

# HOT SPRING

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## Thileepan Commemoration GRAND END OF CELEBRATIONS

The Thileepan Commemoration celebrations came to a close on Saturday, September 26 with various programmes all over Jaffna. Reports from Vanni also state that similar programmes were held all over the Vanni District.

This year's celebrations saw streets and junctions gaily decorated exhibiting pictures of Thileepan and

Tiger flags fluttering all around. Thileepan's pictures were garlanded and people paid floral tributes with almost religious fervour and sanctity.

Token fasts were conducted at many places where large numbers of people of all ages and sex participated.

September 26 was conducted as a Day of Resurgence. All work in Jaffna came to a stand-still and people participated in the Commemoration programmes.

In Jaffna town the Day of Resurgence programmes were held opposite the Nallur Kanthasamy Temple - the place where Thileepan himself undertook his fast. Reports say that similar programmes were held at Mali Santhi in Vadamarachy, and at Nunavil in Thenmarachy.

The programmes at these three places began with the lighting of lamps and hoisting

the exact moment that Thileepan passed away - floral tributes were paid at the feet of Thileepan's large-sized pictures. The fast continued till 4.00 p.m. At 4.30 LTTE leaders and others addressed the gathering.

On Friday, displaced persons from the islands, now living in Jaffna, organised a 'Paravai Kavadi', usually undertaken at Hindu Temple festivals. 'Paravai Kavadi' depicts a man flying like a bird. He is suspended in mid-air hooked through the bare skin and fixed on to a lever which sways up and down. This is a custom

was taken on a tractor to which was attached a small chariot carrying Thileepan's picture. The Kavadi went round the streets of Jaffna to the accompaniment of Nathaswaram music and large numbers of people following it. The Paravai Kavadi finished its journey at Nallur Temple Outer Courtyard where people were fasting.

The whole of Jaffna was one in celebrating Thileepan's memory.

Gaily decorated cubicles with Thileepan's pictures garlanded were put up in front of almost every house. The whole day's proceedings in all



of the Tiger flags. At Nallur, lamp was lit by Mr. Rasiah, father of Thileepan, followed by a fast. At 10.48 a.m. -

followed by Hindus in fulfilling religious vows.

The Paravai Kavadi in commemoration of Thileepan

the three centres came to an end with large crowds paying their respects to the memory of the dead leader.

## TIGERS STRIKE AT POONAKARI

### 2 Mini Camps - 60 Sentry Points Destroyed

The LTTE struck at the Sri Lankan Army Camp at Pallikudah in Poonakari and destroyed two mini camps and 60 sentry points covering a distance of one and a half miles.

Reports in this connection state that in the very early hours of the morning of Friday, September 25, at 12.55 a.m. a Tiger unit attacked the Sri Lankan Army Camp at Pallikudah, Poonakari. The attack lasted for two hours.

The LTTE attack was concentrated on a one and a half mile long stretch of sentry point and two mini camps in between. All sentry points

numbering 60 and two mini camps were captured by LTTE and destroyed.

Twenty five Sri Lankan soldiers were killed. Many were wounded. The injured soldiers ran in disarray to the main camp even abandoning the dead bodies of their colleagues. Six Tigers died in this battle including Lt. Col. Subhan the Special Commander of the LTTE in Mannar District.

The Tigers also recovered a very large haul of arms, ammunition and other military-ware.

Reports from Poonakari add that three Sri Lankan helicopters were engaged in transporting the dead and injured soldiers from Poonakari to Palaly till dawn.

After the successful attack by the LTTE, the three armed forces of the Sri Lankan government started indiscriminate attack all around the area until dawn which resulted in residents in close by

areas having to vacate their homes for safety. Whilst the Sri Lankan Army fired artillery shells from its camp at

Poonakari, Sri Lankan Naval boats sent volleys of cannon fire. Sri Lankan Air Force helicopters fired from the air.

### Kallady Rounded Up - Residents taken to Army Camp

News from Batticaloa state that on Friday, September 18, the village of Kallady near Batticaloa was suddenly surrounded by the Sri Lankan Army and Police personnel and search operations carried out.

Men and women were marched to the Sivananda Vidyalayam and subjected to search and interrogation. Many of them including women were taken to the Army Camp for further interrogation. No further news have been received in this connection.



# A NEW TRAP

An Indian political journalist, P. S. Suriyanarayana authored a book titled 'THE PEACE TRAP'. He was writing on the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord and the consequent entry of the Indian Army into Tamil Eelam and the battle between the Indian Army and the LTTE.

*Suriyanarayana said that India had in fact walked into a peace trap of its own making. He also said that Jayewardene too was caught in a peace trap of his own while Prabhakaran viewed the July Accord itself as a peace trap set for him by India.*

## BUSY BODY

The busy body behind the peace trap was recently in Colombo talking about traps again. Mr. N. Ram, presently Editor of "FRONTLINE" was the busybody behind the Peace Trap. Though Mr. Ram was no member of any political party in India or even a person in the array of government officials in South Block or even in Madras Fort St. George, he was conspicuous by his presence along with Rajiv Gandhi and the team of Indian officials and Ministers who flew into Colombo to give finishing touches to the trap. Mr. Ram's labours are well known in devising the Peace Trap of July, 1987 to need any mention again. He has recently spoken at a meeting in Colombo. The meeting itself may well be another trap because it was organised by persons who are well and truly noosed in an Indian trap already.

Being himself an expert at laying traps, Mr. Ram has spoken of traps - the Eelam trap and the Sinhala Only trap. Perhaps he is greatly worried that neither the Tamils of Eelam nor the Sinhalese had fallen into the trap prepared by him and others in 1987.

## ILLOGICAL

According to Mr. Ram, Eelam is a trap and it is so because it is not to India's liking. And why should Eelam not be to India's liking? Is it because India is overwhelmingly concerned about the 'sovereignty' and 'territorial integrity' of Sri Lanka as she often proclaims? These are questions that need be considered.

India does not like the establishment of Tamil Eelam because according to Dixit the establishment of Tamil Eelam will willy-nilly lead to the creation of a separate sovereign Tamil Nadu state

in the Indian sub-continent. This is what Dixit said when he was India's envoy at Colombo. It is, however, necessary for one to analyse whether it is really the reason why India does not like Tamil Eelam.

India helped the birth of Bangla Desh. The present Bangla Desh was part of India before partition at the time of independence. As a matter of fact Bangla Desh and West Bengal formed one country in the Indian sub-continent. The people in both countries spoke the same language, belonged to the same ethnic group and were really one people except for the fact that there was an Islamic religious minority

## Kumaran

in West Bengal and a Hindu religious minority in East Bengal as Bangla Desh was then known.

Bengal is the birth place of strong nationalism and literary and educational advancement. Undivided Bengal produced such men as Nethaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Sarath Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Tagore and a host of others.

Even today the national anthem of Islamic Bangla Desh is one composed by Hindu Rabindranath Tagore. Did not India think that an independent Bangla Desh would eventually lead to an independent West Bengal and eventually lead to one Bangla Desh as it was before? Surely this is a line of thinking which would have inevitably struck Indian policymakers if Dixit's reasons for disliking Tamil Eelam are to be true. It should have been a political concept and policy perspective of India to see that nationalism amongst people in other countries having any sort of affinity with any of the peoples of the Indian sub-continent are discouraged and destroyed. But that did not happen in Bangla Desh.

## DIFFERENT APPROACHES - DESIGN SAME

Pakistan is India's enemy number one. It is in India's interests to dismember Pakistan. Therefore India did not leave any stone unturned to divide Pakistan. India was not concerned with Pakistan's sovereignty or territorial integrity. So it was simply Indian self-interest - her desire to be

the regional super-power - her hegemonistic designs - that led to India extending her support for the creation of Bangla Desh.

It is easily discernible that it is the same hegemonistic design - the desire to be the regional super-power that has made India take a stand just the opposite of her stand in Bangla Desh. Different situations call for different approaches to achieve the same result.

Sri Lanka is an island. It is the only peopled territory south of India. It is peopled by two nations - the Tamils having all affinities with the peoples of South India and the Sinhalese, for the same reasons remaining both anti-Tamil and anti-Indian at the same time. India's hegemonistic designs require that the entire island be controlled by her. This is easily achieved by retaining the Sinhala and Tamil nations in one polity and controlling the Sinhalese through the Tamils! India did put this programme to action through its quislings whose "elections" it secured with the help of the Indian Army. Alas, for India neither the Tamils nor the Sinhalese fell into India's Peace Trap and one can understand the disappointment of the makers of the Peace Trap.

Mr. Ram, the busy body behind the 1987 Peace Trap, now talks of federalism - with an apology if the word is not

to the liking of the Sinhalese - and one must be thankful he has not recommended the Indian model - like the 'lists' copied into Sri Lanka's 13th amendment to the Constitution from the Indian Constitution.

Mr. Ram has spoken of federalism in the presence of those who proclaim themselves to be the followers of the late Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam who advocated federalism for over three decades, threw it out as unworkable and opted for an independent sovereign state of Tamil Eelam. In fact Mr. Chelvanayakam vacated his seat in Parliament, caused a by-election, fought the by-election on his new policy of Tamil Eelam and stated in unmistakable terms in Parliament that he had abandoned federalism and had dedicated himself to work for a separate Tamil Eelam sovereign state and that though he knew it was an arduous task he would work for it.

## RENEGADES

Some renegades now trading his name have organised the meeting at which Mr. Ram spoke and one renegade has blurted out shame facedly. Tamils do well remember how this renegade shouted from platforms that the day a Tamil lost his job on account of Sinhala Only Tamil Eelam would be born - meaning he

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## OUR READERS SAY

# To what extent can the Tamils Trust the Sinhala Leaders

After several years of negotiation between Mr. J. R. Jayawardena and the T. U. L. F. - District Development Act No. 35 of 1980 was enacted. As per section 17 of the said Act - the functions of the Councils were defined in the 1st. schedule. In all 15 subjects were specified - viz. Health Services, Land, Fisheries, Industries, Education, Housing etc. Mr. J. R. Jayawardena's Ministers were reluctant to entrust these subjects to the Development Councils. After enacting a law and failing to implement it, tantamounts to non-enactment.

Banda - Chelvanayagam pact, Dudley-Chelvanayagam pact were aborted. There were only agreements but failing to honour and implement an Act passed by the Parliament amounts to cheating and making a mockery of the Parliamentary System of Government. Lot of blood and valuable resources could have been saved, if this Act was properly implemented. Mr. Jayawardena should take

full responsibility for the mismanagement of the affairs of government. It was he, who brought the I. P. K. F. Had he not opposed the B. C. pact, the story might be different but now the people are floating in blood. After ruining the country, he is still meddling in politics through his trusted agents Lalith and Gamini. He is now worried about the safety of these two gentlemen. I am aware that Mr. Jayawardena has a mania of claiming damages from news paper editors and journalists. Infact, Tamils of Sri Lanka should claim damages from him for permitting arson, murder and rape during his tenure of office. He can't deny that the 1983 Pogrom was a state-aided one. His Ministers had a hand in it, and he was a spectator. It was with his approval and blessings people-citizens of Sri Lanka living in North & East were bombed and killed and their houses destroyed. He even condoned the bombing by the I. P. K. F. Where in the world bombing

and artillery shelling are resorted to, on its own citizens by the state machinery?

What a pity! The Sinhalese leaders rejoice when the army moves a few inches beyond the area of their occupation. They do not realise the hardship caused to the unsuspecting, un-armed ordinary

people. They are forced to vacate their houses, abandon their valuable assets and take the name of destitutes or refugees in their native land. Alas! now the government is failing to maintain the refugees - a creation of theirs.

Oh! GOD are you alive or dead?

MEESALAIYAN.

## LTTE DENIES

The LTTE denied reports that some European Countries and America together have prepared draft proposals to settle the island's national problem.

According to the reports these countries had suggested an immediate ceasefire by the LTTE and Sri Lanka and the commencement of negotiations in some foreign capital. According to the same report Kittu alias Sathasivam Krishnakumar had entered Tamil Eelam territory with the proposals.

LTTE spokesman denied that any proposals were sent

to the LTTE as alleged or that Kittu had arrived in Tamil Eelam.

## Catholic Priest Shot Dead

A Catholic Priest, Rev. Fr. Peter Delima is reported to have been shot dead on Friday, September 18.

The incident is reported to have happened near a Sri Lankan Check Post on the outskirts of Trincomalee town. Sri Lankan police are said to have fired the fatal shot that killed the priest.



## BOOK REVIEW

# External Relations Policy of India in the context of the New International Order

Author:- M. Thirunavukarasu Publishers:- Thamiltai Pathipakam

"Thamiltai" publishers have recently released a book "External Relations Policy of India in the context of the New International Order" written by M. Thirunavukarasu.

It analyses India's position following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. India and Soviet Union were very powerful and very friendly countries. Dismemberment of the USSR had left India high and dry in the international order. Her soft-pedaling attitude, when Iraq captured Kuwait, her do-nothing policy in the Gulf War and her support for the perpetrators of the coup against Gorbachev, reflected her bewilderment and unpreparedness.

The author dwells on the weak internal situation arising out of political instability owing to the downfall of Rajiv's Indra Congress Party, the coming to power of V. P. Singh, his government's downfall, the formation of Chandrasekar's Government and finally the present P. V. Narasimha Rao's Minority Government. All these events occurred during the period when changes were taking place in the Soviet Union and coincided with its dissolution. It was in this context that India could not shape her own External Relations Policy suitable to her needs and ends. The author says that Mr. Narasimha Rao in his desire to stabilise his own unsettled state in internal affairs has decided to appease the USA and to allow the flow of foreign capital into India. America is viewing this change favourably and is encouraging its entrepreneurs to invest in India. It is also advocating such investment in India rather than in China on the ground that it is better for birds of the same democratic feather to unite. Even though democratic sentiments find favour, America is viewing such a policy from its long term perspective. It views China as a potential enemy and such investments in China would help in the enrichment of its industries and increase its technical

know-how. Thus, as far as America is concerned, India's opening for foreign capital and investment is most welcome.

The author also states that the US dominated World Bank and its affiliate the International Monetary Fund are happy with India's new economic policies. At their dictates, India has thrice devalued the Rupee. The author also points out that the Cold War was confined only to Europe and that in Asia and Africa there were direct conflicts. Such conflicts both in Asia and Africa were for the maintenance of the climate of the Cold War between the Super Powers. Now that the Cold War situation no longer

persists, the New International Order has to be viewed from other perspectives. In Europe, the war climate has given place to a peaceful one - Germany has once again been united; the ethnic groups which were kept together by the Soviet Union, are now free nations. The

## S. Thiagarajah

situation in Asia is different. Even though Iraq was attacked by US and its multinational allies, the Kurdish people who are fighting to free themselves from Iraqi hegemony and become independent, have not been allowed to do so. Their right to self determination has been denied. How could one

explain this set-up? There is no Cold war now but the Gulf War was fought in Asia. Asia presents a flaming volcano of conflicts, which could erupt anytime.

The book also deals with hate-love foreign relationships of India and America. America is striving to ensure India's dependence on her and is not allowing her to develop her true potential. This is reflected in America's attitude in opposing India's atomic building-up, purchase of space technology from Russia. The paradox of friendly and inimical relations between the two countries is typified in America's relenting attitude in regard to India's atomic build up. America's International Security Relations Expert, Reginald Bartholomew has expressed similar senti-

ments. This means that America will not view too harshly India's atomic build-up.

Mr. Thirunavukarasu avers that in the long run India's ambition is to have effective supremacy in affairs pertaining to the Indian Ocean. Mr. Narasimha Rao is at present concentrating on regional hegemony in South East Asia. It is possible that America may even concede this position to India. However, one can predict that in the larger context of South Asian Affairs, America will not give up its pre-dominant position in the Indian Ocean to India. It could consent to share such control jointly with India.

This book is on the whole a thought-provoking one to the Tamil reader.

## COLOMBO NEWS

The resumption of duty of Ponram Rajakariar as Speaker of the North-East Provincial Council was without the knowledge and consent of the EPRLF politicians functioning in Colombo. According to a news item appearing in a Colombo Tamil daily, Mr. Rajakariar had talks with Mr. Festus Perera, Minister for Provincial Councils, its Governor, Mr. Nalin Seniviratne and its Secretary, Mr. Gareshanathan before assuming duties after a lapse of of nearly two and a half years. Sri Lankan Government has not officially issued any statement on the talks. It appears that the Government and EPRLF are jointly involved in this manoeuvre with a set plan. The EPRLF is keeping Rajakariar aloof until approval is obtained from their Master, the Indian Government. President Premadasa is now desperate. He is unable to find a solution to the long standing North-East problem either politically or militarily. The Sinhalese and the world are tired. In this context, he has to act early to give a sop to others that he is doing something politically and also portray the LTTE as

a spoke in the wheel of a settlement. Such tactics are with a view to get more aid to continue the war. The proposed purchase of arms from an Ex-communist East European country is a pointer in this direction. Mr. Premadasa's proposed visit to India where Mr. Narasimha Rao is waiting to receive him with open arms, will help him in creating a situation for the Indian Government for the come-back to Sri Lanka of Mr. Varatharaja Perumal. The EPRLF will then be in a position to resuscitate the now defunct Provincial Council under the aegis of Varatharaja Perumal.

All these manoeuvres are one-sided, not taking into consideration the diplomatic and tactical moves the Tigers are capable of launching on this political chessboard. Yogaratnam Yogi at a function recently stated that the Tamil people need not worry that the Tigers would be deceived by anybody. He further said that the LTTE was capable of making counter moves and action against those who

indulge in political intrigues and checkmate the enemy.

## Jha's Appeal for Rapprochement

While still on the subject of political intrigues, it is pertinent to recall a statement made by Indian Ambassador, Mr. Narendranath Jha recently in Colombo. He went on to say that Sri Lanka should co-operate with India to prevent a faux pas in Indo-Sri Lanka diplomatic relationship. He has also stated that India is a factor at issue in Sri Lankan foreign relation diplomacy. But India has as well several sensitive issues with its many neighbours, and it would be better to confine ourselves for our mutual interests without diplomatic rifts. This expression for mutual understanding was expressed in the light of developments in the SAARC set up, raised by Sri Lanka at the SAARC meeting held in Colombo recently. It is significant that such sentiments for understanding common interests expressed in the wake of President Premadasa's proposed visit

to India cannot spell good for a smooth relationship between the two countries.

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## A NEW....

(Continuation from Page 2)

would tight and achieve Tamil Eelam but later said 'politics was the art of the possible'.

Now these political careerists fell into the Peace Trap laid by Mr. Ram and others in 1987. They who abandoned their parliamentary seats in 1983 because of the 6th Amendment again entered parliament - some of them even after defeat thanks to Jayewardene's system of elections - when the 6th Amendment was very much part of the Sri Lankan constitution. They are all well-noosed in the Indian trap. Mr. Ram, however, cannot succeed in trapping Eelam Tamils but that cannot dissuade him from laying new traps to retrieve the losses sustained by the failure of the 1987 Peace Trap. Mr. Ram's speech appears to be one noose in the chain of nooses in the new trap being envisaged.

# EPRLF POLITICS; JHA; J. R; COLONISATION



# HOT SPRING

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## India's Dilemma

When the Accord between Rajiv Gandhi and Jayawardhene was finalised Mr. Rajiv Gandhi gave false hopes to the Indians and Eelam Tamils. He was very boastful of his achievements.

After the signing of the Accord he presented it to the Indian Parliament proclaiming it as evidence of 'success' of his foreign diplomacy.

The other signatory to the Accord, Mr. J. R. Jayawardhene, on the other hand maintained stoic silence. He even refused to present the Accord to Sri Lanka Parliament saying that it was an agreement between him and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

Jayawardhene opened up Sinhala Police Stations in the Northeast and set in motion accelerated programme of Sinhala colonisation in the Northeast. Finally he even cajoled the Indian government into fighting the LTTE much to the chagrin of even some Indian Army men.

The Agreement did not help the signatories either. In India Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was voted out of power and Mr. V. P. Singh became Prime Minister. In Sri Lanka Mr. Jayawardhene could not seek re-election or try to extend his term of office.

The Island remains what it was before the Accord - the only difference being that the war has even worsened than what it was before the Accord but only India seeing nothing of the destruction caused to Tamil Eelam and its people.

According to latest reports Mr. Jayawardhene has said that the July, 1987 Accord is no more relevant. He has also said that the annexures to the Accord were not that important.

It will be remembered that it was only in the annexures the provisions relating to the resolution of the Sinhala - Tamil conflict were included - not in the main agreement. Now Jayawardhene says that they were not important. This shows the real mind of Mr. Jayawardhene. He never wanted to resolve the Tamil - Sinhala dispute in anyway other than his own. That is why he proceeded to act deliberately against the Accord. He stepped up Sinhala colonisation of Tamil areas. Instead of releasing all political detenus he further started arresting political leaders and finally achieved his scheme to get the Indians fight the Tamils and save the lives of Sinhalese.

However, Mr. Jayawardhene has further made the mischievous statement that all provisions of the annexures have been implemented by Sri Lanka - except the holding of the referendum in the East to decide whether or not the merger of the Northeast should continue.

In the game of subtle diplomacy it looks as if Mr. Jayawardhene is having the last laugh.

In this context it is most pathetic to hear the meek voice of Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr. Jha, trying to assert that the Accord is still valid. The Indian establishment is again trying to assert itself in Sri Lanka as a friend of the Tamils. No other meaning can be attached to the statement that India is obliged to ensure the rights of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

India is the closest neighbour of the island and nobody would grudge India taking genuine interest in solving the miseries in the neighbouring island. But if India, instead of playing the honest broker's role, engages itself in the mediatory role of the monkey in the tale, nobody would take India seriously. India, however, still seems to follow its old policy.

Mr. Jha, has stated that India had obligation to see that the rights of the Tamils are ensured in a united Sri Lanka. By stating so Mr. Jha is falling into the trap laid for the Indians in 1987. The bone of contention in Sri Lanka today is whether the whole island is one or two. The Tamils say that their country Tamil Eelam is yoked to Sri Lanka by imperial fiat and is kept in bondage at the point of the gun.

In this context, if India wants to play the honest broker's role again, it cannot come to a conclusion of its own on the very question on which the parties are at issue and force it on others. In fact, this was precisely the point emphasised by India's former Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateshwaran.

## 23 Sri Lankan Soldiers Killed at Batticaloa

At least 23 Sri Lankan Soldiers were killed and an armoured vehicle destroyed at Batticaloa when Tigers attacked a contingent of Sri Lankan soldiers.

News from Batticaloa in this connection state that on Monday, September 21, at 6.30 a.m. LTTE attacked a contingent of Sri Lankan soldiers proceeding from the Kayankerni Sri Lankan Army Camp to Navalady. The attack took place within 300 yards of the Sri Lankan Army Camp at Kayankerni.

According to the report the Tiger attack lasted for only seven minutes. At least 23 Sri Lankan soldiers were killed. According to Sri Lankan government reports only two soldiers out of the group returned to camp with injuries.

Another group of Tigers attacked Sri Lankan soldiers from the Navalady Junction S. L. Army Camp who tried

to proceed to the rescue of the Sri Lankan soldiers came under fire at Kayankerni. An armoured vehicle was destroyed by the Tigers at Navalady and the Sri Lankan Soldiers could not move to Kayankerni.

A Sri Lankan helicopter carried out supportive strike from the air but was of no avail.

The Tigers recovered a large haul of arms and ammunitions from the Sri Lankan Soldiers. The LTTE said that three of its fighters died in this battle.

## SRI LANKA TO PURCHASE MILITARYWARE WORTH 100 MILLION U. S. DOLLARS

Reports from Colombo state that the Sri Lankan Government has contracted to buy 100 million American Dollar worth war equipment from a former East European Communist state on a five-year credit basis.

According to this report the Sri Lankan Government will

purchase helicopters, tanks, bombers and other sophisticated machines and weaponry for its three armed forces.

Observers say the news clearly indicate the way the Sri Lankan Government proposes to solve the Tamil problem.

## EPRLF POLITICS....

(Continuation from Page 3)

### J. R.'s Nirvana

J. R. Jayawardhene is very much in the political limelight now, inspite of his overt intention to quit politics. He has stated that the Accord he signed with Rajiv Gandhi is now invalid - both annexures and provisions. This statement of his, coming at this juncture appears a clear intent to de-stabilise Indo - Sri Lanka relations. Such view will not find acceptance with India and this view has been echoed by both Gurjaral and Jha. India cannot rightly be mum when she is spending colossal sums of money in the upkeep of Varatharaja Perumal and EPRLF lackeys. Like Nero fiddling, J. R. has been quoting Buddhist Scriptures that Arahats had taken liquor. So he argues that if an Arahata who has attained Nirvana could take liquor, why cannot he as an aspirant to Nirvana, take brandy? Satan too quotes Scriptures when they are to his liking!

### Colonisation

Cabinet spokesman, Ranil Wickremasinghe has given a new twist to colonisation. He has denied that there was state aided colonisation schemes in recent years, i. e. since June 1990. When asked to clarify 'recent years' he has said that no state-aided colonisation took place since the fighting resumed in June 1990 but when pressed further about Manal Aru he conceded that colonisation commenced there in 1984 and is STILL CONTINUING. It is com-

mon knowledge that one of the root causes of Sri Lanka's Eelam War was the colonisation of the Tamil homeland. The facts have been deliberately confused by the Minister. Colonisation of Tamil areas was going apace right along! Its acceleration, however, coincided with the Indo - Sri Lanka Accord. Manal Aru is a case in point. It was earlier included under the Rapid Mahaveli Development Scheme but excluded later and no development took place. One feature of the Indo - Sri Lanka Accord was that it accepted North - East as a single entity. This sent ripples of alarm in Government circles. The 'left out' Manal Aru was declared a Special Project by the

Government in 1988 under the Rapid Mahaveli Development Scheme and geared for Development and colonisation. The fact that this area remained under the Central Government without having been allocated to the Provincial Government, under the Provisions of the 13th amendment, facilitated this move. More planting of people by the Government will not suffice. The army for its part must ensure protection to its colonists to prevent an exodus. The flight of Sinhala colonists from Vavuniya and the hue and cry raised by the so called 'national press' against the closure of the camp in the Vavuniya District which make hamlets in the Anuradhapura District vulnerable to attacks, shows that the army cannot always be on the qui vive!

— S. Thiagarajah



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