

## HOT SPRING

Vol. 3

20th December 1992

No. 10

## Quite True!

*"Who does not help  
at the needful moment  
Never helps;  
Who does not counsel  
at the needful moment  
Never counsels."*

Goethe

# Ceasefire A Pre-requisite For Talks

## LTTE REJECTS SIMULTANEOUS WAR AND PEACE APPROACH

The LTTE has rejected a Government proposal sent to it through the Quakers Peace Mission providing for secret talks while the war continues. This is revealed in a report published by one of Jaffna's Tamil Dailies, Eelanatham, in its issue of December 13 Sunday.

Eelanatham, quoting an official spokesman of the LTTE said that the Government of Premadasa wishes to have secret talks with the LTTE but without stopping the war. "The Government does not wish to stop the war, create a peace atmosphere and begin negotiations with the LTTE. This is a self-contradictory, impractical and dangerous approach", the LTTE spokesman is reported to have told "Eelanatham".

The report as published by Eelanatham states as follows:-

We have been reiterating for a long time that the Liberation Tigers are ready for a ceasefire and negotiations. This has been our stand all throughout. Our Leader, Mr. V. Pirabhakaran, has consistently stressed that our doors are not closed for peace and has issued public statements to this effect.

The first step to commence any negotiations is to enter into a ceasefire agreement. This is essential. Peace talks cannot be conducted on the basis of goodwill unless peace situation prevails. Even such a ceasefire agreement should not work to the detriment of our people but should help to maintain our people's

welfare. If there is a permanent ceasefire only peace talks can bear fruition.

It is to be noted that ceasefire agreements from the Thimpu talks to the Colombo talks were broken by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces by violations of the ceasefire.

The Premadasa Government is not willing to enter into a permanent and effective ceasefire and begin negotiations. The Sri Lankan Government is afraid that the LTTE may utilise the interval such a ceasefire would provide and strengthen its military structure.

The government also believes that any ceasefire agreement with the LTTE

at a time when the LTTE is militarily strong will work only to create diffidence in the minds of its armed forces personnel. The Government is also worried that it cannot exert pressure on the LTTE at a time when the LTTE is in an advantageous position militarily. Therefore the Government is showing keen interest to continue the war and establish its military superiority.

The top brass of the armed forces believe that this can be achieved by modernising the army. It is for this reason that the Government, while on the one hand continuing the war and adding to woes and pressures the people face, on the other hand is also willing to carry on negotiations.

It is on the basis of this approach that the Government has sent some proposals through the Quakers Peace Mission with a view to begin secret talks. But the LTTE has rejected the suggestion to carry on the war and simultaneously carry on peace talks as such proposals will be detrimental to the interests of the Tamils.

## Govt. Tightens Economic Strangulation

It is learnt that the Ministry of Rehabilitation has suspended the transport of essential food items to Jaffna by ship.

Already Jaffna is facing acute shortage essential consumer commodities because of the impediments placed by the S.L. Army at Vavunia and the boats service at Kilali being unable to function because of constant attack by Sri Lankan Navy on civilian passengers and

transporters of consumer commodities. In addition, the J.O.C. puts impediments by not granting or delaying the granting of permits for transport of consumer goods.

It is learnt that the Govt. Agent, Jaffna, has made an urgent appeal to the Commissioner - General of Essential Services not to suspend the operation of sea transport carrying goods to Jaffna.

## GOVERNMENT IMPOSES POSTAL BLOCKADE TOO

Government has stopped sending all mails to Jaffna for nearly two months now. This seems to be the latest blockade imposed on Tamils by the Sinhala Government.

There are large numbers of Tamils who are residing in foreign lands and their communication with their relations in Jaffna is mainly by post. There is no other form of communication. The stoppage of transporting postal bags has badly affected residents here who are unable to know anything about their dear ones outside their homes.

The unannounced blockade of postal services imposed by Government also disrupts work of Government Departments. Local Government pensioners have not been paid their pensions for even November yet because the pension

vouchers have not been received from Colombo.

It is learnt that the disruption of postal services have so adversely affected even the functioning of the Government Departments in Jaffna that the Government Agent of Jaffna District, Mr. K. Manickavasagar, has brought the matter to the notice of

the Ministry of Posts in Colombo.

The Government Agent has told the Ministry of Posts that postal mail bags are not sent regularly in ships bringing food cargo and this causes disruption in administration. He has also said that ordinary residents are affected by non-receipt of postal mails,

## BATTLE AT VILAN

### S.L.ARMY RETREATS TO CAMP

Fierce battle broke out between LTTE cadres and the Sri Lankan armed forces at Vilan in Valikamam West which lasted for over four hours on Wednesday, December 16.

The reports in this connection state that on Wednesday, December 16, at 9.45 am Sri Lankan Army encamped at Alaveddy started moving towards Vilan junction in two separate columns with battle tanks and armoured vehicles and backed by heavy artillery shell attack.

The Sri Lankan Army tried to move through the main road as well as through paddy fields.

According to reports the LTTE men gave battle to the Sri Lankan Army at Vilan junction. The battle lasted till about 2.00 p.m. After a fierce battle lasting for over four hours, the Sri Lankan Army unable to proceed further retreated to its camps.

One LTTE fighter died in action in this battle. Army losses were not known but were expected to be heavy.

## Tigers Attack Army Sentry at Manal Aru

Tigers carried out an attack on a Sri Lankan Army Sentry Post at Manal Aru on Saturday, December 12.

According to reports in this connection the Tigers attacked the Sri Lankan Army Sentry post between Munthirikaikulam Army camp and the Ceylon Theatres

Army Camp at Manal Aru about 6.30 a.m on Saturday December 12. The attack lasted for 20 minutes.

The Tigers recovered an RPG and some ammunition. Six Tigers died in this action. The LTTE said that army casualties were not known but were expected to be heavy.



## Palk Strait to be re-named Tamil Channel

The narrow strip of sea between England and France is known as English Channel because English mariners used the Channel extensively in ancient times. The narrow stretch of sea between Peninsular India and the Island of Lanka is known as Palk Strait. Surely one must conform to world trends in such matters. The narrow strip of sea between India and Lanka should be named Tamil Channel. From time immemorial this stretch of water was more or less the home of the Tamil mariners whose habitation was on either side of the strait. Steps should be taken by the Government of India, Government - designate of the North and East of Lanka to re-name the Palk strait (what a colourless name) as The Tamil Channel.

## Proportion of Officers to Rank and File Casualties

When the Indian Peace Force was employed to crush Eelyom Tamils the ratio of officers to ordinary soldiers in the casualty list was rather high and Indian Government claimed that as evidence that the peace Force operated under the immediate supervision of its Officers. That was an argument to assert that Indian soldiers could not have run on the

rampage. The casualty rate of officers to other ranks in the Sri Lankan army was rather low until recently. Most recruits to the officer grades in the Sri Lankan Army were taken in at a time, when the contingency

world's most determined guerilla warriors. Still, the officers were comparatively safe until destiny brought down nineteen Officers from the blue sky to terra firma and a land mine sent some nine officers. The top of the

Raja Yoga put her on the military capcity to engage top in the first instance; thereafter, the movements can only be downward. But it remained near the top for a rather long time. But her attempt to raise political capital out of Kobekaduwa's

Sri Lanka would not and really could not rely on Indian armed assistance to crush the Tamils, giving relief to the Sinhala Armed Forces as J. R. Jayawardene once relied to establish Sinhala imperialism over Eelyom.

# MUSINGS BY NESTOR

of the Armed Forces engaging in battle, was considered highly unlikely. But Providence in which Sinhalese Buddhism does not believe, decreed otherwise.

The Sinhala Armed Forces, both officers and ordinary soldiers had to face the

Armed Services had to experience at first hand a land-mine explosion. That is why the Government - owned Press is canvassing for peace.

## Sirima's Raja Yoga

Sirima's Raja Yoga has exhausted itself. A Vipareetha

death spells ruin for her politically. Mrs. Kobekaduwa appears to have withdrawn herself from the political gamble.

## Physician, Heal thyself first.

India is no more in a position to engage in an adventure in Lanka claiming that it is a Regional Super-power seeking to put the region in order without inviting the above retort. In any case it is not likely to have much by way of reserve

## More Sinhala Teachers for Trincomalee

It is understood that the Government has appointed some trained teachers in maths and science for the Northeast.

38 Sinhalese have been appointed for the Trincomalee District. But the number of Tamils appointed is only 20. The number of Sinhala appointees for a Tamil District is almost 100 percent more than Tamil appointees for that district.

## Sinhala Parliamentarians Continue War Cry

### M.H.A. Amit (UNP)

The North must be subjugated to solve the problems.

### Anantha Dassanayake (SLFP)

The country should be put on a war footing.

### S.L. Gunasekara (SLFP)

It is safer to rear a rabid dog than to enter into talks with the LTTE. The LTTE must be exterminated. It should be made militarily impotent. The war must be won first. The military objective must come first.

### Dixon. J. Perera. (SLFP)

The people felt the government was preparing to hold talks with the L.T.T.E. terrorists. The SLFP is opposed to any talks with the brutal murderers.

The Island 25.11.1992

## But 'Jihad Warrior' Gets Cold Feet

### M.H.M. Ashraff (SLMC)

There may be other elements too who may launch attacks and try to put the blame on the LTTE. All major attacks were launched from jungles. Who knows, who are in the jungles. There may be others. I urge both Mrs. Bandaranayake and President Premadasa to invite Prabakaran to the table. Ask him what he wants. We must think on those lines.

The Island - 25.11.92

## Appreciation

### The Late Ratnam Reginald Dharmaratnam

Attorney - at - Law and Notary Public

The passing away of Mr. R. R. Dharmaratnam on 29-11-92 from this Mundane World is a great shock.

Mr. Dharmaratnam inherited fine qualities from his father Ratnam Upathiyar a Teacher much respected and affectionately called Ratnam Upathiyar.

Mr. Dharmaratnam was President of the Vadamarachy Co-operative Hospital.

He was Trade Unionist and an intelligent Administrator.

He practised as an Attorney-at-Law and Notary Public for a period of forty years. He was Chairman of the Village Committee of Udupiddy for a period of more than twenty five years.

Mr. Dharmaratnam was a man with richness in mind to help the needy and the Institutions that benefitted mankind. May we pray for the soul of Dharmaratnam to rest in peace.

R. Rudra B.Sc. (Lond.) Advocate Point Pedro.

## Sinhala Settlers and Armed Forces engaged in theft and slaughter of cattle

Sinhalese settlers are active slaughtering cattle belonging to Tamils and making business out of stolen cattle with the active connivance of the Sinhala armed forces, according to reports from Trincomalee.

It is learnt that the illegal slaughter of cattle is being carried out in large scale at Nilaveli. Though this is being done illegally and by

theft all the meat finds its way to the town to be sold there, despite several Sri Lankan army and police check points all along the road. According to the reports the people of the area say that the theft and slaughter of the cattle are being carried out by Sinhala settlers with the active connivance of the Sinhala Armed Forces

## Vocational Excellence Award

At a function held recently at Hotel Subhas the Rotary club of Jaffna gave Vocational Excellence Awards to the following :-

1. Mr. Samuel Benjamin-

for make up of stage artistes.

2. Mr. Laxmana Achary Gengatharan - for Metal Craft workmanship.

3. Mr. Nadarajah Sri Anandaraman - for wood Craftworkmanship especially Prints and Blocks.

The following 4th year medical students of the Jaffna Medical faculty were awarded Certificates for conducting Drug Control Seminars at various colleges in the District: Mast. P. Laxman, K. Muhanthan, T. Sathiaselan and S. Sivathas.

Prizes and certificates were also awarded to winners of the Polio / Plus Slogan competition organised by the club.

## Artillery Attack on Amman Temple Trustees Protest

Artillery shell attack launched from the Palaly Army Camp directed towards Valvettiturai hit the Valvai Sri Muthumari Amman Temple badly damaging its roof on Sunday December 13.

This temple was one of those badly damaged in January, 1991 when Sri Lankan Air Force bombers carried out carpet bombing of Valvettiturai for four consecutive days from January 20 to 23.

The Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Muthumari amman temple Mr. P. Meenadchisundaram, has brought to the notice of the Government Agent, Jaffna the damage caused to the temple by shell attack on December

13, reminding him also the damage caused to the temple in January, 1991 and has requested the Government Agent to take up the matter with the appropriate authorities of the Sri Lankan Government and ensure that

damage is not caused again to the temple.

He has also requested the Government Agent to make arrangements to pay compensation for the loss caused to the temple by last Sunday's artillery shell attack.

## S. L. Army Attacks Passengers

The Sri Lankan soldiers at Noochimoddai suddenly started firing at passengers from the North travelling to Vavunia and beyond on Friday, December 11, according to reports from Vavunia.

As the soldiers began to fire many are reported to have fallen flat on the ground to escape injury. Many ran here and there abandoning their belongings. However, four passengers

received gun shot injuries and are being treated. One of the injured has been identified as Mr. N. Parthasarathy, an English trained teacher of Puthuvilankulam.

The Sri Lankan soldiers are also reported to have set fire to a number of boutiques and shops at Noochimoddai after the firing spree in which they indulged in.

## SPORTS

### Football

Jaffna District Selected (Seniors) beat Point Pedro Selected team by eight goals to nil, at St. Patrick's College grounds.

It was the combined efforts of the Jaffna Selected which enabled them to win by a large margin. Mr. Thevarajah was the referee.



# Human Rights Violations on Human Rights Day

## P. S. C. Fiasco

December 10th, 1992 was Human Rights Day but not for the Government of Sri Lanka. It decided to show its affront for human rights on that date itself in two ways. (Not that it was not doing so and violating human rights earlier. It was always doing it but was clever enough or thought that it was clever in hoodwinking the world. On occasions it would say "I am sorry, it was a mistake done by some hothead", or that someone had emotionally been upset and done the misdeed). But on the 10th instant some mothers whose dear ones had disappeared mysteriously without a trace, or who were found with garlands of burning tyres round their necks with their faces unidentifiable or who floated serenely along the flood waters of Kelani Ganga, were peacefully marching towards De Mel Park at Slave Island to assemble there and mourn and pay homage to their departed ones. The Government thought that this should not be allowed and that the world should not become aware of this solemn protest. A squad from the Special Task Force prevented these old women, manhandled them and even baton charged and used tear gas. Some Members of Parliament who had presented themselves there to reap some harvest out of this incident too were arrested. (They were not assaulted). But the result was undue adverse publicity which the Government could have avoided. Anyhow, Sri Lankan government knows that ultimately nothing will happen. It knows from past knowledge that in spite of lot of hue and cry even internationally against atrocities committed by it on innocent Tamils, the aid-giving countries will contribute lavishly for its war efforts.

## Thenmaradchy

The second affront against Human Rights was committed by the Sri Lankan government at Madduvil and Nuna-vil areas in Thenmaradchy. At 8.10. a.m. on that day two supersonic jet planes bombed the areas without warning. Two people died. About fifteen people were seriously injured and several houses, livestock and plantations were destroyed. Students sitting for the G. C. E (O/L) examination just

escaped death. But their opportunity of sitting the said examination was lost. What has the government achieved by this ruthless bombing? The Sri Lankan government had denied the people of Thenmaradchy (supposed to be Sri Lankan citizens) the human right to live peacefully and to mind their normal day-to-day business. It had denied the Tamil students of that area their human right to study and sit for a public examination. The funniest part in this drama is that the Sri Lankan Prime Minister has denied

## S. Thiagarajah

there is a war going on in the Island. It is not a war, he says but only a matter of law and order against some terrorists. What tongue in cheek talk?

## "Tamil groups"?

In this context, can anyone believe that any of the Sinhalese parties in the South consent or even put forward any reasonable settlement towards the ethnic problem? But the Tamil groups operating from Colombo believed it. They thought unreservedly that the government would somehow or other defeat the Tigers and would evolve some sort of settlement and allow them to rule the Tamils as its vassals. Time and history have proved that these groups are wrong and that their opportunistic and short-term desires will never come to fruition. The decision of the Parliamentary Select Committee has proved this. The UNP spelt out that they were prepared only for decentralisation with nine distinct provincial councils. Earlier Sirimavo who was supposed to have agreed for a federal set-up along with the UNP, if the Tamil groups dropped their continued adherence to the merged character of the North and East, too went back and said that she was against the merger.

Ultimately, through a mechanism of secret vote, the majority Sinhalese in the Parliamentary Select Committee have decided to hoodwink the Tamils and have stated that a federal constitution is not suitable for Sri Lanka and also that the already merged North and East should be de-linked. The voting was forty two against three. Now EPRLF member, Premachandran is saying that the end of the

tenure of the Parliamentary Select Committee in failure without coming to any reasonable solution, has strengthened the hands of the Tigers and established that what they stood for was correct. What did these Tamil groups operating from Colombo expect the Parliamentary Select Committee to achieve?

## PSC divides Tamil groups

Only outcome of the Parliamentary Select Committee was that the 'advisors' to the government had succeeded in bringing about dissension among Tamil groups in Colombo. Srinivasan succumbed and adopted a sort of federal set up which all suspect to be a UNP ploy. TELO too fell a victim. They have to. PLOTE is now said to be backing the TELO on this. To both these groups, there is no turning back. They are supposed to be ex-militant groups and are now part and parcel of the armed forces of Sri Lanka. In fact, they are one step ahead! It is they who commit most atrocities on the Tamils. Some of them make the present opportunity to collect as much money from innocent Tamil victims and flee overseas. So, it is natural and inevitable that these two groups support the government to the hilt and dance to the tune of the government. As such, it is not surprising to hear TELO saying that it will indulge in propaganda for the separation of the already merged North East. These groups have forgotten all the promises to the Tamils that they were the only saviours of the Tamils. Whatever it is, the Tamils and their representatives, viz. the Tigers, cannot be fooled. They knew the ultimate result of the deliberations of the Parliamentary Select Committee and its futile efforts.

## Political Elites

The elites in the UNP, SLFP or any other Party of the South who had sowed the seeds of chauvinism of the Sinhala Buddhist majority theory, based on the Dhama Deepa concept for their own good, are not going to put forward any reasonable proposals for a solution of the ethnic problem. Like the elites in the Buddhist ecclesiastical hierarchy, they too will not like to forego or

give up the powers and privileges they are now enjoying. They are not bothered about the sufferings of the ordinary Sinhalese who are suffering economically as well as by the loss of their kith and kin in the Sri Lanka war on Tamil Eelam.

## Sinhala Think-Tanks

It is history that people in power lose their heads and do not even listen to advice, even when such advices are given by their own men who are afraid that their own power, authority and influence will not last, if those in power do not heed their advice and change with the times. Good examples are king Farouk of Egypt, Shah of Persia, President Marcos of Philippines etc.

The so-called think-tanks who advise governments can see the writing on the wall, when their governments are about to face disaster and collapse. But the powers that are, too narrow-minded and can only see the present and do not see the future in its proper perspective.

Anurudha Tilakasiri writing in the Sunday Observer of 6.12.92 says that if they wait till after the Tigers are militarily defeated to talk of a political solution to the Tamil ethnic problem, they will never be able to end this war. Kautilaya too writing in the Sunday Island of 6.12.92, toes this line. He goes one step further and says that if a federal constitution is accepted by the moderates and some of the anti-militants (EPRLF, for instance), the European Economic Community and some of the influential Commonwealth countries would welcome and support the exercise, India not withstanding. Kautilaya also argues that a settlement of this nature which could isolate the Tigers, satisfy the moderate responsible opinion in Tamil Nadu and therefore LTTE's capacity to exploit anti-Sinhala and anti-Delhi Tamil opinion, would be welcomed by New Delhi.

One can discern a favourable bias towards India in

the opinions of these 'advisors'. Why? They are pro-Indians and they know that India has not yet abandoned its 'Accord' and its desire for a 'locus standi' to have a say in the affairs of Sri Lanka. One need not go far to understand this. The answer lies in the fact that India is still keeping Varatharaja Perumal as its guest. It is not for nothing!

## Opposition Role

One can see the role of the Opposition in the matter. After all, it is also with the votes of the Sinhala Opposition parties that the Parliamentary Select Committee decided to limit its decentralization recommendation on the basis of Provincial administration as well as to de-link the already merged North and East. Mind you, only three votes against this. SLFP is not worried about any national problems. It is involved in a bitter inner party feud. It has to solve the problem of who is to lead it. There is no use in expecting anything from it. Even the other parties in the Opposition are suffering from senile decay. Their performance at Mrs. Kobbekaduwa's letter to the President reveals their utter nakedness even to understand the ABC of politics. It is a shame to see the photographs of persons of the calibre of Bernard Soysa at the Press interview the DUNF arranged for them at Hotel Oberoi. They do not seem to understand that there are enough economic issues on which the masses could be organised against the government, if they want to do so. Instead they are going behind some puerile ex-ministers who cannot even manage their own affairs. LSSP seems to be divided on this issue. Batty Weerakoon is opposed to federalism whereas Athavuda Seneviratne is reported to be supporting it. Of all, the biggest joke is the Communist Party advocating right of self-determination for the Tamils within a unitary state. It is something like a person promising a miracle - say like jumping into a well but only could go half-way!

## Past Record of All India Radio

"All India Radio from Delhi is railing at us, declaring us to be enemies. But there is not one word said by us or one act performed, about which we are ashamed. We lay claim to be honest patriots working for our country's freedom. Let the two sets of broadcasts, from Delhi and Bangkok be placed side by side and let an international tribunal say which is patriotic. I have no doubt about the answer". Taken from the book Jai Hind. The diary of a rebel Daughter of India with the Rani of Jhansi Regiment.

No-wonder, All India Radio retained the same imagination to produce broadcasts such as Anpuvali, Nesakaram and Vettrimalai even during the IPKF aggression of Eelam.

The Bangkok Radio referred to here was operated by the Provisional Government of India set up by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.



# HOT SPRING

VOL: 3 Sunday 20th December 1992 ISSUE: 10

## Essence of PSC Decision and Duty of International Community

Press reports say that the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) has decided by a majority vote-42 to 3 - that neither federalism nor acceptance of the unified Tamil Northeast Province could be solutions to the 'ethnic conflict' and that only decentralisation of powers for nine provinces including two separate Northern and Eastern Provinces could be its recommended solution.

Some people think that the only result of the PSC exercise is the consolidation of the ranks of the Sinhala chauvinist forces and the division in Tamil ranks. But this is only seemingly so.

The Sinhala forces have always been united in robbing Tamil rights. In fact, they vie amongst one another as to who could rob better Tamil rights. Even while the so-called 'Colombo Tamil groups' paid some lip-service to Tamil demands, they did not represent Tamil opinion, but remained that quota of persons found amongst any people throughout the ages who for personal gains betray their country and people. They are propelled and kept alive by hegemonists in Colombo and in New Delhi and therefore play their role both more openly and unashamedly like any quislings. Needless to say they make no impact on the Tamils of Eelam.

We had no doubts. We said that the PSC was appointed with the sole purpose of doing nothing to solve the Tamil problem but only to aggravate and perpetuate it. We have been proved right.

After feigning to deliberate for over one and a half years, the PSC has recommended a furtive step to divide the united Tamil homeland. *That in essence is the PSC decision.* President Premadasa will now justify his further efforts to divide the Tamil homeland as being recommendations of the PSC, and seek to absolve himself personally of the heinous crime.

Some well-meaning foreign Governments and foreign NGOs thought that the PSC might come out with some solution. Their hopes were bound to fail from the beginning because they failed to appreciate that it was the Sinhala parliaments that had steadily and systematically deprived the Tamils of their rights in their own homeland. This is inevitable in a single parliament for two different peoples, one of whom constituted a permanent majority and the other a permanent minority.

Along with the publication of the decision of the much publicised PSC, the Sri Lankan Government has activated its armed forces and they are currently engaged in a war of aggression and genocide in Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Jaffna. The Government has also tightened its economic blockade by suspending the ship-transport service and by the Navy firing at private transport service through the Kilali sea.

The people in Tamil Eelam today are facing a grave threat by the combined war and economic blockade of the Government. The Government's bluff that the Eelam Tamils are its citizens stands exposed.

The decision of the PSC to recommend the division of the Tamil homeland - a grave instance of meddling with the territorial integrity of Tamil homeland, accepted by laws of the Sinhala government and by Sinhala leaders - should be sufficient warning to the international community Sri Lanka will never honour its undertaking so far as the Tamils are concerned and it is unthinkable that the Tamil nation should live at the mercy of the Sinhalese. It would be useless for the international community to wait for justice for the Tamils at the hands of the Sinhalese and continue to give development-aid to the Sinhala Government which will be stealthily used for war against Tamils.

The confidence trick played on the whole world by the Sinhala government by the establishment of the PSC can be defeated by international communities by recognising the right of the Tamils to their homeland and their right to self-determination. This is perhaps the only step to prevent death, destruction and genocide of the people in Tamil Eelam.

## Heavy Artillery Shell Attack

The Sri Lankan Armed Forces stationed at Karainagar and Palaly carried out heavy artillery shell attacks directed towards civilian dwellings for three consecutive nights.

Reports said that on Saturday, December 12, the Sri Lankan Army encamped at Karainagar launched shell attacks directed towards the villages of Moolai, Ponnalai and Chulipuram.

The shell attack which began at 8.30 p.m. went on till midnight. As the shells exploded in dwelling areas, the people abandoned their houses and ran for shelter to safer areas and thus averted death. Other damages have not been verified.

While shells exploded in the Moolai - Chulipuram area, the Sri Lankan Armed Forces at Kattuvan started firing towards the villages of Eralalai and Vilan.

### At Valvettiturai

On the following day, Sunday, December 13, the Sri Lankan Forces at Palaly launched shell attack towards Valvettiturai. Three artillery shells exploded.

The Valvettiturai Muthumari Amman temple and Sivan Temple were damaged by shell explosion. Another shell exploded at Aathikovilady, Valvettiturai, damaging two houses and injuring a married woman, Vasanthi Wijeyasekaram, who was at her house when the shell exploded. The shell attack on Valvettiturai started at 7.30 p.m.

### Six Severely Injured

On the following day, Monday, December 14, the

They are E. Sellammah (46) and Kanakanayagam Ranjani (23).

### Many People Displaced

Shell attack also was launched by the Sri Lankan armed Forces at Palaly directed towards Pandatari-ppu, Alaveddy, Kurumbasiddy and Eralalai. The attack which started at Midnight on Sunday, December 13 went on till 3.00 a.m. on Monday, December 14. As a result of this heavy attack, people woke from their sleep and rushed to other areas for safety. The damage caused in this area has not been verified. The people in the area left the place even in the night. They are now displaced.

At Mylankoodal a civilian named Navaratnam Bhaskaran (28) was injured. At Kupplan three members of the same family were injured. They are Elayathamby Theivanai (55), her daughter Parasakthy (29) who is a teacher at Palaly Teachers Training College, and her brother Rajkumar (26). Two other women were also injured when another shell exploded in the same area.

## No Wages for One Year Saltern Employees Concerned

Employees of the Elephant Pass Salt Corporation have not been paid any salary for the whole of this year. From January to December, 12 months salaries are due but not a cent has been paid despite requests made to the Head Office in Colombo.

The salterns at Elephant Pass is a government concern, run by the National Salt Corporation at Colombo. With the commencement of the war and the occupation of Elephant Pass by the Sri Lankan Army the production of salt has been stopped because Elephant Pass is a war theatre.

The employees say that work has been stopped at the Elephant Pass salterns for no fault of theirs. They have requested payment of their salaries because the causes that led to non-production were beyond their control. No payments have been made this year beginning from January and the employees are in great difficulty.

The employees have expressed concern and disappointment at the failure of their Head Office to respond to the numerous petitions made on behalf of the employees.

## S.L. Army Commits Arson and Arrests Civilians

A number of houses have been burnt and many civilians arrested in Batticaloa villages by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces.

### Two Civilian Tamils killed in Trincomalee

Two civilian Tamils were killed in the Trincomalee District, when the Sri Lankan Army fired at them.

The reports in this connection state that on Sunday, December 13 about 8.30 a.m. Sri Lankan soldiers in hiding, fired at pedestrians and killed two Tamil civilians. The incident occurred at Chenaiyoor Kiravalkuli.

The persons who died have been identified as Muthiah Thayandaran (2) of Muttur and Thamotharam Tharmalingam (30) of Kattai-parichan,

veddai and Kokkatticholai and proceeded towards the villages of Pavatkodichenai, Thandiyadi, Panchenai Thikkodai, Thumpankerni, Manalipitty and Samanthi Aru and burnt down a number of dwellings of the villagers.

The army is also reported to have arrested a number of civilians in these villages.

## Pensioners Disappointed NO DECISION ON REQUEST FOR RELIEF LOAN

It is learnt that the Government has informed the Govt. Agent, Jaffna that no decision has been made yet on the request of the Northern Pensioners Federation to pay loans to pensioners whose houses and property have been destroyed or damaged by the war.

Mr. P. S. Thiruchelvam, Secretary of the Federation said that a request for pay-

ment at least of loans had been made by his Federation earlier to the Government in view of the extreme difficulties undergone by pensioners in the North who are badly affected by the war. He said he regretted the inaction on the part of the Government which clearly indicates Government's failure to appreciate and sympathise with the plight of Government Pensioners in the North.