

HOT SPRING

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Americans said it in 1776

"When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to separation."

From: The principles enumerated by the representatives of the American colonies on July 4, 1776.

TERRORISATION IN BATTICALOA AREA

Efforts to Raise Tamil Problem at UN

Moves are afoot to get Holand to raise the Tamil problem in Sri Lanka at the UNO according to a news item in 'Uthayan' - a Tamil Daily published from Jaffna

'Uthayan', quoting Professor Peter Schaik, has said that at a meeting of the European Community held on the 18th of last month, this matter was discussed. As it would be necessary for a member state to raise the issue to draw UN attention, the feasibility of getting the matter raised before the UN by Holand, a member state of the UNO, is being explored.

Large Number of Persons Arrested

Reports from Batticaloa indicate that the Sri Lankan Government has set in motion another spell of reign of terror in the Batticaloa and Amparai Districts.

Large numbers of troops of the Sri Lankan Army and Special Task Force (Police) personnel have been concentrated in towns such as Batticaloa, Kalmunai, Eravur and Trincomalee.

According to the reports the Sri Lankan Army has engaged itself in its so-called 'search-operations' in various

villages and the reports indicate that over fifty non-combatant civilians from various villages in the Batticaloa - Amparai Districts have been arrested by the Army men and taken to camps. The fate of the arrested persons are not known.

The reports say that the villages of Kovil Porativu, Munaitivu, Thumpankerni, Gandhipuram, Kaluvunthaveli, Thikkodai, Navatkudah, Katchenai, Mandur, Vellaveli, Kurumanveli, Porativu, Maki-loor and many other villages

in the Batticaloa District were surrounded by the Sinhala Army in the last week of August.

Persons from Kovil Porativu, Kadukkamunai and the 13th Colony are among those arrested.

At Nava'kudah a Tamil civilian was shot and seriously injured by Muslim Home Guards.

At Ondatjemadam a Tamil civilian was beaten to death by Special Task Force personnel.

The reports add that Tamils in the District are living in

fear and tension consequent to the building up of Sri Lankan armed forces strength in various parts of the District and the almost daily 'roundup and search operations' being undertaken there.

NGOO PROTEST AT SLASHING RELIEF

The Co-ordinating Committee of Non Governmental Organisations functioning in the Jaffna District has come out heavily against the decision of the Government of Sri Lanka to cut down the relief measures undertaken by the Government by half.

It is learnt that there are over three lakhs of persons in the Jaffna Peninsula alone. These are persons who are displaced from their homes consequent to army occupation of their villages. Apart from those displaced from within the Peninsula there are

also large number of persons who have come into Jaffna as refugees from outside the Peninsula. Already there are refugees from Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Mannar and other Districts in addition to the persons displaced within the Peninsula.

According to the Co-ordinating Committee circles the refugees and displaced persons are experiencing great difficulties for lack of basic and other facilities. The denial of relief measures in the form of dry rations by the Government will further aggravate their difficulties.

Civil Administration or Military Rule?

Soon after the capture and occupation of some territory in Jaffna peninsula by the Sinhala Armed Forces, the Military High Command in Colombo and the Colombo mass media proclaim that civil administration is being restored in the occupied area.

This happened in the Kayts Islands and the Government announced that it had set up a Police Station there. That a police officer himself lamented: 'What civil administration to administer when there are no civilians here' is another matter.

So too in Mathagal area there are talks of civil admini-

Fisherman Killed by Cannon Fire

Fishermen who went fishing in the Jaffna Peninsula were attacked by cannons by the Sri Lankan navy on 4.9.92

The report in this connection states that fishermen who went fishing in the sea around Jaffna were attacked with cannon shells.

In this attack Queenson (13) from Navanthurai was killed by a cannon which shattered his skull.

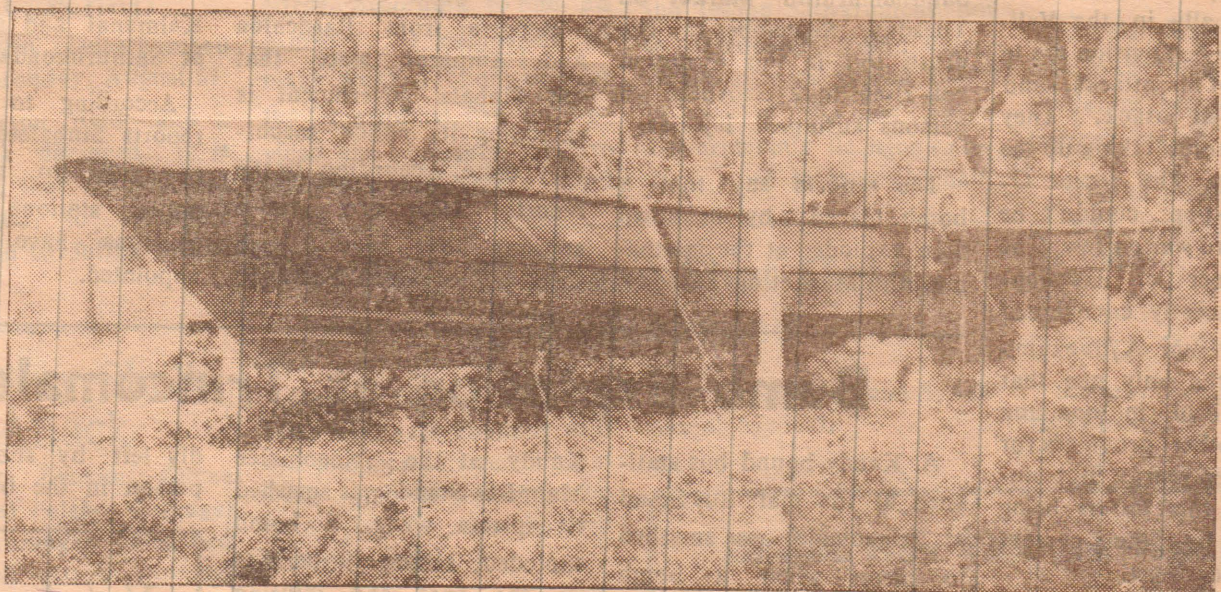
nistration when the vast majority of the residents have escaped and only about 300-400 have been trapped.

Is there no civil government in Jaffna. Who is the G.A. Jaffna? Who are the numerous AGAA - and other

government officials functioning in the North? Are they not civil administrators?

Or in Sri Lankan Government's parlance does civil administration mean setting up Police Stations and Army Camps - the substitution of military rule for civilian rule?

Speed Boat Captured by Tigers



Picture above shows the Speed Boat of the Sri Lankan Navy captured and taken over by the Sea Tigers on Saturday August 29. The boat measured 13.5 metres in length, 3 metres in width and 1 metre in height. The boat had two 250 H. P. Jet Engines and its speed is 40 nautical miles per hour.

OUR READERS SAY

Who is Responsible for Disrupting the Normal Examination?

It is reported that the Hon. Minister of Justice and State Minister of Higher Education has said on the floor of the House of Parliament that Special examinations won't be held in future. The Hon. Minister must find out who is responsible for disrupting the normal examination. May I crave the kind courtesy of your esteemed columns to drive home to the Honourable Minister the real conditions and circumstances that warrant the conduct of the special examination in the North. The Hon. Minister must not pretend ignorance of what is going on in the North. We wonder that this type of statement of injustice comes forth from none other than the Hon. Minister of Justice who is responsible for the right dispensation of Justice!

The Hon. Minister must realize the fact that the normal examination get disrupted because of the premeditated act of the Government armed forces. The Ministry of Education conducts the examination and the Ministry of Defence disrupts it. Conducting an examination is really a Governmental activity, and the Government itself is responsible for disrupting its own activity. Security operation is purposely started with the commencement of the examination. Invariably, every examination in the North is conducted during curfew hours. The case in point is the present G. C. E. A/L examination. Indefinite curfew is being imposed. The candidates specially in the Vali-North A.G.A. Division are in the midst of air attacks, and artillery shell attack. They didn't continue taking up the examination. The recent G. S. examination couldn't be held as there was curfew. The Commissioner of Examination has recently commented that the present A/L examination is the only one that is being held in common with the other provinces for the last three years. But unfortunately this too is being disturbed by the current security operations.

Ironically, it so happens that security operations are regularly and purposely planned and timed with the public examination. This time, the A/L exam. started on the 1st of August, and the security operation was scheduled to

start on the 10th of August by the late General Kobbe. kaduwa. Is this not a deliberate disruption? Why are the security personnel so particular about commencing their operation specially during the period of the exam. This is again a deliberate insidious attempt.

We feel that they might have a double purpose in view in doing so. One is to blast the future of the Tamil candidates, preventing them from entering the University. Secondly, the forces might be of the feeling that the LTTE won't be prepared for a repulsive onslaught that would cause the interruption of the exam. and that they could take advantage of the situation, and that their operation would be easy.

'No special exams. in future' - if the Hon. Minister's wish is this - of course it's most welcome; but then the Hon. Minister must see to that the normal examination goes on uninterrupted and undisturbed. He should

take some constructive steps so as to prevent the Ministry of Defence deliberately disrupting the examination. The Hon. Minister must realize the simple fact that if the normal examination is conducted uninterrupted, there

is no necessity for a special examination to be held. The Tamils of course are always in favour of the examination being held uninterrupted. Our candidates prefer the normal examination to the special examination. We wish

the Hon. Minister of Justice administers the right type of Justice and treats everybody alike before the eye of the law in the name of justice.

S. Saba Subramaniam
Mulliyawalai-

Donoughmore Constitution

Sir,

Donoughmore - means - Tamils no more. It took several years for Sir P. Ramanathan to realise, that the Tamils were to undergo untold agony and humiliation, in the hands of the majority community, on the acceptance of the Donoughmore Constitution. A few days before his death, he addressed a meeting of Tamil leaders at Ramathan College. He was in a melancholy mood and said dangerous times were ahead of us - The Donoughmore Commissioners have framed a constitution which will be the ruin of the Country... please beware that our future is in peril. How true the

situation is, is now evident from the day to day incidents taking place in all parts of the island. The Donoughmore Commissioners knew that there were two nations in Sri Lanka but carved out one state and left the two peoples to solve their problems and shape their destinies between themselves. In fact the Sinhalese and the Tamils are shaping their destinies, to the disadvantage of both communities. The process of shaping is causing heavy loss of life and limbs, and assets. Peoples of several countries are of opinion that the inhabitants of this island are un-educated and barbarious - 1983 riots was the main cause for forming such an

opinion. Pea Cock seldom parts with its feathers voluntarily. You must remove it by use of force. It appears that similar process is in progress now. One race can't rule another without consent. This is a simple logic. Why the leaders of the Sinhalese people are refusing to understand this is a mystery. Do they not love Mother Lanka and its posterity? It is nearly 45 long years since we attained independence and it is a pity that we are still at the starting point or far behind. Whatever said and done - Sri Lanka - my sympathies are always with you.

MEESALAYAN.
Meesalai.

Saintamaruthu

Muslims Close Shop as Death Toll Rises

Muslim shops in Sainthamaruthu remained closed on Wednesday, September 2, as a mark of protest against the failure of the government to provide security to Muslims.

A bomb exploded at the Sainthamaruthu Market on Tuesday, September 1. The death toll in this explosion has risen to 24. About 40 persons sustained injuries.

The reports say that a bomb placed by unknown men exploded at the Sainthamaruthu Market on Tuesday,

September 1, killing 15 persons on the spot and injuring over 40 others. Later reports said the death toll rose to 24.

The government of Sri Lanka has appointed a commission of inquiry into the incident.

Sinhala Police State Building up in Tamil Eelam

Reports from Batticaloa and Amparai state that the Sinhala government is extending its police machinery there. According to the reports two new police stations have been opened there. One is at Veechchu

Kalmunai and the other is at Sathurukondan.

According to the same reports Sinhalese have been appointed to man these police stations. A few Muslims have also been appointed.

Bomb Explosion at Trincomalee

A Kandy-bound bus stationed at the main Bus Stand at Trincomalee was smashed to pieces when a bomb exploded. Nine persons including a Sinhala soldier died and over 40 were injured.

The news in this connection states that on Sunday, August 30 at about 11-30 a.m. a bus waiting to take off for

Kandy at the Trincomalee Main Bus Stand was smashed to pieces when a bomb exploded, killing 9 persons on the spot and injuring over 40 others. Also some other buses parked in the Bus Stand were damaged.

Reports from Trincomalee state that it is believed that the bomb exploded inside the bus from a parcel allege-

dly left by some unknown person in the bus.

Yet Another Arsonist at Large!

Former President J. R. Jayewardena said recently that the Police Officer who was responsible for the burning of the Jaffna Public Library in 1981 is now an employee at Lake House.

What is School? Every letter of the word has a meaning:

- S - Sincerity
- C - Capacity
- H - Honesty
- O - Obedience
- O - Orderliness
- L - Learning

D. A. M. G.

Library Week Hartley College

The old students of Hartley College, Point Pedro are commemorating the Eighth Anniversary of the burning of their prestigious library with its century old collection of books by observing a Library Week starting from 1st. September. During the observance of Library Week the old students will go round collecting books to restore and re-constitute their lost library.

Mr. Premadasa is reported to have stated recently that it was the UNP that came after him to accept the Presidential candidature and that the would-be aspirants were reluctant to accept same through fear. On the face of no denial by anybody else, it could be reasonably assumed that Mr. Premadasa's statement is correct. Presidential candidature was thrust on him by the UNP hierarchy because of the prevailing JVP situation at that time. Recent indirect statements by the former President J. R. Jayewardena too seem to strengthen Premadasa's contentions. J. R. stated that it was the sending away of the IPKF which resulted in the present grave situation. He said that the IPKF was inducted to prevent bloodshed. The shedding of whose blood? He does not mind the blood being shed of the Tamils as well as that of the IPKF. A statesman always evolves ways and means of eliminating the bloodshed of all. But J. R. wanted Sinhalese blood not to be shed. What a sadistic attitude? J. R. was quick to respond when Mr. Athulathmudali was allegedly injured at Kawdana junction in Mount Lavinia, whilst collecting signatures with his stalwarts. There are various versions of this incident. One is that he was injured and hospitalised and the other is that he was assaulted with a stick on his legs. Whatever it was, Mr. and Mrs. Jayewardena were prompt to pay a visit to Mr. Athulathmudali on the same date. This call reveals where his affinity lies.

Sadism at its highest

Mr. J. R. Jayewardena recently sent a Letter of Demand through his lawyers to Mr. Dayan Jayetileke for writing something allegedly defamatory of him. But this letter could not be served on Mr. Jayetileke. During the interim period Lt. Gen. Kobbekaduwa and others were killed by the Tigers. Mr. Dayan Jayetileke attended the funeral of Kobbekaduwa. During the disturbances that came in the wake of the funeral he was severely man-handled and admitted to hospital. Mr. Jayewardena made use of this opportunity to serve this Letter of Demand on the bed-ridden Jayetileke. Later Mr. Jayewardena came out with a statement that he had given up the intention to sue Mr. Jayetileke for defamation, as he had been sufficiently punished by the 'people'. Was J. R. behind

the disturbances which took place at Kanatte during Kobbekaduwa's funeral? A man who is callous about other peoples' difficulties, if allowed to talk, talks big.

S. Thiagarajah

At an interview given to the Sunday Times of 23-08-92, J. R. said, "The Buddha Dharma has profoundly influenced my thinking and lifestyle". Does Buddha Dharma preach that to stop bloodshed of the Sinhalese, one should make the IPKF shed the blood of the Tamils and themselves? What heights of sadism and hypocritical Dharma? Does Buddha

Dharma preach that one should burn educational institutions and public libraries? Everyone knows that it was during his reign that our valuable Public Library, the best in Asia, was burnt. In fact, Mr. Jayewardena has admitted recently at a meeting held at Hotel Oberoi that he knew a high-ranking Police Officer who set fire to the Jaffna Public Library, 'now working as Senior Executive at Lake House'.

'Ravaya'

The Sinhala journal 'Ravaya' has trotted out a new theory. It says the recent "Operation Earthquake" was an eyewash and has nothing to do with

the plan prepared by Denzil Kobbekaduwa. His intention was to capture Jaffna and the plan was code-named 'Janakirthy' and was to have been launched on 14-08-92, had it not been for Kobbekaduwa's killing by Tigers. His plan was for a battalions to advance from Tellipalai to Manipay and another battalion to proceed through Araly to Manipay. With the conjunction of these battalions, they were to start attack on Jaffna Town. This report gives a clue that 'Ravaya' was privy to Military secrets and that such top secret information was available to all and sundry. This information also lends colour to the view

how the media in the South rouses the masses and tend to mislead them. When they discover that the war is not going the way they want, they rouse public passions and point out that the Army has failed to attack and capture Jaffna. It shows scant regard for high casualties that could occur. Apart from the high loss of Tamil civilians that would occur in the wake of such an offensive, it would also cost the Sinhala youths dearly. The Sinhala youths have now learnt a lesson. The promise of easy loot is not incentive enough to attract them to military service, as was proved by the absence of youth at a Recruiting Centre at Matara recently.

Teedor Promotes Fruit Processing

— Two Factories in Production

Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR) in its recent publication 'Atharam' (July-August '92 issue) has described the various ways and methods by which this organisation is striving to achieve self-sufficiency in food in Tamil Eelam - an outcome of the economic blockade imposed by the Sri Lankan Government. Among other items, it describes the processing of fruits as follows: 'Abundance of fruits in Tamil Eelam is a boon to the fruit processing industry. In the past (1970-1980) the fruit processing industry flourished not only as a cottage industry but as an export industry as well!'

The fruit processing industry which was stagnant for a period was given a fillip by TEEDOR in 1990. This industrial processing venture served as an incentive for the extension of agricultural pursuits, industrialization and for the development of the economy of Tamil Eelam.

Two fruit processing plants have been established - one at

Kopay in the Jaffna District and the other at Vaddakachchi in the Vanni District. Soft drinks which were hitherto brought from Colombo have been replaced by nutritionally rich fruit drinks prepared from mango, grape, and nelli juices. Other items prepared out of such fruits are Jam, sauce and cordial. The International Food Protection Law

Agency has recommended that all soft drinks be prepared nutritionally wise and that they should contain sufficient fruit extracts. These drinks have been prepared in keeping with international standards, under modern hygienic conditions. Fruits are purchased during seasons of glut and preserved in steam processed containers in juice form.

Relief Measures Cut Down By Half

Military Expenditure on the Increase

The Secretary to the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Mr. Christie de Silva has said that relief measures undertaken by his Ministry will be reduced by half in the Northeast with immediate effect. According to him his Ministry is compelled to make this reduction because the Government has not provided the necessary funds to undertake the relief work

amongst the displaced persons.

According to a report from India, Mr. Pannuruddi Ramachandran, a leading member of the Pattali Makkal Kadchi has said that he would press the Indian Government not to repatriate Tamil Eelam refugees from Tamil Nadu in view of the Sri Lankan Government's decision to reduce relief measures by half.

Though relief measures are being reduced military expenditure is continuing to rise.

SPORTS

Cricket

Ariyalai, S.C. beat Shabra, S.C. in the finals of the Alala-sundaram Memorial Cricket tourney played at Ariyalai.

Ariyalai made short work of their opponents to annex the trophy.

Scores:- Ariyalai, S.C. 513 for nine in 48 overs.

Shabra, S.C. 106 all out in 37 overs.

Bomber Attack at Kilali

Sri Lankan planes bombed Kilali on Monday, August 31.

One person died and a boat was damaged. It is understood that the boat was being used to transport kerosene oil to Jaffna Peninsula.

Artillery Shell Attack

The Sri Lankan forces stationed at Palaly, Mathagal and Karainagar launched heavy shell attacks directed towards the villages of Tellipalai, Alaveddy, Sillalai, Periyavilan, and Pandaterrippu on Tuesday, September 1.

The reports say that a number of houses in these areas was damaged as a result of the shell attack.

Two Civillans Shot Dead at Trincomalee

Reports from Trincomalee state that two civilians died and one man suffered injuries when Sinhala soldiers who were lying in ambush fired at these people.

The incident occurred on August 21 at Ponnankerni in the Trincomalee District.

Apart from the dead and injured two others are missing.

The dead persons have been identified as Samithamby

Vilvarasa aged 45, and S. Selvarajah aged 35.

Ballot Box Thieves Known

President Premadasa said recently at Bandarawela that the persons who stole the ballot boxes in Jaffna during the District Development Council Elections and those responsible for the burning of the Jaffna Public Library were the persons who caused the emergence of Velupillai Pirabakaran.

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The Parody of House Building

It is ironic that the number of houses and buildings destroyed under President Premadasa's rule should far exceed such destruction under any previous rule, because Mr. Premadasa as Housing Minister earlier and as President now has laid great stress on building houses and his sycophants eulogised him as the 'greatest house-builder.' But Tamil Eelam has seen and is witnessing every day the destruction of houses in large numbers.

Reports from Alaveddy, Mathagal and Ilavai confirm that large numbers of private dwellings have been reduced to shambles by the Sinhala army now in occupation of those areas.

At the beginning of the current war in 1990, Premadasa's planes dropped bombs and home-made barrel bombs all over Jaffna town as if all the shops and business centres there were Tiger bunkers. The whole of Jaffna town was reduced to mere debris.

Following the destruction of Jaffna town the Sinhala Army from Palaly slowly extended its destructive activities to adjoining villages such as Vasavilao, Kurumbasiddy and Kattuvan. All houses in these areas were destroyed.

Wanton destruction of buildings did not stop there. Vadamaradchy, Thenmaradchy and other areas also came in for extensive destruction of houses.

Nor is this destruction of houses confined to Jaffna peninsula only. Kilinochchy, Vanni, Batticaloa and almost every part of Tamil Eelam territory suffered by this destruction.

Housing problem is an international problem. Every country is trying to solve the problem by building more and more houses. In Tamil Eelam however houses are being destroyed daily under the 'great house-builders' rule.

The destruction of houses is most cruel. For a man is able to build one house for himself and his family at great expense only and by pooling all the resources at his command. A newly built house is a man's life-time savings from his earnings. Invariably he leaves a debt on account of building a house and his heirs are obliged to re-pay the debt. So when houses are destroyed the owners are ruined economically for ever.

Premadasa's government has rendered the Tamils living jobless and homeless. Today the Eelam Tamil is reduced to chill penury. He has only his life to lose. All else are being robbed from him.

This is the sad plight to which the Tamils have been reduced because of the Sinhala Government's preterred concern for the Tamils. Let President Premadasa and his government give up this pretended concern for the Tamils. The Tamils can look after themselves without Sinhala help. They can not only save their lives but can protect their properties too.

Large Scale Destruction of Houses in Occupied Territory

Reports from occupied villages such as Alaveddy, Vilan, Ilavai and Mathagal indicate large scale destruction of civilian dwellings in those areas.

When Sinhala Army entered these areas during Operation Earthquake the villagers abandoned the villages and ran to other free territories. Some people who were trapped have been able to make their escape since then. According to some of these

escapees many houses in the area have been demolished. Lot of valuable goods are lying strewn on roads.

Residents in nearby villages confirmed that explosions were being heard frequently within the occupied territory which indicate blasting of buildings.

One escapee said that it was tragic to see a man's life-time earnings in the form of a house being demolished in no time.

Military Solution a Big Folly

Jaffna Citizens' Committee Tells President

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee in a letter to President Premadasa has said that the latest military operations undertaken by the army in Jaffna peninsula has caused the disruption to the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination and displaced over 100,000 civilians from their homes and employment. The Government is deliberately denying medical facilities to the affected persons while the Army has violated the agreement with the ICRC to treat the Jaffna hospital and its environs as a safety area and fired into the safety area.

The letter further says that it is a folly on the part of the Government to follow a military solution to a basically political problem and calls upon President Premadasa to work out a political solution without further procrastination.

The letter reads as follows.

Once again we are constrained to write to your Excellency of yet another Military operation by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and the consequent human sufferings. We are referring to the "Operation Earthquake I" carried out from the 20th to the 23rd instant extending the area of Military occupation at Palaly up to Mathagal.

Whatever success the Army might have claimed, we would like to place on record the following negative factors resulting from the military operations:-

1. Disruption of Examination

The G.C.E. (Advanced Level) examination that was in progress was badly disrupted in the Valikamam North and Valikamam West regions. The failure of the army to delay this military operation by a mere one week to allow the examination to be completed makes the people feel that the education and examinations of the Tamil youth are being deliberately disrupted time and again by a racially biased government machinery. This again reinforces the general impression prevailing here that there is no place for the Tamils under the Sinhalese dominated unitary form of government that has proved to be a dismal failure for the peaceful co-existence of the Tamil people with the Sinhalese people under a single Sri Lankan polity.

2. Displacement of Civilians

Over a hundred thousand people had to flee from their homes to escape getting killed or wounded during this military operation, leaving behind all their movable and immovable properties. Tragically the present number of displaced persons include around 50,000 redispaced persons and about 25,000 again redispaced persons. They not only left behind all their assets but they have also lost their means of livelihood.

We understand that the farmers have left behind their farmland crops and farm equipments and the fishermen have left behind all their fishing boats, nets and other equipment.

This process of creating more refugees making them destitute is a denial of the fundamental rights of the people to live in peace and pursue their occupations and contradicts and questions the bonafides of the government which at the same time is a party to bring back Tamil refugees from India. We are sorry to say that the government instead of attempting to create the necessary conditions to rehabilitate the people already rendered refugees is creating more and more new groups of refugees.

3 Neglect of Medical Facilities

The government cannot be unaware of the large number of civilians suffering serious injuries due to the unrestricted military activities of its armed forces. The large number of refugees living under unhygienic conditions and suffering from malnutrition have resulted in the increase in the incidence of various diseases.

Yet, the medical facilities in this region have been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that large number of people have had to suffer and some of them die for lack of required medical attention. We feel that the government cannot absolve itself from being guilty of deliberate delay and denial in providing the necessary medical care and thereby failing to fulfill its obligation.

Breach of Agreement with I. C. R. C.

We would also like to bring to your kind notice the serious incident of firing into the Security Zone around the Jaffna General Hospital by the Sri Lankan armed forces. This is in breach of the agreement with the I. C. R. C. We trust that Your Excellency will arrange to inquire into

this incident and take to task those responsible.

We, as members of the Jaffna Citizens Committee, living amongst the people during these difficult times and understanding and sharing their feelings and aspirations have been regularly writing to you projecting the problems faced by the people and portraying their views to you.

We feel that it is time that we point out to you the folly of pursuing the military approach to what is basically a political problem. The military operations can only cause death and destruction, accelerate the alienation of the Tamil people and drag the entire Island towards chaos and catastrophe.

As the executive President it is your responsibility to arrange to bring about the necessary political changes and for this purpose reach a consensus by negotiating with the people who really matter. The basic issues have got to be tackled. The precious time that is being lost in bringing about the necessary changes that are necessary to evolve a satisfactory political arrangement to accommodate both the Tamil people and the Sinhalese people in this Island can only help ruin this beautiful Island.

We therefore, urge Your Excellency to take urgent measures to bring about a political settlement to the ongoing national dispute.

Don't Levy Service Charges

The President of the Malakam Rural Development Society has written to the Chairman of the Bank of Ceylon not to levy service charges from customers.

The banks presently do not render any service to customers and therefore it is both unjust and illegal to make service charge recoveries. The Society has therefore asked the Chairman to exempt Banks in the Northeast from levying service charges from customers.

Convocation Day at Jaffna University

The 12th Convocation Day at Jaffna University was held on Saturday, September 5 at Kailasapathy Hall, Jaffna University.

The Vice-Chancellor of the Jaffna University, Prof. A. Thurairajah, presided.

Six hundred and twelve students were conferred degrees.