists who had raided the Security Forces out post at Katupotha on the border of Vavuniya and Mannar districts. Here the raiding force was reduced to 100 tigers and the 'Army Camp' had become an 'Out post'. Only solace is that the 'Daily News' has not changed the sex of the raiders from 'Tigers' to 'Tigresses'.

Unitary Constitution

Even Tamils in Colombo know that in 1977 all those candidates who contested in the North, acknowledged Eelam. Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam's All Ceylon Tamil Congress was not an exception. Mr. Motilal Nehru was a candidate who contested in 1977 in the North. In fact he too accepted Eelam when he contested in 1977 even though he was not returned to Parliament. In

an interview to Brian Jaganathan published in the Sunday Times of 12.7.92, Mr. Motilal Nehru states "The Tamils are only asking the Sinhalese leaders to allow them to look after their affairs in their own territories. This is known as devolution of power under a Unitary Constitution". From when did Nehru give up Eelam? Is it after he became 'President Counsel' in President Premadasa's Government? Whatever it is, one should not push away the ladder by which one climbed to power, viz. the All Ceylon Tamil Congress. It does not mean that ACTC is toeing a correct line. Mr. Nehru is also very much worried that the SLFP by adopting a rigid stand could push the Tamils to the end of the tether which could result in the break-up of the country. In this attitude, he is showing his true colours. No doubt his vested interests in Colombo will not permit him to even think of a division of the country. That is, of course

personal to him. But persons of his calibre should not consider themselves as politicians. They can mind their business but to come up the ladder one needs a back-ground.

Another point may be raised in this context. Lawyers know that a Queen's Counsel can appear in the Courts of the Commonwealth Countries. The late Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam, who was enrolled as an Advocate in India, appeared before the Indian Courts. A President's Counsel is not however, a 'Queen's Counsel'. A President's Counsel cannot, however, appear before a Court in India. Being very well conversant with these facts, Mr. Nehru has come out saying that he is going to defend some of the accused in the Rajiv Gandhi murder trial. Is it to be in practice and politics at the same time like the earlier Tamil and Left politicians? Or is to gain cheap popularity?

HOT SPRING

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Ranasinghe's Speech

We are glad that at least one Sinhala Member of Parliament - and that too a State Minister - has been bold enough to state a stark fact. We refer to the reported speech in parliament by State Minister for Information, Mr. A.G. Ranasinghe. He is reported to have told parliament in the course of his speech that the Parliamentary Select Committee appointed allegedly to find ways and means of working out a scheme for political settlement of the island's Sinhala - Tamil problem would never find any solution to the problem.

We ourselves had no qualms on that. We have more than once stated in these columns that the appointment of that committee was intended to see that no solution ever came and was intended to cheat all especially international opinion.

Parliament had been one of the chief instruments of oppression of Tamils. The Sinhala parties have been competing with one another to capture power in parliament always whipping up Sinhala chauvinism against Tamils to harvest votes at elections. It would be an endless story if one were to illustrate this stance of the Sinhala parties with examples. Suffice to say that many Sinhala politicians and even others have accepted this state of affairs at various stages.

It would therefore be nothing but sheer madness to believe that the Parliamentary Select Committee would produce any result and Tamils certainly are not suffering from this malady. We, therefore, congratulate Mr. A. G. Ranasinghe for his bold assertion of a stark fact.

Mr. Ranasinghe also seems to have told parliament that in his view federalism is the solution. Federalism as a form of Government for the whole Island was put forward first by the Kandyans. Later even the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake once advocated federalism. But when Mr. Chelvanayakam advocated federalism it was said to be Tamil communalism. Finally Mr. Chelvanayakam came to the conclusion that the only solution was restoration and reconstitution of Tamil Eelam. Though Mr. Ranasinghe has made bold enough to challenge J.R.'s constitution and his Sixth Amendment and all, he seems to have failed to realise that federalism as a form of Government to solve problems of nationalities has proved a failure and this lesson of history is just contemporary that he cannot overlook it. Instead of buying arms from Czechoslovakia one may well emulate the recent political settlement there.

We would wish to reiterate that the restoration and reconstitution of Tamil Eelam is the best guarantee for peaceful co-existence of the Sinhala and Tamil peoples without interference from others.

A PAGE....

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The Tamil Community has made vast changes in their mental outlook. Large number of youths have taken up arms to carry on the liberation struggle. Tamil girls in their thousands from all walks of life and family backgrounds have joined the liberation struggle and taken up arms. In effect the whole Tamil Nation has synchronised itself under the leadership of the L.T.T.E. to establish its own Sovereign State.

It is in this background that one is unable to understand the general indifference of the International Community to the genocide that is being carried on by

the Sinhala government of Sri Lanka and the glorious liberation struggle of the Tamils. Of course, there are notable exceptions. Countries like Australia, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and Canada have in no uncertain terms expressed their willingness to mediate between the L.T.T.E. and the Sri Lanka Government. Naturally the Sri Lankan Government wishes to militarily continue to oppress the Tamils. It is here that the Tamils feel betrayed by the villainous conduct of our neighbouring country, India. It is a matter for regret that a large country like India, instead of helping to use its position to help solve the dispute, has been indulging in mean acts of fishing in our troubled

'SARVODAYA' EXPOSED DONORS STOP FUNDING

It is learnt that many foreign donor organisations have stopped donating funds to Sarvodaya, led by Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne. The reason for the stoppage of donations is said to be disillusionment caused to the donors in the manner in which foreign funds have been expended by Sarvodaya.

It is learnt that the Netherlands Organisation for International Co-operation (Novib) had sent a monitoring team to Sri Lanka in March 1992. Similarly the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) monitoring

team also had looked into the working of the Sarvodaya in May 1992.

These donor agencies had not been satisfied with the working of the Sarvodaya, feeling that funds received by it were really not being spent for the purposes for which they were donated.

Knowledgeable sources said that foreign donor agencies were dissatisfied that the funds meant for rehabilitation work in the Northeast were being utilised by Sarvodaya for colonisation of Sinhalese people in the East with a political and racial motive.

The UK NGO - ITDG is also reported to have stopped funding Sarvodaya,

"The stoppage of funds to Sarvodaya by these foreign funding agencies is likely to result in the separate North-east Development Rehabilitation Fund being closed down by the Sarvodaya which however would be welcomed by the people because Sarvodaya has been trying to colonise Tamil areas with Sinhalese under pretext of rehabilitation. The Sarvodaya leader has been working in this field in close collaboration with political bhikkus". (Sinhala Buddhist priests), these sources added.

July 3

Cheethanaveli, a village in the Trincomalee District was surrounded by the Sri Lankan Army who carried out indiscriminate firing in the village. Twenty Tamil civilians reported injured.

July 6

Refugee Camps set up at Chempianpattu with ICRC participation and run by the Red Cross came under heavy cannon fire from Sri Lankan Navy. Some buildings including private houses were damaged. Refugees abandoned camps and moved away to Nagarkovil and Mamunai.

July 7

S. L. Forces encamped at Karainagar carried out artillery shell attack directed towards the villages of Ponnalai, Moolai and Chulipuram. A number of civilian dwellings were damaged.

Two civilian Tamils shot dead at Vantharumoolai in Batticaloa by Home Guards.

Two Tamil civilians, Kanapathipillai Navaratnam and Ponniah Kidnapillai were shot dead at Alankulam in the Batticaloa District when S. L. Army opened indiscriminate

fire there. Six other civilians were arrested. S. L. soldiers were reported to have looted jewellery belonging to the women at Alankulam.

July 8

A Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Stores, Lorry Driver, K. Gopalan died at Paranthan when a shell laun-

NEWS IN BRIEF

ched from the S. L. Army Camp at Elephant Pass hit him.

One man was shot dead and a girl was injured at Karadiyan Aru in the Batticaloa District by Home Guards.

July 12

Heavy artillery shell attack on villages in the Mannar and Vavuniya Districts. Thanneerooru in Mullaitivu also subjected to heavy artillery shell attacks. Refugees who stayed at Thanneerooru moved to Oddusuddan and Puthukudiyirruppu.

July 14

Two Tigers died in a fight at Karukkaitivu, near Elephant Pass. Army casualty is not known.

July 15

An Avro plane belonging to Sri Lanka Air Force dropped barrel bombs along the coastal areas of Kitali.

Stunning..

(Continuation from Page 1)
casualty. Many Sri Lankan soldiers escaped with injuries.

The Tigers who took control of this camp later completely destroyed it.

At the same time LTTE fighters also attacked two Sri Lankan Army sentry points in the area. One was at the Sambaitivu bridge and the other was at Aanthimodjai in Sambaitivu. The Sri Lankan soldiers in these two sentry points escaped with injuries. The Tigers who captured both sentry points destroyed them and burnt them. A very large haul of arms was recovered by the Tigers in this attack in the Trincomalee District.

Applications are Called for Short - Term Counselling Training Program

The Association for Health and Counselling calling for applicants who are interested in pursuing an intensive training program in psychological Counselling. The training will take place on weekends and it will be held in English. Preference will be given to residents of Killinochchi, Vavuniya and Mannar. Please write or contact.

"SHANTHIYAHAM"
21, First Cross Street,
Jaffna.

for your application form. The closing date for applications is 20th August 1992.

Executive Director