

# HOT SPRING

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No. 46

## A ploy to buy more time

Those of us who have carefully observed the Select Committee feel that it is yet another ploy to buy more time to find a military Solution.

Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Bishop of Jaffna, quoted in Tamil Nation - July, 1992

# Daring Attack on Defence Chain

LTTE fighters in a daring attack broke through defence line set up by the Sri Lankan Army between Vettrilaikerni and Elephant Pass inflicting heavy loss on the Sri Lankan Army.

The news in this connection states that in the early hours of Friday, August 28 the LTTE attacked a series of sentry posts in the line of defence set up by the Sri Lankan Army at Sinnamandalai near Vettrilaikerni

## Kalmunai

### Tamils' lands given over to Sinhalese and Muslims

Reports from Kalmunai state that the Government of Sri Lanka has handed over lands adjoining the sea-shore at Kalmunai to Sinhalese and Muslims settled there after the current war broke out.

According to the reports these lands were occupied by Tamil fishermen for ages. Consequent to the war and the reign of terror set in by the Sinhala Army and Muslim thugs, the Tamil fishermen were displaced and fled as refugees elsewhere.

It is learnt that 800 Sinhalese and Muslim families were settled in the lands abandoned by the Tamils after the out-break of war.

The report now says that the Government has issued Instruments of Disposition of these lands once held by Tamils to the Sinhalese and Muslims settled there. The report adds that government officials are engaged in providing various amenities to the Sinhalese and Muslims settlers as an incentive to get them occupy these lands.

breaking through the defence line. Nine sentry points came under LTTE control. They were later destroyed by the LTTE.

Ten Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and many wounded. Others had fled to the Vettrilaikerni camp.

The Tigers also recovered a very large haul of arms including a RPG, and R.P.G. shells.

Tiger sources in a press release said that the attack lasted only ten minutes. Four LTTE fighters died in this daring attack.

## Shell attack on Civilian Dwellings

The Sinhala Army encamped at Mathagal launched heavy shell attack directed towards neighbouring villages of Pannipulam and Silalai.

The attack which commenced on the early morning of Thursday, August 27 lasted for two long hours.

Some civilians who were injured have been admitted to the Jaffna hospital. Large numbers of civilian houses have been badly damaged.

## REFUGEES - A SERIOUS PROBLEM NGOO Grapple

As a result of the three-day military operations by Sri Lankan armed forces which began on August 20, over twenty thousand families from villages in Valikamam North and West Divisions have been displaced and are living as refugees in other parts of the Jaffna peninsula, according to statistics collected by the Council of NGOO (Jaffna District).

According to the Council of NGOO, people from the following villages have been displaced in very large numbers. The villages are Tellipalai, Alaveddy, Ilavalai, Pannalai, Vilan, Pandaterippu, Mathagal and Araly.

Families displaced from these villages are now living as refugees. Nearly 6174 families have been accommodated in temporary refugee camps set up in various schools, temples and churches in five AGA's Divisions in the peninsula.

Out of the 6174 families 1200 families in twelve camps have been given in charge of the Tamils' Rehabilitation Organisation. The TRO will be responsible for the maintenance of the camp refugees.

There are 3353 families in seventeen refugee camps in Sandilipay AGA's Division. Relief work in these camps will be undertaken by Tamil Refugees Rehabilitation Organisation and Save the Children Fund (SCF) - (UK).

Fourteen refugee camps with 1195 families in the

Chankanai AGA's Division will be in charge of FORUT.

There are smaller number of refugee camps in the AGA's Divisions of Kopay and Thenmaradchy.

Jaffna had already in its fold over 100,000 refugees even before the latest displacement and Relief Organisations were finding it difficult to cope with the problem of looking after them. Now with the present increase in the number of displaced persons by a further one lakh of people the strains and difficulties have been accentuated. NGOO officials said they were doing their best.

Most of the displaced persons are accommodated in private houses of relations and friends, said an NGOO official.

## Sea Tigers Create History

A Special Squad of Sea Tigers captured a Sri Lankan Naval Speed boat anchored off Mandaitivu coast.

This daring and lightening attack by Sea Tigers took place in the early hours of Saturday 29th August.

The Speed Boat 42 feet long and 12 feet wide, equipped with two jet engines and other sophisticated weapons, was seized right under the very noses of the Army and Navy personnel of the Joint Operation Command at Mandaitivu. This boat had been widely used on patrol duty in the Northern coasts.

In this capture the Sea Tigers suffered no casualties on their part and have carved for themselves a niche in Tamil Belam naval history.

Following this capture Sri Lankan helicopters frantically scoured the area firing at random. Army also followed suit with a spate of shelling around 2-00 a.m. Saturday, 29th.

## Alampil Tigers Attack Sri Lankan Army Sentry Posts Several Arms recovered

The LTTE carried out an attack on four Sri Lankan Army Sentry points near Alampil Sri Lankan Army camp and recovered arms and ammunitions from the Army.

According to the report in this connection LTTE fighters launched an attack on four sentry points of the Sri Lankan Army Camp at Alampil in the early hours of Monday, August 24. The attack lasted for 30 minutes.

The LTTE also launched attack on Sri Lankan soldiers from the main Alampil Sri Lankan Army Camp who tried to go for the rescue of the sentry points.

Soldiers from the main camp returned to camp unable to proceed to relieve the sentry points. Thereafter the Sri Lankan Army launched artillery shell attacks from the Alampil and Munthirikaikulam Army Camps directed towards the scene of the battle.

The LTTE successfully carried out the attack on the sentry posts and recovered several arms, ammunition and other military ware.

The Tigers estimated that at least 4 Sri Lankan soldiers were killed. But other reports later said that seven Sri Lankan soldiers were killed.

The Tigers lost two of their men.

## Heavy fighting at Mathagal

Heavy fighting broke out at Mathagal between the LTTE and the Sinhala Army on Thursday, August 27.

The reports in this connection state that at 7-00 a.m. on Thursday, August 27, the Sinhala Army which had earlier occupied certain portions of Mathagal moved towards Tiger positions there.

Intense fighting broke out

between the two sides which lasted for half an hour.

The Sinhala troops which tried to move forward abandoned their move and returned to camp.

The Sinhala army is believed to have sustained heavy casualties which caused its retreat.

LTTE said that nine of its fighters died including Lt. Col. Rajan, a senior LTTE cadre.



# Pathetic Plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka

From 1956 onwards the Sri Lankan Tamils were attacked physically and mentally. They were injured, killed, their properties were looted, damaged and burnt. Irrespective of the position of the individuals all the Tamils living down South were subjected to very unfavourable treatment. A good number were made refugees. This vandalism had the blessings of Cabinet Ministers, members of parliament, theros and ninety nine per cent of the Sinhala armed forces. These people encouraged and instigated the ordinary Sinhalese people to harm the Tamils in whatever way possible. The Tamils in the Capital city of Colombo were the most affected lot. They lost all their possessions and were made refugees. A good number of these people were sent to Jaffna and Batticaloa by sea and land. Even cargo ships were requisitioned under the emergency regulations for this purpose. 1983 riots were well planned. Residences owned and occupied by Tamils were identified from the Assessment Registers of Colombo Municipal Council and other local authorities and also from the telephone directory. The seriousness of the 1983 riots could be judged from the fact that fifty two people who were in government custody in a prison were murdered. A good number of these were unconvicted people who were on remand. The Minister who was in charge of the prison administration should have resigned forth with. This never happened and you can't expect such a thing to happen in Sri Lanka.

## North East

The Tamils when they were in difficulties during frequent riots were rushed to north and east by the Government itself. What does this imply? North & East are the permanent places of abode of the Tamils. When it is not safe for the Tamils to live in peace outside North and East is it wrong on their part to carve out their places of abode for themselves? The Sinhalese need not entertain any fears as the Tamils are quite fit enough to manage their own affairs. What right has the Sinhalese to deny self

rule to the Tamils? Little thinking is very necessary for the Sinhalese. It is not at all possible for the government to do administration in an area, which refuses to accept their authority and suspects their sincerity. The Tamils have tasted and tested the fruits of Unitary State administration, for the last 45 years. It was a case of broken promises. Agreements and secret pacts were not honoured and implemented.

## District Development Council.

Mr. Junius Richard Jayawardana with the support of the T.U.L.F. brought forth the Development Council

Act. The S.L.F.P. opposed this and went about, telling ordinary and unsuspecting Sinhalese people, that the J.R. Administration had sold three fourth of the country to the Tamils. In fact the functions of the defunct Village Councils

## Meesalaiyan

and Town Councils were entrusted to the Development Councils along with many other functions. The Development Councils did not have the power to increase the licensing fee of a push bicycle from Re 1/-, without parliamentary sanction. The government failed to grant

other functions contemplated in the D.C. Act. This act had a natural death on the birth of the Provincial Councils. Alas! Mountain laboured and brought forth a mouse.

## Solution not in Sight.

It is futile to expect the present day politicians to solve the ethnic problem. According to my assessment they are not fit enough to administer a Municipal Council efficiently. With paupers' income you can't lead a five star hotel life. More than half the members of Parliament are Ministers and Deputy Ministers. In the process of finding a solution

to the problem certain areas in the North were occupied by armed forces at very heavy loss. Under the pretext of consolidating their position, they are in the process of looting and demolishing all the buildings in the area. Surely this is not the way of providing shelter for all by 2000 A.D. The Tamils have suffered and are suffering since Sri Lanka obtained independence. They are forced to adopt a sink or swim attitude. At times, I fail not to ask myself - What have the Tamils done to deserve a fate, so dire and so dreadful? The powers that be should at least by now realise that a disinherited, disgruntled and aggrieved people would be a festering sore in the body politic and serious menace to peace, security, and survival. I strongly feel that I should condemn with all the force at my aid, the tyranny and oppression, which the Government is resorting to annihilate the entire Tamils in Sri Lanka, by Slow Process.

## The Parliamentary Select Committee MUNASINGHE MOTION

(Continued from Last Week)

The 'Private Member', Mangala Munasinghe' motion reads:-

This Parliament is of opinion that a Select Committee of Parliament be appointed:-

(a) to arrive at a political solution to the question involving a devolution of power to the Northern and Eastern Provinces;

(b) to prevent -

(i) the disintegration of the nation;

(ii) the killings of innocent civilians, members of the armed forces and youths fighting for a cause;

(iii) the militarisation of the culture of violence in our country and,

(c) to achieve peace and political stability and utilise the reduced expenditure for rapid economic growth and national development.

The above motion says nothing about the division of the Tamil homeland issue which is the current bone of contention. Instead Art. (a) 'question involving the devolution of power to the North East Province, further endorses that the N & E Provinces be accepted as a single entity.

Ambiguity arises in Art (a) in respect of the rest of the lay out 'to arrive at a political

solution' and 'devolution of power'. As with 'to arrive at a political solution' - it is not known what political solution is? Firstly, there is no N.E. Provincial Council functioning. Mr. Nalin Senaviratne, the governor, is the competent authority administering the functions of the N.E. Provincial Council. When the IPKF pulled out in March, 1990, the implanted Chief

## ARUNTHATHY

Minister, Varatharajaperumel along with the other members of the Council, all EPRLF and allied party members - the Indian puppets followed suit. Since then, the 73 member N.E. Provincial Council is not functioning due to lack of quorum. Thus the Provincial Council Act needs amendment, a constitutional pre-requisite, for the Elections Commissioner to call for fresh elections. Can this be done in the present circumstances? The voters are in refugee camps or refugees outside the country. It has to be resolved on the basis of the year of the Electoral Lists have to be ascertained for purposes of elections. It is not the concern of the EPRLF or the allied parties. They have absconded, giving the Sri Lankan Government a freehand in the colonisation process. Another stumbling block is that the Emergency has to be lifted. What the

PSC envisages on these issues are not known?

## About Turn by Government

As with the Articles in the rest of the motion, the Government has been veering away - an about turn. Acts like those of the State-sponsored colonisations; bi-furcation of the North and Eastern Provinces by the creation of the Welioya 'wedge' settling Sinhalese in the traditional homeland of the Tamils at Manal Aru, thus forcibly denying the contiguous nature of the North and Eastern Provinces; provoking and creating communal discord between the Tamils and Muslims using the mercenary

EPRLF, TELO, EPDP etc. dressed up and posing as LTTE cadres; the massacre of civilians, aerial bombings, naval and army shellings targetting civilian habitations is the 'increased militarisation of the culture of violence' by the Government.

But Art (b) (ii) definitely accepts the LTTE stance, it is self-evident. To prevent the killings of innocent civilians, members of the armed forces and youths fighting for a cause. How very true! The youths - LTTE is indeed fighting for a cause - 'Tamil Eelam'. What else could be a morally justifiable and rational alternative, when the PSC is floundering in a sea of uncertainty - a total fiasco it is?

## Tamil Homeland Key to Solution Government Blamed for Continuing War

Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India, has stated that the international community has kept silent while north-east continues to be strangled by crippling economic blockade imposed by the Government of Sri Lanka according to the Ecumenical Press Service date lined 92.7.8.

Bishop Ambalavanar has also said that the government's intention is to eliminate the LTTE after which they would turn round and

say there is no Tamil problem. The key to the whole problem is the establishment of a Tamil homeland," he said. Bishop Ambalavanar also blamed the Government for its unwillingness to enter into a negotiated settlement, and said that they have always demanded that the traditional homeland of the Tamil community should be recognised by the Government. According to Ecumenical Press Service the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) too has

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COLOMBO  
NEWS

## Premadasa in a Fix

President Premadasa speaking at a meeting held at Bandarawela lamented that when a murder is committed somewhere in the Island, the Opposition parties make a hue and cry and blame him as the perpetrator of the evil deed whereas in fact he cannot even hold a gun! At the meeting he also warned that JVP was once again raising its ugly head and some Opposition parties and big time investors both local and foreign are abetting them. At every crucial stage when Premadasa finds that he is politically weak and cornered, he is wont to side-step the issue and focus attention on some other political issue. Earlier it was the Tamil issue by giving a communal over-tone to the liberation struggle of the Tamils. But, now he is unable to make capital of this issue because he has failed to bring about a solution either militarily or otherwise. The Sinhalese now know that a military solution to the ethnic issue is out of the question. Further economic pressures; in spite of disunity among the Opposition, there is a spontaneous outburst among the common people, as was shown recently at Kanatte at the funeral of the late Lt. Gen. Denzil Kobbekaduwa; opposition to thug rule; protest by journalists against threat, assault and murder have in toto forced Premadasa to side-step these stinging issues and divert and focus attention on the JVP. Premadasa has also stated at another meeting whilst opening a Textile factory at Bandarawela that his life is in danger. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister too echoes similar sentiments of threat to her life, when a political crisis brews. On such occasions she threatens to resign.

## JVP Bogey

Does Premadasa say that he is not guilty of the charge of rule by thuggery? What does he say to the abduction and annihilation of several opposition persons both young and old who are against his Government? Can he deny the fact that thugs manhandled foreign and local pressmen and photographers? What about the knifing of the 'Aththa' cartoonist, Jiffrey Yoonus? There had been allegations against Premadasa from the time of the disappearance of Upali Wijewardene that whoever is opposed to him is either manhandled or made to disappear. Now the JVP

bogey is a harriedly concocted idea to divert the attention of the people from the political crisis staring at Premadasa's face. The current wave of crimes, robbery, theft, or violence now riding the country is not due to the JVP. It is being perpetrated by the political thugs of the Government and Sinhala soldiers who had deserted their ranks through fear of death at the hands of the Tigers. Recent incidents of robbery at Matara, Matale and elsewhere have revealed that army deserters are behind them.

## Sangha worried

A comment may be made regarding the opening of welfare services in Textile factories all over Sinhala country. The entrepreneurs of these industries are both foreign and local. Foreign and local capital is attracted to such industries because of very cheap female labour among the Sinhalese. Conditions of service in such industries are very exacting and payments poor. Panditha Pallathare Sumanajothi Maha-

nayake Thero in his address at a meeting of Bhikkus at Habaraduwa has been critical of these industries but his criticism has been more on the cultural aspect rather than social or economic. He declared that Sinhala culture is being destroyed and prostitution rampant among the Sinhalese. At this meeting he has exhorted the Bhikkus

## S. Thiagarajah

to take up the opportunity of uniting the Sinhalese because the Tamils in the North and East and Malayalam are on the crest of a winning wave. This attitude reveals the reaction of the Sangha for the failure of the Government militarily. It will suffer a change of Government but yet keen to subjugate the Tamils and not meet the just demands of the Tamils.

## EPDP Apathy

After the killing of Denzil Kobbekaduwa and others by the LTTE, the EPDP which trails the Sri Lankan army like the EPRLF

and other groups behind the IPKF, had to come out with statements and still more statements through their protege Douglas Devananda. In one statement he reluctantly admits that the land mine attack on Denzil and his aides was the work of the Tigers. He confesses that there was no infiltration of his camp by the Tigers to stave off suspicion against them. He was at pains to elaborate in a recent statement that the EPDP was only responsible for the civil administration in areas under the occupation by the Sri Lankan army and in no way responsible for security in such areas.

It is, however, a doubtful proposition that they could provide security for themselves. Even the Sri Lankan army were unable to provide full security for Denzil and his assistants! What security can the EPDP thus give to anyone? Of course in their area of operation it is said that there are about 100 policemen, a postmaster who is a glorified peon only to deliver,

after the EPDP have opened and perused the few letters that have trickled in. We are also aware how the EPDP entice people to write to their own kith and kin that they are being 'looked after very well' by the grace of the boys, meaning of course themselves. This is the facade of their civil administration they are performing - a nursing of the sick and infirm?

In this connection there is a noteworthy report that the high ranking Sinhala officers in the North have insisted that the Tamil groups who are with them be transferred to the East. Does this mean that, the higher echelons of the Sinhala army suspect the EPDP as a fifth column in their midst or is it something deeper? Do they point an accusing finger at President Premadasa? Such hurried and thoughtless statements by the EPDP are pointers that the Tamil renegades are not safe anywhere. They will always be suspect because they have burnt their boats behind them everywhere.

## Indian Govt's Order Null, Void and Inoperative in Law

### LTTE's Application to Indian Tribunal

"Hot Spring" of 16-8-92 carried the news item that the International Secretariat of the LTTE filed petition in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal in New Delhi challenging the Indian Government's order to ban the LTTE.

Here is the full text of the petition released to the Press by the LTTE:

1. The Secretariat denies that the Central Government of India has jurisdiction in law to make the above mentioned declaration under Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, in relation to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (hereinafter referred to as the LTTE) and submits that the said declaration is null, void and inoperative in law.

2. The Secretariat submits that the LTTE is a combatant in an armed conflict in the Island of Sri Lanka. The gross, consistent and continued violations of the human rights of the Tamil people by Sri Lanka during the past forty years, have been well documented. During this forty years, acting within the confines of a unitary state, the successive Sinhala governments, through a series of legislative and administrative acts, ranging from disenfran-

chisement, and standardisation of University admissions, to discriminatory language and employment policies and state sponsored colonisation of the homeland of the Tamil people, sought to establish their oppressive rule over the Tamil people. Tamil opposition to these tyrannical measures was met with genocidal state sponsored violence directed to terrorise and intimidate the Tamil people into submission. It was a course of conduct which resulted in the rise of the armed resistance of the Tamil people led by the LTTE. The combatant status of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has been recognised in international law and in international fora. Furthermore, the combatant status of the LTTE was specifically recognised by the Central Government of India at the Thimpu Talks in 1985 and again in the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord of 1987.

3. The Secretariat submits that the LTTE is not an association within the territorial jurisdiction of the Central Government of India, and further that it is not an association within the meaning of that expression in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 and that accordingly the Central Government of India has no power in law to make an order in relation to the LTTE under the provisions of Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.

4. The Secretariat further submits that the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 which define 'unlawful activity' in relation to an individual or association to mean "any action taken by such individual or association (whether by committing an act or by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representation or otherwise) which is intended, inter alia, to bring about, on any ground whatsoever, the cession of a part of the territory of India", are in any event, a clear violation of the funda-

mental right of freedom of expression secured by the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, and by international law, and enshrined in the Indian Constitution as well. The Secretariat submits that these provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act are not only ultra vires the Indian Constitution, but also offend the peremptory norms of international law, and that accordingly, for these reasons as well, the order made under section 3 is null, void and inoperative in law.

5. Without prejudice to the foregoing and in particular without prejudice to the submissions of the Secretariat on the question of jurisdiction,

(a) the Secretariat submits that the objective of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to secure the right of self-determination of the people of Tamil Eelam, cannot in any event be regarded, in law, as an unlawful activity within the meaning of that expression in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967; and

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# HOT SPRING

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## Lives are Precious Domination must end

Former President J. R. Jayawardhene told the Australian Radio interviewer that he invited the Indian Army to save the lives of the Sinhalese. He was being interviewed by the Australian Radio reporter soon after the killing of Lt. Gen. Kobbekaduwa, Maj. Gen. Vijaya Wimalaratne, Rear-Admiral Jayamaha and other top officers of the Sinhala Armed Forces in Jaffna.

Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, the National Security Minister of J. R. Jayawardhene, has recently told the BBC that had not the Indian Army come in, Northeast would not be with them today.

That Mr. Athulathmudali was known to be an opponent of Rajiv Gandhi - Jayawardhene Accord, along with the then Prime Minister R. Premadasa is yet another matter. Perhaps his present political plight makes it necessary for him to play a different tune.

But whatever it is, it is significant that the two persons who claimed that they had brought the Tamils under subjugation with their success in Operation Liberation in Vadamardachy in 1987, should now express these sentiments.

As a matter of fact the presence of the Indian Army provided the occasion for the JVP resurrection and more than 40,000 Sinhala lives were lost - so Jayawardhene's calculations were not correct. Any designs he may have had entertained to further prolong his evil rule also were foiled.

However, he has chosen the occasion of the killing of Sinhala soldiers at Kayts to publicly proclaim his motivation for entering into the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayawardhene Accord, which clearly shows his tribal instincts and exposes his hollow claims and posture as a world statesman guided by the teachings of Lord Buddha.

The Sri Lankan Army is in occupation of the island of Kayts for more than an year now. But the de-populated barren island had turned treacherous inspite of the Army's control there. If the Indian Army had helped the Sinhalese to maintain their domain over Tamil Eelam - the cost for it is being paid not only by the Tamils but also by the Sinhalese. The Indians also now seem to have become wiser.

The lamentations of these two men should make it clear that foreign help to conquer the Tamil people can only be counter-productive. Certainly, foreign help to mediate between the parties to avoid death and destruction - and finally to arrive at a peaceful resolution to the war - can help both the Sinhalese and Tamils. But if foreign aid is sought directly or indirectly in the form of funds and used for the purchase of military equipments, deadly weapons, etc. etc. certainly the death and destruction will continue and compassion, love etc. will remain sentiments not to be practised but only preached.

It is most regrettable that President Premadasa does not seem to realize this and like all his predecessors in power only finds convenient scape-goats for all ills when he should boldly decide to stop the war. Mr. Premadasa was Prime Minister from 1977 and then succeeded as President from 1988. He cannot absolve himself from responsibility.

The fifteen years of relentless war, begun with the loud rhetoric of 'If you want war you shall have war - If you want peace you shall have peace' by Junius Richard Jayawardhene goes on unabated. The loss is not confined only to Tamils - the 'non-humans' of Mahawansa.

If President Premadasa can boldly tell Jayawardhene that it is not only Sinhala lives that should be saved but that the lives of Tamils also have to be saved and if he can equally boldly tell Lalith Athulathmudali that the Sinhalese should not treat the Northeast as their domain, he will be embarking on the path to peace.

## INVITE UN MEDIATION

### Jaffna Citizens' Committee Tells President Premadasa

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee, in a letter addressed to President Premadasa, has said it would be a crime to allow death and destruction of Tamils to continue. It has now become incumbent on both parties to appeal for international mediation and calls upon President Premadasa to appeal to the UNO for mediatory role.

The Citizens' Committee's letter reads as follows:-

Our Committee has been brought together by the making repeated representations on the war in the North East but with little effect.

For over two years bombing and shelling and other forms of attacks are carried out daily in one part or another of the Tamil homeland occupied by civilians who are unarmed.

Schools, Places of worship, Hospitals and Refugee Camps too have been targets of attack. This is contrary to humanitarian principles accepted by the UNO of which the Government of Sri Lanka is a member. Statistics reveal that the bulk of the casualty is from amongst civilians - men, women and children without exception. The rate of death, those missing persons and destruction to the economy caused to civilians in the North-East nullify the claims made by Government that the current war is not against the Tamils but against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

You have been repeatedly asserting that the current war is an "internal" matter and that no foreign country's assistance is required to resolve it, thus preventing mediation efforts from well-meaning foreign neutral Governments though many of them are willing and anxious to help in this humanitarian matter. We regret to state that no Government resorts to aerial bombardment and that too by engaging supersonic jet fighters to resolve an internal conflict.

The fact of the matter is that the current conflict is between two peoples who lived as two nations and

brought together by the foreign rulers, for their administrative convenience.

It is the sad history of the Island's affairs that no political party, group or force among the Sinhalese would ever permit another political party or group to reach any understanding with the Tamils, and equally and strongly the Tamils will not be satisfied with promises of good government by the Sinhalese as the past experience of post independence era had shown that in the name of democracy all attempts had been and are being made to make the Tamil people voiceless and representationless in their own land.

In this context it would be a crime to treat the current war as an internal matter and allow death and destruction of Tamils. We would also wish to point out to you that despite the Sri Lankan

Army claims, larger numbers of Sinhala youths are dying than what is revealed.

It is our considered view that in this state of affairs it has become incumbent for the parties to the dispute to appeal for international mediation.

The parties to the war are the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka. The LTTE represents no Government and therefore cannot appeal under the rules of the UNO, but the Sri Lanka Government can. It is well known that the LTTE will always welcome mediation by the UNO to bring about a negotiated accepted permanent settlement to enable the Tamils to lead a dignified life as any other humans in this wide world.

We therefore request you as a responsible President to appeal to the UNO to use its good influence as a world body to mediate a settlement to put an end to war. The precedent of El-Salvador President is a good example to follow.

This unjust war should not be allowed to continue any longer as the repercussion will be felt much longer.

## SHELL ATTACK

### PERSONS INJURED — HOUSES DAMAGED

The Sri Lankan Armed Forces launched shell attack from their bases which caused injuries to civilians and damaged many houses in various villages in Valikamam North and West on Saturday, August 22.

At Mahiyapiddy four persons were severely injured and many houses were damaged. The injured were admitted to the Jaffna Hospital.

Shell attacks were launched from planes also the same day at Alaveddy and Kuda-

wattai. Several houses in these areas are reported damaged.

### Tamil...

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blamed the government for the continued hostilities. The NCCSL has stated that while the LTTE has repeatedly announced that it is willing to enter into negotiations with the authorities, "there is no indication of the degree to which the government is prepared to address negotiations".

### Indian Govt's...

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(b) the Secretariat denies that the objective of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam is to disrupt the sovereignty and/or territorial integrity of India and the Secretariat further denies that the LTTE has engaged in any activity whatsoever whether directly or indirectly to support that end.

The petition has been signed by Mr. Lawrence Thilakar of the International Secretariat of LTTE.

### Bomber Attack for the Third day Houses damaged — People injured

Three Sri Lankan bombers roamed over the villages of Pandaterrippu and Mallakam in Valikamam and dropped twelve bombs on Saturday, August 22.

The aerial attack which formed part of the military operations code named Operation Earthquake proceeded for the third day on August 23.

A refugee camp at Konapulam in Mallakam was one

of the bomb targets. Several persons sustained injuries.

Many houses were damaged when bombs were dropped on other civilian dwellings of Mallakam. Some people sustained injuries.

At Pandaterrippu bombs were dropped near Pandaterrippu Hindu College. The Aiyandar temple and some civilian dwellings in the area were damaged.