

# HOT SPRING

Vol. 1

14th October 1990

No. 1

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation which is well known here for broadcasting truths occasionally has been lamenting that the T. V. reception has been poor in the North after the relay station at Kokavil got destroyed when the L.T.T.E. overran the army camp stationed there. The Northerners who are without electricity supply from the main grid and whose standby electricity generators at Chunnakam had been repeatedly bombed and destroyed by Sri Lankan bombers since the early days of the commencement of the war could not help laughing at this tragic comedy of the SLBC.

## HELICOPTER ATTACKS— CHAVAKACHCHERI MARKET AGAIN

### 12 DEAD - 18 INJURED

A Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter attacked the Chavakachcheri market on Tuesday (9 10 90) noon. Ten people died on the spot and twenty others were injured. Later two of the injured succumbed to their injuries at the Manipay Teaching Hospital.

Tuesday is a market day at Chavakachcheri and large numbers of people collect at the Chavakachcheri Market. Towards noon a Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter carried out an attack by rocket launchers on the people collected at the market. Ten

people including women and children died on the spot. Some of the dead were petty traders who eke out a poor living by small scale trade. Twenty others were injured of whom two later succumbed to their injuries after admission to the Manipay hospital. All the dead and injured were ordinary citizens and

had collected at the market without fear because there was no curfew either.

Not contented with the dastardly murder committed at the Chavakachcheri Market the Sri Lankan Air Force had carried out similar attacks at Jaffna, Valvettiturai and other places in

(Continued on Page 4)

## Acute Food shortage in Jaffna - Government's Meagre Supplies

The current war between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE broke out on 11th June, 1990 at Batticaloa and quickly spread to other parts of the North-east. In Jaffna it broke out in full scale on the 15th of June with Air Force planes dropping at least more than 50 bombs between midnight of June 15th and early morning of 16th June.

A complete break down of all transport and communications including telecommunication followed immediately and for more than three months now the Tamil Northeast lives isolated even from within.

At first the Government stopped all food and other goods coming into the Tamil

areas. Later the Government perhaps realized the folly of a total embargo and permitted the transport of small quantities of food and medicines and President Premadasa claimed that by this gesture he had prevented 'outsiders' going to the help of the people of the Northeast. Though the President did not mention India by name obviously he had in mind the Indian action in 1987 of dropping food parcels from the air over the Jaffna peninsula.

Later the State Minister for Defence Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne had also spoken of the relief measures his Government was undertaking.

Jaffna peninsula has the largest concentration of

population in the North-East. The population of the peninsula is estimated to be at eight lakhs. This large population suffering without food and other essential items purely

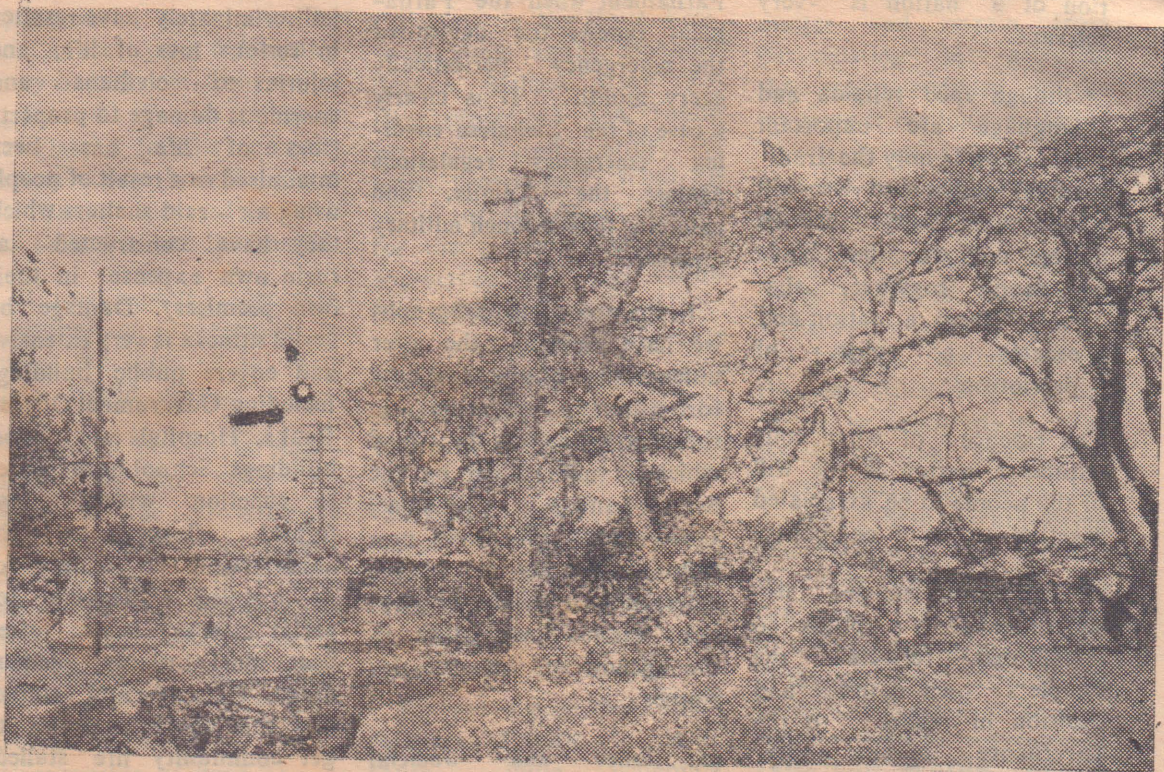
due to the embargo placed by the Government directly or indirectly through its other agencies for three long months was at last supplied some food - intended to

prevent 'outsiders' helping the starving people!

The following are the details of the food and other supplies made to the Jaffna

(Continued on Page 4)

## TIGER FLAG FLUTTERS OVER JAFFNA FORT



(Courtesy: Eelanatham)

## UTHAYAN BOMBED

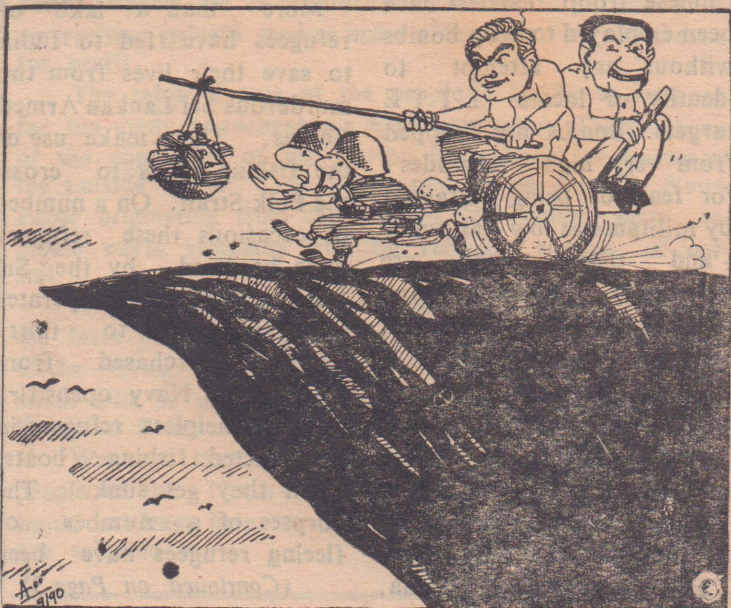
The office of the Tamil daily 'Uthayan' was bombed on the 27th September at about 12.20 p.m. by Sri Lankan Air Force Planes.

Uthayan is an independent Tamil daily published from

Jaffna and has been in publication for the last five years.

Three bombers circled the area and three bombs were thrown at the office followed

(Continued on Page 4)



(Courtesy: Eelanatham)

On the 26th of September the LTTE invited the people to see their Tiger flag fluttering over Jaffna Fort and large numbers of people thronged to see the sight.

Earlier in the day LTTE announced that on the midnight of the 25th of September they launched a heavy attack in order to take over the Fort and hoist the LTTE flag on the 26th September - the date on which Thileepan died in 1987 after a twelve day fast. The LTTE announcement

further said that the Sri Lankan Army inside the Fort withdrew unable to stand further the LTTE attack and that the LTTE entered the Fort and the LTTE Military Commander of Jaffna, Bhanu, hoisted the Tiger Flag, at 10.46 A.M. - the exact time when Thileepan passed away. The Tigers lost three of their men in the attempt.

Government sources said that the Army was withdrawn from the Fort and that the Fort and the Jaffna Hospital

would be handed over to the ICRC.

The LTTE later announced the recovery of 12 dead bodies of Sri Lankan soldiers and offered to hand over these bodies to the Government. The offer was not accepted. The Sri Lankan State Minister of Defence, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne again fell into a belligerent mood and issued an ultimatum to the Tigers to vacate the Fort within 24 hours and promised to destroy the Fort lock, stock and barrel and with it the LTTE if they did not so vacate.



*The People's Forum of Jaffna has sent out to all international agencies and organizations a memorandum on the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. In its memorandum the Forum challenges the legitimacy of the Government of Sri Lanka to exercise any form of jurisdiction over the North-Eastern Province of the Island. The memorandum also states that military operation under guise of law and order is a negation of the very law of the land.*

*The memorandum is reproduced in full for the benefit of our readers:-*

This memorandum seeks to analyse two issues in connection with the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

1. The legitimacy of the Government of Sri Lanka to exercise any form of jurisdiction over the North-Eastern Province of the Island.

2. The nature of the military operation undertaken by the Government of Sri Lanka in the North-Eastern Province under the guise of maintaining Law and order.

We shall examine the second issue in the first instance. To begin with, we shall pose the question: what is the nature and extent of the coercive authority of

judicial function. It will thus be seen that the coercive authority of the state is governed and conditioned by the law of the land and subjected to review by the judiciary.

Military operations under the guise of maintenance of law and order is a negation of the very law of the land. The device of declaring an Emergency to suspend the operation of the normal law of the land in order to carry on military operations is indefensible. This device or emergency and military rule is administered to one Pro-

Police lost the confidence of the Tamil people, could not move about the country and the police function got paralysed. Instead of performing the normal police functions the Police Force really an alien Force indulged in frequent and periodic assault on the civilian population in and out of season and with no provocation.

With the arrival of the Indian Peace Keeping Force the Courts completely ceased to function in the Tamil areas. Indeed the IPKF occupied some Court houses. Up-to-date no Court does function in the North-East.

The fifth column employed by the IPKF engaged in brigandage, extortions and large scale burglary with impunity. When the IPKF went away the fifth column disappeared with them. There was remarkable peace and calm till the 11th of June, 1990 when Sri Lankan Army went on the offensive in the

The same technique of arson is now employed (August/September 1990) in the Islands off the Peninsula.

(d) Cordon and search operations and employment of masked witnesses to identify supposed LTTE supporters

This strategy serves to arrest males over the age of 12, take them to camps, torture them and make them disappear. (Note: this strategy has resulted in youths, both boys and girls volunteering in large numbers to join the ranks of the LTTE. One youngster observed that only 200 tigers were killed in the war in the Eastern Province while more than 2,000 youths who remained with their parents were arrested and disposed of by the Armed Forces and that it was safer to join the Tigers and fight rather than be with their parents).

(e) Making hospitals non functus

This has been one of the strategies of the Sri Lankan

Fort and Elephant Pass situated in three different corners of the Peninsula.

(f) Economic sanctions

The Armed Forces in control at the frontiers on the main roads from Colombo to the North-Eastern Province have blocked the passage as no traffic is permitted. Train services to North-East have been cancelled. No traffic is permitted inwards or outwards except with the special sanction of the Security Forces. Such sanction is rarely granted and consequently private trade and transport services have completely evaporated and supplies from Colombo to North-East or vice versa have ceased.

Over the years, Government control of imports and trade have been so shaped that all supplies of every type radiate only from Colombo. Consequently the North-East has been deprived of all types of goods essential for life by the present action of the Armed Forces. Food-stuffs and all other items

## Govt. Military Operation A NEGATION OF LAW AND ORDER

the State over its citizens? The modern state is a democratic state whether it be a Monarchy or a Republic. The state gets configured by the people voluntarily and willingly seeking to form themselves into a given polity. General Aung San's definition of a nation is very relevant.

'though race religion and language are important factors, it is only the traditional desire and the will to live in unity through weal and woe that binds a people together, that makes them a nation and creates a spirit of patriotism'

The essence of what constitutes a nation is the will of the people to be associated together to be in one polity.

The Laws enacted democratically by a polity so constituted, reflects the People's own desire and decision in regard to the governance of the polity. Hence, the generality of the people automatically abide by the Law, i.e. obey the law, they themselves have made. It is only a few odd individuals (who are found in every society) that evade or refuse to obey the law. It is to enforce the law against such odd persons that the state is vested with coercive authority. This coercive authority is exercised by the Police Service (which is also governed by the Law, often the Police Act) and is subject to control by the

vince which is traditionally and historically populated by one ethnic group. It is of no mean significance that the bulk of the elected members of this Province bitterly opposed the declaration of the emergency originally. They are not in Parliament when the Parliament renews the device of the emergency periodically every month. It is clearly a case of the Sinhalese enacting emergency regulations against the Tamils, and enforcing them through military measures

In the preceding paragraphs we have shown the utter untenability of any legal base for military operations in the North-East of the Island which is undertaken by the Sri Lankan (Sinhala) Government. We shall now examine the nature of the emergency Government operations carried out through the agency of the Security Forces.

(a) Police and Judicial Functions

Ever since 1977 when the Jayawardene Government came to power bringing about a serious racial violence against the Tamils the functioning of the Courts particularly the criminal sessions became ineffective. The position got aggravated later in 1981 when the Sinhala Police went on rampage on Tamil citizens, burnt down, inter alia, the one and only major Public Library for the Tamil region. The

Tamil districts purporting to exterminate the LTTE.

(b) Aerial bombing, helicopter - strafing, shelling from naval vessels as well as from Camps.

These attacks carried on in abundance at random and indiscriminately have resulted in serious loss of life, and injuries to civilians and enormous damage to property (loss of life has been minimised as a result of people using air-raid shelters which they have constructed at their own expense in their own premises). Damage by aerial attacks is very extensive and covers public buildings including Government Offices, Banks, Hospitals and School buildings. School have ceased to function without any formal closure or the announcement of a date for re-opening. Targets for aerial attacks have often been market places, business areas, Churches and Temples and this choice serves to get community life stalled. Aerial attack is timed at random, throughout day and night aimed at creating panic and fear among the people.

(c) Deliberate acts of arson in business places, houses etc.

This strategy is mostly employed in rural areas in the Eastern Province and the mainland of the Northern Province. Arson completely destroys their dwellings, their belongings and renders the rural folk homeless refugees.

Security Forces. As a result of shelling, aerial attacks and other such military operations, the General Hospital in Jaffna, the premier hospital and the only teaching hospital in the North-East has ceased to function for more than two months. Similarly a number of other hospitals and other medical facilities in the North-Eastern Province have ceased to function. (Note I - It is reported that instructions given in the plane to bomb a private hospital near the Chankanai market was overheard in some radio receivers and the traders at the market dispersed immediately and shops were closed by the time the bomb was dropped just by the side of the hospital). (Note II - High powered bombs including many of 300kgs weight have been dropped causing immense damage over a wide area. Avro planes, helicopters and some four engined Chinese troop-carriers have been employed to drop bombs without any attempt to identify or locate LTTE targets. Bombs are dropped from very high altitudes - for fear of being attacked by militants at low-altitudes - and these attacks are necessarily random and indiscriminate in their impact.

This is a clear case of genocide of Tamils as this type of attacks can in no way be construed as an attack on the LTTE militants who are concentrated in besieging the only Army Camps at Palaly, Jaffna,

bought in the market place have become scarce in the extreme. Prices have shot up for the remnants of the earlier stocks. The intention of the Government is really to besiege the North-Eastern Province, starve them of all supplies and bring about intolerable hardships for the people just because the Tamil youths demand Swaraj.

Earlier the Northern ports were open for Commercial traffic and supplies were obtained for the North-East from India, Burma etc. through these ports. Since these ports were closed supplies from India have to be obtained through a devious route via - Colombo. Closure of the Northern ports was a racial move. The North-East has to depend solely on the Government in Colombo for supplies.

(g) Harassing Refugees to India

More than a lakh of refugees have fled to India to save their lives from the murderous Sri Lankan Armed Forces. They make use of the fishing boats to cross the Palk Strait. On a number of occasions these refugees were harassed by the Sri Lankan Navy which operates from twentyfive to thirty gunboats purchased from China. The Navy opens fire on such helpless refugees in unprotected fishing boats; often they get sunk. The corpses of a number of fleeing refugees have been

(Continued on Page 3)



# HOT SPRING

VOL: I SUNDAY 14th OCT. 1990 ISSUE 1

## WE

"Truth is the first Casualty in a war." - So goes a Saying.

For almost a decade now the North - East has been the battle field witnessing all the horrors of war and experiencing in every respect the truth of the statement quoted above.

We are not referring to any excessive claims of battle feats that may sometimes be made by the belligerents - perhaps to boost the morale of their own respective sides. We are really concerned with the effects of war on the civilian population. We are concerned that the ill - effects of this war on the civilian population are ignored or deliberately suppressed or twisted to make fanciful fiction. This has in turn aggravated the agonies of the people.

Thousands of people have died since the out break of the war in mid - June 1990. Thousands and thousands have been rendered refugees. All civilian activities have been brought to a grinding halt and a state of famine is looming large. The destruction caused to property is unimaginable.

On the first day of the battle itself the Air Force was put into action in Jaffna and aerial bombing is an almost daily occurrence now. Schools, shops, houses, hospitals, markets, government buildings and temples too are continuing to be the targets of aerial bombardment causing havoc to civilian life but the Government seems to gleefully pass the destruction it causes to the civilians as triumphant military operations against the L. T. T. E.

The people are in dire need of food and medicine. Transport and communication is at stand - still. The sufferings of our people are hardly known outside though it is true that on one or two occasions media men had been able to wrench a reluctant admission from the State Minister for Defence, Mr. Ranjan Wijeyaratne, that civilian casualties 'may have occurred' as a result of the military operations. The fact of the matter is that civilian losses far outnumber the losses of the belligerents themselves.

The Jaffna Fort was admittedly under siege. A siege implies that the blockading army surrounds its enemy camps and prevents supplies to the latter. Necessarily therefore the belligerents must stand almost face to face. If the Government's claim that they fight the L. T. T. E and not the people is true why should such distant places as the Chunnakam, Chavakachcheri or Nellyyadi markets - places varying in distances from 5 to 20 miles from Jaffna Fort - be bombed on market days when people gather to buy and sell things?

Why should Government buildings be bombed? Take for example the Jaffna Railway station or the Chunnakam Power Supply Station. Both are situated comfortably away from Jaffna Fort. Yet these have been the targets of bomber attacks and destruction.

Even the Jaffna Hospital very pompously designated by the Government itself as the Teaching Hospital under a special Ministry was forced to be closed almost immediately after the first out break of the war and later been subjected to bombing.

We find the Government often repeating that the present war is one against the L. T. T. E and not against the Tamil people. But Government action whether military or civilian shows the opposite. Not only are the Tamil people being killed, maimed and subjected to other attacks by direct military action but the people are also starved by the Government's failure to ensure food supply. The sick and wounded suffer worse by the failure of the Government to supply drugs and medicines. Not only does the Government fail to discharge its duty in these respects but its machinery is also used to prevent even enterprising private traders undertaking this service even for profit.

The tales of woe of the people of the North-East are far too many to recount in a single publication. The problems of the population of the North - East should be known to the outside world. The publication of an English News Paper originating from the North - East would serve to create world sympathy with the suffering victims of our soil.

It would be the endeavour of this journal to present the facts which are ignored or blacked out by the mass media relying on 'authoritative' or 'official' sources. Greater stress will be placed on facts and occurrences affecting the lives and living of the civilians.

We hope that an awareness of the sufferings of the people of the North - East by an enlightened humanity would at least help to reduce the sufferings these people are subjected to.

## Government Refugee Camps in N. E. opposed T.E.P.F. writes to V.P. Singh

The Tamil Eelam People's Forum in a letter addressed to the Indian Prime Minister has decried the idea of the Government of Sri Lanka setting up Refugee Camps in Sri Lanka for Tamil Refugees and the Indian Government's support for the Sri Lankan Government's plans. The Forum has further called upon the Indian Government to refrain from participating in activities detrimental to the interests of the Tamils in the Island. Here is the full text of letter:

The so-called ethnic problem in Sri Lanka is really a problem between the rulers and the ruled, the case having been aggravated by the rulers and the ruled being permanently so placed by the differences in Language, Religion and Culture.

The fact that India with a large Tamil population is geographically placed in close proximity to the island has created permanent anti-Indian and anti-Tamil psyche in the Sinhala mind. For the same reasons the Tamils retain strong pro - Indian feelings.

In this context one would expect Indian feelings to be in favour of the Tamils. Unfortunately the hasty and rash decision of the former Government of India to enter into a pact with the Government of Sri Lanka relative to the Tamil problem without the consent of the Tamils finally led the Indian Army to do what the Sri Lankan Army did - namely carry on a war of destruction against the Tamils and their homeland. In the end the Indian Army had to leave Sri Lanka unwanted both by the Sinhalese and the Tamils.

It was expected that with a change of Government in India the thinking in New Delhi would change.

However the public statements so far made on behalf of the Government of India specially in regard to the setting up of refugee camps for the Tamils in the North-East, seem to indicate that the Government of India

### Govt. Military...

(Continuation of Page 2)

washed to the northern shores by waves. A Press report indicated that three boat loads of refugees were brought back from the high seas to Mannar, the men arrested and taken to camps, the women and children left helpless on the shore for weeks. These refugees were mostly from the Eastern Province and the stranded women folk are suffering immensely in a strange place.

(To be Continued)

is going to fall a prey to the machinations of the Government of Sri Lanka.

You are aware, your Excellency, that the Government of Sri Lanka was engaged in a war against the Sinhalese youth who belonged to the J. V. P. Though the Government of Sri Lanka was involved in a war with the J. V. P. there was no shelling or aerial bombing of the south of Sri Lanka which was a strong base of the J. V. P. No refugee camps were set up for the civilian population. The reason is clear. The Government only battled against the J. V. P.

How is it a refugee problem is created when the battle is against the L.T.T.E. only? It is clearly because the battle is against the Tamil people. Your Excellency, no doubt is aware that the Government of Sri Lanka retains a Sinhala army to protect Sinhala Colonists in the North-East. In as much as the Sinhalese need a Sinhala army for their protection the Tamils need a Tamil army for their protection. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. This is the context in which we Tamils live today.

In this situation we are deeply grieved that India should be a party to a scheme whereby the security of the Tamils will be left to the Sinhala army in refugee camps with I. C. R. C. or other like organisation attending to humanitarian needs such as food and sanitation.

We are aware that Tamil refugees fleeing to India cause India economic problems. We do not underestimate this burden. But who can blame the persecuted Eelam Tamils fleeing to Mother India? Aren't European countries having no emotional ties with the Tamils, receiving these refugees?

We would like to bring to your Excellency's notice that our struggle is against the oppression by the Sinhalese and the use of Sinhala Army in our homeland to keep us in

subjugation. Those Tamils who are fleeing our homeland have been compelled to flee due to the inhuman nature of the military atrocities that are being perpetrated by the Sinhalese Government. The indiscriminate aerial bombing, firing from naval gunships and artillery attacks from camps on civilian targets are a common feature. Hospitals, schools, markets and even places of religious worship have not been spared. In places where Sinhala Army moves about, numerous civilians have been tortured and done to death in cold blood. The Government has imposed a virtual blockade of the North-East depriving people of food, medicine and fuel.

The very idea of setting up refugee camps will only give the necessary pretext for the Sinhalese Government who are bent on exterminating the Tamils and destroying the Tamil homeland, to order all Tamils to move into such camps and brand all those who do not comply as terrorists to be shot and killed. The whole idea is repugnant to the Tamils who are struggling to live in their homeland in peace and dignity and to get rid of their oppressors from their homeland.

We appeal to your Excellency to review the whole matter and refrain from participating in activities that are detrimental to the interests of the long suffering Tamils in this Island.

### Poor Mr. Karupusamy

Mr Karupusamy of All India Radio is lapping all news items issued by the Sri Lankan authorities on the war situation without caring to verify them. The People of the war - torn North East who know the degree of these untruths being broadcast over AIR pity the poor Mr. Karupusamy, who can easily be ranked as one of the best propaganda agents of the Sri Lanka Government in its war against the Tamils.

### Not the whole Truth

The B.B.C. which enjoys an impeccable reputation for broadcasting factually and speedily has been unable to live upto its high reputation in the recent past as its correspondent in Colombo has no alternative but to quote official sources. Now he is doing the only sensible thing he could do in the absence of first hand information by quoting both the Government version and the L.T.T.E statements - or omitting both altogether.



# NEWS ROUND UP

## Killings in the Amparai District

The Special Task Force of the Sri Lankan Government and Muslim thugs are reported to have killed about 60 Tamils in the village of Thurainilavanai on the 12th of August. Again on the 17th of August Muslim thugs and Home guards are reported to have killed 22 children, 9 girls, 33 married women and 19 men at Veeramunai.

## Poison Bombs over Jaffna

The villages of Passaiyoor, Vaddukkoddai, Atchuvily, Vilan, Nunavil and Punnalakkadduvan in the Jaffna District were subjected to aerial bombing in which 12 people were killed. The Jaffna Citizens' Committee reported that the bombs contained poisonous chemicals as tested and confirmed by the University Laboratory.

## Bombing of Manthikai Hospital Area

Manthikai Hospital Area was bombed early in the morning of 21st August which resulted in the death of a woman and damage to the hospital. The French doctors who were serving in this hospital had been earlier recalled to Colombo and were scheduled to leave Manthikai on the following day.

## Army Bans Transport of Goods

On 22nd August at Vavuniya, the army prevented Northern Traders from buying essential consumer goods, thus preventing the flow of essential goods North of Vavuniya. People were allowed to buy items in small quantities for daily personal use.

## Helicopter Shooting at Kerativu - Sangapiddy Jetties

After the blocking of Elephant Pass, movement in and out of Jaffna Peninsula was by the ferry operating between Sangapiddy and Kerativu jetties. From the 22nd of August, Sri Lankan helicopters carried out continuous and indiscriminate artillery fire for four days at these jetties resulting in the stoppage of the ferry service altogether. Movement of people and petty traders into and out of the peninsula was thus stopped.

## Closure of Army Camps

On the 26th of August the Army camp at Paranthan in the Kilinochchi District and the Army Camps at Palukkathurai and Ponparappi in the Mannar District were closed down.

## Troops Landed at Kayts

On the morning of 22nd August troops were landed at Kayts, Jaffna Town, Vaddukkoddai, Pandaruppu, Manipay, Karainagr, Thirunelvely, Kopay, Chavakachcheri and other places were subjected to aerial bombing. Between 22nd August and 25th August troops moved from Kayts towards Mandativu, an island close to Jaffna Fort. In these military operations more than 75 people from Kayts area were reported to have been killed. Forces were also reported to have arrested hundreds of civilians and made use of them to form a human shield for their movement from Kayts to Mandativu.

Mandativu area was heavily attacked by naval gun boats, bombers and artillery shells. Civilians at Allaipiddy were ordered to assemble for a meeting and then detained to be used as a human shield for troop movement.

Later reports revealed that due to the operations under taken by the Army, Navy and Air Force more than 300 civilians were killed in the Kayts and Naranthanai areas and 8000 people were made refugees.

Food stores of the Velanai M. P. C. S. Union including the branch stores at Mandativu, Allaipiddy, Mankumban, Saravanai and Sitpani, the Kayts M. P. C. S. Union and its No. 1 and No. 6 Branch Stores as well as the Punguduttivu M. P. C. S. Union stores and the People's shop were all completely destroyed. As a result the civilian population faced a famine situation. No food supplies from mainland Jaffna could be made to these areas after the 22nd August due to the military operations there.

## Bombing of Nelliady Market

On the morning of 28th August planes bombed the Nelliady market and 8 people were killed and several wounded.

## Mandativu Suffers

It is reported that houses and properties around the recently created army camp at Mandativu were either being burnt down or razed to the ground by the bulldozers of the Sri Lankan army. Further the army have ordered the people residing within one mile radius of the army camp to evacuate immediately. The army is also reported to have refused permission for I. C. R. C. personnel to attend to the

injured civilian population at Kayts and Velanai areas. This refusal was communicated through the head office of I. C. R. C. at Colombo.

## Mullaitivu

Troops were landed by boats at Kallapadu and simultaneously helicopters landed troops at Nanthi-kadalarom Mullivaikal area to relieve the troops besieged by the L. T. T. E. at Mullaitivu camp. While heavy fighting was going on between the troops and the L. T. T. E. Avro planes bombarded the surrounding areas. Buildings and houses were damaged and civilians fled the area. The military operations continued for 3 days and buildings, shops and houses in the Mullaitivu town were either razed to the ground or heavily damaged. On the 3rd of September helicopters landed in the army camp and troops started moving out of the camp causing heavy casualties to the civilian population. On 5th of September the Mullaitivu Secretariat building was completely damaged by aerial bombing and artillery shelling and the office was shifted to Puthukudiyiruppu.

## Mothers' Front Demonstration

On 3rd September Jaffna Mothers' Front took out a procession from Muthirai Santhai junction to the Jaffna Secretariat and handed over a memorandum condemning the action of the government in banning the transport and supply of drugs, fuel and food items to the peninsula. Mothers' Front had called for the withdrawal of the economic blockade.

## Aerial Bombing continues

From the beginning of September aerial bombing in various parts of the peninsula especially in and around Jaffna town has become a daily feature. As people have constructed bunkers and trenches in their houses and also at public places, the death toll has been comparatively minimal. However millions and millions worth of properties are being damaged daily.

## Navy Kills Refugees

Eight refugees died and several were injured as naval gun boats opened fire at a vessel carrying refugees from Jaffna to Tamil Nadu on the night of 3rd September off the Point Pedro Coast.

## India's Offer

The Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka is reported to have stated that all Indian Government Assistance to the population of the North East would be made available through the government of Sri Lanka. He

is reported to have stated that India would co-operate with the government of Sri Lanka in establishing refugee camps in Mannar, Madhu church and Vavuniya under the supervision of the ICRC. The LTTE has opposed the idea of setting up refugee camps by Sri Lanka under its auspices. Mass petitions are also being sent to the U. N. against the proposal of the Government of Sri Lanka.

## Damage to Government Properties Continues

On 5th September it was reported that the government railway living quarters and

## Acute...

(Continuation of Page 1)

population for a period of three months - not free but for a price.

1 kilogram of white rice priced at Rs. 13/- per kg.

2 kilograms of wheat flour priced at Rs. 14/25 per kg.

100 grams of sugar per head up to a maximum of 1/2 a kilo per family priced at Rs. 3/- per 100 grams

100 grams of Dhal priced at Rs. 4/- per 100 grams

1 Box of matches priced at Re. 1/- per box

3 candles priced at -/75 cts. per candle

The distribution of the above was per family unit irrespective of the number of persons constituting the family. Even if a family consisted of ten or more they got only the quantities stated above.

After the commencement of the fourth month of the war the Government has for the first time thought of giving relief to the Jaffna population and has sanctioned the free supply of the following items for those whose monthly income is under Rs. 1,500/-

1/2 kg. of white rice per head.

1/2 kg. of wheat flour per head.

300 kgs. of sugar per head.

2 boxes of matches per family.

9 candles per family.

It is to be noted again that this is an ad hoc supply and no one knows what period of time these supplies cover or when any further supply will be forthcoming. Further the free supply is subject to a value limit as follows:-

Family consisting of 1 person not to exceed Rs. 84/-

Family consisting of 2 persons not to exceed Rs. 154/-

Family consisting of 3 persons not to exceed Rs. 210/-

the Local Government building at Vavuniya were damaged by the Army. Velanai AGA's office was heavily damaged by aerial bombing and the office was shifted to the AGA's house.

## Government Acknowledges

Defence Secretary, Gen. Cyril Ranatunge stated on the 6th of September that since the war started on the 11th June, a total of 1043 soldiers and police men had died and that 1010 soldiers and policemen were injured. He further stated that 150 soldiers had lost their legs as a result of being caught in booby traps and landmines.

Family consisting of 4 persons not to exceed Rs. 252/-

Family consisting of 5 or more persons not to exceed Rs. 315/-

## Uthayan...

(Continuation of Page 1)

by four rocket attacks also launched from a Sri Lankan Air Force plane.

There were about 75 people working at the Press when the Air Force planes were sighted and they all ran for shelter elsewhere.

However one employee, P. Pathmanathan (60) was killed in the attack. Two others lost their limbs - one a hand and another a leg. Two others including a person attached to the Jaffna Red Cross Society sustained injuries. Buildings, machinery, furniture and fittings belonging to the Press were heavily damaged. Also a number of houses in the vicinity belonging to and occupied by civilians were damaged. Uthayan on re-publication after a few days asserted that all buildings in the vicinity of the Press were only occupied by civilians.

## Heli...

(Continuation of Page 1)

the Peninsula. Reports received indicated that three persons in Valvetiturai sustained injuries as a result of Helicopter attacks.

All shops and business places at Chavakachcheri remained closed on Wednesday as a mark of protest against the killing of innocent civilians who had gone to the market to buy and sell goods.

"The attack on the Chavakachcheri market resulting in death and injury to innocent civilians within seconds is yet another example of a war that the Government of Sri Lanka claims it carries on against the LTTE and Not against the Tamil people" commented a resident of Chavakachcheri wryly.