

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Vol. 2 No. 22

June 4, 1983

It happened this morning: UNP man in Jaffna shot dead

Almost 12 hours after the Government's announcement over the radio on Friday evening that tough measures are to be introduced under the Public Security Act to deal with the situation in the North, a leading UNP-er in Jaffna was shot dead.

Thilagan, an Organ-

iser of the pro-government trade union Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya, one of the UNP candidates at last month's Jaffna Municipal elections, was shot dead on Saturday morning round about 6.15 (4 June) by two youths on bicycles near the entrance of the Jaffna General Hospital where he worked.

IT'S WAR IN THE NORTH, SAYS 'SUN'

quoting Defence Ministry spokesman

The armed forces and the police in the North are to be given legal immunity from judicial proceedings and wide-ranging powers to 'search and destroy'.

These regulations, to be gazetted under the Public Security Act, will come into force any moment now. A press censorship too is to be enforced in the North.

The regulations will empower Assistant Superintendents of Police to determine whether or not inquests should be held into deaths occurring in their areas of operation. After receiving clearance from the Secretary to the Defence Ministry, an ASP can approve the disposal of a body without a post-mortem inquiry.

According to a Defence Ministry spokesman, this provision would give an armed serviceman in the North immunity from being called upon to face criminal proceedings in respect of his duties in suppressing terrorism.

The Ministry spokesman has told the SUN (4 June) "the security forces were faced with a problem of adjusting their military campaign to suit a fictitious notion that there was no 'war' on despite security officers being attacked and killed by the terrorists.

"Under such circumstances soldiers were compelled to react as during a war particularly in their role of

fighting armed terrorists who had no compunction about killing servicemen or members of the public. In view of this it has been felt that the Police and servicemen in the North should be given the freedom of the battlefield rather than having their morale sapped through conflicts with legal niceties. This is not a peace time situation and the Police and services must be provided with adequate safeguards when attempting to control the problem."

A press statement issued by the Department of Information after Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis addressed Colombo editors on Friday states: "Certain regulations under the Public Security Act will be enforced in the northern area to deal more effectively with terrorism. At present the Armed Services are under restraint because in any incident that may result there can be inquiries by coroners which may even lead later to trials before law courts. This puts the services at a great

disadvantage, in that terrorists can shoot and disappear at will and Armed Services are unable to retaliate even in self-defence. In order to free the services of these disabilities security regulations will be published. They will remove the obligations to have coroners' inquests following any shooting incidents by Armed Services."

Gandhiyam leaders Mr. S. A. David and Dr. Rajasunderam along with 12 accused (barring Uma Maheswaran) in the Kili-nochchi Bank Robbery Case and the 4 accused in the Pulmoddai Rural Bank Robbery Case were transferred to Welikade Jail on Friday afternoon, 3rd June.

Australian here to study Human Rights violations

New South Wales State Parliamentarian and representative of the International Commission of Jurists in Australia, Mr. Tim Moore is due in Sri Lanka today to study Human Rights violations in the country.

Mr. Moore who had timed this visit to Sri Lanka to enable him to cover the trials of the two Catholic Priests, Rev. Fr. Singarayar and Fr. Sinnarasa, University Lecturer Nithiyanan-

than, Mrs. Nirmala Nithiyananthan and others has decided to proceed with his visit despite the possibility that the trials may not begin as scheduled on Monday June 6th.

Mr. Moore, according to our correspondent in Sydney, has intimated to the Sri Lanka High Commission authorities in Australia the purpose of his visit and has been given a visa. Mr. Moore is also due to visit Jaffna

Letting them into a secret!

Under the headline said.

MAJOR FIRE, the government-controlled Daily News reports in its issue of Friday June 3: At Vavuniya town two hours after the killing of two airmen, a number of shops were gutted. The cause of the fire has not been ascertained, police

SATURDAY REVIEW is glad to report that although the Daily News and the Vavuniya police were unable to ascertain the cause of the fire, this paper has ascertained it. It was a case of spontaneous combustion!

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

WANTED

Land with or without
buildings to the extent of
5-10 lachams within
Jaffna town.

Please write to—The
Advertiser,
C/o Saturday Review
118, 4th Cross Street
JAFFNA.

Sending telegrams to the President

We give below a sub-
stantial portion of the
'Eelanadu' Editorial Com-
ment on June 1st, 1983.
The "Eelanadu" is an in-

dependent Tamil Daily
published in Jaffna:-

"We reported yesterday
how a 25 year old youth of
Valvettiturai was dragged
into the Army Camp and
shot to death. It is shock-
ing enough that it happened.
It is even more shocking
to find that the Sri Lanka
Broadcasting Corporation
has not even reported the
incident; possibly because
the news was not favour-
able to the Government.
But of course when sup-
porters of the ruling party
meet with the same fate
the news is reported within
hours or minutes. How
can the public have con-
fidence in the communica-
tion media when they in-
dulse in such partisan
reporting?

It goes against all news-
paper ethics when some
Colombo dailies also in-
dulse in such prevarica-
tion. One prominent news-
paper in fact has given this
news the kind of niggardly
treatment that is given to
an uneventful accident.
How discriminatory!

The North is "TER-
RORIST" territory, if a
resident of the North gets
killed this is considered a
very ordinary incident; it
apparently shows how
vigilant the army is, in

Jaffna but if an army man
gets killed or a Policeman
or a government supporter
or a hanger-on gets killed—
the ruling dispensation ap-
parently thinks that it is as
bad as the killing of a
thousand members of the
public.

"Although this state of
affairs has continued from
June 1981, one fears that
it is only now the Govern-
ment has begun to put into
action its plan to root out
'TERRORISM' as it under-
stands it. To make people
live alongside the armed
forces is like placing cotton
wool close to the fire. With
the strong 'cnolakam'
breeze now beating in Jaf-
fna one does not know
how many fatalities the
people are in for? Can a
solution to this be found
through sending telegrams
to the President? We are
not indulging in any pet-
tifogging; nor is this, the
time for it. Are not leaders
who are unable to put a
stop to this sorry state of
affairs morally bound to
give up their offices?

"There is a lot of talk of
'POLITICAL SOLUTIONS'
and other universal panacea
like 'ECONOMIC DEV-
ELOPMENT'. One is
reminded of the words of
the only dictator England
had, Oliver Cromwell who
said: 'PRAY TO GOD
BUT KEEP YOUR (GUN)
POWDER DRY'.

"A Government that is
planning to root out 'TER-
RORISM' once and for
all may think that talk of
'political solutions' may
be the best way to distract
people's attention. The
gory incident that happen-
ed at Valvettiturai the
other day has proved how-
ever the kind of solution
that the Government
favours.

"We are not unaware
that cabling the President
is probably one of the first
steps to be taken—but it
is like trying to pierce with
a blunted chisel.....

HOROSCOPE READING

Your problems solved by accurate Horoscope reading.
Send Horoscope with Rs. 10/- Consult:

Prof. KL. M. Krishnapillaiy,
No. 151, K. K. S. Road, Jaffna.

HOME FINANCE LTD.

- ★ An Institution with an Assured Future
- ★ Provides Facilities for a better living.
- ★ Provides a Luxury Bus Service to Colombo
- ★ Offers beautifully constructed self contained houses on Easy Terms
- ★ Gives on attractive Hire-Purchase Terms
- ★ T. V. Sets
- ★ Pedestal Table Fans
- ★ Water Pumps
- ★ Bicycles
- ★ Cameras and others
- ★ Agents for Pugoda Textiles

Branch Office
Home Finance Ltd.
No. 92, Kannathiddy Rd.,
JAFFNA.
'Phone: 24310

Head Office
Home Finance Ltd.
No. 463, Galle Road,
COLOMBO 3.
'Phone: 589190

SONY®

THE ONE AND ONLY

The new JAFFNA BRANCH of the sole agents
for SONY is at your service:—

- ★ Wide selection of SONY T. V. sets:—Black & White and SONY TRINITRON COLOUR sets.
 - ★ Video Cassette Recorder —SL-C6E (latest model)
 - ★ Two year guarantee
 - ★ Excellent after sales service by U. K. qualified Technician
 - ★ Also available — Sony Radio, Cassio Calculators, Cookers, Fans and other electrical appliances.
- Visit the Sales & Service Department in Jaffna for your requirements.

SIEDLES CINERADIO

Jaffna Branch
363, Kasturiar Road,
Jaffna.

Tel: 24426

(near Kannathiddy Junction)

DILKA Cream House

Opposite Bus Stand

404, HOSPITAL ROAD,

JAFFNA.

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

CHESTO

the Sweet
that relieves coughs and colds
An excellent mouth freshener

Available at all good stores.

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.

At last the Government appears to be coming round to the view that a purely military approach is not going to solve the National Question. When the nearly 1,000 Army garrison at Gurunagar has to barricade itself in fear of the militant Tamil youths, it should be clear to the hot-heads, within the Government and outside, that it might need the entire Sri Lanka Army to contain the situation in the North should a widespread insurrectionary situation arise!

The down-to-earth Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Festus Perera appears to have grasped the situation in the Peninsula better than any previous ministerial emissary. The suggestion he has made to the Government should be followed up seriously.

However, any attempt to bypass the elected representatives of the people in implementing its plan of action is not going to succeed. The Government will be repeating the same fatal mistake made by the previous regime — acting through brokers who have no abiding links with the Tamil people.

Until the Government unfolds its plan, let me pose a few questions to those Sinhalese who take pride in their race, religion and language — quite justifiably, I concede — and are determined to preserve and foster them.

How many Sinhalese non-government organizations are there outside Sri Lanka (i.e. apart from diplomatic missions) to espouse their cause, especially to counter the so-called "smear campaigns" of the Tamil expatriates and their foreign allies? Not a single? Why?

How many powerful Sinhalese non-government organizations are there in Sri Lanka to fund Sinhalese youth who are keen to set up in agriculture and industry? Again not a single?

The next time

it happens...

How many Sinhalese who eagerly study alien languages have bothered to study Tamil, an ancient living language, the language of a people who are in their very midst?

How many Sinhalese have bothered to read Tamil literature, at least in translation?

How many Sinhalese have sold land to Tamils (in preference to members of their own community) thereby enabling Tamil people to "colonise" Wellawatte, Kotahena and other places in the "Sinhalese areas"?

How many Sinhalese patronise Tamils shops hotels and bars in Sinhalese areas when they should really go only to Sinhalese establishment if they are that conscious about their racial identity, superiority, etc.

POLITICAL CAUSERIE

by Gamini Navaratne

(This question is directed in part at the Sinhala wallah journalist who cannot do without liquor shops run by Tamils, especially on Poya days).

These questions are asked not in anger but sorrow. So many Sinhalese talk so much about their race, religion and language but few of them seem to be doing anything tangible to advance their own cause, the majority contenting themselves with directing their venom at the Tamil people.

LESE AREAS ARE FORCED TO GO NORTH, THEY ARE NOT GOING TO COME BACK — UNLIKE IN 1958, 1977 and 1981.

THEN THE PHYSICAL SEPARATION OF THE TWO RACES WILL BE COMPLETE AND EELAM WOULD HAVE BEEN BORN!

Already plans are on to form an Eelam Government-in-Exile, to move in when the time is opportune. With genocide out of the

of the events leading to the 1958 holocaust. Why rake up old wounds at this particular juncture when the media should act with the utmost care and restraint?)

Is all this the work of some people in the Government who are intent on the advice of some leaders or on their own, on distracting the people's attention from the worsening economic situation, which is affecting all communities alike by unleashing violence. Racial riots would be a

'More violence has been directed at the Tamil people since 1977, than at any other period since independence

Or are there foreign agencies intervening in the political situation, taking advantage of the racial diversities, to promote their own interests.

Some people tend to review the National Question in the context of the growing great power rivalry in the Indian Ocean region. In their review, India is also a great power in relation to Sri Lanka because of its size and is very much interested in developments in the island, especially in the North. The strategic port of Trincomalee is often mentioned in this connection.

I was born a Sinhalese Buddhist and am very proud of it. (Incidentally, this is what my mother told me!) I was lucky not to have been born north of Vavuniya, for I have seen enough of the travails of the Tamil people.

But the way many Sinhalese people including a number of leaders in the Government, have been acting in the past six years, I am reminded of that old saying, "Sinhalaaya modaya kavun kanta yodaya." (The Sinhalese are fools; they are adept only at eating oil cakes!)

Force the Tamils from the South, and that is the sure way to create Eelam

The Sinhalese as a nation could do very well for themselves, and stand up to competition in every sphere from the other communities, if they are more united and work with greater purpose instead of getting carried away by communal slogans raised by designing politicians whose sole ambition is to gain power and remain in power.

I should like to tell the Sinhalese that the best guarantee against the division of Sri Lanka — the best way to blunt the demand for Eelam — is to allow the Tamils in their midst to live and work in peace. They are our hostages!

I say this as a warning to those Sinhalese, within the Government and outside, who believe that by driving the Tamil people away, through violence, they would have solved the National Question.

MARK MY WORD, THE NEXT TIME THE TAMIL PEOPLE IN THE SINHA-

question, because of the likelihood of foreign intervention, not all the President's forces will be able to avert the division of the country. (Even Hitler did not succeed in exterminating the Jews and I do not believe that we still have a Hitler in our midst).

Signs of a confrontation

At no time in the past two decades have the two races being drawn so far apart as now, mainly due to the fact that more violence has been directed at the Tamil people since 1977 than at any other period since independence. I see signs of a confrontation between the two races, possibly leading to civil war. The recent incidents at Peradeniya are a particular pointer that subtle moves are on, underground, to set the Sinhalese against the Tamils.

(I find some Sinhala newspaper giving detailed accounts

good excuse to carry on with emergency rule, even suspend the Constitution and Parliament, as in Pakistan.

Because I Am A Journalist

I write the way I write
Because I am a Journalist
I do not owe an explanation
But I do wish to get the record straight
For there appears to be much misunderstanding
Among a small coterie:
They can't distinguish between a concubine
(Member of the kept media)
And a porcupine (the kind that
Stings when necessary!)

In the "Dark Days" of 1970—77
There arose a great leader
Who fired the People's imagination
With visions of a brave New Lanka,
A Land flowing with milk and honey.
Where people can lead a life of peace,
Where Liberty and Justice shall prevail
In the true democratic spirit.

After 34 years in the wings
(Continued overleaf)

Degrading incidents at the Colombo

Colombo medico writes: It is with great sorrow I bring to your notice a degrading incident which took place at Bloemfontein Hostel where Colombo Medical Students reside. Having witnessed the barbarous behaviour of some of the Medical Students, I hang my head in shame on behalf of the noble profession which they and we are supposed to join some time soon.

"It all started on the 18th of May 1983. Some Medical Students from the majority community had broken open the door of a Tamil student, ransacked it, robbed money, and in the process defecated there as well! This poor

Tamil student resorted to legitimate action—he made a complaint to the police. This complaint was the immediate provocation for a general attack on the rooms of all Tamil Students, the following day 19th at about 10.30p.m., which involved breaking of doors and smashing up about 10 push bicycles. The Police intervened and the situation was brought under control around 1.30 a.m. The Tamil students thereafter left the Hostel.

"The Vice Chancellor and Dean visited the hostel on the 20th and warned these notorious elements that they would close down the hostel if the Tamil Students vacated

Medical Hostel

the place. But the threat remained only in words and was never implemented. With no other course open, the Tamil Students having discussed matters among themselves decided to return to the hostel on the 24th. When they went back they were confronted with slogans daubed on the walls like "Don't 'held classes'", "Don't come back", "Go back to the Jaffna". (These were the exact slogans, involving the murder of the English language as well).

"Seeing these slogans and the hostile environment only about six out of fifty eight

Tamil students opted to return to their rooms. They also found some rooms looted. One Student lost medical text books & articles worth around Rs. 6,000/-. The V.C. & the Dean tried to resolve this stalemate by suspending one Sinhala Student, a ring leader behind these uncivilised acts and a Tamil Student who was actually the victim of the initial incident which sparked off the crisis.

"Now the group behind this chaos at the hostel has told some Tamil Students that they could return to the halls provided five Tamil Students

whom they specified, including the one victimised by the V.C. did not come back. These were apparently those with whom they had personal grudges. The Sinhala Students who was asked to quit the hostel by the authorities however continues to occupy his room.

"Poor Hippocrates the father of medicine surely must be wriggling in his grave to see future medical practitioners behaving in such unethical brutish ways."

Because I am a Journalist - Gamini

(Continued from page 3)

He got his chance in Seventy-seven
To do the wonderful things he always said
He would do for his Motherland.
After six years at the helm
How far are we from the Promised Land!

Of course, there has been DEVELOPMENT:
"The results are patent
In every part of the country,"
As the propaganda-wallahs repeatedly say,
But the Development has been lop-sided,
As the critics continue to insist:
The main problems remain unsolved,
Many now not knowing how to subsist!

On the other hand,
What were promised to be banished....
Bribery, corruption, waste and nepotism....
Thrive as never before!
More ominous, the authoritarian trend persists
As people's rights are whittled away.
We are inside, not outside, Dictatorship's door
Say many opponents,
Who compare Sri Lanka to Hitler's Germany!
Yes, "free and fair" elections are held,
But what is the use? they ask,
State power remains entrenched
In a single hand!

Down the ages,
Dissent has been the progenitor
Of much reform and progress
In religion, science, technology and the arts.
The Buddha was the greatest dissenter,
Noble hero and reformer,
Who pointed the way to Nirvana
To countless millions.

But in "Buddhist Lanka", it is now a "crime"
To say "No" or ask "Why?"
Even venerable heads get bashed
For refusing to comply!

From vantage positions,
From privileged positions,
Politicians may indulge in whims and fancies
May even victimise opponents,
Assassinate reputations;
The hapless victims may have none to appeal to!

But a wrong is a wrong, whoever does it,
And the Journalist's job is to expose it.
If necessary, even tell the world.

Why the world?

At times and in certain situations,
International public opinion
Is a great redeemer.

For instance, in Seventy-one,

It forced the authorities

To curb police and army excesses.

Remember, it was the foreign Press

That exposed the Manamperi case?

At a time when in "Dharmista Lanka"

Life is tending to become "nasty, brutish and shot",
Jaffna's situation could have been worse
If not for international concern.

Politicians when in the opposition

Crave foreign publicity for the rulers' misdeeds;

But once in power, they always say,

"You're tarnishing Sri Lanka's image!"

In other countries, Journalists take the lead

In the fight for Human Rights.

In our country, they take a back seat,

Many by compulsion, others by inclination,

And sing the hosannas of the rulers

While they remain silent

Even as their own rights get eroded!

They forget that, between 1970-77,

Opposition politicians shouted from the rooftops,

"Press Freedom is the essence of Liberty,

The source of all other Liberties;

Suppress, restrain or control it,

Then autocracy rears its head."

Citing US and Indian precedents, prized

Then they said "it is a prized privilege

To speak one's mind,

Although not always with perfect good taste,

On all public institutions."

They were for "the unfettered interchange

Of ideas for bringing change,

Political and social,

Desired by the People."

Debate on public issues, they said,

"Should be uninhibited, robust and wide-open,

That it may well include vehemently caustic,

And sometimes unpleasantly sharp,

Attacks on government and public officials."

For they recognised "the occasional tyrannies

Of governing majorities....."

Now it must be perfectly clear

To all those who have asked,

Or wondered,

Why I write the way I write.

Neither pelf nor position

Can ever make me change;

Nor threats of any kind....."

Seminar on 'Periya Puranam' in Tamilnadu

Mr. S. Sivapatha Sundaram of "Sravasti", 29, Kamara Avenue, Adyar, Madras 600 020 writes:

"An organization called Deiva Tamil Manram, a religious literary body in Mayuram, Tamil Nadu, is planning to hold a Conference-Seminar on Periyapuram on the 19th and 20th of December this year. The Head of the Thiruvavudhurai Adeenam is associated with this Conference. One of the highlights of this seminar is Arumuga Navalar and his contribution to Saiva literature. It is well known that he received his Navalar title from the Head of the Thiruvavudhurai Adeenam, and he was also among the first to publish a critical edition of Periyapuram.

"Pilgrims and holiday makers visiting Tamil Nadu during this December will have an opportunity to participate in the seminar and conference."

Kantharmadam: Police action praised

A resolution praising the Jaffna Police for the prompt and lawful discharge of their duties over the Kantharmadam incidents was passed unanimously at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Jaffna - Police Public Relations Committee held on June 1st.

Coomaraswamy, Huxley & the Philosophia perennis

When Coomaraswamy died in 1947, I approached Aldous Huxley for his tribute to the savant to be included in my **Homage to Ananda Coomaraswamy** (1952). He was kind enough to send me the following:

*Unfortunately I never met Dr. Coomaraswamy personally though we exchanged several letters after the publication of my book **Perennial Philosophy**. It was only through his writings that I knew him and was able to profit by that extraordinary combination of vast learning and penetrating insight which gave to Coomaraswamy his unique importance as a mediator between East and West.*

Since that time, Huxley's tribute has often been quoted by writers on Coomaraswamy.

In 1961, Huxley visited India for the Tagore Centenary Celebrations and reiterated his tribute in a conversation with Krishna Baldev Vaid. Vaid: Did you come in contact with Coomaraswamy? Huxley: I never met Coomaraswamy; I wish I had. I exchanged letters with him. He was a very remarkable man, of course.

A term coined

by Leibnitz

The letters these two exchanged reflect Huxley's growing interest in Indian philosophy. They were written during the last years of Coomaraswamy's life, and Huxley was working on his book, **The Perennial Philosophy** termed "Highest Common Factor" book in their correspondence). Coomaraswamy was a foremost exponent of the **philosophia perennis**, a term coined by the Western philosopher and mathematician Leibnitz, meaning the concept and teachings common to all great religions. Coomaraswamy's many books had a very important influence on Huxley who refers to Coomaraswamy in **Perennial Philosophy** as an "eminent Orientalist" and lists three of his books (**Buddha and the Gospel of Buddhism**, **The transformation of Nature in Art** **Hinduism**) in a list of recommended books for further reference.

Christopher

Isherwood

Coomaraswamy's ideas found popular expositors in such writers as Aldous Huxley, and in Gerald Heard and Christopher Isherwood with whom Huxley had established a little **Ashram** or religious house (Vedanta Center) at Trabuco

Ranch, Trabuco Canyon, California.

Huxley, the famous novelist and essayist, was formerly an unbeliever and had a cynical attitude toward everything traditional. Gradually there came about in him a transformation which was reflected in his writings. Later he became a keen student of Vedanta. Gerald Heard is another distinguished English writer who found solace in Vedanta. Christopher Isherwood was once a leading figure among the young playwrights, novelists and poets of England. In 1939, during the war, he left England to reside in Southern California and became deeply interested in the philosophy in Vedanta.

Huxley's admiration for Coomaraswamy is evident when one reads his comments, especially his comments on Coomaraswamy's **Hinduism and Buddhism**:

I have been re-reading your little book and would like to tell you again how much I admire it for depth and compact density of substance and for a kind of Gnostic quality of expression. It is unmatched in its class.

Both Coomaraswamy and Huxley shared common interests in art and in the **philosophia perennis**. Their involvement in art is well enough known to need mention here. It is self-evident from

to an end. The differentiation of styles is nothing but an example of the working of the principle that "nothing can be known but in the mode of the knower."

Mulling over the distinction Coomaraswamy makes here, I felt convinced that an assiduous student of comparative art will reap rich rewards in pinning down the distinctions between the eastern and western conception of art, and more importantly between the eastern and western



Ananda Coomaraswamy



Aldous Huxley

by

S. Durai Raja Singham

Malaysia

the number of books each has written on the subject. Yet, although Huxley assures an identity in their conception of art, it is obvious from their correspondence that Coomaraswamy discerned an essential difference. Huxley, after reading Coomaraswamy's **Transformation of Nature in art**, wrote enthusiastically,

*I have been reading with great interest your **Transformation of Nature in Art**. What a mysterious business Art is.*

Coomaraswamy quickly redefines Huxley's epithet:

I can't agree that "art" is mysterious, that is no more mysterious than anything else. ART is a kind of knowledge about how things, which it has been decided are desiderate, can be made. It is mainly modern aesthetics that has thrown a veil of "mystery" over "art" just as modern sentimentality has made a fool of prudence (so to speak) by treating it not as a means

"modes of knowing", by comparing Coomaraswamy and Huxley as artists and art critics.

In their concern for a "summa of the **Philosophia Perennis**", we again note similarity with difference. Huxley wrote,

I am compiling an anthology with comments of the Highest Common Factor in the various religious traditions, Hindu, Buddhist, Taoist, Sufi and Christian, setting down under appropriate heads and in a framework of explanation and substance of the perennial philosophy. The book is very easy to arrange and write and promises to turn into a kind of Summa by many hands—and what hands very often! Apart from all other considerations, such a book seems to be about the only contribution to world peace that one can make. If people can't discover some philosophy on which they can agree, then

obviously they will be having bigger and bigger wars indefinitely—an Inevitable Progress.

Coomaraswamy welcomed this project of Huxley's and replied:

Your Common Factor book if it really deals with dogmatic equivalents, and not merely with the general agreement that one must "be good, sweet child, should be valuable. I have myself collected an enormous amount of 'parallels' and cited very many in my articles; in fact, generally speaking,

whatsoever.

There have been, of course, several books compiled along these lines. Coomaraswamy himself wrote "The Common Wisdom of the World" for the **Munshi Jubilee Volume**:

During many years, I have collected from Eastern and Western sources parallel passages in which identical doctrines have been enumerated as early as possible in the same term, and often indeed in the same idioms and making use of etymologically equivalent words: at all with a view to the

**'If [people can't
discover some
philosophy on
which they can
agree, then obviously
they will be having
bigger and bigger
wars' Huxley**

demonstration of any literary influences, but only in order to show that the doctrines in themselves are cognate in the same sense that the etymons, e. g. of Greek and Sanskrit, are complete, that is to say, of common origin.

After citing a few examples of these collections, Coomaraswamy concludes, "Any extended list of such **dharma-parayas** would fill a book."

Writing to Father Columba Cary-Elwes four months before his death on May 8, 1947 Coomaraswamy says:

I look at the different religions as "modes" of knowing God (in terms of the "affirmative theology") but think each makes slightly different groups of affirmations for most of which equivalents can be traced in the different traditions (it is a favourite task on my part to do this): but I am not quite sure that they can be combined in any syncretic statement.

(Part II of this article will appear in the next issue)

king. I dislike to expound any doctrine (such as that of the single essence and two natures, or that of lila) or any symbolism (such as that of "light" or the "chariot" or the "symplegades") from single sources only. There is however, the difficulty that one cannot, generally speaking, trust existing translations and one does not know enough languages to check on everything.

**Common wisdom
of the world**

It was Coomaraswamy's own writing that not only supported this work of Aldous Huxley's but also inspired a later work, **A Treasury of Traditional Wisdom** compiled by Whitall N. Perry and is quoted in the excellent introduction by Marco Pallis:

The time is coming when a Summa of the philosophia Perennis will have to be written, impartially based on all orthodox sources

The U. K. Comparison -

Continued from previous issue

The Armed Forces

The British rules relating to the status of the armed forces presuppose a set of public attitudes and assumptions towards the roles of the Civil and Military powers within the state. The primacy of the civil power is a sociological as well as a constitutional fact. No British Government has been overthrown by military force, since 1688. No senior officer of the regular armed forces has ever been Prime Minister except the Duke of Wellington, 1828-30 and 1834. Even in times of civil disorder within the state, the Armed forces must act only under the direction of the civil authority.

The Forces themselves are governed by Military Law set out in the ARMY Act and there is no such thing as Martial Law. The powers and duties of soldiers are different in degree and not in kind from those of the ordinary citizen. Officers and men must exercise their own judgement whether to use force and, if so, how much. The normal courts continue to operate (unless there is an actual invasion or loss of con-

trol of a wide area including the place where local Court sits) and all alleged offences committed during the riots, includes any accusations of excessive use of force by the military, can be tried in these courts.

Serving members of the armed forces are subject to military law as well as the ordinary law of the land. Military law is a readily ascertainable body of rules, collected in the official manual "of Military Law". It is primarily a body of criminal law contained in statutes and subordinate legislative instruments.

In the United Kingdom, certain very serious criminal offences committed by members of the Forces are triable only by the Civil (i.e. ordinary criminal) courts. Other offences are triable by court martial. In 1951, a Courts Martial Appeal Court, composed of High Court Judges, was constituted and given jurisdiction to hear appeal from courts-martial after internal review procedures has been exhausted, thus was asserted the primacy of the civil power.



Hitler's Nazi officers are being hunted, and punished even now

If, in obedience to superior orders, a member of the Armed Forces commits a criminal offence or a civil wrong—for example, wounding a rioter in circumstances where this is not reasonably justifiable—he may incur legal liability before the ordinary courts. If, on the other hand, he re-

fuses to obey an order because he believes it to be wrong, he may be court martialled. It may be said that the dilemma is unreal because it is not an offence under normal military law to disobey an unlawful command; but since a soldier is a member of a disciplined force conditioned to the habit of obedience, and since moreover, a court martial may well hold the command to be lawful, the dilemma and risk can be very real.

Is it reasonable, then, to assert that obedience to superior orders can never be a defence to the unlawful act in proceedings before the Courts? The Nuremberg War Crimes Trials (convened to try the Nazi War Criminals) proceeding on the footing that superior orders were in defence thought they might be pleaded in mitigation of punishment. This general proposition is adopted in modern editions of the "Manual Act of Military Law".

When Hitler and his Nazi Party came to power in Germany, books were burnt and the minority Jews

were put in concentration camps. There are dangerous parallels today in Sri Lanka to these horrors, of burning books and Army concentration CAMPS. But then Hitler and his Nazi Germany were eventually destroyed and Germany was divided into two parts. The Nazi Officers and soldiers who carried out the orders are still being hunted. A couple of months ago, Klaus Barbie, a German commander in occupied France, who is alleged to have executed a French Freedom Fighter during World War II was arrested in Bolivia, South America, and was brought to France to stand trial for crimes against humanity, committed about forty years ago. So, let there be no mistake here, whether wearing military uniforms or not, whether carrying out superior orders or not, they provide no defence against the laws of humanity, even if it takes 40 years to trace the criminals half way across the world.

Central and Local Government: The balance of power

THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES (COUNCILS)

The U.K. is considered a highly centralised country by international standards. Even so, the Local Authorities have traditionally provided services covering the following areas: Education, Social Services, Libraries, Museums, Art Councils, most aspect of transport, Refuse Disposal, Town and Country Planning, Consumer Protection (Weights and Measures) (Food & Drugs), Police and Fire Services.

The Local Government System that existed in U. K. before the 1972 Act originated in the Middle Ages, when towns were able to purchase their right to Self government by paying an impecunious crown, for a charter. The latter gave the right of self-Government and self taxation to all living within the town walls or boundary, leaving the surrounding rural areas under the control of the aristocracy. This division between town and country became hardened by the end of nineteenth century into 58 county councils and 82 county boroughs in England and Wales. While these county boroughs looked

after their own local government, in the counties there were partially self governing subordinate bodies; namely 270 non county Boroughs, 535 Urban District Councils and 473 Rural District Councils; these last being further subdivided into some 7500 parish Councils.

and art galleries, most aspects of transport (including small airports, highways, parking and lighting), structure plans and national parks in town and country planning (with concurrent powers in most other aspects), refuse disposal, consumer protection services, police and fire services, resi-

tions of the council itself or its committees and sub-committees, or official acting under specially delegated powers. The Councils permanent officials unlike senior civil servants, serve the council, and its committees as a whole, not merely the dominant group in those bodies. The

of reports and recommendations by committees and officers. Discussions tend to become more animated when politically contentious issues arise. The growth of party politics in local government is a modern phenomenon.

Local authorities derive their income from three main sources: rates, rentals, transport undertakings, entertainments and other facilities and services, and central government grants. Rates are local taxes, imposed, not on income or wealth but upon the occupation of land and buildings. Rates account for a third of the local authority income and the general grants for a slightly higher percentage. Manufacturing gas and electricity is done by nationalised industries. Distribution of national assistance (social security, unemployment benefit) is done by government departments.

In other areas the central government has created ad hoc series of bodies. Examples are tourist boards, hospital boards, sports councils, river pollution boards, the water boards, nature conservancy, arts council, forestry commission, ancient monuments commission. Local authority joint

By

P. VAROTHAYASINGHAM

London

After a series of reports the above system was re-organised on a two tier basis by the 1972 Local Government Act. England was divided into 39 counties with 296 second tier districts; 6 metropolitan areas with 34 districts. Wales was divided into 8 counties and 37 districts. The distribution of functions between the Greater London Council and the London Borough Councils were unaffected by this Act. Further, the relations between central and local government have not been materially altered.

In the present set up, the non-metropolitan county councils are responsible for education, personal social services, libraries, museums

dual housing powers, and certain other functions exercisable concurrently with districts. Among the more important matters for which districts have primary or sole responsibility are housing, public health, market refuse collection, and local plans and development control in the field of town and country planning.

In the metropolitan counties (such as London) in the District (Urban) Councils are the authorities responsible for education, personal, social services and libraries. Parish Councils have responsibilities for footpaths, cemeteries, swimming baths, parks, open spaces and allotments, car parks and entertainments.

Detailed administrative decisions are made by resolu-

top Government Officer of a local authority is the chief executive or clerk to the council (not always a solicitor).

Then come the Departmental heads such as the engineer & surveyor, chief architect, chief of planning, director of education, director of social services etc. with their respective departments. County councillors are elected for a period of four years to represent electoral divisions; all retire together. District Councillors represent wards. The basic rules governing the conduct of the local elections are similar to those for parliamentary elections. The qualifications of voters are almost identical. Meetings of councils are largely concerned with consideration and ratification

(Continued next page)

LETTERS

Sri Lanka has become a land of Yes men

No. 1, Station Road,
Katugastota,
27-5-83.

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Jaffna.

Sir,
We believe that all species of animal life have some means of bringing their protests to the surface, when injustice confronts them.

However, it is tragic that we citizens of modern Sri Lanka do not seem to have this privilege. There could be no doubt, that if we survive the current period of obstruction, devastation and a whole lot of undemocratic practices — posterity would condemn the present generation, as a bunch of people who were not fit enough to exist.

There have been no time in previous history of this country, where so many "Yes men" have existed. We seem to accept all the suppression levelled against

the intelligence of our people, without a whimper.

Unlike centuries ago, the means of protest we now have, is the free press. It is a shame that the so-called free press, is leading the band of "Yes men" — as never before.

However much various ministers shout at the top of their voices, that the country has accepted the policies of this pompous and boastful govt. the large majority of our people do not accept this position when consideration is given to the downright organized thuggery and disobedience to the laws of the land, as seen at the Referendum and at the recent by-elections.

For future historians to describe this period as one where an insignificant percentage of powerful and arrogant people ruled the majority with all the known and unknown undemocratic means, would be most appropriate.

Yours faithfully,
T. G. Edirimanna.

powers that be were counting votes in the Kachcheri and the babies, children, women and men of Kantharmadam were powerless against the barrel of the gun and the jackboots. It was an uneven fight. At about 9 pm Kantharmadam was dead except for flickering flames, flying sparks, falling embers and smoke.

FIRE! I always thought fire was beautiful. Fire-the Fire Goddess that obeyed Kannagi and reduced Mathurai to ashes. Baptism by fire purifies us. The Tamils tasted

fire in 1958. Then again in 1977. In 1981 we were DC crazy and got burnt. Otherwise the Jaffna Library & Father David would have been amongst us. The members of Sowmiamoorthy Thondaman's vote bank got burnt soon after. The Sinhalese too got enveloped that time in Ratnapura. And now we wanted the Jaffna Mayoralty and got baptised again. Since 1977 it is a case of "carrot & stick" rule. FIRE and then SOPS! What is the fun? It is an utter wastage of national energy.

The Tamil is a pariah not only down south but in his own traditional homeland as well. Where do we go from here? Now the fire. Next time ?

"A hen has a home.
Its home is
The chicken coop.
A rabbit has a home.
Its home is the burrow...
Where is the home
Of the Tamil?... "
adopted from a Palestinian verse).

Truly,
A. Victim.

Let us make a united effort to build the Palmyrah industry

Padmas Farm,
Palaly Road,
Kondavil.

The Editor,
Saturday Review.
Dear Sir,

I am a regular reader of your esteemed journal. In fact I have become so addicted that I earnestly look forward to it on Saturday morning and finish reading every word of the entire publication.

I observed since of late there you had been given wide coverage to Palmyrah development. There were valuable articles by Mr. A. Thevarajan and Mr. Ketheeswaran Loganathan. But what is amazing is the letters written to the Editor by Ex-Chairman and Ex-Directors who had been involved with the Palmyrah Board letting off steam and indulging in personal attacks against others involved in the management of the Palmyrah Industry.

I would like to take this opportunity of making my own observations and suggestions to improve the Industry.

I am not one who is directly involved in this Industry. But I was one who has been involved in agriculture for the past two and a half decades, having been associated with the three major export plantation crops of Sri Lanka, namely, coconuts, rubber and tea and returned to my home soil in 1974. Since then I am a full time farmer of the North producing large scale nurseries and temperate vegetables in the tropical climate of the North.

Since my coming into contact with the present P. D. B. Chairman, Mr. Nadarajah and Dr. Mohanadas who invited me to help them in sharing my experience both in Sri Lanka and abroad that I took to a study of the Palmyrah Industry. Though I am not expert I am a keen student of the subject.

I should at this stage congratulate the Chairman, P.D.B. Dr. Mohanadas, the F. A. O. Representative, Dr. C. V. Jocab's Senior Adviser F.A.O./U. N. D. P. projects for the excellent workshop they organised recently. I had the privilege of participating as a delegate.

I think this is the first time in the history of this Industry such a workshop of this nature was held. This created the opportunity of meeting and listening to some of the top scientists involved in this industry both local and abroad, the majority of the producers, manufacturers, consumers, Ministry Officials, Representative of the F.A.O. High Officials of the Export Promotion Board etc. By bringing together of all these expertise to our doorstep it afforded a very representative cross section of these actively engaged and interested in the industry an opportunity of meaningful participation in the discussions.

Though it was a long seminar and workshop (it went on for five days) the first day was given to a lot of pomp and pageant before a fully packed Veerasingham Hall audience with quite a lot of our politicians making political

speeches; except for one Mr. who made a valuable contribution on the industry, he being a keen agriculturist himself.

But when very valuable papers were read by both local and foreign scientists on the 21st evening, 22nd and 23rd, the participants were only a handful. I wonder whether those who are directly involved, at least the Chairman and his entire Board of Directors and his officials followed the entire proceedings. As one who attended the entire proceedings from the opening day to the closing day, I had the privilege of meeting about five Directors. (One of them criticised the Chairman downwards and his fellow Directors other than himself.) My observation is that appointments to this Board should be non-political and men who are really dedicated and who have some experience and knowledge of the industry should be appointed and a reasonable remuneration paid for their services.

On the first day of the sessions few ad hoc committees were formed to make recommendations. They were high powered committees consisting of some of the experts in their respective fields. If I remember some of the committees: National Research, Extension and New Planting, Sap Products and Export Promotion and marketing which was headed by Mr. Navaratnarajah of the Export Production Board.

(Continued Overleaf)

Thoughts on the Kantharmadam fire

Jaffna.
26-5-83

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Jaffna.

Dear Sir,

According to popular authors Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre, while the Allies were marching towards Paris, Hitler received reports that terrorists were engaging in intense activity all through the city. Hitler shouted to General Jodl that the Allies must find nothing but a pile

of ruins. He is reported to have rasped, 'Jodl! Brennt Paris?' — 'Is Paris Burning?'

So the hamlet called Kantharmadam was burning on the 17th of May as a reprisal for somebody else's firing. The People of Kantharmadam didn't mastermind the shooting but they had to face the reprisal.

From 5 p.m till midnight flames enveloped the area. As the crow flies, it is about a mile from Kantharmadam to the Jaffna Kachcheri. The

The British comparison: central and local government...

(Continued from page 6) committees have occurred, in such areas as public health, Port health, police, fire services, harbours, tunnels, airports, water supply, sewerage and burial. Members of the public and the local press are entitled to inspect Council minutes but not the minutes of the council committees.

Recently there was an inter-

esting situation where the central government in the U. K. had avoided clashing with the local authorities over a 'defence exercise, in what may be an election year (1983) The civil defence exercise is designed to cope with the situation that may exist during a nuclear war. Last year's exercise due to be held in autumn, was called off in July

when many local authorities refused to take part. The Greater London Council then produced a legal opinion that the existing regulations imposed a duty only to plan civil defence and not to carry out the plans.

The government's response was to draft new regulations to bring the rebels to heel.

However, those have raised widespread opposition, not only from the 140 or so mainly Labour controlled Councils which have declared themselves "nuclear free zones", but also from the Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils. Even with the new regulations, some Labour Authorities believe that

could still disrupt an exercise, while holding their own anti-nuclear presentations to be called "Hard Luck". Now the conservative Central Government has abandoned any plans to hold civil defence exercise this year, in spite of new regulations imposing clearer duties on local authorities to plan for civil defence and take part in exercises.

The people were inspired by the idea of bringing into existence a democratic republic where all Tamils will enjoy human rights without the slightest discrimination, where the Sinhalese would be able to live together in peace, sharing a common nationality and common loyalty to this country. However, this notion has been wiped out by immoral and collusive deeds, which have not been curtailed by our leaders.

The law as it is applied, the law as it has been developed over a long period of history and specially the law as it is written and designed by men who impliedly classify races and their privileges in my view is immoral, unjust and intolerable. (Our conscience dictates that we must protest against it, that we must oppose it and attempt to alter it.)

Tamils and Sinhalese in this country have no common standard of fairness, morality and Ethics and it would be very difficult to determine as to what standard of fairness and justice our leaders have in mind.

The Tamils are entitled to live a free life on the basis of fullest equality of rights and opportunities in every field, of full democratic rights with a direct say in the affairs of the government.

Words expressed by our leaders have become a symbol of mockery amounting to provocation and destruction. The lack of human dignity experienced by the Tamils is the direct result of the policy of Sinhalese supremacy. Sinhalese supremacy implies Tamil inferiority. Legislation designed to preserve Sinhalese supremacy entrenches this notion one being Article 18 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka which

A submission on the Sinhala-Tamil problem

gives Sinhala language the official status.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act is believed to be a weapon to wipe out all Tamil youths gradually. It does not comply with the basic rule of Evidence. This is in violation of Human Rights and of Justice. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides, that all men are equal before the law and are enti-

itled to their armed forces to attempt to cow and terrorize the peaceful protest of the people.

They set a scene of violence by relying exclusively on violence, with which to answer our people and their demands. It was clear that the Govt. was attempting to combat the intensity of some people by a reign of terror.

Knowing in advance, that our rulers are incapable of

Violence from our rulers can do only one thing and that is to breed counter-violence. This seems to breed each successive day. Therefore, considering the cause and effect relationship, the term 'Prevention of Terrorism' should have been named more appropriately as 'Prevention of counter-Terrorism'. It has been warned repeatedly, that our rulers by resorting continually to

rate acts of counter-violence and of force against the rulers in order to persuade the rulers in the only language which the rulers show, by their own behaviour that they understand.

The struggle for Equality and Justice has not been boldly sought by our Tamil leaders. We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. It is a fact that 'Justice delayed is Justice denied!'

Considering these circumstances, it is obviously insincere and unreasonable for the Tamil Leaders to continue the hypocritical lip service of 'non-violence' at a time when our rulers met their peaceful demands with force. Ultimately the oppressors may become the oppressed. I am compelled at this juncture to quote Rabindranath Tagore:

"Prisoner tell me who was it that wrought this unbreakable chain?"

"It was I" said the prisoner, "who forged this chain very carefully. I thought my invisible power would hold the world captive leaving me in freedom undisturbed. Thus, night and day, I worked the chain with huge fires and cruel hard strokes. When at last the work was done, and the links were complete and unbreakable, I found that it held me in its grip".

By **T. C. Rajaratnam (Jr.)**

tled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. In its proper meaning, equality before the law means the right to participate in the making of the laws by which one is governed a constitution which guarantees Democratic right to all sections of the population, the right to approach the Court for protection or relief in case of the violation of rights guaranteed in the Constitution.

A man should be free from racial oppression, from the idiocy of apartheid and racial arrogance from police molestation, from humiliation and indignity.

It is submitted, that our leaders behaved in a way, no civilized group should dare behave when faced with a peaceful, disciplined sensible democratic expression of the view of its own population. It ordered the mobilization of

progressive democratic moves, so far as the people are concerned, knowing that this group of rulers are incapable of reacting towards us in any way other than by the use of overwhelming brute force, the people who thrive for justice nevertheless decided to go ahead to do what should be done. We have been conditioned by the history of rulers, since the Independence of Ceylon, in this country to accept the fact that Tamils, when they make their demands strongly and powerfully enough to have some chance of success will be met by force and terror on the part of the group of rulers. This is not something the Tamils have been taught. This is something the Tamils have learnt from their own bitter experience. We have learnt it over since the Independence of Ceylon.

violence will breed in this country counter-violence amongst people, till ultimately, if there is no dawning of sanity on the part of our rulers, the dispute between the rulers and the people will be finished and settled in violence and by force.

Already there are indications in this country that some people are turning to delibe-

"The struggle for Equality and Justice has not been boldly sought out by our Tamil leaders"

LETTERS

(Continued from page 7)

The biggest constraint in this industry had been the lack of funds and the need for a Research Institute. Now that the F. A. O. and the Export Promotion Board had come forward to help, all those who are really dedicated and involved should really round and harness the entire resources available to improve this industry.

New strategies should be adopted and the entire objective should be to gear ourselves for an export market, giving priorities to identify some of the immediate problems and establish an Export Market. The concentration should be on Research and Technology, marketing and production.

Appropriate technology is an urgent necessity to produce

The Palmyrah industry

high quality and adequate quantity of the products in demand according to consumer preferences of the various European countries.

Mr. A. S. Navaratnarajah retired U. N. Expert presently attached to the Export Development Board in his paper gave a vivid account of the functions of the Board, and the role of Government and the private sector on the Trade in Palmyrah Products. This Board is a very high-powered Board consists of an Export Development Council of Ministers whose Chairman is His Excellency the President. The Palmyrah Board has not got the benefit of the schemes made available by the Board.

The Palmyrah Board should go all out to attract the local and foreign entrepreneurs to involve private sector invest-

ment on this industry as a major export industry for the North.

I must congratulate **Professor K. Theivandrarajah**, head of the Department of Botany, University of Jaffna. This young and energetic Professor with his team of young scientists almost consisting of the entire Department of Botany of Jaffna University had done some keen study of the subjects pertaining to the industry and presented valuable papers at this Seminar.

Professor Paulas Associate Professor of Palmyrah Research from Sri Villiputhur in Tamil Nadu also contributed a valuable paper and showed slides of some of the research work carried out by him. For improving the plant genetics he has volunteered to give all the necessary help to improve the Palmyrah industry in our

country.

We are also privileged to have among us **Mr. Sambandan** an expert from India who is here to guide the P. D. B. and help the implementation of some of the recommendations made.

Dr. C. V. Jacobs, Senior Advisor, FAO/UNDP. Minor Exports Corps is another expert who thinks the palmyrah palm has got a good future. **Dr. W. G. Alles** of the Minor Export Corps Research Station, Malé served in the Committee which made recommendations for the establishment of a National Institute for Palmyrah. They are all willing to contribute their experience and talents to improve this industry.

The outcome of this workshop and Seminar is that it has created an ideal climate and opportunity to tap all the

possible resources both natural and human to the maximum.

I wish the present Chairman of the P. D. B. **Mr. K. Nadarajah** all the very best to continue his dedicated and hard work to make this industry as one of the leading export industry in Sri Lanka.

May all those critics who are wasting their valuable time in character assassination re-dedicate themselves and join hands as one team and make a sincere and honest effort to build up this industry as one of the finest in this country, in keeping with the policy of this Excellency the President. "Export or Perish"

S. PADMANABHA

President, Jaffna District Agricultural Producers Association.

District Chairman

Agriculture and Fisheries, Lions International District. 306 B.

news BRIEFS

MADAMPE: Four armed youths are reported to have broken into the Madampe Kudawela Sri Poorvarama Vihare in the early hours of Thursday, 26 th May, and shot to death the 90-year old Chief Priest of the temple, Gunananda Thero. Cash and valuables have been robbed.

PONDICHERRY: The songs of Subramania Bharathi which have been translated into French by an officially constituted committee will be released "soon".

Announcing this at a three-day 18 th Kaṁban festival here Chief Minister Ramachandran said the territorial administration would provide all assistance to Dr. David Annusamy, Chief Judge of Pondicherry and French scholar, who

had undertaken this work. The Speaker of Pondicherry Assembly Mr. Farrok Maricar, traced the growth of Kamban Kazhagam over the years.

NUWARA ELIYA: Mr. Bandula Seneviratne, a member of the Nuwara Eliya Municipal Council who headed the Independent Group at the recent local elections was shot at by a gunman on Sunday night when he was returning home in his car. The gun shots shattered the windows of the vehicle but the MMC escaped unhurt. Police investigators have found several cartridges and cartridge cases at the crime of the crime.

JAFFNA: The Jaffna Passport Office has begun functioning again after a temporary closure for over two months. Mr. N. Subramaniam has assumed duties as Assistant Controller of Immigration and Emigration at the office with five clerks to assist him. A backlog of nearly 1800 Passport applications await clearance.

MATARA: Over One Million Rupees damage has been caused by a fire that broke out at the Electrical Store of the Matara Urban Council on the night of Saturday, May 28 th. Sabotage has not been ruled out.

JAFFNA: The Mayor of Jaffna, Mr. Rajah Visuvanathan relinquishes his post on 31-5-83. The Members of the Council and the employees accorded him a farewell by entertaining him to tea on 30 th May 1983. Speaker after speaker paid tributes to the Mayor's integrity and sincerity and his dedication to principles. The Mayor in his reply said, though he was relinquishing office, he would fight from outside for the liberation of Eelam. He solicited the co-operation of the members, and the employees.

13-year old girl moves objects by will power!

WARSAW:

Polish scientists are baffled by the extraordinary case of a 13 year-old girl who can apparently move objects by will power alone and has a body temperature of 113 degrees Fahrenheit, the evening news paper Kurier Polski reported.

The inexplicable powers of 13 year-old Joanna C. first became apparent last month at her parents home in Sosnowice near Katowice southern Poland when the family were awakened at three in the morning by the sound of objects hurtling around the flat.

Glasses moved about and crashed against walls while matches ignited spontaneously and flew through the air, the newspaper said.

Members of the militia

and local officials called in by Joanna's startled parents reportedly witnessed the bizarre carryings on.

In later parapsychological tests under medical control, Joanna proved she could will objects made of wood and metal to move, Kurier Polski added.

Her temperature was registered at 113 degrees Fahrenheit and when doctors attempted to measure her heartbeat on an electrocardiogram, the glass front of the machine shattered into pieces and the recording needle spun wildly.

According to the newspaper, doctors are convinced that Joannas body gives off an energy capable of upsetting gravity, but the origin and nature of the energy remains a mystery.

30 th May, 1983

We publish below, in to, to the letter sent to President Jayawardene by the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, in connection with the communal disturbances at the Peradeniya campus. The letter is signed by the party's General Secretary K. P. Silva: Your Excellency.

The growing communal tensions in the country have created a situation that can develop in ways detrimental to the well-being and harmony of the people of this country.

The events during and after local government elections of 18 th May, 1983, the disturbances at the University of Peradeniya which have led to Tamil students leaving the campus en masse, and similar incidents on other occasions and in other parts of the country are manifestations of this.

The wide-spread public anxiety in regard to these developments was expressed in Parliament, too, on May 25th. The imposition of a state of emergency once again indicates that the government, too, is conscious of the gravity of the situation.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka has asked me to request Your Excellency to take certain immediate and long-range steps in this regard.

1. All victims of arson and other outrages in Jaffna by a section of Army on the night of 18th/19th May and thereafter should be compensated for the injury and damage done to them, and
2. Attempts by racist-minded

Call an all-party conference, C.P. tells President

elements, both within and outside the University of Peradeniya to use, the present situation there to end the multi-racial character, of the student population at this university and confine it to Sinhalese students should be rejected and

3. Special arrangements should be made by the authorities of the University of Peradeniya to see that Tamil students are allowed to pursue their studies in peace and security and, further, that those who were unable to follow lectures owing to these incidents should be provided with opportunities to catch up with the lectures they missed.

Apart from this, our Central Committee wishes to stress the need for fresh attempts to find a satisfactory and permanent solutions to the many

problems of the Tamil Nationality in Sri Lanka. Failure to do so has been a major cause of internal tension, repeated communal riots and states of emergency, and consequent disruptions of social peace, racial harmony, and the economy of the country. The country's image abroad has also been spoilt by such occurrences.

Our Party has always condemned and opposed resort to individual terrorism as a means of solving political or social questions. But we are equally convinced that state terrorism is no answer to this state of affairs.

It is clear that attempts to solve this problem through prolonged military occupation of Jaffna and or the use of the "Prevention of Terrorism Act" have not merely failed but have, instead, aggravated and complicated the problem. Further attempts along these

lines can only be counter-productive, do irreparable damage to inter-racial relations and the democratic process, and strengthen fissiparous tendencies.

At the same time, the bilateral dialogue between Your Excellency and the leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front has also failed to produce, any tangible results from the point of view of either easing or settling racial tensions, let alone moving towards a lasting solution of the problem.

In this connection, our party would like to draw attention to the fact that Your Excellency's government has not yet given effect to the undertaking made in the United National Party's selection manifesto of 1977 that an All-Parties Conference would be summoned to seek a political solution to this problem.

In our view the need for a political solution of the pro-

blem of the Tamil national has become urgent and inescapable. Any attempt to avoid this can well lead to most dangerous consequences.

Our Party therefore suggests to Your Excellency that your government should take early steps to summon a conference of all recognised political parties, as well as other organisations of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, to explore the possibilities of arriving, through the processes of dialogue, at a broad consensus as to the steps, both immediate and long-term, needed to defuse communal tensions and arrive at a political solution to this problem.

Our Party urges Your Excellency and the government to give the most serious consideration to this proposal.

Yours faithfully,
for Central Committee,
Communist Party of Sri Lanka.

K. P. Silva
General Secretary

Election time has now become a regular source of anxiety and danger to the people of Jaffna. The general elections of 1977, the District Development Council Elections May 1981 and the Local Government Elections this year (1983) have proved it.

Last week's local elections have been most disturbing to the Tamil people. There was a helicopter flight to the Kantharmadam election booth twice or thrice; there were some gun shots in which a soldier was killed; even today, to be precise, it is not known who were responsible for the shots. Soon after the shots there was a concentration of soldiers at Kantharmadam. In a few minutes, houses were seen burning. Men in civis followed the uniformed soldiers, entered houses and both soldiers and these men snatched chains, robbed jewellery, removed costly house-hold goods and set fire to these houses.

In May and June, 1981 too men in civis committed acts of looting and arson. They broke open shops, business establishments, liquor booths and looted them and set fire to them! They did not spare even the Public Library of Jaffna. They poured gallons of petrol and set fire to the 95 thousands volumes of rare books and reduced them to ashes!

de facto separation

Immediately after the results of the 1977 July General Elections Sinhala people started assaulting Tamils. This assault took place in Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Kegalle, Kelaniya, Colombo, Kantalai, Amparai, Trincomalee Mutur, Ratnapura, Kandy and in almost all places in the South more or less at the same time. There were numerous murders of Tamil people; Tamils were axed, clubbed and stabbed to death.

The Tamils are a defenceless people. They have no weapons; no protection from the Government. The Communal Governments had taken away even those few licensed guns that certain Tamils here and there had!

The racial riots of 1956, 1958, again established beyond doubt that it was dangerous for the Tamil people to live in the midst of Sinhalese. The riots of 1980 in Ratnapura, Embilipitiya, Kahawatta, Amparai, Vaiaichenai and other places were also believed to be planned attacks on the Tamils.

The recent forcible ejection of Tamil students from the Peradeniya University and the bloody attack on them was also obviously planned by some section. In all these attacks the Sinhala people had chased the Tamils saying, "Go to your territory, don't come back here!"

Every election brings violence to the Tamils

It is the Sinhala people, Sinhala Governments and Sinhala politicians who have paved the way for separation! It is their seeking! There is now a de facto separation. It has got to become de jure.

The Tamils, who once entertained the hope of living in peace with the Sinhalese,

own affairs. Their method to achieve this object is non-violent. At successive elections the Tamil people had voted for the TULF giving it their mandate for the formation of a Tamil Eelam State.

It is believed the Government is trying to persuade the TULF to give up the demand

people. On the contrary, at no time ever before were the Tamils so united on the common goal of Tamil Eelam State as now! but there are groups of Tamil people who are divided only on the means of achieving the goal. Even now they look to the TULF to infuse more spirit in the liber-

are really happy to find that there is evolving this attitude: "Let us all join the TULF and put it on a sound footing if necessary even change the course of leadership."

Let us not do violence to Tamil Unity for which the late leader Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam worked day and night. His ideal was that both the Ceylon Tamils and Tamils of Indian origin should stand united in securing independence for the Tamil people. Immediately after the racial riots of 1956 and 1958 Sri C. Rajagopalachariar, the elder Statesman of India, expressed the view that the future of Tamils in Sri Lanka depended on the unity between the Ceylon Tamils and the Tamils of Indian origin.

We are asking the Tamil youths, too, to think and act cautiously. Let us not destroy each other. Let us give the dissentient Tamils opportunities of correcting themselves; they will all join us soon.

by

S. Ponniah

Attorney-at-law

have now become disillusioned; their confidence in the Sinhala majority has become shaken! Slogans like "NATIONAL UNITY", have now ceased to attract them; they are empty phrases!

Looting and arson in Jaffna has convinced the Tamil people that they should instead of waiting for a government to provide protection for them, organise their own defence corps to protect themselves and defend their properties. Security arrangements must be started without delay.

The Tamil people now adhere to their right of self-determination - their right to administer themselves their

for Tamil Eelam State. But the Tamil people feel that the TULF has no right to forsake this demand nor bargain in any manner. Even if the TULF gives up the demand, it cannot bind the Tamils who alone have the sovereignty to make whatever decision. The Tamil people's mandate must be recognised as sacrosanct.

Leaders can change, but not...

Sinhala Racialism has brought about the division of the people and also at the same time paved the way for Tamil unity! It is not correct to say that the Government had succeeded in splitting the Tamil

ation movement. The recent encounter between the TULF leaders and some militant Tamil Youths have established this.

Many of the educated and leading Tamils are keen that the differences must be cemented and all sections of the Tamil movement must be brought together under one party leadership. The Tamils are convinced that more than one political party will spell ruin to the Tamil race! Therefore let us all shed our differences and build up the TULF which is the only strong party we have now. Leaders can change but not the party. We

People must awaken from the Parliamentary drug stupor, says Desha Vimukthi organisation

The Desha Vimukthi Organisation in a statement signed by Mr. Nihal Perera, states:

"At least in the wake of the massive debacle suffered at J. R. Jayawardena's mini-election our parliamentary left must face reality in an honest manner. Should it continue to tread the comfortable path which the leaders have carved out for themselves their remaining followers too would undoubtedly desert them in the very near future. They cannot be allowed to continue to screen from the masses the basic tenets of scientific socialism and the clear lessons which the history of the world left movement teaches us.

"The real need of our masses is to construct a society

bereft of want and injustice. Neither the "creation of a strong parliamentary opposition" nor the search for "new revolutionary paths in the depths of the Lake of Kotte" appeals to them. Does anyone expect them to get seriously embroiled in the dog-fights of these leaders in their mad scramble to get into Parliament? The fact that the polling percentage in 18 of the most politically active electorate fell below the 1977 national average by 11% clearly manifests their growing weariness of this meaningless game. The boycott in the north was truly historical.

"Today the world capitalist economy is bogged in a severe depression. The parallel and

continuous devaluation of parliament and the rupee is a natural outcome of this situation. In an era where the economic rights of the masses are being torn away by the local capitalist rulers at the behest of their true masters, bourgeois Parliamentary democracy which thrives on the competitive game of throwing bones to the masses, has necessarily to evaporate. Thus in the very era that Regina Elizabeth is brought down to celebrate the franchise-jubilee we witness monthly constitutional changes, the Kalawana farce, the enforced Referendum and the Mahara robbery. Is it not significant that J. R. Jayawardena has said that he could not guarantee that a

general election would take place in 1989?

The natural path of our people is the path of mass struggle. Historically it is this path which is ours, and not the path of seeking liberation via parliamentary agents, introduced to us by British imperialism. The Peasant Uprising of 1848 and the Great Hartal of 1953 are mass struggles which form part of our heroic heritage. Our people will undoubtedly awaken from the parliamentary drug-stupor. Those leaders who drag the masses along various garden-paths as well as those who plan to rule till eternity would then undoubtedly face their Dien Bien Phu.

S. Nadesan Q.C. shocks a 'Non-violence audience'!

"Of course, non-violence is being spoken of even nowadays. But do any of you know that when Bhagavat Singh shot a cruel white Superintendent of Police and while he was in prison awaiting execution, Gandhi wanted to personally visit him, and said, 'HE IS A COURAGEOUS MAN?'" asked ex-Senator S. Nadesan Q.C. on the occasion of the release of Mr. K. Nesiah's book, "EDUCATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS" on the 26th of May at the Trimmer Hall, Jaffna. Both Mr. Nesiah and the chief speaker, Prof. Sandrasekaram had earlier eulogised on Gandhism and non-violence, and Senator Nadesan's above words in his impromptu comments in the tail-end of the meeting sounded shockingly radical in that context.

Mr. Nesiah qualifies it

Later Mr. Nesiah made a slight qualification saying "HE IS A COURAGEOUS MAN, BUT HIS ACTION WAS NOT RIGHT". But Bishop Kulendran rose to his feet to endorse Senator Nadesan's views, saying, "Gandhi's struggle was different. He was trying to drive out a foreign power. But in our case the enemy is right here within our territory, against whom non-violence might not be effective".

The meeting was a very interesting one because the gathering consisted of some of Jaffna's veteran politicians of the 1930 Youth Congress fame, who were now reflecting on their changed attitude towards the politics of the Island.

Talk of beatings and burnings

Senator Nadesan further commented, "Some of us who were involved in the Youth Congress are now thoroughly disillusioned with what is happening to the North. A few days back many poor people's cottages were set ablaze at Kantharmadam. Earlier the Public Library and many public and private buildings were burnt. Who can do anything against this?

"But no one has understood deeply the fundamental problems in this country. What is the basic problem? Why is there so much of conflict between these two communities?

"When I came to Jaffna I saw tension everywhere. People were only talking about beatings and burnings that were going on around them. Earlier when I was in the Senate, I too have submitted many proposals to prevent such

they would beat back the Tamils to India from where they came. They never took office claiming to solve the Tamil problem. The Sinhalese leaders would never explain the real problem of the Tamils to their own people. If they do so they cannot come to power. It is power that the Sinhalese leaders want.

"Now what has happened here? After claiming

by a Staff Reporter

disturbances. I kept submitting these proposals to the various governments that came to power periodically. I spoke about Education, Employment and Development needed for the Tamils. Those who were in power read my proposals and promised to take action. But nothing happened.

"The Sinhalese leaders came to power promising the Sinhalese masses that

Fifty-Fifty, Equality, and Federalism, the situation has naturally resulted when Tamil Eelam is the claim. The present politicians came to power exploiting emotions of the people. Today, inevitably, the country has divided by itself.

"What has happened to the men in the Forces? And what did they study when they were young. What did their text books

say? They learnt that this land was a Sinhalese land and that the Tamils have come here from South India with the Armies that attacked Sri Lanka on and off; most of the Tamils had returned, while the rest remained here. They also learnt that the Estate Indian labourers were the stooges of the British who had helped them to exploit their own land. The Sinhalese totally believed all this. So now the Police and the Army are obsessed with the idea that the Tamils, whoever it is, wherever they are, are always the enemies of the Sinhalese community.

So when a member of the Forces is shot in a Sinhalese area they strive to apprehend the gunman rather than burn a whole Sinhalese village. They consider that area as their country. But it is because they think of the Tamils as their enemies that they burn down the whole area whenever there is a shooting incident here.

"The leaders, because of their insatiable craving for

'History has to be re-written, but who will dare it?'

power, have distorted the minds of the people. If a solution is to be reached through dialogue the false books which spread these false ideas have to be reduced to ashes. But the youth who were patiently waiting for justice from the government are now disillusioned, and have taken to arms in their struggle for justice."

"So history has to be rewritten and attitudes changed. But who dare rewrite history in today's Sri Lanka? Meanwhile an immediate solution to the problem will be to grant regional autonomy to the North. But what can we do to get these rights today's Sri Lanka? What can anyone do?" he said, striking a pessimistic note.

Navaratnarajah was killed in the Army camp — Judicial verdict

A verdict of homicide was returned by Jaffna Magistrate S. Nagarajah on Tuesday (31 May) at the end of the judicial inquiry into the death of Kathirgamathamby Navaratnarajah at the Gurunagar Army Camp.

28-year old Navaratna-

rajah of Kiliveddy, Trincomalee died while in Army custody at the Gurunagar Army Camp, Jaffna, on the 10th of April. He had been arrested two weeks earlier on suspicion under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in connection with the ambush of 2 Army vehicles on 4th March at

the Umayalpuram culvert, Kilinochchi.

Dr. N. Saravanabavanathan, AJMO and Professor of Forensic Medicine, University of Jaffna, who conducted the post-mortem examination said in his medical report that "there were twenty five external injuries and ten internal injuries in the deceased Nava-

ratnarajah's body. The contusions in his lungs could have been caused by blows. I am of the opinion that death was due to cardio-respiratory failure, due to multiple muscle injuries and contusions of the lungs. In my opinion adequate treatment from an Institution could have saved his life." (SR, 30 April)

Sriskandarajah (25) — a homicide verdict

A verdict of homicide was returned by the Additional Magistrate Kanagaratnam Kesavan at the Judicial Inquiry into the death of Ratnasingham Sriskandarajah (25) of Karainagar whose body was brought by Army personnel to the Jaffna Hospital Mortuary on election night the 18th of May. Sriskandarajah was reported to have gone for a seabath with friends to the Casuarina

beach earlier in the day.

Dr. N. Saravanabavanathan, A.J.M.O., and Professor of Forensic Medicine University of Jaffna, said in his evidence that death was caused by gun shot injuries.

While returning a verdict of homicide, Mr. Kesavan, ordered the Jaffna Police to make further inquiries and submit a report to the Jaffna Magistrate.

'Sivakumaran's death a turning point in the liberation struggle'

"Historically speaking, Sivakumaran's sacrificing his life at 24 for the freedom of the Tamils was a turning point in the Tamil liberation struggle. For more than two decades, several political parties had preached non-violence and constitutional reform as the solution to the problems of the Tamil speaking peoples. Round about 1970 the Tamil people rejected

this path. Sivakumaran's importance lies in his contribution to this changed consciousness" states a press release issued by the EELAM PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT.

The EPLF has called upon the people of Urumpirai—Sivakumaran's birthplace—to observe, a hartal on June 5 (The anniversary of his death) and the Tamils generally to salute his memory.

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

On the second anniversary
of the Jaffna burnings

Armed Forces attack Gandhiyam farm: Vavuniya shops burnt

Service personnel destroyed the Gandhiyam farm at Kovilkulam, about one and half miles away from Vavuniya town, on Wednesday night (1 June).

The rampaging servicemen who came in trucks destroyed the crops and huts and set fire to the farm

buildings and vehicles. Three tractors and a van were burnt.

The orphans who were living on the farm had to flee for their lives and seek shelter in neighbouring homes. 12 farm workers were taken for questioning to the Army Camp near

Eraperiyakulam.

On Wednesday morning the Gandhiyam office in Vavuniya town was smashed up by service personnel and a Gandhiyam van burnt.

Karainagar-based Naval personnel carried out an intensive search in Nedun-

tivu (Delft) on Thursday afternoon (2 June) following the arrest in Vavuniya of Atputham alias Amirthalingam of Delft in connection with Wednesday's attack on Air Force personnel at Vavuniya.

The Naval personnel stopped the Kurrikattuvan bound Delft launch in

mid-sea, ordered it back to Delft and arrested two youths who were passengers.

They carried out a house to house search in the Delft Centre and West areas and took away the photographs of some youths and documents.

The State's armed forces continue to wage undeclared war against the civilian population in the North even as top Government spokesmen speak of dealing with 'terrorism' in a civilized, restrained manner instead of exercising the military option.

The latest target of State terrorism is Vavuniya which was set ablaze on Wednesday morning (1 June) exactly 2 years after the burning down of the Jaffna Public Library. Preliminary estimates put the damage at over Rs. 3 million.

Service personnel in Vavuniya went berserk

burning down the market, shops and vehicles and assaulting Tamils after two Air Force personnel stationed at Vavuniya were killed near the Vavuniya vegetable market in a guerilla attack round about 10.30 on Wednesday morning.

A four-man guerilla group had flung bombs at the Air Force jeep and then opened fire. Airmen U.L. M. Perera and W. A. Gunasekera—who were seated in front—died on the spot, while Airmen W. A. Ranjan was seriously injured. The dead bodies were charred by the bomb blast.

Within minutes of the at-

tack, Servicemen who arrived on the scene began assaulting by-standers and passers-by. Shop-keepers hurriedly put up their shutters and school children were packed off home.

A few minutes after the Airmen's dead bodies were removed to the Vavuniya Hospital, the Market went up in a blaze: the clouds of smoke billowing up could be seen two miles away.

Rampaging servicemen had also broken into the Gandhiyam office in Vavuniya town and smashed up the place.

About two hours after the guerilla attack, the Vavuniya Police acting on a tip off arrested Atputham alias Amirthalingam Rama-

nathan and Kumar alias Ponnambalam Sithamparanathan. Both were warded in the Anuradhapura General Hospital under heavy armed guard where Kumar passed away on Friday. A sub-machine gun believed to have been taken away by guerillas who attacked the Anaicodai Police Station in 1981, was recovered from a shop in Vavuniya.

An unofficial curfew was declared in Vavuniya after the arson and the assaults on civilians. Mail train services between Kankesanthurai and Colombo were cancelled on Wednesday and Thursday. Private buses too didn't run.

Vavuniya looks like a blitzed town, despite the

efforts of Government authorities to bring things back to normal. The streets are almost empty except for armed patrols. People fear to step out of their homes as they run the risk of being beaten up by servicemen.

The Vavuniya incidents—which occurred just a fortnight after the military rampage and arson at Kantharmadam, Jaffna—have touched off a chain of attacks on Tamil passengers and Indian repatriates in trains on the Northern line and Tamil shops and buildings in various parts of the country. A curfew was declared in Kurunegala on Friday as the situation was getting out of hand.

Kantharmadam : Work to be co-ordinated

A Conference of all social services organizations and institutions which are involved in the rehabilitation of Kantharmadam which was burnt down by soldiers two weeks back has been called by the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO). The meeting to be held at the 'Ootru' office at Thinnely on 11th June at 3.30 p.m. will strive to form a common body to draw up a constructive programme to continue the rehabilitation work.

R. Vasudeva, leader of the TELO said that he felt the rehabilitation work undertaken by the various

social service organizations are thoroughly disorganized, because they lacked co-ordination. The organizations also lacked a proper sense of priorities, as the pressing needs of some 45 depressed caste families were being overlooked.

He said that the common representative body that would be elected on the 11th would be a permanent one which would look after the interests of affected families during future violence by the security forces. All organizations and individuals who are interested in this project are invited to attend the meeting.

Shot dead & truck driven over

Sabaratham Palanivel, a young van driver of Valvettiturai was dragged into the Valvettiturai Army Camp and shot dead on Monday (30 May) round about 4-30 a.m.

While his body was lying in the camp an Army Truck had been driven over it about two hours later, flattening the upper half of his body and smashing his skull. This incident was witnessed by several of his relatives and others who had gathered at the camp entrance.

Palanivel who got married less than a year ago had taken some of his relatives in his van to

Thondamannar early on Monday morning to catch the Trincomalee bus. After he had seen them off, he had driven back alone to his house in Arthikovilady, Valvettiturai.

Corporal M. Wimalaratne the sentry who shot him claims that Palanivel had stopped his van opposite the Camp, got down and walked towards him. He had warned Palanivel in Tamil, English and Sinhala to halt and put up his hands. Palanivel disregarded his warning and continued to advance. Sensing danger he had fired at Palanivel thrice.

Sumanapala Weerasinghe, a driver attached

to the Palaly Army Camp, told Point Pedro Magistrate K. Kanapathipillai at the inquest that on the day in question he drove his truck to the Valvettiturai Camp behind an army jeep. Only after he had gone to the camp did he learn he had accidentally driven his truck over the head of the dead body which was not covered. It was difficult for a large vehicle to negotiate the spot where the body was lying. To avoid the body he would have had to drive his truck over a load of stones at the spot. "I am sorry for this incident and ask for pardon" he told the Magistrate, adding he had been pulled up by his officers.