

HOT SPRING

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Sir Winston Churchill - April 27, 1941.

MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CUT IN RELIEF

Huge crowds numbering 50,000 people demonstrated opposite the Jaffna Secretariat demanding that the fifty percent cut imposed by the Government of Sri Lanka on relief assistance granted to displaced refugees from Sri Lankan Army occupied Tamil territory be rescinded on Wednesday, September 9.

Earlier the confederation of various public organisations in Jaffna called out a demonstration protesting against the Sri Lankan Government's decision to reduce by half the dry rations issued to displaced refugees presently living within Jaffna peninsula. The confederation said that the number of displaced refugees now living in Jaffna Peninsula numbered 400,000.

Responding the confederations call all shops in Jaffna remained closed on Wednesday. Work in other establishments grinded to a halt as working people and others joined the procession and demonstration organised by the confederation.

About 9-00 a.m. processions from various places started and converged at Nallur from where the demonstrators shouting various slogans proceeded towards the office of the ICRC at Jaffna and from there to the Jaffna Secretariat

and handed over a memorandum to the Acting Govt. Agent Mr. T. Vaithilingam to be forwarded to President Premadasa.

The confederation's memorandum to President Premadasa said:

"There are over four lakhs of displaced refugees living in the peninsula now. These refugees have not only lost their homes but also their belongings and employment. The Government's relief assistance while being inadequate is not given to all displaced persons. Most of the immediate requirements of these refugees are met by NGO.

The Government has announced its decision to reduce by half the relief assistance. This would mean that the refugees will not be given weekly relief but only bi-monthly relief of the same amount of dry rations they now receive weekly. The cut

in relief assistance would drive the refugees to starvation.

The relief presently given by the Government is inadequate and the refugees are dependent on NGO for most of their immediate needs. Even the Consortium of NGO have voiced their opposition to the reduction in relief assistance."

The memorandum called upon President Premadasa to

rescind the order for reduction in relief assistance and to have the army withdrawn from villages so that the refugees may re-settle in their homes.

It also called upon President Premadasa to take steps to remove the blockade on consumer goods to Tamil areas, to provide all amenities to refugees and to open the doors for a political solution instead of war.

At one stage when the leaders of the confederation went to hand over the memorandum the demonstrators became restive and threw stones breaking a few windows but were soon calmed at the intervention of the officials of the confederation.

All segments of the people participated in the demonstration and procession - the largest number being the displaced refugees.

NGOO Tell President Premadasa:

GOVT. MUST CONTINUE RELIEF WITHOUT REDUCTION

The Co-ordinating Committee of NGO functioning in Jaffna District has in a memorandum told President Premadasa that the cut imposed by Government on its relief assistance to displaced persons in the peninsula would aggravate the already bad situation in Jaffna.

The Co-ordinating Committee to which 14 NGO are affiliated has said that their own resources are insufficient to meet further demands of refugees' needs. They are already attending to

the needs of refugees in various ways.

The cut announced by Government will have adverse effects on the needs of the

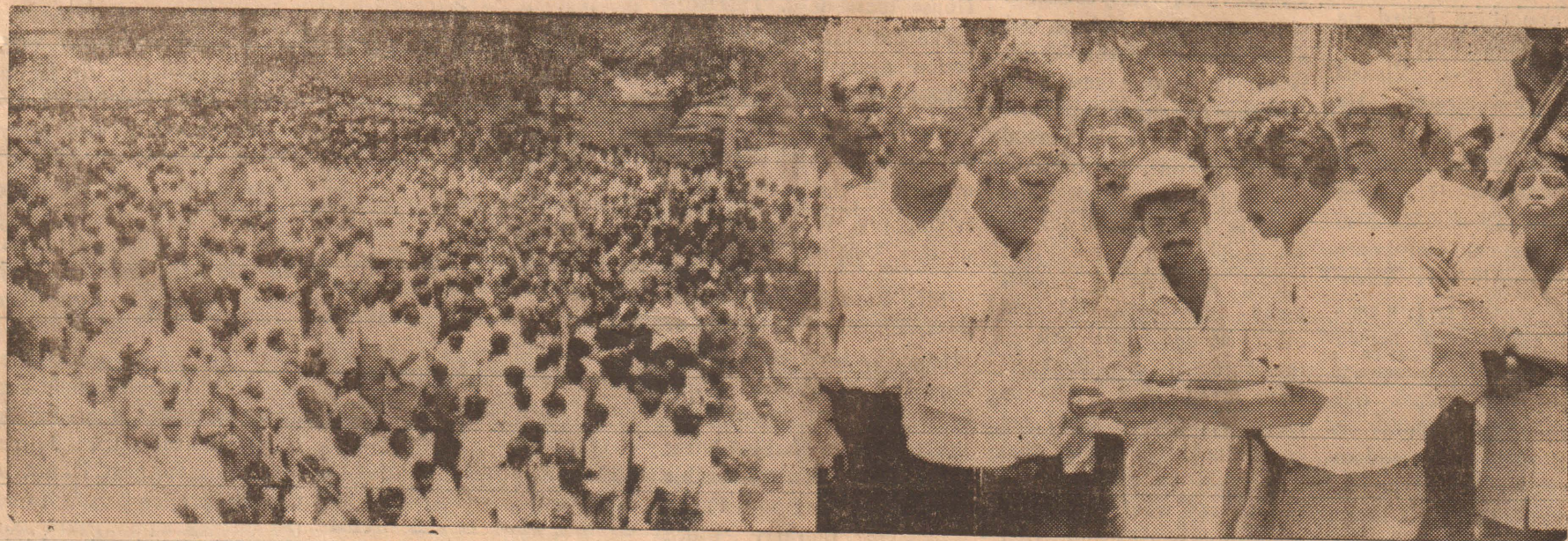
displaced refugees. The Co-ordinating Committee has therefore requested President Premadasa to rescind the order imposing fifty percent cut on relief assistance to displaced persons in Northeast.

Ferry and Army Truck Damaged

A Sri Lankan Army truck carrying 24 Sinhala soldiers was damaged and all soldiers killed when the truck which was being ferried across a river in Kiliveddy in Trincomalee District struck a mine. 16 civilians who were being taken in the ferry are also reported killed.

According to a Colombo report Sri Lankan Army sources said that at Kiliveddy in the Trincomalee District the Tigers exploded a bomb in a ferry which was being used to ferry an army truck. 24 soldiers were travelling in the truck. The Army also had taken 16 civilians along with them on the ferry. All are reported dead.

JAFFNA DEMONSTRATION



The picture on the left shows a section of the many thousand demonstrators that participated on Wednesday's protest demonstration against cut in relief measures. Right-President of Confederation Mr. S. Cyril handing over memorandum to Acting Govt. Agent.

Hameed's Lip-Service

Mr. A. C. S. Hameed, Sri Lanka's Justice and Higher Education Minister has expressed his regrets with the UNO. Delivering his inaugural address at a seminar on "Federalism, Devolution and Provincial Councils - a re-appraisal" organised by the Council for Liberal Democracy he said that he regretted that while the World Bank was stressing on de-nationalisation of the economy the UNO had failed to talk about the de-nationalisation of the national minorities.

Nation States identical with majority communities

Mr. Hameed has clearly explained what he meant. According to Mr. Hameed after the Second World War many former colonies and imperial possessions became independent. These newly independent countries began to 'nationalise' the cultures of minority communities. The new states had come to be identified with the majority communities. Nation states were equated to national majorities. Mr. Hameed continued to say that all minority groups want to retain their identities, their roots. Mr. Hameed also made an urgent

appeal for a solution to the ethnic problem based on federalism, devolution or the doing away of the three subjects lists worked out by India and the Jayewardene Government and the substitution thereof of a single list containing the subjects allocated to the provinces.

Kumaran

Well Mr. Hameed is one of the senior politicians on the Government side. But seniority does not seem to have made him any wiser until after the event has occurred. Because in the same speech Mr. Hameed comes out with certain facts which were hitherto unknown.

Hameed's Opposition

According to Mr. Hameed he had opposed the sixth amendment to the Constitution passed in the wake of July, 1983 pogrom; he had all in vain opposed the proportional representation system introduced by Mr. Jayewardene.

Mr. Hameed also says that an opportunity to settle the problem was missed by the former Government in 1984 when the All Party Conference met for six months. He also

regrets that an opportunity to meet Prabhakaran along with MGR in Bangalore was missed.

Mr. Hameed is a Muslim. His religion is Islam and his mother tongue is Tamil. His home is at Akurana in the Kandyan hill-country. He is not a Baudha - Sinhala Goigama man. He could not therefore have been very happy with the series of legislative and administrative acts of the various governments, since 1948 which were designed to make the Island - Baudha-Sinhala - 'nationalisation' is the unfortunate choice word Mr. Hameed has found for Sinhala chauvinism.

Sinhalisation Mildly Described

While one can feel happy that Mr. Hameed looks across the globe and even finds fault with the UNO for its acts of omission one cannot be happy at the reluctance and trepidation with which he approaches the problem at home.

Is it necessary to remind Mr. Hameed that it was Sinhala chauvinism that was reigning supreme when Lion Flag was thrust on the Tamils and Muslims? Does he not remember another Muslim member of Parliament then, Mr. Abdul Azeed, pleading with the Government on the floor of the House of Representatives to at least remove the yellow border of the Lion Flag separating the orange and green stripes representing the Tamils and Muslims respectively so

that the flag may be an integrated one? Does he not remember the late Mr. A. E. Gunasinghe, then Minister without Portfolio and mentor of present President Premadasa telling his Sinhala audience to roll the orange and green stripes with the flag staff and fly only the pure Lion Flag, if they did not want the stripes representing the Tamils and Muslims to find place in the national flag? Wasn't Mr. Gunasinghe pampering to Sinhala chauvinism?

What about the Citizenship Act and the decitizenisation and disenfranchisement of Tamil plantation labour? What are the Government leaders talking today? What about planned colonisation of the Tamil Homeland? What about the more blatant Sinhala Only? This is an Island where all principal religions

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Prema flays former Colleagues

Daily News of 24th August 1992 reports President Ranasinghe Premadasa's speech which is as follows:-

"The miscreants who disrupted the DDC elections in Jaffna were responsible for producing a Velupillai Prabhakaran and setting the stage for the protracted war in the North - East."

"A section of our own party who visited Jaffna disrupted the elections and even hijacked ballot boxes for vote rigging. They later went on the rampage and burnt down the precious Jaffna Library which was a national treasure. It was on this day a Velupillai

Prabhakaran to lead the LTTE was born."

"It was I who presented the DDC bill in Parliament. Tamil community had much faith in the DDC set up as an instrument for fulfilling their aspiration for a measure of self rule. This fact was quite obvious to me when I visited the peninsula on the eve of the elections. They were looking forward to the new administrative set up in the hope it would be a fresh start for a better tomorrow for them. They were disillusioned when some thugs from our party went berserk in Jaffna."

The President recalled that he wanted to devolve powers to the DDCs and take all other measures to strengthen the DDC administration.

I said: "Let us give powers to the DDCs. I was prepared to release funds from my Ministry votes. But the very people who disrupted the election obstructed my plans to strengthen the DDCs. The same clique wax eloquent on the need to solve the North - East problem. I have documents in my possession which expose their hypocrisy. I have always had reservations about their bona fides."

Leading Politicians in Sri Lanka!

It is rather interesting to read in the news papers - the noble sentiments expressed by various leaders and Theros. Mrs. Bandaranayake leader of the opposition called on Melwatta Mahanayake Thero Rambukwella Sri Vipassi Thero, very recently. He advised her to retire from politics and not to attend public meetings, as she is advanced in age, and her mental and physical faculties are failing. Though this Thero is not a doctor, he is a senior and experienced person and his sound assessment can't go wrong. What this Thero failed to visualise is that, people very seldom desire to part with power, glory and finance. This Thero should also know, what her financial benefits are - as Leader of the Opposition, she gets allowances of a Minister and very many other facilities - which can't be

dreamt of by an ordinary man.

Junius Richard Jayawardena - former President of Sri Lanka - I am really scared to write anything good or bad about this gentleman, as he is subjected to a mania of claiming damages. I am not that rich to meet his demand and I for one, do not want the Editor too, to be made a party to any legal action. As readers are aware, Hot Spring is surviving against many odds - financial and otherwise and what will be the fate, if a damages' claim from J. R. is to be met? Whatever it be, I am constrained to state that I will not be at ease, if I fail to say what I want to, about this worthy soul. After several years - thank God for his unfailing memory - he has openly stated that the culprit - a police officer who was responsible for the bur-

ning of the Public Municipal library in 1981, is now an employee of the Lake House. No doubt, J. R.'s love is thin towards Lake House these days. This worthy could have taken stern action against this police officer, when he was President. After failing to do so and now speaking about this arsonist is the least to say - talking big. What is the use of this belated revelation?

Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, Executive President of Sri Lanka, is clever in catching thieves. After several years, he has apprehended the thieves of ballot boxes and the culprits responsible for the burning of Public Municipal Library, which was under the administration of the Jaffna Municipal Council. The Minister of Local Government was Mr. R. Premadasa. Can this

worthy gentleman, detail the action taken by him to bring those, responsible for this dastardly act to book? At least, he could have seen to it, that the compensation awarded by the Fernando Committee, amounting to Rs. 10 million was given to the Municipality. To date, this has not been done. He is not better than Gamini or Mathew. He should have as Minister of Local Government, ensured the removal of the two Ministers responsible for the burning of Library, from the Ministerial positions, failing which, he should have resigned. As everybody knows, this never happens in Sri Lanka. Having failed to do this, when he was elected President, appointed one of the arsonists as Minister. It is of no use shedding Crocodile tears now. The Library is no more and no

tangible steps have so far been taken to erect one.

MEESALAYAN.

Meesalai

We come to know that the Government is to set up a civil administrative machinery from Palaly with Army officers and one civilian.

There is a Government Agent in Jaffna functioning from the Jaffna Secretariat. Why do we want military men to carry out civilian functions.

As far as we are aware neither the Tamil people nor the Government of Sri Lanka has said that the Jaffna Government Agent is not a fit and proper person to be the civilian administrator. So why Army civilian administrators for Jaffna?

S. JAYARATNAM

C. Makachcheri.

COLOMBO NEWS

TULF, Colombo Groups, Ram, Malwatte and Thondaman

The TULF leadership was summoned to New Delhi sometime back and after consultations (or is it instructions?), it was announced in Colombo that TULF will re-activate itself politically. No doubt, in the process, there was an exchange of money. To one's surprise, there was no activity. Suddenly now, Joseph Pararajasingham, the TULF Member of Parliament for Batticaloa while addressing a seminar, has stated that it is by putting forward a solution which could satisfy the aspirations of the Tamils and by having meaningful talks with the LTTE who are engaged in battle that the ethnic problem could be solved. Was he and the TULF not aware of such a problem, when the TULF delegation visited New Delhi? They could have put forward these sentiments and persuaded India to use her good offices diplomatically with Sri Lanka to bring about a solution to the ethnic problem on the basis suggested? Or is this a blackmail on India for more money? Are the other groups operating from Colombo, both toeing and not toeing the Indian line, of the same view? If not, the TULF can well advise those groups to change their attitude. After all, they are working for the Tamil people. Recently an indignant TELO member had requested the members of the eight Tamil groups to desist from further talks with Mr. Ashraff's SLMC because it had publicised its solution in the newspapers without consulting these groups. The PLOTE members paid homage and expressed their condolences on behalf of the Tamil people on the death of the Lt. Gen. Kobbekaduwa at a meeting in Vavuniya. The Chief speaker at this meeting was Mr. Siddharthan. We have still to wait for the reactions to Mr. Joseph Pararajasingham's statement.

Federalism

'Federalism' is being bandied about these days. Not the practical aspect but mere visionary. A person who was one of the architects of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord of 1987 was in Colombo recently to deliver a commemoration lecture. He is none other than Mr. N. Ram of the Frontline. He is reported to have haughtily said that if the Sri Lankan Tamils wanted Federalism, they should give up their demand for Tamil Eelam, as if India and he were the arbiters to the fate of Eelam Tamils. What time-worn tactics of Brahminism? They have

bungled once and they time and again wish to be a thorn to satisfy their vanity as 'Big Brother' with their cut throat politics. Some people are very tight-fisted even if they are provided with the potful of rice and a spoon for distribution to others. They do not desire to do so. So with the authors of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. If India had wished for a federal form of government, she could have done so but did not. Now they talk of federalism when it is too late. Was it

S. Thiagarajah

probably at that time, they did not know the shades of meaning between the words 'devolution' and 'decentralisation'? Or, were they confused?

Jayawardene

Lord Buddha preached asceticism, renunciation, compassion etc. But it is an accepted fact that in the Buddhism practised in Sri Lanka, there is a conspicuous absence of these basic precepts. They thirst for power, and aspiration for power would go to any length to wield power. They always excel in preaching and advising. Like J. R.'s pronouncement recently that he had renounced politics and does not wish to talk politics but indirectly engages in politics all the time. His recent insinuations against President Premadasa are well known. His innate dirty politics brought about his own downfall and circumst-

ances forced him to give up politics. While resigning to his fate, he is adopting Machiavellian tactics to assail his enemies.

Anyway he was and is a full time politician. As remarked in a recent editorial in a local daily, 'In the Third World countries, politicians do not retire'.

Malwatte Thero

In this context the advice of the Malwatte Chapter is inexplicable. He is reported to have told Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranayake that she was old and advised her to refrain from speaking at public meetings. He has gone further and said that none can solve all the problems confronting the country. He has now advised her to pray that the problems could be settled. How does one take this advice of the Mahanayake? Is he trying to weaken psychologically the political position of Mrs. Bandaranayake and tilt the

odds in favour of Mr. Premadasa? He cannot definitely act in the best interests of Sirimavo Bandaranayake or the SLFP. Asking Mrs. Bandaranayake to retire from active politics is a political action on the part of the Mahanayake. He can be in active politics but Mrs. Bandaranayake should not. Mrs. Bandaranayake is a seasoned politician and she has already rejected the suggestion of the Mahanayake. After all Sinhala politicians need not be guided by advice from the Maha Sangha for the fulfilment of their own personal ambitions. That advice is only necessary lest they fail in their chauvinism. She is fully aware that this same Mahanayake went into the bunkers at the battlefield at Palaly and invoked blessing on the armed forces for victory. He is the very same person who donated a sum of Rupees thirty thousand to President's Defence Fund.

So far there has been no victory in sight for the Sri Lankan Army nor defeat for the Tigers. The outcome of his blessing was the killing of top army personnel many of whom were present at the site when the Mahanayake blessed them. It was natural for Mrs. Bandaranayake to reject Malwatte's suggestion.

Tamil Unity

A piece of good news from Colombo is that Mr. Thondaman speaking at a function has exhorted the Tamils to eschew divisions among themselves on the basis of North, East and Malayalam. Wherever the Tamils live, they should live unitedly and be proud of the fact that they are Tamils. A statement of this nature is a good omen especially when it comes at this juncture from a senior politician of the calibre of Mr. Thondaman, who has no doubts struck the correct chord at an opportune moment.

Valluvar a Realist and Universalist - University Don

"Thiruvalluvar was a realist with a universal outlook. His didactic poetry is based on moral principles underlying the traditional qualities of Tamil social life" said Dr. S. K. Shanmukhanathan, Head of the Dept. of Economics, University of Jaffna, delivering Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan Memorial lecture, sponsored by the Parameswara Trust. The memorial lecture was delivered by Dr. Shanmukhanathan at the Kailasapathy Auditorium of the Jaffna University on Tuesday, September 8.

Continuing Dr. Shanmukhanathan said that Thiruvalluvar speaks of moral as being common to ordinary citizens as well as to the king.

Status may vary, social position may change yet the values remain same throughout.

The treatment of life in terms of its inner and outer phases in Tamil literary tradition is well known. Both the inner and outer aspects of life may be taken to deal with two stages of spiritual evolution. The first stage, the inner and outer aspects stand for human love and external warfare. In the second stage, they stand for consummation of human

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Hameed's...

(Continuation from Page 2)

are practised by substantial numbers of the peoples. Yet Buddhism enjoys the foremost position and is entitled to special protection constitutionally. These are all acts of Sinhalaisation - though Mr. Hameed has very mildly called these acts 'nationalisation'.

Hameed Reluctant to come to grips

Now that Mr. Hameed has even ventured to look beyond the 'the thrice blessed Dhamma Dipa' we might tell him that current events make it clear that you cannot build a single nation out of two or more nations. As far as this Island is concerned it is the home of two nations - one Sinhala and

the other Tamil and therefore there cannot be one single nation.

Mr. Hameed might to day be a devalued Member of Parliament by the proportional representation election system which he opposed within the Government but which he could not prevent from becoming law. Yet he has a duty to act forthrightly.

Unfortunately, though Mr. Hameed opened his mind a little he is still reluctant to forthrightly tell the Sinhalese that they should not continue to claim the right to rule the Tamils.

Deeds not words Required

The Sinhala response to the Tamil claim has been re-

pression - a reign of terror and genocide. The Tamils have paid and are continuing to pay the price any freedom movement pays at the altar of imperialism - and the Premadasa government of which Mr. Hameed is Justice and Higher Education Minister and the J. R. Jayawardene government of which he was Foreign Minister, have committed genocide against the Tamils on a big scale.

People do not cut much ice by mere eloquent expression of generalities, when nothing is shown in action.

The Tamil students are suffering under the order recently made by Mr. Hameed as Higher Education Minister to treat the G.C.E.(A/L) examination 1990 (Special held in April 1991) as a separate examination and cause the release

of the cut off marks according to which a candidate from Kilinochchi District (a District classified as an educationally backward district) has to score even more marks than the student from Metropolitan and educationally advanced Colombo District for entry to the Engineering Faculty because Sinhala chauvinist Dinesh Gunawardene made an unjust furore in Parliament. Tamils would like Mr. Hameed to oppose injustice then and there and not later to say 'I opposed it but my opposition was not heard'. That is poor consolation. He may also remember that the first victims of Sinhala chauvinism were the plantation Tamils, now it is the Eelam Tamils and the turn of the Muslims cannot be far away.

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A Cruel Decision

The large crowd that participated in last Wednesday's demonstration in Jaffna clearly indicated the common man's angered mood against a vicious government.

The Sri Lankan Government's decision to cut down by half the relief measures it undertakes for the refugees in Tamil Eelam is most detestable and deserves down-right condemnation.

The Government's relief measures for the war-torn Tamil Eelam territory is based on computations by the Director of Social Services for relief during natural calamities such as flood and consists of dry-rations issued to each family computed on basis of the number of members of a family. The maximum relief is fixed at Rs. 315/- worth of dry rations per week for a family consisting of 5 members or any number more than five. Families with lesser members than five are given relief on a down scale depending on the number constituting each family, the minimum is as low as Rs. 84/-.

This relief is being given in Jaffna to families that have been uprooted and displaced from their homes and normal occupation from time to time because of the government's aggression and occupation of various parts of Tamil Eelam territory.

The people displaced from their own homes have been so displaced because an alien army has occupied their land and homes. They have lost not only their homes and other belongings but have lost their normal means of livelihood. According to reports some families are living even along roadsides. All these miseries have been caused to the Tamil people because the Government of Sri Lanka has decided to keep the Tamil people under Baudha - Sinhala rule at the point of the gun now that all their efforts to rule them by deceit have failed.

Even while fighting to retain a blatantly imperialist rule the Sri Lankan Government is trying to tell the world that their Government is a democracy and trying to picture Tamil freedom fighters as terrorists. Hence the rhetoric that the war is against LTTE terrorists not against the Tamil people.

If as the Government claims the Tamils are also citizens of the Sinhala country then it is the duty of the Government to look after the needs of the Tamils as well.

The Government has never discharged the duty cast on it by its own false claims. Whatever relief that has been provided by the Government has been provided only grudgingly. However the Government has been very enthusiastic in seeing to it that the Tamil people do not receive their normal requirements.

The Government achieves this objective by a system of blocking goods to Tamil Eelam through its military from the commercial city of Colombo. Nobody need have any doubts that Colombo is a city that exports military - ware. Only ordinary consumer commodities of the people are brought from Colombo. But many impediments have been placed by the government on the flow of goods which has resulted in scarcity.

Added to this scarcity is the fact of loss of employment and displacement from homes for the Tamils. Yet the Government has decided to cut by half the meagre relief it was giving only to a section of the displaced persons. For example pensioners and others in employment are not entitled to the relief assistance even if they are displaced refugees.

That the Government's decision to cut down relief is unjust is borne out by the opposition the NGOO functioning in Jaffna have voiced against the Government's decision. The NGOO are directly involved in relief work amongst displaced refugees.

The opposition of the NGOO to the Sri Lankan Government's decision, it is hoped, will be taken seriously by donors - both Government and Non-Government. All foreign relief must be channelled through NGOO directly to the affected people.

As far as the Government of Sri Lanka is concerned its pretended concern for the Tamils is only a ruse to obtain further aid from foreign lands and to hoodwink world opinion that it is a democratic government ruling the Tamils with their consent.

How well the Sinhala state can rule the Tamils when it even robs Tamil refugees of the meagre food supply is something that can be easily inferred without any effort at exposition.

20 S. L. Soldiers Killed

The Tigers killed over 20 Sri Lankan soldiers and recovered a large haul of arms in Manal Aru area on Wednesday, September 9.

The reports in this connection state that on Wednesday, September 9 Sri Lankan soldiers from the Sri Lankan Army Camp at Kumbakarnan Malai in the Manal Aru District came out of the camp in tractors. The Tigers attacked the Sri Lankan soldiers within a distance of 300 yards from Kumbakarnan Malai Sri Lankan Army Camp. The attack lasted for 20 minutes.

At the same time other Tiger cadres attacked the Sri Lankan Army sentry points sited about 200 yards away from the place where the Tigers attacked the Sri Lankan soldiers travelling in the tractors.

According to a news release by the LTTE, one Tiger fighter

was killed in the battle. Tigers estimated Sri Lankan Army casualties at over 20 dead. LTTE also said that they recovered a large haul of modern weapons.

2 SRI LANKAN SENTRY POSTS DESTROYED

Tigers destroyed two sentry posts of the Sri Lankan Army near Palampotta Aru in the Trincomalee District, killing six Sri Lankan soldiers on Wednesday, September 9.

Reports from Trincomalee state that on Wednesday, September 9 at about 6 - 15 a. m. the LTTE opened fire on two sentry posts of the Sri Lankan Army, situated between Palampotta Aru and

Monkey Bridge. These sentry posts were situated about 150 yards from the Palampotta Aru Sri Lanka Army Camp.

The Tigers killed six Sri Lankan soldiers in this attack and destroyed the two sentry posts. Many more were injured. They also recovered arms, ammunition and other military-ware from the Sri Lankan soldiers. LTTE lost fighters.

Episcopal Appointments

The Holy See of Rome has been pleased to appoint through its Papal Nuncio, Rev. Dr. THOMAS SAVUNDRANAYAGAM, presently Bishop of Mannar, as the Seventh Bishop of Jaffna in succession

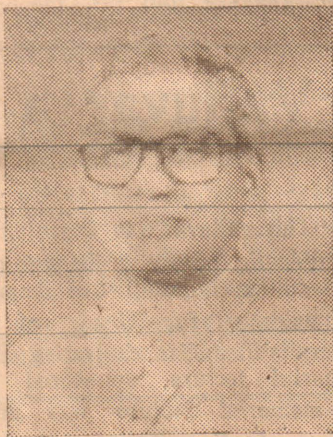
ndramayagam, and Dr. K. Swampillai.

[These appointments took effect from 8th September, 1992.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Savundranayagam is no stranger to Jaffna. He was born at Kayts on 13-07-1938 and is the second son in a family of three. He is a Doctor of Biblical Theology and has been Bishop Mannar since 30-7-1981 and has acquitted himself with credit to the Church during very difficult times. He should prove a worthy successor to the retiring Bishop Bastiampillai Deogupillai whose tenure of office has been characterised by deed, spirituality, humanism and intrepidity.

Rev. Fr. Rayappu Joseph, the Bishop Elect of Mannar, was born at Delft on 16-04-1940 and is the fourth son in a family of six. He is presently Parish Priest of St. John the Baptist Church, Chundikuli, Jaffna and other adjoining parishes since 2-2-1985. He holds a Doctorate in Canon Law and is Pro-

fessor at St. Francis Xavier's Seminary, Colombogam, Jaffna. He is also investigator into the Cause of Beatification of Rev. Fr. B.A. Thomas, founder of the Rosarian Congregation, Tholagatty. It is



to Rev. Dr. Bastiampillai Deogupillai who retired from episcopal office on reaching his 75th year.

The vacancy in the Mannar Bishopric will be filled by Rev. Fr. Rayappu Joseph who is now Parish priest of St. John the Baptist Church, Chundikuli, Jaffna, which has already produced two other bishops in Dr. T. Savu-



significant that he has been elevated to a Bishopric on his 25th year of his priestly Ordination. His Silver Jubilee falls on 13th December, 1992.

They have assumed office at a crucial phase in the History of the Church and the Tamils. We wish them both Divine Guidance and administrative acumen during the difficult times which are surely ahead of us.

Valluvar...

Continuation from Page 3)
in divine love as a result of the conquest of the self. The early discovery of this ethics of life and social living is very impressive in Tamil culture.

A survey of didactic poetry in ancient world literature bears testimony to the statement of Dr. Albert Schweitzer that "there hardly exists in the literature of the world a collection of maxims in which we find such lofty wisdom."

The uniqueness of Thiruvalluvar is that his polity is universal and does not relate

to any particular state or kingdom. His ideas are based on a sense of values which are again universal and are not circumscribed by the conventions of a static society. Thiruvalluvar's concern was with an ideal state in the modern sense.

Thiruvalluvar has been acclaimed a realist with a universal outlook; this was one of the fundamental traits of classical Tamil writing. He came in this traditional background.

Professor A. Thurairajah vice-Chancellor of Univer-

sity presided. Professor Balasundarampillai, Dean of the Faculty of Arts proposed the vote of thanks.

LTTE Attack at Vavuniya

Sri Lankan Army sources said on Friday, September 11 that the LTTE attacked two army vehicles killing five soldiers and injuring five others near Vavuniya.

The same sources added that while one vehicle escaped the other was burnt down.