

P.M. runs into Eelam

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Vol. 2 No. 16

April 23, 1983

Prime Minister **RANASINGHE PREMADASA** ran into a barrage of Eelam protesters at Washington on his recent trip to the United States.

Spirited, placard carrying Tamil Eelam activists and Spartacists chanted slogans and picketed outside the National Press Club Building in Washington on 13 April when the Prime Minister arrived to address a VIP luncheon at the National Press Club.

The demonstration was organised jointly by the **EELAM TAMILS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA** and the **SPARTACIST LEAGUE/US**.

SRI LANKA-HANDS OFF EELAM said a large banner (See picture). **FREE VICTIMS OF ANTI-TAMIL TERROR, STOP ANTI TAMIL TERROR, PREMADASA YOU HAVE BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS** read some of the placards that greeted the Prime Minister. He was hustled into the building amidst cries of "Premadasa You have blood on your hands".

Harried and worried officials of the Sri Lankan Embassy had more prob-

Lord Averbury to report to U. N. Refugee office

Continuing Human Rights violations in Sri Lanka particularly directed against the Tamils was condemned at a meeting of the Tamil Rights Group in U. K., held on April 13th. Among those associated at the meeting was Rev. Fr. Paul Caspersz, President, **MIRJE**.

SATURDAY REVIEW understands that Lord Averbury of the House of Lords known for his keen involvement in Human Rights Affairs will personally carry a report on the Human Rights Violations in Sri Lanka to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva.

lems on their hands even inside the Luncheon Chamber. Nearly 50 dockets containing Eelam literature including the International Commission of Jurists' Report on the Prevention of Terrorism Act were quickly distributed to representatives of American and World Media present. Embassy officials tried to shoo away the picketers by saying that admission inside was limited only to those who held Luncheon Tickets, whereupon the picketers calmly produced their Luncheon Tickets!

Following this a New Year celebration arranged for the following day at Washington was moved away to a quieter location in Philadelphia.

Referring to the Washington demonstration the Spartacist press release states:

"A number of the Tamil demonstrators had themselves been imprisoned, beaten and tortured by the Sri Lankan government. A spokesman for the Eelam Tamils Association of America charged the Jayawardene/Premadasa government with genocide against the Tamil people; "We have been murdered, butchered, burned alive. Ceylon is an island with two countries. Tamil Eelam is occupied by the Sinhalese Sri Lankan army of occupation..."

"A spokesman from the Spartacist League said "We are here to protest Premadasa's visit to the US. What does he have to say to the American ruling class? J. R. Jayawardene, you were such a good boy at the non-aligned conference. You opposed the motion against the military base at Diego Garcia. You did everything the Americans asked you to. What about the deals, shrouded in mystery, the deals about leasing oil tanks in Trincomalee? What are the US interests in Trincomalee? What about the IMF loans that the US is planning to cut back? Is that what you're here to talk about Premadasa?"

Protesters in Washington



German concern over Dr. Rajasundaram's arrest



Dr. S. Rajasundaram

The **SRI LANKA CO-ORDINATING CENTRE KASSEL** (Germany) has appealed to President Jayawardene "to work for a lawful handling of the case of **Dr. S. Rajasundaram**, to treat the detained person in a human manner, to allow him to contact his family, to raise charges in

court without delay and to ensure his immediate release where charges against him are found to have been unjustified."

The appeal which is jointly signed by the President **Rev. ECKHARD FENNER** and the Secretary **HARALD KUHN** expresses deep concern about the arrests of Gandhiyam's Organising Secretary **Dr. Rajasundaram** and other Gandhiyam volunteers the raids on Gandhiyam offices

at Vavuniya and Trincomalee and the burning down of 16 huts belonging to Tamil settlers in Pan-kulam. The appeal goes on to state "These events are evidently not initiated by local Government authorities as it is reported that the Home Minister **Mr. K. W. DEVA NAYAGAM** raised the matter "Gandhiyam movement harbouring terrorists" at cabinet level last year."

'Buddhist Village' at Pottuvil

Steps are rapidly being taken to set up a 'BUDDHIST VILLAGE' at Pottuvil in the Amparai District. The land belonging to the State, bordering a big Buddhist Vihara, has been selected for this purpose.

Mr. S. S. Abeysekera the District Commissioner of the National Housing Development Board has written to the District Land Officer seeking permission for the use of the land.

Saturday Review SRI LANKA

No. 118
4th Cross Street
JAFFNA

EDITOR

S. Sivanayagam

Subscription Rates
inclusive of local
postage and foreign
Air Mail rate

Sri Lanka

Annual Rs. 170/-
Half-year Rs. 85/-

India

Annual Rs. 200/-
(Indian rupees)

Singapore/Malaysia
— U. S. \$ 30

All other Countries

Annual U. S. \$ 50

or

Rs. 1000/- in Sri Lanka
currency

Cheques payable to
New Era Publications Ltd

Advertising Rates

Contracts — Rs. 15/-
per col. centimetre

Casual — Rs. 20/-
per col. centimetre

Subscribers are
requested to inform
Circulation Manager
in the event of the
non-receipt of their
copies.

LEELA

**Jewellery
Palace**

Visit our
air-conditioned
showroom

No. 117-119

Sea Street

Colombo 11

Tel: 35639

**DILKA
Cream House**

Opposite Bus Stand

404, HOSPITAL ROAD,

JAFFNA.

- ★ ICE CREAM
(many varieties)
- ★ COOL DRINKS
- ★ SHORT EATS
- ★ SWEETS

FOR UTILITY, ELEGANT
HARDY HOUSEHOLD PLASTICWARE

YOU SHOULD CONTACT

K. G. Plastics Ltd.

Manufacturers of Plastic Products

545, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha,
Colombo 10.

Phone: 2166-9, 548447.

CHESTO

the Sweet
that relieves coughs and colds
An excellent mouth freshener

Available at all good stores.

**MIRJE condemns human
rights violations**

THE MOVEMENT FOR INTER RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY (MIRJE), Jaffna, has condemned arrests, detentions and continued violations of human and democratic rights in the North and East.

A press statement issued by the Secretary, J. E. Jayaseelan, states: "The MIRJE Executive Committee of the Jaffna Branch views with great concern and condemns the arrests and detentions

and continuation of violation of human and democratic rights in the Northern and Eastern provinces of the island.

"People's movements and social service organizations have been subject to harassment and repression. The movements have been functioning peacefully and democratically.

"MIRJE condemns the arrest and detention of Dr. Rajasunderam Secretary, Gandhiyam, workers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and calls for their immediate release. Gandhiyam is a social organization that has rehabilitated the Estate Tamils, the poorest among the poor, displaced during

the riot of 1977 and thereafter.

"The MIRJE wishes to register its protest against the arrest and detention of the several youths, including Mr. Varatharajaperumal, Asst. Lecturer, Jaffna Campus, who were peacefully participating in a seminar in Batticaloa district. MIRJE demands their immediate release.

"MIRJE expresses its strongest disapproval and condemns the manner in which the peaceful and non-violent demonstration launched by the Eelam People Liberation Front was tear gassed and forcefully dispersed.

"MIRJE demands the restoration of all democratic, political trade union and human rights."



Milk White Washing Powder enhances the beauty of the School going children by the lustre and brightness it gives to the Uniform.

Watch out!
Next to
go up
will be
Postal
charges!

Watch out! Next to go up will be postal and telecommunication charges!

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will have a ready excuse: the increases in fuel and energy charges, printing charges, salary bill, etc.

With nearly 20,000 employees in the Posts and Telecommunications Department entitled to the recent Rs. 100 a month salary increase, the additional expenditure on this head alone will be over Rs. 25 million a year.

In keeping with the UNP Government's policy not to subsidise public sector undertaking through Treasury advances, the Ministry will have to find the additional money—by taxing the public!

This in turn will push up the prices of services and goods whose disposal depends heavily on the postal and telecommunication services.

This includes Newspapers, So, UP, UP and UP, it will be, until we Sri Lankans catch up with world prices!

All Ceylon Distributors

LEADING IMPORTERS OF BOOKS ON MEDICINE,
ACCOUNTANCY, ENGINEERING

ADVANCED LEVEL TEXT BOOKS IN ENGLISH
AND TAMIL

NOVELS IN ENGLISH AND TAMIL
PERIODICALS FOR YOUR REQUIREMENTS

All Orders Placed by Post or Telephone
Will be Delivered Within City Limits

HEAD OFFICE: 371, DAM STREET,
(Adjoining Court Post Office)

COLOMBO 12.

Telephone: 34529

Cable: KENNDIES

BRANCH: 119/11 K. K. S. ROAD,
Mylands Buildings,
JAFFNA.

Telephone: 24234

Cable: ACCEDEE



Jaffna Mayor, a martyr to the Eelam cause?

Mr. Rajah Visuvanathan

Can one be a confirmed Eelam believer and make a successful Mayor at the same time? Quite obviously not. Anyway, no Mayor who has the gumption to refuse to accord a civic reception to a visiting Prime Minister—as Jaffna Mayor **Mr. Rajah Visuvanathan** has done—can ever hope to get any government backing or funding to develop the city! This is a fact that Mr. Visuvanathan should have realized even as he took office four years ago in June, 1979. But what this Lawyer-Mayor who has a reputation for incorruptibility, has realised almost at the tail end of his Mayoral term, is another bitter truth: that one cannot be a genuine Eelam believer and expect to go very far in the TULF Municipal Stakes in today's context. Mr. Visuvanathan has just over one month more in office. His 'ditching' by the TULF High Command would be understandable had the reasons been that he had failed to provide Jaffna city with a good administration but it would certainly be a pity if the TULF is unable to find him congenial in municipal politics, for reasons that he had taken a consistent and uncompromising stand on the issue of Eelam.

More than an year ago SATURDAY REVIEW carried on its back page in the issue of March 13, 1982, under the head-line "JAFFNA MAYOR KEEPS OUT OF TULF COURTESIES TO MINI-

STER", a report concerning the visit of Lands Minister, Gamini Dissanayake, to Kilinochchi and Jaffna. While TULF veteran and DDC Chairman, S. Nadarajah, went all the way to Kilinochchi to garland the Minister and other TULF MPs associated themselves with the ministerial visit in some form or other Mayor Visuvanathan covered

and displeasing the Prime Minister, you cannot expect the Mayor to get the P.M's favours", protests the Mayor when Saturday Review asked him his views. "Even the Local Government Authorities assured funds to implement projects while in Jaffna but later they give excuses for not fulfilling their assurances. The Prime Minister assures funds to meet the Jaffna Ratepayers'

Mr. Visuvanathan cannot understand, and what hurts him is the lack of co-operation and backing from his own Party High Command and even the officials. Even his idea to ease the congestion in the Jaffna bazaar area by shifting the minibus stand to the Jaffna Maidan opposite the Post office was opposed by an M.P. from his own Party.

It has been said that the

by a Staff Writer

himself with glory in standing out. He even refused to participate at the reception in connection with the installation of the wind mill at the Subramaniam Park—a function organized without his knowledge and on which nearly Rs. 4,000/- was spent. The Editor of this paper was informed at that time that our report had only embarrassed the poor Mayor!

What has caused justified bitterness in Mr. Visuvanathan's mind is that he found himself blamed for taking stands which were in accordance with the publicly stated policy of the TULF. If Mr. Visuvanathan refused to honour the Prime Minister with a civic reception on his visit to Jaffna, well, that was the laid down party line. Did the TULF leaders have the courage to tell the Prime Minister that their Mayor was merely obeying the party directive? One suspects not.

"After refusing to receive

needs in the supply of water. The officials plead for time to implement the project. To provide the adequate supply of electricity to Jaffna Ratepayers you need about eight transformers. The Electrical Engineer says that the wires are old and need replacement but without the needed funds from the Local Government Ministry it is not possible to execute the projects."

The Mayor cited the case of Hospital Road. When he wanted to take delivery of the assured Barrels of tar he was told that the promised tar was diverted to Kandy. Funds needed to implement the sealed lavatory project for Jaffna have not been released yet.

One can understand the Mayor's discomfiture at the step-motherly attitude of the Sri Lanka Government Authorities in dealing with the "Occupied" Tamil City of Jaffna and with a Mayor who talks about Eelam, but what

Duraiappah Stadium is not well maintained. How can it be maintained when the Police authorities use it for landing of helicopters?

There is a tendency on the part of some rate-payers to compare the work done by the late Mr. Alfred Durayappah when he was Mayor of the City under the SLFP regime. That was not surprising because Mr. Durayappah being an active member and the local representative of the ruling party had a 'hot line' to Colombo to the seats of power and authority. He had every right to expect political favours from Colombo and ultimately he paid the price with his own life.

The moral of the whole thing as we understand it, is that only by bartering the rights of the whole Tamil nation can one get benefits for the rate-payers of the

City. That is the political dilemma which any Mayor of Jaffna will have to face unless he is prepared to adopt a public posture for the consumption of the Tamils on one hand and adopt a different private posture to the authorities concerned. It is a pity anyway that Mr. Visuvanathan should be ending his term of office with a feeling of bitterness and disillusionment towards his own party, although he yet remains a loyal member of it.

The perils of talking Tamil in Colombo!

A senior sub-editor of a Colombo Tamil Daily and its Bataloa correspondent ended up as 'Tiger' suspect in a cop shop, after a hearty lunch recently!

The two friends who hadn't met for some time dropped in at an eating place in Fort near the newspaper office. They had a leisurely lunch paid the bill and were just stepping out of the hotel when armed policemen hauled them away to the police station close by. There they were grilled for quite some time.

The question centred on whether they were linked to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Tigers. They were allowed to leave only after they had established their identify as newspapermen and proved to the satisfaction of the cops that they weren't even paper tigers'.

The reason for this unexpected 'dessert'? The two friends had been chatting in Tamil while they were lunching. Someone who had observed this phoned the police and told them "There are two 'tigers' here. Come immediately"!

Daily News cuts Tamil Hindu culture to size!



It was Field Marshal Goering one of Hitler's trusted Lieutenants who once said, "I FEEL LIKE DRAWING MY REVOLVER WHEN ANYONE STARTS TALKING OF CULTURE". Recently to be specific—on the night of Friday, April 7th, the Big Boss of 'Lake House' felt the same way when he saw on page 3

of the Provincial Edition of the 'Ceylon Daily News' a feature spread over 8 columns head lined 'UNIQUE CULTURAL PAGEANT: HINDU WAY OF LIFE DOWN THE AGES: Prominently displayed were three large photographs of Tamil beauties who took part in a cultural pageant called 'SAKTHI' produced by the Sri Lanka Tamil Women's Union at the Ladies College Hall, Colombo. The write-up was signed by a Senior Staffer of the paper, K. Nadarajah,

The 'Lake House' Big Boss could not simply stomach this large dose of Tamil Hindu Culture. He stormed his way into the Editorial Room at

10 p.m., and demanded that the article be pulled out of the paper completely.

However, with some pleading on the part of some sensible staffer there, a compromise was arrived. It was ordered that for the Colombo Edition the entire feature be banished to a corner of page 8. The head line was reduced from 8 columns to 4 columns. 2 of the 3 pictures were discarded completely. The third picture was reduced to one—third its size and thereby thanks to the State Controlled Daily News, Tamil Hindu Culture was cut down to (By two-thirds) size for the benefit of the Tamil and Sinhala readers in Colombo!

MATRIMONIAL

35 year old Sinhala Buddhist journalist film maker and Project Manager of a foreign development organization in Sri Lanka seeks English educated Tamil working girl preferably from Central Province as partner.

Correspondence treated confidentially.
Please write: Advertiser M 100, C/O P.O. Box 122, Jaffna.

Jaffna Hindu College Old Boys Association Colombo

The draw of the Prize Competition in aid of school Building and Equipment fund fixed for 16th April 1983 is postponed for the 18th of June, 1983. The members are kindly requested to continue with the sale of the tickets till 5th of June, 1983.

P. Thillainathan,
Secretary.
C/O Dr. K. Velauthapillai,
11, Lily Avenue,
Colombo 6.

The Transport Ministry is reported to have given a contract to a foreign firm to report on the "uneconomical routes" operated by the SLCTB.

If true, this is the bloody limit where the 'import mania' of this particular Ministry is concerned. It is also a criminal waste of public funds.

Surely, there are enough experts in Sri Lanka who could undertake this assignment—at less cost?

Anyway, does it require much expertise to spot the routes on which the SLCTB is losing?

Take one example, Route 212. Apparently in a fit of idiocy, whoever is responsible for granting route licences to private operators has allowed as many as seven vans and minibuses to ply on this one-mile stretch from Pamunuwa to Maharagama junction. At least five of them are in daily operation.

Some time ago, a Japanese businessman told me that Sri Lanka deserved all the aid it received from his country. Not because of the speech made by President Jayewardene at the San Francisco Peace Conference pleading Japan's case but because of a much bigger service.

He said that at one time his people got rid of used cars by dumping them in the sea.

Then came the conservationist with their talk of the danger to marine life as a result of the pollution. So they had to resort to "recycling," a costly process.

"But then came the Sri Lankans who began taking the old vehicles away, paying good money! Actually, we should pay you for the service you are doing!" he said.

Yes we are doing a big service to Japan and a big disservice to our country, by wasting foreign exchange on importing all kinds of reconditioned vehicles, much of which will be junk very soon.

I have in mind particularly private operators of passenger transport services, whose activities form the theme of this article.

With the liberalisation of import and exchange controls in 1977, the transport policy was also relaxed to enable private sector participation in the road passenger services for the first time since the bus nationalisation in 1958.

The expected rapid increase in demand for passenger transport services due both to the rise in the population and the impact of the Government's new economic programme, the inability of the Government to allocate additional resources to the SLCTB to replenish and supplement its vehicle stock and the insistence of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on at least partial denationalisation

Result: except during the rush hours, the SLCTB buses (there are about three of them usually) go virtually empty, as the vans take off before the scheduled bus times! On some days, the fares collection is said to be inadequate to meet even the fuel bill.

Even a donkey can see what is happening; but not, we suppose, the Transport Ministry. It needs a foreign expert to point this out.

By the way, it would be a good thing if the Transport Ministry could tell the public the number of buses imported since 1977 (nearly 4,000?), the total expenditure on the vehicles and spares, the sources from which these were obtained and what happened to the commissions, if any open or hidden, that the manufacturers were believed to have allowed on these imports?

Or will it need a foreign expert to ferret out this information also.

Minister Mohamed & the private operators

indeed certainly been a boon to the people.

They now have a choice of mode of travel; many newservices have been opened, especially in the suburban and rural areas.

drivers, conductors and garage hands. The repair of motor vehicles has now become a big industry.

Now, to the debit side. It has been officially estimated that more than half the number of private coaches are over five years old. The Transport Ministry and the Trade Ministry having failed to set any limits. With the heavy use that these vehicles are being put to now—high frequency and heavy overloading—most of them may not last long, even with proper maintenance.

Heavy maintenance costs, compounded by the fact that spares for the older models may not be readily available—the Japanese manufacturers are known to change models as fast as possible—are likely to contribute to low profitability.

This is likely to force many of the smaller investors to give up the business after the vehicles become run down. Approximately 60% of the private vehicles are estimated to be owned by single individuals.

As the older vehicles go off

the road, there will be the need to import more vehicles—not only to maintain the private fleet strength at present levels but also to cater to the rising demand.

Will the private sector be willing to respond as readily as in the past unless generous tax and other concessions are granted? Lump sum depreciation, which was available up to early 1982, was the big incentive that made many people rush into the transport business.

The question arises whether, from Sri Lanka's point of view such concessions could, or should, be given at the cost of valuable foreign exchange to import what for the most part is junk.

Also, as the Central Bank has noted, "Considering resources spent by the private sector in terms of transport investment, the average seating capacity of private buses appear to be much lower than that of any SLCTB bus. It has been estimated that only about 9% of the private buses were within the range of 21-25 seats."

(To be continued)

FOCUS

by

Gamini

all reinforced the decision to allow anyone who wishes to take to the transport business.

But the full benefits that could have been derived from that decision have not been obtained because of the lack of planning and co-ordination in the passenger transport business, to which reference was made in the last article and for which situation the main blame must be heaped on the Minister of Transport, Mr. M. H. Mohamed.

At the start, the Minister said that only "uneconomic" routes would be handed over to private operators. But who is the fool who would have undertaken to operate services on routes on which big money could not be made?

The Minister's statement was really a ploy to allay the fears of SLCTB employees that denationalisation, with its consequent loss of jobs, was on the way. This is clear from the facts that most of the best routes have now been given over without any guidelines on the number of vehicles that could be used and their frequency. Partial denationalisation has come and with it feared loss of jobs of over 10,000 employees through "voluntary retirement".

The unprecedented import of vehicles for passenger transport by the private sector—nearly 7,000 buses and vans in the past six years—has

as some of which had not been served by the SLCTB hitherto; some of the services are speedier and more comfortable than the SLCTB's; and passengers are picked up almost at any point on the way.

Also on the credit side are the facts that many individuals and companies have been able to get rich quick, either as importers or as operators, while several thousands of people, mainly youths, have found gainful employment as

S.L.F.P. (Jaffna district) concerned over death of youth at Army camp

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party will not contest the forthcoming local elections in the North, according to a press statement issued by the newly elected President of the SLFP's Jaffna District Committee, V. Rajasundaram. The SLFP will instead extend its support to the progressive anti-UNP forces at the elections.

The statement expresses deep concern at the death of detenu K. Navaratnarajah at the Gurunagar Army Camp and condemns the UNP for the anti-people measures it is taking. It also condemns the atrocities perpetrated by the army on innocent people in the north.

The following office-bearers were elected at the annual

sessions of the S.L.F.P., Jaffna district:-

President: Mr. V. Rajasundaram
Vice Presidents: Mr. K. Vinodhan
Mr. P. Kathiravelu;
Mr. M. M. Mansoor.
Joint Secretaries: Mr. M. Kumarasamy;
Mathagal Kandasamy.

Asst. Jt. Secys: Mr. S. Sivagnanam;
Mr. K. Thambiah.

Treasurer: Mr. A. Kandasamy.

15 were elected members of the Executive Committee. A vote of condolence was passed and two minutes silence was observed in memory of the late Leslie Goonawardene.

C.C.P. expresses horror

The Ceylon Communist Party has in a press statement signed by its General Secretary N. Sanmugathasan expressed 'its horror and deep regret over the death in custody at the Gurunagar Army Camp of K. Navaratnarajah who had been taken into custody as a suspect'.

The press statement goes on to say "The Communist Party reiterates its demand for the immediate withdrawal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and for the release of all those arrested under its provisions. It also calls for the withdrawal of the Army from the North and East".

Anyone who knows Vavuniya from the inside will observe two realities — the wealth of the Oppressor and the tears of the oppressed. One will meet the first reality in the town and streets, where the big and small Mudalalies with their lorries, vans and tractors, jostle with each other in making easy money out of the grains and produce, brought by the poor farmers from their fields. The rich landowner, the rich mudalali and the middleman make hay in the scorching sun of the months of March, April and May by exploiting the poor farmers and workers.

The second reality one will see in the tears of the oppressed in the villages. It does not require much time to reflect and analyze the situation. The interests of the first are protected by government police and army, who in their turn benefit from the rich mudalalies and their bribes. Who is there to empathize with the second in the face of all odds and oppositions, attacks and harassments, to bring a ray of hope to the poor and suffering in the Vanni villages? Thiruvalluvar reflecting on such a situation has expressed:

The tears that swell
With pain unbearable
From the eyes of the
oppressed
Will be the mighty army
To destroy a nation's wealth.

Dedicated Service

The Gandhiyam Society was inaugurated in Vavuniya in 1976, and the admirable yeoman service it rendered in rehabilitating the thousands of displaced Tamil refugees, after the racial riots of 1977 will never be forgotten in the Vanni. The Government at that time hardly did anything positive where this section of the people was concerned.

The dynamic self-sacrificing leadership and dedicated service of men like Dr. Rajasundaram, Mr. David and Fr. Emmanuel at that time can never be forgotten. It was their dedicated concern and service that inspired many foreign institutions and charitable organizations to help them with financial aid. All this money has gone to help the refugees in many ways.

It was Gandhiyam and Gandhiyam alone, that dared to venture into these distant Vanni settlements and care for the poorest of the poor. It was Gandhiyam that helped them to build huts, dig wells, teach them new methods of cultivation suited to the dry zone, provide health and school facilities and organise cultural programmes. Anyone who has the time should visit Kallar, Palmoddai, Maniarkulam, and other places and see for oneself, the extent to which these displaced families from the hill-country are now living with some hope and contri-

A military mind cannot understand Gandhiyam!

buting towards food production. There is still much to be done and much errors to be rectified but a right start has been given. The soul and heart beats of Vavuniya are seen in the emerging new leadership, in the new movements such as Gandhiyam and MIRJE. When harassments of these movements and their leaders take place, the very soul of the Vanni seems to be trampled and crushed.

when the political, social, economic and cultural conditions, become secure in the south for Tamils to live in security, dignity and self-respect.

It is high time, that the government puts aside some resources and personnel to make a thorough in-depth study of this complex social problem, to help those in authority in the government and security forces. It will never help to

people in a most humiliating manner as common criminals. Instead of humiliating and harassing the leaders, workers of Gandhiyam the Government ought to reward them for their yeoman service in such trying, demanding and difficult situations and also help them with resources at its command.

There seems to be a great suspicion for long, lurking in the minds of the

Says

Vanninesan

Why are Gandhiyam leaders humiliated, harassed and taken into custody? The State-sponsored newspapers as usual are carrying on a campaign of vilification and defamation which in no way helps in solving problems. These vilifications only leave behind deep wounds and grievances which cannot easily be healed.

Mass exodus through riots

Surely Gandhiyam is not the cause for the mass exodus of displaced Tamils from Sinhala areas and the encroachments of Government lands. Political events, government policies, racial riots, ill thought land reforms, harassments, threats and all kinds of intimidations and discriminations were the causes for the exodus as any intelligent citizen would know. Some knowledge of human behaviour, leave alone psychology, is enough to understand why poor Tamils when attacked, flee to their homelands for shelter, security and protection. When such exoduses take place some organization or other should move in to rehabilitate the displaced.

Gandhiyam only attempted to do this in a dedicated way. Gandhiyam only dealt with a small segment of this vast problem. Many thousands have come on their own and settled in these districts and are untouched by Gandhiyam. This trend will continue until and

solve social problems by security forces, backed by a weilding the big stick, the fertile imagination and bullets and treating educated helped by the local govern-

'The nationalism

and national

aspirations of

a people

cannot be

destroyed

by the guns,

the bullets

and the big

stick. They

will rise

through their

crucifixion'

ment sponsored press that, Dr. Rajasundaram and Gandhiyam are involved in Tamil Eelam terrorist activities in the North. There is no doubt that there is a terrible mix-up of Tamil Nationalism aspirations of Tamil Eelam and terrorism in the Police, Army and C.I.D. You cannot blame them for their lack of intelligence, sensitivity and sensibility in this matter due to the fact that they live and work in the dream-world of terrorism apart from human, social and political realities and developments. The security forces in some countries behave with much greater intelligence and sensitivity in similiar situations. As Dr. Wilson had analysed, Tamil nationalism has come to stay since the 50's and has become deepened and assumed a complex dynamism due to historical, political and social reasons.

Ignoring at own peril

All those who know Dr. Rajasundaram will know that he is a very ardent Tamil Nationalist and activist. Historical circumstances and political realities have made him what he is. You need a sharp sensitivity to understand the different nuances and shades of Tamil nationalism and aspirations. In a milieu of army occupation and terrorism and in a situation of potential holocaust, militant and arrogant attitudes towards Tamil nationalism will only worsen the situation. If the Government continues to ignore social realities, it will ignore them at their own peril. The Nationalism and national aspirations of a people cannot be destroyed by the gun, and the bullet and the big stick. They will rise through their crucifixion to a glorious resurrection. Let me conclude with the lines of a poet:-

"Yes, my body is imprisoned, but the darting mind the throbbing heart

will never be made captive by stele or gun"

My soul that knows no weariness will go on,

till my country gains its own promised land

And though they crack my skull and even kill me

On my skull engraved in raw blood, they will read

"This is a Tamil who would never surrender

to the brutish enemies of freedom".

What does the T.U.L.F. stand for NOW?

Besides other reasons three newspaper publications, namely an article with the title 'Whither the Tamil Worker' by Kusal Perera (vide S. R. of April 2, 1983), a letter written by A. Ratnam of Colombo 3 (vide S. R. of March 23, 1983) and the article of Ivan Corea (vide Sunday Observer April 3, 1983) dealing with an interview said to have been given by President Jayawardene to Asian Times London, have induced me to write this article. Before I come to the main subject, I wish to state that my object in writing this article is to give an opportunity to the readers of Saturday Review to express their views freely and without fear on the present political situation vis-à-vis the T.U.L.F. and the Tamil people.

"What are we left with? A nation in ruins, some grim lessons which we cannot afford to forget and a momentous question: Have the Sinhalese and the Tamils reached the parting of the ways?" So wrote Tarzie Vittachi in "Emergency 1958." To this momentous question the Tamil leaders, after many of their attempts at reconciliation had failed, ('never can true reconciliation grow where wounds of deadly hate have pierced so deep') gave the answer in the Vaddukoddai Resolution of May, 1976, demanding a separate State, Tamil Eelam, based on the right of self-determination.

All except the UNP & SLFP

This right of self-determination is recognized by the U.N. Charter and almost all the political parties of this country except U. N. P. and S. L. F. P. have accepted the right of the Tamil people the self-determination. Mr. Kusal Perera has stated that the Government Clerical Services Union is now forging anti-capitalist working-class unity on 8 demands, two of which are the right of self-determination for the Tamil speaking people and granting of citizenship to plantation workers.

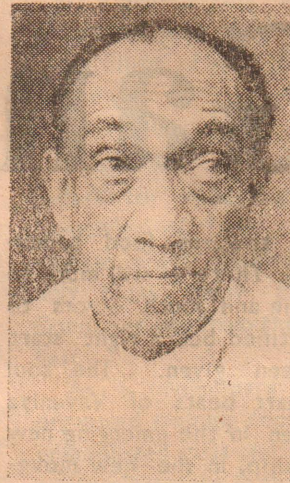
Not knowing where to turn

Today the T. U. L. F. having obtained in 1977 a mandate from the people for a separate Tamil State, is like a traveller at the cross-roads, not knowing where to turn. The party and its leaders are circumstanced today, torn between doubts and difficulties and even unsure of the path that will lead to the goal. Indeed it is even doubted whether they have the desire to reach the goal.

Mr. Kusal perera has made some charges against the TULF that the leaders of the Eelam movement have not taken any serious steps to forge a strong working class movement among

the Tamil workers, that the TULF ever since it started campaigning for a separate Tamil State never really worked to achieve it, that they never willingly moved to mobilise the Tamil masses into action, that the Tamil Trade Union Federation has remained a dormant—dead more than living—appendage of the TULF and that the TULF leadership is only peddling the Eelam slogan to be at the top of the Tamil Movement and control it to suit their petty purposes. These are serious charges indeed, coming from a Sinhalese.

that in the near future a national government will be formed which would include the T. U. L. F. When Dr. N. Tiruchelvam was nominated as M. P. for Vadukoddai some felt that it was the prelude to the epilogue; some others saw a hidden hand of foreign interests behind the move. Why a national government? To establish a naked dictatorship? An English Professor of Law in one of his books wrote: "It is commonly said that in French-speaking African States the Opposition is



Not for Eelam anymore, thinks the President

by

T. Subramaniam

The implications of these charges will become clear as we proceed.

Mr. A. Ratnam had been even more severe on the TULF. According to him the TULF leadership never had a mind of its own and that it nearly dances to the tune of a Master Puppeteer and the reason given by him for their strange conduct is that they are only bent on enjoying the benefits they derive from their position—car, jeeps, pension, foreign travels etc. He even gives them a new name. But the main charge against the TULF is that they are controlled by a Colombo Tamil Caucus. Mr. Ratnam should surely know, because he is from Colombo-3, where or in its neighbourhood reside many Tamil Mudalalis and the descendants of dead Mudalalis. If anybody had any doubts about what Mr. Ratnam wrote the comments of Ivan Corea on the interview President Jayawardene gave to the Asian Times would dispel any such doubts. It seems certain that the TULF is under the stranglehold of the Colombo Tamil Caucus, a coterie of businessmen and even some professional men whose sole aim in life is to make money. How the TULF got into this situation or trap only they can explain.

Mr. Ivan Corea hopes

either in jail or in the government, and to an increasing extent it is in the government." It seems almost certain that this island also will join that group of States.

The President is reported to have told the Asian Times, "How can we give a separate State? I don't think that they (the T. U. L. F.) want it now. "The emphasis is on the word 'now'! If the report is true, the T.U.L.F. leaders owe a duty to the world at large, to the people of this country in general and to the Tamil people in particular to tell them in unequivocal and unambiguous language whether the party (the T.U.L.F.) has given up its demand for a separate State or not. In the name of honesty in public life, in the name of the blood of the slain, the weeping voice of the Tamil Nation asks the T.U.L.F. leaders to speak out the truth and tell the people where they stand. This is not the time for political deception, although political deception is the order of the day.

We believe that the T.U.L.F. leadership is under the sinister influence of the rich, capitalist Colombo Tamils. Some of these Tamils have formed marriage alliances with non-Tamils, have forgotten their

ancient heritage and have become completely denationalised, talk to their children either in English or Sinhala because they themselves cannot talk Tamil well, and bring up their children in a hybrid environment. They are neither fish nor fowl, not even red-herring. Ivan Corea writes that the Muslims in Sri Lanka appear to be happy with the system (why not, they should be really happy), so are a number of wealthy Tamils in the South who are totally opposed to the idea of dividing the island.

He reports what a wealthy Tamil business man who lives in palatial surroundings in the heart of Colombo 3 told him: "If we support the cause of Eelam we will lose all that we have built up over the years. Why should I lose the harvest of hard work just because these people want to divide and rule?" Nobody ask this real or imaginary Tamil Mudalali to part with his ill-gotten wealth. He is at full liberty to take it all with himself when goes to the other world — whether Heaven or Hell, perhaps the latter.

The answer one can give for all time to Ivan Corea and to his Tamil wealthy friends of the South is what the great Muslim Leader, M.A. Jinnah, told his audience at

the Lahore Session in March 1940 where the Pakistan Resolution was for the first time adopted. "I may explain that the Muslims, wherever they are in a minority, cannot improve their position under a United India or under one central government. Whatever happens, they would remain a minority. By coming in the way of the division of India they do not and cannot improve their own position. On the other hand, they can by their attitude of obstruction bring the Muslim homeland with sixty million Muslims under one government where they would remain no more than a minority in perpetuity.

"The Tamils of the South by obstruction the creation of a new homeland for the Tamil people of the North and East only help to keep the entire Tamil people of the island as a minority in perpetuity. The only way, it seems, these wealthy Tamils who will not hesitate to sell their birth right for a mess of pottage and who are satisfied with the crumbs that fall off their master's table, can show their gratitude to their Sinhala Masters is by impeding and obstructing the emergence of a new State for the Tamils.

Where are we now? Let us not go into the past blunders, the why and the wherefore of the whole matter. The T.U.L.F. leadership has now admitted that their negotiations with the government, and the negotiations were for minor things, have all failed and that they have been fooled. This is pathetic confession that they have allowed themselves to be fooled. While the Tamil Captain of the ship is bewildered and puzzled and goes on blundering, not knowing how to steer clear of the shoals and the rocks of the sea and bring her safe to port, some in his group have become captains of industry. But the Tamil youth goes on saying constantly to himself:

"I am the master of my fate,

"I am the captain of my soil."

Searching one's heart

Mahatma Gandhi was fond of reminding his followers in the freedom struggle that they should be searching their hearts all the time, day after day, to find out if they had any motives of power or money which were corrupting influences even to those who had dedicated themselves to the service of the people, and the moment they were attracted to either of these or both, they should at once retire from public life of the country and devote themselves to further their own prospects and those of their family (Continued next page)

What does the T.U.L.F. stand for NOW?

(Continued from Page 6) through business, profession or government service. By this he only stressed and insisted on the absolute integrity on the part of his co-workers in the freedom struggle. The Tamil people of this country, rather those living in the North and East were promised freedom and a new state but there has been no struggle but only negotiations for petty matters, amounting to a virtual surrender. The leaders supposed to lead the people are busy with parliamentary manoeuvres, business and professional matters and what not, not in the least worried about any freedom struggle.

Do the T.U.L.F. leaders still believe in their much-vaunted Tamil Eelam? Let us be honest about it. There can be no compromise on the question of the rights of the Tamils to self-determination. It is the inherent birth right and to deny that is to deny their very existence. A dynamic leadership is necessary today to create among the Tamils a spirit of discipline, self-respect and self-reliance. No people can ever succeed in anything unless they work hard for it. It is true one should take into account the time and circumstances in which one has to act. But one cannot wait for ever. The longer the delay, the greater is the harm done to the Tamil people. It is not a small job, the biggest job one can undertake, to revive a fallen

race. It is a long and hazardous journey, full of dangers. Jawaharlal Nehru, when he was elected President of the Congress in 1929, said: "Success often comes to those who dare and act; it seldom goes to the timid who are afraid of consequences.

welfare of the Tamils, visits this country to study the situation, he may say the same thing.

Mr. Ratnam said that the T.U.L.F. leadership never had a mind of its own. If that is true, the Tamil people had entrusted their future to

are the questions of the hour. We are totally opposed to violence. Apart from moral principles, it would be a fatal error for an unarmed minority to resort to violence. The non-violent resistance of early Christians, had constituted a moral offensive of

All the Tamil people should be brought under the banner of one organisation, under one flag, one platform and one voice. We have no Gandhi or Jinnah but even a lesser man, if he has the will, can lead the people along the correct path. Till now indecision, vacillation, ineptitude and pusillanimity have characterised the actions of the T.U.L.F. leadership.

'Till now, indecision, vacillation, ineptitude and pusillanimity have characterised the actions of the T. U. L. F. leadership'

We play for high stakes, and if we seek to achieve great things, it can only be through great dangers". Suffering and sacrifice are absolutely essential conditions before the Tamil people can hope to achieve anything big. But so far nothing has been done. Some years ago when an African Head of State visited U.S.A. he told a Negro delegation, "I am aware of current events. I know every-thing you are telling to me about what the white man is doing to the Negro. Now tell me, what is the Negro doing for himself" What he meant was that the Negro people had not organised on a mass scale resistance to injustice. If any foreigner, interested in the

a group of men who have no plan of action, and who do not know what to do next. The need of the hour is dynamic leadership that can organise, consolidate and establish solidarity and unity among the Tamil people and chalk out a plan of action. In all countries there are opportunists, traitors and renegades, an evil from which no society or nation is free. There will be always some to pick up the crumbs that are thrown to them. But the vast majority of the Tamils are for freedom which is their birth right. How to achieve the desired objective and who has the moral stature, the vision and the necessary dynamism to lead the people to victory these

such overriding power that it shook the Roman Empire. Can speeches in Parliament or issuing press statements be a substitute for resistance? Injustice, oppression, tyranny and violation of human rights should be resisted by all non-violent means.

What is the task now before the T.U.L.F. leadership? Could the Kamraj Plan produce any results? If we were to adopt that plan, the present senior M.P.s should resign their membership, young members of the second rank should be nominated to Parliament and the senior leaders, relieved of their parliamentary duties, should concentrate on party work with a view to organising the people for mass action.



The tragedy of the situation is that the government pretends to the world that there is no Tamil problem in the country, practising a colossal deception by suppression and distortion of facts, and the T.U.L.F. leaders, willingly or unwillingly, knowingly or otherwise, have been aiding and abetting the government to practise this deception. People, including some of our Sinhalese friends are asking the question, "Whither the T.U.L.F.?"

'Leave us alone, & there will be no 'Terrorism'

In answer to the question by the Jaffna M. P., Mr. V. Yogeswaran, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Nissanka Wijerathne had said that that the Terrorism Act would not be withdrawn and that it would be more stringently enforced in Jaffna to protect the people and that terrorism would be finally exterminated. If he meant by "people" the Tamil people, it is the genuine duty of the Tamil public of Jaffna to point out here and now that Tamil people fear the terrorism of the police and the army in Jaffna and that they know not of any other terrorism which they fear so much.

The police and armed forces in Jaffna are like hostile forces in Tamil areas, and it is the undisputed experience of the Tamil people that left alone they can manage their affairs peacefully; the presence of the hostile forces invariably results in awful and even bloody incidents causing colossal damage to lives and properties.

There have been some cases of robbery and other incidents involving violence; but the Government has failed to detect the real culprits although the police and the army had made a number of arrests. The police and the army had always limited their investigations to the so called 'Tigers' Tamil youths only. In fact we do not

guilty ones escaping punishment! The men who are responsible for all these cruelties and tyrannies will have to pay a thousand fold.

The Tamil people demand that the Terrorism Act be repealed without delay as it has incorporated a barbarous provision that an accused could be convicted on alleged

should urge its parliamentary majority not to re-enact the Acts on its expiration as arrest, detention and evidence do not conform with the international commitments made by Sri Lanka in ratifying the international covenant on Civil and Political Rights "

"The International Commission of Jurists has described

Jaffna and other Tamil areas is a volunteer service corps to be recruited among the Tamils to meet challenges such as arson, looting etc., like the ones that were caused in May and June, 1981 by outside elements. For purposes of protection and defence this corps must be reasonably armed. It is feared that the "Reserve Police Force" as contemplated by the authorities will further complicate matters owing to conflict of interests and even disturb that little peace we have now.

It is not easy for the Tamil people and the Reserve Police Force to see eye to eye and cooperate on matters relating to the protection and defence of the Tamil people and their properties. It is also feared that the Reserve Police Force may turn out to be an additional hostile force in Jaffna and not promoting friendly relations between the Tamil people and administrators.

by

S. Ponniah

Attorney-at-law

know the sources responsible for such violence. As responsible and democratic men, we the Tamil people, strongly urge on the Government to enlarge the area of investigations. There may be some mischievous forces at work to exploit the situation to gain their ends. Alas! How many innocent youths have they arrested and detained incommunicado, tortured or even killed! It is indeed more heinous to torture or kill an innocent soul than a thousand

confessions to police officers in whose custody they are kept and whose 'treatment' to the suspects is well-known. Can any human being support this provision if he has a sense of justice or conscience at his back? Referring to the Terrorism Act, the International Commission of Jurists had reported:

"In view of the draconian provisions of the 1979 Terrorism Act, which violated accepted standards of criminal procedure, the Government

the Terrorism Act as "A gross violation of the principles of the Rule of Law.... and violation of several article of the International covenant...."

The Sri Lankan Government should recognise the wish of the Tamil people as indicated by them at successive elections, to be left alone to determine their future which is their inalienable and democratic right which right they enjoyed earlier.

What is contemplated for the protection of the city of

LETTERS

Ex-Chairman writes on Palmyrah Development

English as a national language & the Fair Brigade

17, Wijerama Lane,
Nawinna,
Maharagama,
1, April, 1983.

The Editor,
Saturday Review.
Dear Sir,

The style and open-ness of your journal stimulates letter-writing in similar vein, but I fail to spot the relevance of Patricia Saverimuttu's three case-histories of hugging and kissing in your issue of March 26 to the subject of English as a "national language". If it was intended as one more defence of Sir Oliver by the fair brigade, I hasten to point out that I passed no strictures on his persona. I was merely calling attention to the invocation of his bemedalled breast on a recent postage stamp as a symptom of the resurrection of the pro-Western values he stood for. It may be appropriate to dwell a little on his lost phase as it is germane to the revival of English in this day and age.

The "late lamented Governor General" was the embodiment of the aspirations of the Anglicised elites in late colonial times, who obtained a limited Independence for themselves in 1948. The campaign for freedom possessed neither the impressive agitational nor purposive thrust as in India, and political activity (despite universal franchise) remained the property of the English-speaking minority. The genteel lines of a battle between the two sides were drawn up in Whitehall itself, and no offence was caused to the British overlord in his well-bred exercise of a so-called "transfer of power", in which Sir Oliver won his spurs. The rest of the people of Sri Lanka had to wait for the purely local uprising in the ballot-box in 1956. More such insurrections may well lie ahead provided the box remains open in the future as well.

In the meanwhile Patricia is welcome to the historic memory of the impress of Sir Oliver's lips on her "plumpy cheeks" as a seven year old. I must confess in passing, that I have little desire to trade memories in this field, though my access to the great man was perhaps closer in my own childhood and

youth. As she has joined hands with her former classmate and compatriot in this affair, my reply to Mayanthie Arunachalam may provide further food for thought (and more touching memories as well!)

Yours sincerely,
H.A.I. Goonetilleke

Oh, to be in England... and baby sit at Cambridge!

Market Lane,
Manipay,
12, April, 1983

The Editor,
Saturday Review.
Sir,

In a characteristically courteous reply to some observations made by me on English as a national language and Sir Oliver in particular, Mr. H. A. I. Goonetilleke is whistling in the dark studiously avoiding the mention of O. E. G. Let sleeping dogs lie. I am also not particularly concerned to defend myself against the insinuation of name calling. It is his conscience not mine which has to justify that.

What is surprising is not that Mr. Goonetilleke should hold such opinions—they are after all shared by many readers of the S. R. but that he should confuse the roles of intellectual and sociologist. Underneath the froth of words and the swamp of paltitudinous verbiage, Mr. Goonetilleke's real worry is simply the class system which he treats as an isolated phenomenon capable of being chopped and changed by development of indigenous languages. At the risk of arousing a spate of angry correspondence, I venture to say that language and culture is not a hothouse plant and can look after itself and is amenable to domestication. The best compliment we could pay Mr. Goonetilleke is born out of his time and would have done fine as an old Testament Prophet. But alas we are in the closing stages of the 20 century almost approaching Arthur Clarke's time

(Continued next page)

No. 44, International Buddhist
Centre Road,
Colombo: 6
7th April 1983

The Editor,
Saturday Review
Dear Sir,

Since I resigned from the Palmyrah Development Board in June, 1981 I desired to keep silence over the activities of the board. But Mr. T. K. Somasekeran's letter, in S. R. of 2 April 1983 has prompted me to write this.

In spite of the fact that my appointment to the Board was political, I shed all political ties and worked for the upliftment of the economy of the Tamil speaking people through the Palmyrah Development Board. Please permit me to emphasise the fact that when the UNP came to power in 1977, it was I who approached the Prime Minister (now His Excellency the President) to constitute the Palmyrah Development Board in the lines as recommended in the Justice Sivasupramaniam Report.

Though I was to be appointed the first Chairman of the Board I stood down in favour of the veteran trade unionist late Mr. K. C. Nythianantha who was a better choice. I was appointed Working Director.

When he was removed from the Board (not resigned as Mr. Somasekeram claims) from 10-10-1979, I succeeded him. By this time Hon. C. Rajadurai was appointed Minister of Regional Development and I agitated for the transfer of the Board to the Ministry of Regional Development as it was very appropriate. The Board was transferred accordingly to the Ministry of Regional Development in December, 1980.

Hon. Rajadurai not only showed keen interest in palmyrah development but he never stood in the way of its progress. In fact I know how he was fighting to get more funds for the Board with the President and the Treasury. He sent me to India to study the palmyrah industry and to have discussions with experts in the South.

On my return I appointed a high-powered advisory committee comprising some experts from Jaffna.

I prepared a five year plan for palmyrah development in the Tamil regions. The plan embraced program of development and research in the following field:

- i) Sugar, jaggery, kallakaram from Sweet toddy
- ii) Vinegar, wine, beer, molasses and low-winespirit from spoiled toddy
- iii) Cordial, jelly and jam from fruit pulp and Nungu
- iv) Fibre from leaf-stalk and seed
- v) Handicraft

I had also received firm orders for exporting large quantities of fibre, cordial, vinegar, wine, handicraft and jelly from many European Countries and from the Middle East.

As a preliminary step I organised training courses for unemployed girls and boys in every electorate in the Northern Province to train them in manufacturing various palmyrah goods to Indian standards. In fact the training courses were so successful that we had to train youths from Batticaloa and Puttalam also. By August, 1980 I got more than 1500 boys and girls trained in this manner. The Hon. Minister also approved my plan of sending ten persons to India for further training. I do not know what happened to these proposals after I left.

Not to run the Board as a trading centre

My plan was not to run the Board as a trading centre as it is now done with a colossal waste of public funds. I wanted the Board to spend all its resources in research work and to set up model industrial centres so that these trained persons would start their own industry at their homes with necessary bank loans which were to be obtained on a recommendation of the Board. Necessary international & local markets were also found for the proposed finished goods.

I had also started a Low wine distilling centre in the K.K.S. electorate with funds made available by the M.P. and another Vinegar producing centre was also started in Atchuvelli with Board's funds.

If my plan of developing palmyrah industry was followed by my successors or if they have planned any development programme for the palmyrah industry I am sure that the Board will be a boom to the Tamils by this time.

Some reference is made to the present Chairman of the Board and a consultant. The present Chairman was working as a junior executive in the Board when I was Chair-

man. I dismissed him from the Board for various reasons. But when he was appointed Chairman of the Board subsequently, though it pained me, I took comfort from the fact that he belonged to the tappers community and that he would do some thing better. But now every one knows what is going on in the Board.

I engaged the services of Dr. Mohanadas as a research officer and not as a consultant because he was a research officer in the C.R.I. and I wanted to make use of the laboratories of C.R.I. for research work in connection with palmyrah industry. Since he made visits to the Board only on weekends I had to discontinue his services also as no useful purpose was known by employing him. What ever said and done we should not endeavour to scrap the Board as Mr. Somasekeran suggests. I would suggest the following:

i) Now that the District Councils are functioning, the activities of the Board in respect to development should be handed over to the respective District Councils.

ii) The Board should concentrate more on research work and a Research Institute similar to the Coconut Research Institute should be set up to do full time research on palmyrah industry and development.

iii) The Board should be reconstituted with competent persons. It is wrong to think that the Board should be headed by a toddy tapper. Is the Fisheries Corporation headed by a Fisherman or the Leather Corporation headed by a butcher.

iv) Persons who take to palmyrah industry should be recognised both by the society and the government.

I may also suggest that the Board can be converted into a Public Company with people's participation—similar to AIR LANKA Ltd. The Hon. Minister agreed in principle my proposal to convert the Board into a Public Company for which I had already drafted necessary Articles and Memorandum. These are lying somewhere in the Ministry safely.

Yours faithfully,
N. Kanagasuriar

Ex. Chairman, Palmyrah Development Board.

LETTERS

English as a national language? - but to what purpose?

(Continued from page 8) frame. Contemporary zeitgeist demands that in the new economic order we envisage in this part of the world, the study of English is an 'export industry'. We are longing for the day when Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai will resume their classes to prepare students for the London University degrees. It is our only salvation.

Cash registers in the local banks are notching up a new high in foreign remittances which really keeps us afloat. It is a happy augury that a little even thousand children of expatriates are following courses in foreign universities—Oxbridge, Ivy League and Redbrick. This is ten times the number we used to send abroad for higher education in spacious times when there was no exchange control. One of our earliest 'exports' to Singapore was Mr. S. Rajaratnam who blossomed out as Foreign Minister and who was able to talk turkey with the captains, kings and presidents recently assembled in New Delhi for the Nonaligned Meet. There are others coming up the ladder in other countries as well.

Mr. Editor, by the time this letter appears in print, I shall be well on my way to where I am going—Cambridge—to spend a holiday with my daughter and to baby sit on my grandson. Oh, to be in England now that April is there. How long can you stomach daily doses of how everything and everybody is going—or has gone to the dogs in Sri Lanka.

Yours Etc.

Mayanthie Arunachalam

Jaffna
16-4-83

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Dear Sir,

Mayanthie Arunachalam's missile in the SR of April 9th reminds one of M.O. Mathai's Reminiscences of the Nehru Age. Mathai's book sold well perhaps, because of its nastiness but it prompted Khushwant Singh to say

"No more of your proud acquaintances boast

Nor in what lordly company you have been

An insect is an insect at most

Though it crawl in the arse of a queen."

Pornography may excite the writer as well as the reader and your readers probably wouldn't mind the titillation once in a way.

Yours faithfully,
Puliadi OG

11, Crossette Lane,
Jaffna
10-4-83.

Editor,
Saturday Review.
Sir,

I have followed the correspondence between H. A. I. Gunatilleke and Ms. Mayanthie Arunachalam on the subject of English as a National Language.

Reluctant to enter into the fray, especially as Ms. Mayanthie Arunachalam seems to be getting somewhat beyond my comprehension, I would like to say a word with regard to English as a National Language, as I feel the subject is of national importance.

In determining any national policy there should always be

one central consideration: For whom is the policy being adopted? A National Language have to serve the whole nation. To make English a national language in Sri Lanka (it is a very difficult language to learn for people whose home language is not English) the amount of endeavour, time, cadre, and money needed will be staggering—to what end?

That English is needed for development is unacceptable after seeing the development of European countries and now Japan without English.

English can be a link language between the Sinhalese and Tamils. Seventy percent live in villages and the goal is that the villager from Dondra will greet the Pt. Pedro villager

in English. The language question has a simple solution—make both Sinhalese and Tamils compulsory. Both are well developed languages enshrining the culture of both peoples, which can be imbibed with mutual advantage. That will be a link which can bridge even separation.

English must be learnt as a second language, by those who elect to do so. There are other foreign languages worthy of study in the higher reaches of learning—German, French, Russian and Spanish. In the commercial world, English is playing an increasingly important role, due to the rise in commercial power, specially in the former colonies in the

Third World, of the White Anglo Saxon Protestant (WASP) countries like USA, UK, Australia and South Africa. For purposes of commerce, those who need English can easily pick it up. Business English is easy to pick up by an educated adult.

The final argument for English is that it is necessary to acquire modern knowledge and its advances—the poor German French, Russian, Japanese! Any government worth its salt will see that all knowledge needed by the people is provided. Instant translation by computers can be used for the production of all literature needed for development, both by Sinhalese and Tamils.

Dr. R. W. C. Thambiah.

Marxism and Revisionism

77/5, Vasala Road,
Colombo 13.
29th of March, 1983

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Dear Sir,

I happened to read the article on "MARXIAN THEORY ON STATE" written by Mr. N. Sanmugathan, General Secretary of Ceylon Communist Party (Maoist), which appeared in your esteemed journal of 19th of March, 1983.

You have done a laudable service in publishing it. It was a first rate article which reveals the true essence of the oppressive state machinery, at a time when progressive forces and oppressed working class all over the world were commemorating the Death Centenary of the founder of scientific socialism and apostle of communism KARL MARX.

When most of the Sri Lankan leftists, including Rohana Wijeweera, sometime revolutionary (counter in essence) are engaged in misguiding and betraying the whole working class and progressive forces by propagating the peaceful revisionist ways (elections - parliamentary means) of capturing power, it seems to me that the only leftist leader in Sri Lanka who still upholds the true marxist insight on the state machinery is Mr. N. Sanmugathan.

But, one thing that must be grasped by all, is that Marxism is not a mere theory to be recalled to mind on the commemorative occasions of its founder. Progressive forces throughout the island should realise their responsibility in paving the correct and just way of struggle in the light of the pure marxian theory on state that has been explained by Mr. San-

mugathan in the article written by him and prevent themselves from indulging in unnecessary tactics of the impotent ways like parliament.

Yours truly,

V. Thanabalasingham

Obituarising the Tamil leadership

Seramban Walawu,
Uduvil,
Chunnakam.
18-4-83

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Dear Sir,

You deserve praise for publishing the piece by Mr. M. Krishnapillai on the present plight of the Tamils (Saturday Review of 9 April). In fact he has placed the TULF on toast. There is something in it. Preaching the need for fresh leadership is a polite way of obituarising the present hierarchy. Most Tamils think the present leadership has not come up to scratch but when it comes to the crunch the people will still vote the TULF back to power. Are the Tamils all mad? On the contrary the great majority are sane and even romantic—they prefer a well nourished grievance to a practical remedy. That is why they sit like the three monkeys, hearing nothing, seeing nothing and saying nothing—and even thinking nothing.

There is still hope for the Tamils. They have a genius for improvisation, for rising to emergencies.

Yours faithfully,
Jessica M. Hensman

GEORGE KEYT honoured with retrospective exhibition

A GEORGE KEYT retrospective exhibition in honour of the renowned artist's 82nd birthday which began at the Lionel Wednt Gallery, Colombo on 18th April concludes tomorrow 24th April. 140 exhibits are on show.

In an introduction published in the Exhibition Catalogue H.A.I. Goonetilleke writes:

"For most people the arts are the colourful spaces in between the drab and dreary texts of their everyday lives. In an age when they have become almost another non-traditional commodity, an invisible export like tourism, it may be unfashionable to call attention to art as mystery and the artist as avisionary. George Keyt remains an uncompromising rebel following his enduring interior vision and committed to the unremitting inspiration on his particular spiritual landscape. On the occasion of the eighty-second birthday with over half a century of formidable creativity and the magisterial extension of an unique mastery over his sense of the mysterious behind him, his lines show little sign of flagging and his colours and forms are as vivid and compelling as ever. Radiant sensuality continues to be suffused with an unerring and serene ascetism, and the most lustrous exuberance is stilled by a halo of brooding cerebration.

"George Keyt was born in Kandy on April 17, 1901, and began his calling as a painter

towards the end of 1926. He was been for many years the acknowledged doyen of painters in contemporary Sri Lanka. This exhibition, arranged as a tribute of admiration and affection, is designed to display the full range of his impressive and dramatic vision, as well as the amazing and unrelaxing fecundity of his pictorial imagination. The pictures represent many phases of his artistic career, and demonstrate the evergreen ardour and lively sensibility of a brush which has dominated as no other, the world of Sri Lankan painting in contemporary times. Keyt is never more at ease than when he is expounding the inevitable confluence of the sacred and the profane in his art. The theme of retrospection in the exhibition serves to reinforce the contemplation of this recurrent motif.

"The product of many cultures, Keyt has achieved an authentic, spectacular, and consummate expression and style of his own, ready at all times to do justice and beauty to his personal fantasies. His work is the powerful and moving testimony of a sensitive and revelatory mind, but we are left free nearly always, to become aware of the poignancy of our own experience, and to be reminded of an exalted sense of an elusive destiny, and above all, to ponder the extent of our estrangement from a culture, however irretrievable.

LETTERS

I, Inkerman Court,
Woking Rd,
Singapore 0513,
13 April, 1983.

The Editor,
Saturday Review.
Dear Sir,

Your journal is undoubtedly one that is going to influence a generation of Tamil youth, one that will soon produce leaders.

One way of making totalitarianism seem acceptable and even desirable to the young is to give them lies about totalitarian institutions in small doses. It is very disturbing. But this is what some of your feature writers are doing. Having discarded their traditional gods, they have taken to serving gods, who if anything, are far more undeserving.

V. Dharmalingam and V.I.S. Jayapalan have maintained in your pages that the USSR is a voluntary federation of independent republics. This does not accord with the usual use of 'voluntary'. Once Bolshevik arms had installed scraps of a centrally directed communist party in the 'republics', using the term 'voluntary federation' is, merely a question of form and propaganda. When we come to the voluntary inclusion of the Baltic Republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia the issue becomes sinister and tragic. Nikolai Tolstoy has traced these developments in his thoroughly documented book, 'Stalin's Secret War' (1981, Jonathan Cape, London.)

At the outbreak of the 2nd world war, the three

Baltic States together with Finland were independent states with sound economies enjoying Western style democratic governments. The non-aggression pact of 28 Aug. 1939 and the treaty of 29 Sept. of the same year between the Nazi government of Germany and the Soviet Union bequeathed to the Soviet Union the Baltic States, Finland and Eastern Poland in the West and Bessarabia in Northern Romania. Significantly the non-aggression was signed a week before the Nazis invaded Poland.

Despite the smallness of these states and the free hand given by Hitler, Stalin got about the conquest of these states very cautiously, ever fearing a French and British victory, and the Soviet army moved in for the plunder only after Hitler had secured the Atlantic front. Even then tiny Finland, whose population of 3 million was about the size of the Soviet army, ill prepared as it was, inflicted a humiliating casualty figure of 200,000 on the Soviet invaders (1 million according to Khrushchev).

Supporters of the Soviet Union argue that Stalin had more honourable motives, such as forestalling an attack by Hitler on the USSR itself. But this does not explain the calculated cruelty that was to follow. 34,250 Latvians (about 2% of the population) disappeared without a trace in the first year of Soviet occupation. 15,000 Polish officers, captured by the Soviets in Eastern Poland,

were murdered in what is now known as the Katyn massacre. President Pats of Estonia died a prisoner of the Soviet Union in 1956. All in all Soviet policy was aimed at complete subjugation of conquered territories and obviating any kind of rebellion by destroying the natural leaders to whom people may turn.

whose figures he says are based on conservative assumptions, estimates that 12 million died throughout all GULAG. This must be compared with the 14 thousand executions which took place in the last fifty years of Tsarist rule.

I am sure the Saturday Review does not, on the 4th July, intend publishing

These evils, it seems to be, have less to do with ideology, than with the exercise of power, greed, insecurity and self-aggrandisement.

Both big powers have been in the business of toppling governments and both have taken on proteges they cannot control and prove an embarrassment to their own great

The Soviet goose and the U. S. gander

To quote Nikolai Tolstoy: 'Probably Stalin's most successful propaganda coup of all was the propagation of the myth that Soviet territorial acquisitions were designed to establish a forward strategic line in case of a German attack. This tale has received wide acceptance, but is manifestly untrue. Eighteen months later, when Hitler launched his invasion, virtually nothing had been accomplished in the way of fortifications, defensive lines or military airfields to exploit ground gained by the Nazi-Soviet pact.... Indeed as George Kennan has observed, the national armies of Finland, Romania and the Baltic States would have protected Russian's flanks infinitely better than as conquered and depressed satrapies.'

Thus the Soviet government under Stalin bears a heavy responsibility for the Soviet war dead. Besides the treaties, Stalin's co-operation with Hitler also included the supply of war materials and the exchange of political refugees. The 30 million or so Soviet war dead includes millions of civilians and returned prisoners of war who died in the infamous GULAG slave labour camps. (These were abolished with Khrushchev's succession). Conquest,

an article on '207 years of the USA' in the same vein as '60 years of the USSR'. Such would of necessity leave out the excesses of laissez-faire capitalism in the 19th and early 20 centuries within the US itself, the extermination and betrayal of a large section of the Red Indian population and its lamentable record in Latin America and elsewhere.

It is tempting, but false, to argue that economic development (or progress!) requires draconian measures and massive spilling of blood. The experiences of the USA and USSR may suggest this. But there are others (e.g. North Western Europe, Switzerland) with more encouraging tales. The young should be discouraged from taking on idols, however grave this need may be in an atmosphere of despair.

Another tendency in your paper which I must point out is your uncritical coverage of anything connected with Liberation movements or with the Soviet block. Moral indignation is reserved exclusively for US imperialism, while Soviet imperialism receives no comment. Soviet misdemeanours are at best (pardonable) misreadings of the inexorable laws of scientific socialism (see V.I.S. Jayapalan's comments on Eritrea).

ter interests (e.g. US-Israel, El Salvador, Chile; USSR-Afghanistan, Vietnam, the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia is proving a major obstacle to Soviet rapprochement with China as much as Israel's intransigence is a major obstacle to US-Arab relations.)

It is, alas, far too often the case that as much as liberation movements are born of necessity, they replace one set of evils with another. Many who welcomed the Fall of the Lon Nol Government in Cambodia were aghast at what followed. We must be prepared to recognise that those who are liberators one day may turn out to be oppressors the next. The actions of Robert Mugabe's North Korean trained fifth brigade against the minority Ndebele have shocked his supporters. Recently he toured Matabeland, protected by the Fifth Brigade, making 'War or Peace' speeches in which J. R. Jayawardene and S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike would have found themselves considerably upstaged.

It is regretted that the last portion of this letter, written by RAJAN HOOLE, is held over for the next issue, for want of space — Ed-SR

news BRIEFS

The twelve Tamil youths, including Jaffna Campus lecturer A. VARATHARAJAPERUMAL and post graduate student T. MAHESWARARAJAH, who were arrested at Batticaloa on 2 April, have been further remanded till 3 May by the Colombo Fort Magistrate.

The youths who were arrested were to have taken part in a seminar arranged under the Karl Marx Centenary Programme.

28 Year old Thambipillai Maheswaran, final year Engineering student at Queen Mary's College of the London University, who daringly escaped from the Army Cantonment at Panagoda at midday on the 1st of April by cutting through six steel bars of his cell window, was rearrested on the 11th of April at 8-30 P.m. in the house of a Muslim couple at Kelaniya. Maheswaran was arrested while he was in the island on

vacation, and detained for alleged involvement in the Pulmoddai Bank of Ceylon Robbery in 1980. Following the re-arrest, the house of the Muslim couple at Kelaniya has been reduced to ashes, by unknown arsonists.

The TULF staged a protest fast on 22 April at the Chelva Memorial Square for the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the withdrawal of the armed forces from the North and East.

Police carried out a thorough search of the granary of Gandhiyam, Vavuniya, on Monday (18 April). The search of the bags of ulundu and payaru drew a blank.

The 16 Gandhiyam volunteers, including 4 girls, who were arrested at Trincomalee on 16 April were released on Tuesday (19 April).

The volunteers were arrested by the Trincomalee Police while they were participating in the monthly executive committee meeting of the Trincomalee Gandhiyam branch. They were taken under heavy armed guard to Anuradhapura where they were quizzed by a special CID team from Colombo.

Kopay M.P.M. Alalasundaram, who is still warded at the Jaffna General Hospital, underwent surgery for the second time on 12 April. The bullet embedded in his right hip was removed after a two hour operation.

The combined Army-Police bomb demolition squad detonated a parcel bomb found lying close to the Gurunagar Army Camp on 18 April. When the squad fired at the parcel it went off with a big bang. Security forces suspect it was a time bomb.

S R reader writes:

"The President of Gandhiyam Movement, Mr. S.A. David, who was detained by the Sri Lankan Government recently will be 59 on Wednesday, April 27th. May I suggest that special prayers be held in honour of this selfless and dedicated social service worker who will in all probability continue to languish in prison on the day of his birthday.

Eight unions condemn

State terrorism

Eight Organizations— Lanka General Services Union (Jayaratna Maliyagida, General Secretary); Ceylon Federation of Trade Union — Kandy Branch (I. B. Wanigasekera); Sri Lanka Independent Industrial & Commercial Workers Union—Central Province (Navaratne Weeratunge General Secretary); Ceylon Social Institute, Kandy (S. n

Balakrishnan); Centre for Racial Equality — Kandy (Raja Uswetakelyawa); Organization for the Defence of Democratic Rights (Nandadasena Jayatilake); Govern

ment Clerical Service Union (Kandy branch)—(K. G. Ranasinghe (President); Movement for Inter-Racial Justice and Equality-Kandy Branch (Cyril Wedagedara, Secretary), have issued a press release condemning the violation of the fundamental human rights of the people in Sri Lanka under the United National Party Government.

wardanepura University and members of the General Union of Ealam Students (GUES) in the East and North.

since the recent move by the U N P govt. to appoint a Parliamentary Select Committee to probe the conduct of certain Supreme Court Judges as an act which not only undermines the Judicial system of this Country but is an open threat to the independence of the Judiciary which has been granted under the present Constitution and as such we strongly urge that the Government should stop such moves forthwith.

Trimmers S. C. carry away athletic honours

Trimmer Sports Club carried everything before then when they made certain of the men's and overall championships Trophies at the Jaffna A-G-A. Division Inter Club Athletic Meet concluded at Jaffna Central grounds.

Familians carried away the women's Championship Trophy. St. Antony's were runners-up.

S. Thevarajah of Trimmer S. C. the former National Long Jump title holder, not only took the Long and Triple in his stride but also won the MEN'S BEST PERFORMANCE TROPHY (Field) and the challenge cup awarded to the MOST OUTSTANDING ATHLETE of the Meet. K. Thomas, another Trimmer athlete who finished first in the 400m, 800m, and the 'High', was awarded the MEN'S BEST PERFORMANCE TROPHY for Track Events.

The women's BEST performance Trophy was taken by Amuthini Stanislaus of the 'Familians'. Ratneswary Arumugam of Trimmer S.C. made certain of the women's Best performance Trophy for Field Events.

Other Men athletes who performed well at the meet were M. Robert of St. Antony's S.C. who took a sprint double, S. Jeevaratnam of Trimmer S.C. who took a middle and long distance 'treble' (1500m, 5000m, and 10,000) Mr. R. Antony (Put) from Gurunagar S.C., A. S. Manuel (Disc) from Gurunagar S.C

Among the women, besides Amuthini and Ratneswary, Nalayini Selvarajah (400m,) Joy Rose Mariyaseelan (Putt) and Mehala Ponnambalam (Disc) made their presence felt.

In the Men's Relays, Trimmer S.C. was beaten

to second place by Vikings S.C. Trimmer S.C., however, ran a well-judged race to win the 4x400 m. relay.

Mr. V. Yogeswaran(M.P for Jaffna) and Mrs. Yogeswaran were the chief guests. Mrs. Yogeswaran gave away the Trophies to the winners.

Mr. K. W. Wimalarajan (S.O., Jaffna) the organising Secretary needs a big bouquet for an excellent job done by him.

The full statement reads: "We the undersigned Organizations express our strong protest concerning the spate of repressive actions taken recently against the people and democratic people's movements in this Island.

1. We vehemently condemn the recent acts of repression against the student movement especially the use of State Terrorism to quell student protests and the arrest of many students including Buddhist Monks at Sri Jaya-

2. We also condemn the use of teargas and batons to disperse a peaceful protest march organised by the GUES to protest against the Hrevention of Terrorism Act.

3. We denounce the arrest of Dr. S. Rajasundram and Mr. S. A. David, Secretary and President respectively of the Gandhian Movement, which Organisation working among the plantation workers who became refugees as a result of the Communal Riots of 1977 and 1981. We call for their immediate release and we also condemn the attempts to use these arrests as a means of rousing anti-Tamil sentiments in the Country and as a means of camouflaging the anti-democratic measures currently being resorted to by the Government.

4. We condemn the recent Army assault on religious worshippers in a Kovil in Manipay, the arbitrary arrest and detention of 3 plantation refugee youths in Vavuniya, the setting on fire of 16 huts belonging to plantation refugees in Trincomalee and the remanding of youth in that District.

5. We protest against the arrest and detention of Nirmala Nithyanathan, a well-known artist as well as that of three members of the Christian Clergy and many others under the draconian P.T.A. (which has been denounced by the Amnesty International).

6. We call for the immediate repeal of the P.T.A. and the release of all those arrested and detained under this law.

7. We vehemently condemn the recent incidents of Police assault and brutality on International Women's Day especially the attack made on Mrs. Vivienne Gunawardene a respected political figure and a Journalist from the Island and Sun newspapers.

8. We vehemently deno-

9. We denounce the decision of the Cabinet to give a promotion to the Superintendent of Police, Gampaha, who was found guilty by the Supreme Court of Violation of the Fundamental Rights of the PAVIDI HANDA ORGANIZATION and also the decision to utilise public funds to pay the fine imposed on this Officer by the Supreme Court. This tantamounts to an open challenge to the Judiciary of this Country as well as an encouragement to the Police and Armed Forces to misuse and abuse their powers. Thus the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of our Country are reduced to mere words.

In view of the above we call upon all freedom loving people and Organizations to protest with utmost vehemence against the use of Police brutality and State Terrorism against the people of this Island and appeal to them to come forward speedily and unitedly and in a determined fashion to safeguard the fundamental human and democratic rights of our people.

JAFFNA SPORTS SCENE

Jaffna Hindu—good season, but lucky too

Jaffna Hindu's First Eleven Cricket OUTFIT is one of the Northern Schools' Teams that went through the season unscathed and untarnished.

Their performance improved as the season progressed, and they did remarkably well to take first innbngs honours over the reputed, Hartley and St. John's Teams. Their only win for the season was an innings triumph over Kokuvil Hindu. They held Hartley, St. John's, Manipay Hindu, Union and Colombo Hindu to drawn games.

Hindu's performance, however, against St. Patrick's in the annual 'friendly' is one that no Hindu fan could gloat over. In the match in question, St.

Patrick's hoisted a mammoth 301 for 9. Jaffna Hindu crumbled to a not too encouraging 135 in their first essay'

Going in a second time with a deficit of 166 runs to clear, to avoid the innings, Jaffna Hindu were in dire straits losing seven wickets with but 72 on the board at close. It was time that appeared to have saved Hindu from the ignominy of an innings defeat.

Incidentally, Jaffna Hindu doesn't play Jaffna Central, Jaffna College and Mahajana. They should however consider themselves really lucky that at least three of the leading Cricket playing Schools take them on in their annual 'friendlies.'

Inquiry on 25th

The judicial inquiry into the death of detunu Kathirgamathamby Navaratnarajah (28) at the Gurunagar Army camp will be resumed on Thursday (25 April) before the Additional Magistrate, Mr. K. P. R. Varatharajah.

Navaratnarajah was arrested by security forces at Kilegeedy (Trincomalee District) and detained at the Gurunagar Army Camp where he died on 10 April.

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Conference on Tamil plantation workers begins in London today

An INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PLANTATION WORKERS OF SRI LANKA is scheduled to be held in London today and tomorrow (April 23rd and 24th) at the Hampstead Town Hall Haverstock Hill, London NW3.

On the programme are contributions by Rev. Fr. Paul Caspersz, S.J., President, Movement for Inter Racial Equality and Justice (MIRJE, Sri Lanka); Dr.

David Selbourne, Lecturer, Ruskin College, Oxford; Rachel Kurien, Author of ILO Publication: "Women in the Sri Lanka Plantation Sector" and Kumudhini Samuel, Women's Centre, Sri Lanka and many others.

The Conference is organized by the Sri Lanka Research and Information Group, 9, Grays Inn Building, Rosebury Avenue, London ECI.



Another view of the Washington demonstration (story on page 1)

'Tigers' stop factional violence : outside bid to escalate it fails

Concerted attempts to escalate tension between the Tamil and Muslim communities in Jaffna after the Liberation Tigers had stepped in to bring about a settlement of a local dispute between two neighbourly groups, have failed.

What began as a private quarrel on New Year's Day in Oddumadam in Jaffna, was blown up by some Colombo newspapers into a full-scale war between the two communities. 'THE ISLAND' even went to the extent of portraying the peace-making efforts of the 'Tigers' as a warning to the Muslim community in the North!

The 'Tigers' stepped in on Sunday (17 April) after attempts were made to attack some Muslim shops in one or two villages. The marauding youths reportedly had links with a Workers' Organization enjoying high official patronage.

The unwarranted teargas attacks by the Police on Osmania College students on Monday (18 April) led to a boycott of classes and a hartal in which Tamil businessmen too participated. Disciplinary action is being taken against two

police officers in connection with the teargassing.

The 'Tigers' had reportedly advised members of both communities on Sunday to bury the hatchet immediately as internecine squabbling could only weaken the freedom strug-

gle of the Tamil speaking people.

Informed sources point out that in previous years occasional disputes between the 2 groups were localised. This time deliberate attempts had been made not merely to prolong the

tension but to spread it throughout the whole of Jaffna: the 'Tigers' had nipped this in the bud. These sources also think there's a link between the forthcoming local government polls and the unsuccessful attempt at escalation.

Local polls could be tough for the T. U. L. F.

The local polls in the North are not going to be a cake-walk for the TULF according to political observers. Nominations closed on Wednesday (20 April).

The keenest contest is likely to be at Point Pedro where an Independent Group led by sitting member P. Veeravagu who broke away from the TULF in 1977, is challenging the TULF team led by the present Chairman M. VELUM MYLUM. SATURDAY REVIEW reliably learns the TULF M.P. for

Point Pedro, K. THURAI-RATNAM, and Jaffna D.D.C. Member, M. THAMBIMUTHU (also of the TULF) were dead against re-nominating VELUM MYLUM. The list they submitted to the TULF High Command was minus his name. The High Command's decision to renominate him led to mixed reactions in Pt. Pedro. While some shop-owners and others lit crackers, backers of rival groups put up their shutters. The rift in the TULF camp gives the Independent Group more than an even chance, according to informed sources. In any case, they say, the TULF splits can lead to 'fireworks'.

In Jaffna, the TULF- as forecast in SATURDAY

REVIEW (2 April)—ditched Mayor Rajah Visuvanathan and persuaded DR. A. L. ABRAHAM to cross over from the Tamil Congress Camp. The list is headed by ex-Mayor and sitting D.D.C. member S. NAGARAJAH. The TULF high command had to drop its plans of bringing in ex-Communist V. PONNAMBALAM to head its list, due to pressure from TULF stalwarts. According to TULF sources, Nagarajah will be Mayor for the first two years and Abraham for the last two. The Deputy Mayorship is to be rotated annually. The TULF, contrary to expectations, has also retained most of its old guard.

The Tamil Congress' Jaf-

fna list is headed by a fresher, trade unionist S. S. Manoharan. Quite a number of the candidates too are new comers to local politics. It's interesting, say political observers, to see how these political colts will fare.

FINANCE COMPANY

A Finance Company "THAMILAR NITHIYAM" (Tamil Funds and Finances Ltd) will be ceremonially inaugurated by the M.P. for Jaffna, V. Yogeswaran on Monday, April 25th at 11 a.m., at 140 Navalar Road, Jaffna. Jaffna Mayor, Rajah Visuvanathan and DDC Chairman S. Nadarajah will also be present.