

HOT SPRING

Vol. 2

23rd August 1992

No. 45

Why This Apathy?

"I See that the World Council of Churches is Sending a high-powered delegation to Los Angeles (Scene of rioting in April following the court verdict in Rodney King case) but nothing has happened of that nature for Sri Lanka"

Rt. Rev. Dr. D. J. Ambalavanar,
Bishop of Jaffna quoted
in Ecumenical Press Service.
14-6-92.

OPERATION EARTHQUAKE LAUNCHED OVER A LAKH DISPLACED FIGHTING CONTINUES—

Sri Lankan armed forces began offensive operations code named Operation Earthquake early on the morning of Thursday, August 20 in the Valikamam area. The war is going on for the third day Saturday (22-8-92) at the time of writing.

The launching of the new offensive was preceded by a week long artillery shell attack, 50 calibre gun attack and sporadic attack by helicopters and the Sri Lankan government announced the imposition of an indefinite curfew from 7.00 a.m. on the morning of Thursday, August 20.

But about 5-30 a.m. that day Sri Lankan Forces started moving with tanks and armoured vehicles on two fronts in Valikamam. One thrust was directed towards the south and the other west.

Artillery shell attacks continued to pound the whole area, and people vacated their dwellings and ran to safer areas.

Civilians Killed

At least five people were confirmed killed on the first

day's attack. Many people were injured. A large number of houses have been reported damaged.

The Sri Lankan Army said that two of its soldiers died on the first day of fighting, there was no Tiger casualty.

Western Front

On the western front news indicated that the Sri Lanka army had proceeded towards the village of Ilavalai.

Fighting continued for the second day too. When the Sri Lankan army reached Mathagal coast heavy fighting broke out. The Tigers said in a statement that four

of their cadres fell fighting at Mathagal and also inflicted heavy losses on the Sri Lankan forces. The Government of Sri Lanka however only said that one of its soldiers died.

Refugees

The on-going war has rendered a lakh of people dis-

placed and in-need of food and shelter. Residents from Ilavalai, Silalalai, Mathagal, Pandaterripou, Marisankoodal and other adjoining areas totaling hundred thousand have taken up refuge in schools and temples in other safer areas.

High Court of Madras Prohibits Compulsory Repatriation

The Madras High Court, it is learnt, has made order that the repatriation of Tamil Eelam refugees from Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka, should be stopped till August 27 on which date the Court will inquire into two petitions presented to it seeking a restraining order against the Government prohibiting it from compulsorily repatriating Tamil Eelam refugees in Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka.

Dr Ramadas, the leader of the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and Mr. P. Nedumaran, the leader of the Tamil Nationalist Movement,

filed petitions in the high Court of Madras seeking a restraining order against the Government of India.

The petitioners in their petition had stated that refugees from Tamil Eelam were being repatriated to Sri Lanka by compulsion or threat of compulsion.

It is learnt that the Madras High Court which entertained the petitions, after listening to the petitioners' submissions, made order fixing further inquiry for August 27 and enjoining the Government not to proceed with repatriation of Tamil refugees till the same day.

KUMAR ADMITS:**'But for Tigers we would be kicked out'**

Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam, the leader of a Colombo 'Tamil group' (The All Ceylon Tamil Congress) has, it is reported, told a Colombo based paper that but for the LTTE the government would have thrown them all away.

According to Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam the Government feels the existence of an ethnic problem because it

is battling with the Tigers. If there is no war with the Tigers the Government would have thrown them all away.

Mr. Ponnambalam has further said that this was not his view only. Some other groups have also accepted this - but they are ashamed to accept it publicly.

If the Tigers are eliminated every one will kick us.

The first to receive the kick will be those who boot-lick Premadasa. Our turn will come only thereafter.

Mr. Ponnambalam has also criticised President Premadasa for his exercise to find a solution to the ethnic problem by means of consensus arrived at the Parliamentary Select Committee. According to Mr. Ponnambalam this is a futile exercise and President Premadasa is fooling them all.

M. P. FOR JAFFNA WHO FORGOT JAFFNA

Ex-Moscow Wing Communist Party cum TULF Member of Parliament for Jaffna is reported to have proved himself a 'true patriot of Sri Lanka' by releasing the De-centralised Budget allocation for his District, viz. Jaffna to another District, Matale which he does not represent. The amount concerned is Rs. 450,000. Mr. Navaratnam, who like the Colombo Groups operates from Colombo, knows that there are several schools in Jaffna destroyed by the military operations and need repairs. There are schools without extra facilities. These facts are well known to Mr. Navaratnam who happened to belong to the non-tutorial staff of a leading college in Jaffna. He was also said to be an active trade unionist while in that service. With all these background he had transferred his De-centralised Budgetary allocation to another District. Is he angry with the people of Jaffna for having returned him to Parliament (may be an accident?) Or is he taking political vengeance?

TAMIL ISSUE AT N. A. M. SUMMIT?

Mauritius, an Indian Ocean island off Madagascar, may take the Sri Lankan issue before the forthcoming Non-Aligned Summit to be held in Jakarta in early September.

Mauritius Foreign Minister, while expressing his country's concern regarding the actions pursued by the Sri Lankan Government over the Tamil people, has stated that his country would welcome any efforts taken to resolve the Tamil problem either on a regional basis or by any other means. The Mauritius

Foreign Minister who is on an official visit to India, has made the above comments at a Press Conference in Madras.

He further stated that he was leaving for Australia next month to conduct talks on the above lines and thereafter he would proceed to Sweden and France to have further talks with the leaders of those countries on the Tamil question.

In this connection, it might be recalled that it was the Prime Minister of Mauritius who for the first time as a

head of a UN Member State raised the Sri Lankan Tamil issue at the General Sessions of the UN Assembly following the July 1983 pogrom on humanitarian grounds.

Mauritius has a permanent Tamil population which is politically highly influential and it was the Tamil Temple Federation which was responsible for persuading its Prime Minister to raise the Tamil issue before the UN in 1983. Whilst in Australia the Foreign Minister is expected to attend the World Tamil Cultural Conference which is scheduled to be held there.

The Parliamentary Select Committee - A Mystifying Fiasco

The Parliamentary Select Committee is an ingeniously conceived filibustering forum designed to thwart the persisting burning issue - the Ethnic Problem. The redundant All Party Conference (APC), after two and a half years of existence, another appendage of 'Sri Lankan Democracy', is the other malignant exercise.

UNP-SLFP connivance

What has surfaced recently tends to indicate an apparent connivance between the two major parties - the UNP & the SLFP, to sustain and perpetuate the Sinhala feudal elite's sway over the political destinies of this Island - a ruinous phenomenon!

But the glaringly obvious factor is that the APC & PSC are just 'window dressings' to exhibit to the outside world that, here is a genuine effort to solve the ethnic problem, without which the in-flow of foreign aid would not be forthcoming.

Pacts and round table conferences, accords and amity talks; secret agreements and understandings - these were the sickening forerunners, we have had - aborted fiascos! Foreign aid enticing perfunctory appendages!! Very much aware, it is another attempt at intellectual dishonesty. The zest for peaceful co-existence, and of course, the inherent yearning for the right to recourse to fundamental human rights, have urged the peoples of this island to have faith in the PSC. The answer lies with Mangala Munasinghe, the chairman.

The much-abused, otherwise noble concept or rather phenomenon - Democracy, currently facing the worst dilemma in the Island, confronts issues such as that of commissions of inquiry, Presidential Commission, election petition trials etc. as well. Across the Palk Straits, 'mighty big brother' is an idiosyncratic exhibitor of sinister democratic or wider monumental lapses.

The Varma and Jain Commissions in so far as we are concerned lack not only democratic ethics but also exhibits perverse Indian jurisprudence.

The ingenious modus operandi is that neither a time limit is envisaged at the

very outset nor, pressing issues which warranted judicial pronouncements, a basic public 'know-how' are pursued with dexterity to arrive at solutions within a reasonable time limit. "Justice delayed is justice denied" has become a dictum of yester-years - present day malady, the reverse.

It was during the Oct./Nov. sittings of the Sri Lankan Parliament in 1991,

Arunthathi

Mangala Munasinghe, the SLFP Member of Parliament for Kaluara District, brought in a Private Member's motion that a PSC be appointed to work out a solution to the ethnic problem. This could have been an SLFP motion, if there had been conscience within the SLFP or a sincerely conceived effort therein, to solve the ethnic issue. Perhaps aware of the lack of political will within the SLFP, Mangala Munasinghe had to resort to

a Private Member's motion. The UNP parliamentary group not only accepted the motion but also backed Mangala Munasinghe as Chairman, thus passing the buck into SLFP court. So ensued the connivance of the two major parties to procrastinate solving the ethnic issue. However, after a lapse of eight months, the President declared that a time limit has got to be stipulated for the 43 member PSC to place its findings. By the end of July, 1992, we hear a responsible Minister - the Minister for Information, Mr. A. G. Ranasinghe telling Parliament that the PSC would never find a solution to the Sinhala-Tamil problem. Both the major parties are yet to place their proposals on the PSC table. In between the SLFP pulled out of the PSC for a while.

Canada Trip

Earlier a funny episode occurred to warrant delay in the PSC sittings. The Chairman, Mangala Munasinghe went over to Canada to study the feasibility of adopting

the Canadian type federal constitution here. Has it been accepted then, seven months back, in principle by the PSC participants to adopt a Federal Constitution? Otherwise, a two-thirds majority need to change the Constitution from a Unitary to a federal type cannot be achieved, i.e. without the united efforts of the UNP and the SLFP. The hilarious comedy about the Canadian jaunt by the PSC Chairman was that here in Sri Lanka there is no political scientist competent to enlighten the PSC about the Canadian Constitution. Recourse to the Canadian

Embassy in Colombo would have been magnanimously obliged. Further, if an amalgam of the Canadian and other federal form of constitutional framework is needed, the Commonwealth Secretariat is there to help. Now in August, 1992 we hear the PSC is there to study implementing the federal type of constitution in Sri Lanka. What a farce? Is not the PSC a filibustering forum? It certainly cushions the accommodation of the 'Tamil Groups' in a desperate bid in Colombo fighting for their "breathing space".

(to be continued)

SUPREMACY IN OLYMPICS

The States in the former Soviet Union once again have proved their Supremacy in the world sports, by capturing the first place in the 25th Olympic Games which were concluded on 9th of August 1992 at Barcelona.

Further, it is very interesting to note that in the last Olympic Game (1972, 1976, 1980, 1988 & 1992) Soviet Union

was the leading Medal winner. In the year of 1984 Soviet Union did not participate in the Olympic Games, which was held in Los Angeles due to the dispute between United States and Soviet Union.

Here are the detail of medals won by Soviet Union in the last five games:-

		G	S	B	T
Munich	1972	50	27	22	98
Montreal	1976	49	41	35	125
Moscow	1980	80	69	46	195
Seoul	1988	55	31	46	132
Barcelona	1992	45	38	29	112

OUR READERS SAY

COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

The war in N.theast is taking its own agonising course without the healers succeeding a wee-bit.

First there was something called an All Party Conference which died a natural death without anyone shedding even one drop of tear. Then a Parliamentary Select Committee came up. People knew that this Committee, too would not bear any result. Now the State Minister for Information has forthrightly said so.

Ironically UNP has appointed recently another Committee of its own under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. For what purpose, are all these Committees?

The UNP and SLFP are carefully watching each other's move in order to find an axe to grind and win votes, but in the result both do not move but only watch.

Perhaps after these Committees too die a Presidential

Commission may emerge! It will be always a case of Commissions and Committees doing nothing. They are mere eye-wash. As head of government the President must take firm and bold decisions to end the war and settle the problems.

S. JAYARATNAM
Chavakachcheri.

JUSTIFIABLE?

News paper reports say that India is harbouring some 400 JVPers including the JVP leader, Mr. Somawansa Amarasinghe.

The JVP resorted to violence to capture the government of Sri Lanka. It was noted for its anti-Indian stance. It called for boycott of even Indian goods - so much so that all Indian products went out of the market and traders put up boards in Colombo saying that they had no Indian goods for sale. Lalith Atulathmudali, then as Minister for External Trade, even changed the name of Mysore Dhal because Mysore was the name of an Indian city but the Dhal itself was purchased

from the Middle East. Such was the anti-Indian feelings of the Sinhalese engineered by the JVP. In short JVP advocated and practised violence to capture power locally and was also anti-Indian. But now India is harbouring this group.

India is also harbouring another person called Varamarajapuram at a cost of 24 lakhs of rupees per month. This person is a leader of one of those groups which had dictated violence and joined the 'democratic process' and 'main stream politics'. Nevertheless he too is a refugee in India for whose upkeep the Indian Government is spending so lavishly.

The Third group of refugees in India are the poor Tamils of Tamil Eelam. They fled

their homes because of the marauding Sinhala Army killing and maiming them and looting and laying waste their property. They escaped to India only to save their lives. They had high hopes because of their own racial, linguistic and religious identity with the people of Tamil Nadu.

It is the third group of refugees - Tamil Eelam refugees - whom India is now forcing out of India though the war situation in Tamil Eelam has escalated.

The actions of the Indian Government seem to be both anti-Sri Lankan and anti-Tamil Eelam at the same time. Is this justifiable?

S. S. SUBRAMANIAM
Mulliyawalai.

WE ARE A NATION

"A nation is defined as a people who had firstly a virile, advanced language and culture of their own, secondly a distinct history of their own and thirdly occupied a separate territory of their own. By every scientific test of nationhood known to political science, the Tamils and Sinhalese constituted two distinct nations."

Senator Dr. E. M. V. Naganathan
quoted by Times of Ceylon as early
as November 21, 1949.

Fall of Another Dutu Gemunu

"You require luck at every turn but it is enough for us, if it comes at least once". This was stated by an Irish freedom fighter, when the Irish Republican Army was attacking the British government elites with bombs. This Statement has been proved correct with regard to the killing of Major General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, Brigadier Vijaya Wimalaratne and others. It is stated that Denzil escaped death by a hair's breath during Operation Liberation. In the same way Vijaya Wimalaratne, it is stated, escaped death during Bala Vagaya I. But luck deserted them in the open space at the edge of Leyden Islands. The decision taken by the two commanders and their immediate top ranking battle front officers to travel in one vehicle was a stroke of luck for the Tigers who never enjoyed such chance before.

Sinhalese call Kobbekaduwa another Dutu Gemunu. An old man who participated in Kobbekaduwa's last journey told the Rupavahini correspondent sadly, "Kobbekaduwa died for the Sinhalese race". A Sinhalese youth said, "I realize that his death as mine". There was a big banner at the Kannatte ceremony depicting as if Sri Lanka were weeping.

This is the first time in the history of the Sri Lankan army where a Commander earned such unique respect. The rise of Denzil started with Operation Liberation. The Second Eelam war raised him to the status of another Dutu Gemunu. Particularly at the start of the Second Eelam war Denzil led a contingent of three thousand troops from Polonnaruwa to recapture the towns in the east which were in the hands of the Tigers. When the army strengthened its positions there, Denzil gravitated to the position of a Dutu Gemunu. It was then that he began to dazzle the eyes of the politicians. Thereafter he was transferred to the North. He was not to be seen in the newspapers. It was said in Colombo that the Premadasa government did not like an army commander rising above politicians. How did Denzil acquire such

an influence among the Sinhala community where no other commander or politician could achieve?

Important reason is his family background. He was a Kandyan Sinhalese. He belonged to the so-called high caste, the Goikama. The name Kobbekaduwa is already well known to the Sinhalese. Together with this feather on his cap, he displayed heroism in the fight against the Tigers which raised him to the level of a romantic character. But this time the *Ellalans* forestalled the Gemunu. Now it has been revealed that if the commanders had not been killed, an attack on Jaffna would have been started in a small or big way. As being said in journalistic circles, it is doubtful that Denzil will have waited for the end of

the Nallur Festival or the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) examination.

It was because that the morale of the army was at a low ebb owing to the continued bashing they received last month in the East and Vanni. Observers

Nilanthan

say that in order to boost the flagging morale of the troops, it is necessary for Cecil Waidyaratne to achieve a big victory. They say that such a handsome victory could only be achieved in Jaffna. If that were so, was Denzil about to start the Battle for Jaffna?

Critics, however, point out that this loss would eclipse all the victories achieved in the North. There is going to be a surprisingly vast gap between the

experiences the dead commanders had and the experiences of the commanders who have now assumed office. There are already the plans formulated by the Denzil group. However, will the new commanders wish their maiden battle be a decisive battle?

Will the battle to boost the morale of the troops result in sapping whatever morale the troops have at present? Or, with a view to gain experience in the Northern battle front, will they start battles outside the Peninsula in a big way or inside the Peninsula in a small way?

The land mine which burst without much ado in the open space at Araly Junction, looks, as if, it could determine the course of the entire war. It has affected the Sinhalese elite very badly.

When the news of the death of the commanders was brought to the notice of Prime Minister Wijetunge, he is reported to have remarked, "We who live in this world for only a short period, why should we fight one another or find fault with others?" Prime Minister is said to be a vegetarian and an orthodox Buddhist. Like King Asoka after killing

about one lakh people in the Kalinga war began to think about the impermanence of life, so is the Prime Minister trying to talk ethics after losing the Gemunu in the open space at Araly Junction?

President Premadasa has described the dead commanders as 'Protecting Gods'. Sinhalese already have belief in Protecting Gods. Accordingly the Sinhalese believe that in order to safeguard "Dhammapala" from the aliens, Lord Buddha invoked the aid of our Protecting Gods and they were Vishnu, Kinnari, Murugan and Uruthiran who are at the same time Gods for Hindus as well. Although this belief could be traced to the Mahavamsa period, historians think that this idea took definite shape after the Cholan conquests in 11th century A.D. It is not certain with what meaning President referred to them as Protecting Gods. But what these commanders started in 1987 viz. Operation Liberation (similar to what was to have taken place) was the factor that invited voluntarily the aliens into the Island of Sri Lanka. Has the President forgotten this?

- Courtesy - Eelanatham

COLOMBO NEWS

Kobbekaduwa - everyone's darling

President Premadasa participating in a meeting at Kegalle, came out with a statement that the late Denzil Kobbekaduwa had met him on Tuesday prior to his being killed on Saturday the 8th instant and had expressed the view that he was against the continuation of the war because it was causing immense difficulties to the Tamils and Muslims and that he had insisted on a peaceful solution.

S. Thiagarajah

to the ethnic problem. Premadasa is trying to depict Denzil as a peace-loving person. Or is it that he is attempting to convey a message to the army and the people in general that war was enough? Whatever it is, this statement is tainted with politics. But can anyone reconcile this desire of Kobbekaduwa with a statement he is reported to have given to Lankadipa on 11-7-92 that he would bring the war to an end in an year. This statement is said to have been made at Tantirimale Vibare in the presence of the Chief Incumbent who subsequently succumbed to a grenade attack. Everyone knows the chauvinistic calibre of the said Chief

Incumbent. Would that Chief Priest have tolerated Denzil, if he had any sympathy for the Tamils and Muslims?

Srimavo Bandaranaike and the SLFP are also trying to score on the death of Kobbekaduwa. He being a relation of Srimavo, nephew of the Presidential Candidate Hector Kobbekaduwa and the grandson of Dr. T.B. Kobbekaduwa of the 1920 Kandyan National Assembly fame, makes him a hero among the Kandyan Sinhalese. That is why Srimavo gave hurried statement that all should fly white flags over their houses and business establishments. She had also requested the people who attended the funeral to pay homage to Denzil by carrying white flags. At the same time she exhorted the Government to declare a day of mourning. This is one reason that the Government hurriedly finished the funeral of Denzil. Other organisations like Hela Urumaya, MEP etc. are using the death of Denzil for their own purposes by posing Denzil as another Dutu Gemunu in their propaganda to divide the North from the East.

All the Opposition parties have jointly requested the Government to stop the war. These people who were for the continuation of the war and the destruction of the LTTE suddenly seem to have a change of heart. Why? All these days, except for one or two, all the soldiers who died, came from the ordinary class, sons of peasants and fishermen. But now the nine who died, came from the elite class of Sinhalese society. Their obituary notices in the newspapers reveal how well they were connected with high class elites. This class got the shock of their lives and on this account are all clamouring to stop the war. Who said classes are all finished with the eclipse of Communism in the Soviet Union and in East Europe? Curiously enough there is another group called Tamil groups operating in Colombo. The question mark over them is what type of operation? These groups are all for the continuation of the war against the Tigers. Immediately after the killing of Denzil and others, these groups jointly requested the

Government to commence the attack on Jaffna without delay and destroy the common enemy. They very well know that an attack on Jaffna will result in the massacre of thousands of innocent Tamils. It is against these innocent Tamils that these groups want the Government to wage war. The EPRLF went further and said that the Government was reaping the benefit of its past support for the Tigers. This group is only expressing its Master's Voice, viz. that of India. They have, of course to make this statement because they are indebted to India even for their bare existence itself! "The Hindu" has also recently said that the Tamil groups in Colombo are worried that India has not evinced any interest in the ongoing tussle in Sri Lanka for a solution of the ethnic problem. They seem to think that without Indian intervention peace cannot be established in Sri Lanka. These groups are not anxious for a peaceful solution but are worried about their own existence. If peace comes to Sri Lanka without India, what is the position of these Tamil groups operating in Colombo?

HOT SPRING

VOL: 2 Sunday 23rd Augus 1992 ISSUE: 45

Why cannot the war be stopped?

If Prime Minister, D. B. Wijetunge's remorseful lamentation, when first informed of the killing of the High Command of his government's armed forces in Jaffna, that he could not understand why we should fight one another when all our lives were short in this world and if President Premadasa's revelations at a Kegalle meeting that the late Lt. Gen. Denzil Kobbekaduwa had met him four days before, his death and told him that the war should be stopped, had made outsiders feel relieved that there was a prospect of the killing - the genocide in Tamil Eelam - receding, the speech of Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe, the Cabinet spokesman, who flew into Palaly Army Camp would have dashed all such hopes and promises of a better future. As for those of us in Tamil Eelam speeches do not convince us because the deeds are so dreadful.

Two days after the killing of top armed forces, men at Araly junction in Kayts, Sri Lanka's Super-Sonic jet bombers were pounding the village of Navatkuli in Thernmaradchy. A pregnant mother died on the spot, several were injured, houses damaged and other destruction wrought.

The agreement to keep Jaffna Hospital area a safety area was breached for a second time by the Sri Lankan armed forces on August 18 and the ICRC has brought this breach of agreement to the notice of the Sri Lankan Government.

Ranil Wickremasinghe's speech therefore to the Government's armed forces at Palaly that the best homage to the dead military leaders was to prosecute the war and his ready assurance of the government's fullest co-operation to carry on the war, though nothing strange to the people of Tamil Eelam, must certainly have been very disappointing to those who wish to see an end to the killings and destruction.

The history of the Island and the history now being enacted should convince all that the war and carnage in this island cannot be stopped for all time by the Sinhalese enjoying the right to rule the Tamils under misleading terminology such as unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity etc. The Tamils are not obliged to suffer Baudha - Sinhala rule but are entitled to rule themselves in their homeland.

Current events in the world outside clearly indicate the acceptance of people's right to self-determination. What had been only a right acknowledged and accepted by humanity in the form of Declarations, Conventions etc. by the UNO and its Specialized Agencies is today taking practical shape in the form of the blossoming of new nation states out of old conglomerate states.

The Sri Lankan Government is able to carry on a genocide of the Tamils thanks to foreign aid and donations. The international community must appreciate that the Government of Sri Lanka is laying waste the Tamils and their homeland because it is able to get foreign aid. The Tamils of Tamil Eelam are carrying on a defensive war only with their own poor resources and iron determination.

The foreign aid being received by Sri Lanka Government is the chief source of its strength to commit genocide. Which is the country which carries out aerial bombardment of areas and people which it claims as its own? It is only Sri Lanka which even puts into action Super-Sonic Jet bombers to bomb territories it falsely claims to be its own.

Foreign donors can help to end the genocidal war by refusing to give aid until the war ceases. This is perhaps an effective way in which these countries can help to end the war and war will surely end if the donors tighten their purses.

FOREIGN AID UTILIZED FOR GENOCIDE

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ADDRESSES DONORS

"The major part of the genocidal war in Northeast is being financed by the Government of Sri Lanka out of funds provided as aid and loans by well-meaning countries like yours. You have a responsibility to prevent flagrant violations of human rights and genocide of a race and we would invite you to send your own representative to the Northeast to obtain authentic and first hand information as to what is happening here", states a letter addressed by the Jaffna Citizens' Committee to foreign envoys in Colombo whose countries are donors to Sri Lanka.

The letter which reads as follows has been sent to three High Commissioners - viz. Australian, Canadian, and U. K. and to five Ambassadors - those of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, America and Switzerland:

We are aware of the efforts made by your Excellency and by your government to convince the Sri Lankan Government to stop this war and commence negotiations to arrive at a political solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka and we are very grateful to you for this.

We are also aware of your attempts to restrain the Sri Lankan Government from violating fundamental human rights of the Tamil people.

It is evident that the Sri Lankan Government is bent on finding a military solution to this problem, and with this end in view, is carrying

on a number of major military operations in the North East, using even Super Sonic bombers. The latest in this series is the pronounced attempt to capture Jaffna which will invariably lead to very heavy civilian casualties.

In this context we regret to observe that the Government is successfully misleading the International Community by suppressing factual information regarding the genocidal attacks against the civilian population with the intention to fool the International Community by making out that the war is only against the LTTE Cadres and all those killed are armed fighters. To the best of our knowledge, so far over thirty thousand innocent unarmed men, women and children have lost their lives in the North-east Province and over ten

thousand are "missing", apart from a large number maimed or injured.

We regretfully observe that major part of this war is being financed from funds either donated or loaned by well meaning donor countries like yours. These countries are made to believe by the Sri Lankan Government that all these aids and loans are being utilised for development purposes.

As a democratic civilized country providing large scale financial assistance to this Country annually, we feel that your country has a responsibility to play a meaningful part to prevent this flagrant violations of human rights and this genocide of a race.

We, therefore, urge that without relying on government information, you obtain authentic first hand information by sending your own representatives to the North East. It would be preferable if you could arrange to set up a Regional Office in Jaffna and monitor the events. We will be pleased to assist you in this regard.

Six Policemen Killed in Batticaloa

Six policemen were killed and five injured in Batticaloa District on Saturday, August 15 when the LTTE carried out a lightning attack on them.

The news in this connection state that when on Saturday, August 15 that Sri Lankan policemen from the Police

Station at 36th mile post came out to remove road-barrieres they had put up for safety during the night, LTTE fighters carried out

a lightning attack on them lasting only three minutes.

Six policemen were killed and five wounded. The LTTE recovered some arms and ammunition.

COMMEMORATION OF DR. E. M. V. NAGANATHAN

A public meeting will be held on Sunday, August 30th, 1992 at 3.00 p.m. at Ananda Vidyalayam, Kalaimagal Ward, Arivalai to commemorate the 21st death anniversary of Dr. E. M. V. Naganathan former M. P. for Nallur. Mr. P. Kanapathipillai, retired teacher will preside. The public meeting is being organised by the Thanjai Chelva Commemoration Committee.

TAMIL CAUSE WAS NOT THEIR OBJECTIVE

Even during their presence during Varatharaja Perumal's vassalage as Chief Minister, N. & E. Provinces, about 100,000 Indian troops saturating the entire N. & E. provinces, it happened that a whole district with the Sinhala name Welioya was carved out of areas exclusively inhabited by Tamils for centuries - Manal Aru, Nayar, Kokkilai, Temmaravadi and Kokkuthoduwai. It was neither the objective of the Accord and IPKF nor that of EPRLF and Varatharaja Perumal to safeguard or champion the Tamil cause.

S. Sivapalan quoted in Lanka Guardian of June 1, 1989.

SPORTS

Cricket

Ariyalai Club beat Patrians by four wickets in a 30 over Tournament match played at Ariyalai.

Football

In a veterans match (over 40) played at Arivalai, St. Roche's beat St. Nicholas by 7-2. Mr. Pilendran officiated.

In another match Singing Fish beat Kennedy Club by 1-0 after a scoreless first half. Mr. Thambirajah controlled the game.

St. Roche's beat St. Anthony's by 2-1 in the finals of the over 40 Soccer match played at Ariyalai. Mr. Sebastiampillai officiated.

At Urumpirai K. K. S. Young Royal beat Urelu Royal (B) by 3-0. Mr. Arulpiragasam controlled the game.

- Vijayakumar

New Era Publications Ltd. 201, Main Street, Jaffna.