

HOT SPRING

INDEPENDANT WEEKLY

Vol. 1

21th October 1990

No. 2

24 Hour Curfew Enters 2nd Month

The SLBC informed on 21.9.90 that a curfew had been imposed in the Jaffna District commencing from that day. No time limit was fixed. It was a curfew of indefinite duration.

After a continuous period of ten days SLBC announced on 1.10.90 that the curfew was being lifted from all parts of Jaffna except the AGA's Division of Valikamam North where the curfew would continue to be in force. (Continued on Page 4)

GOVT'S DEEPAVALI GREETINGS?

HOSPITALS, TEMPLES, CHURCHES, MARKETS - BOMBED

The seventeenth of October happened to be the Deepavali Day Festival for the Hindus. The Government's Deepavali Greetings appeared to be the imposition of curfew throughout the Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts followed by aerial bombing and strafing attacks from Naval gunboats artillery shelling and other forms of attacks. The usual exploding of China crackers by small children was replaced by the deadly sounds of lethal weapons.

Hospitals, Temples, Churches, Markets and other public places were picked up as targets for aerial bombardment

The historic Naguleswaram Temple at Keerimalai was bombed on the 16th, and 10 worshippers sustained injuries.

The temple chariot was completely burnt down. All parts of the temple except the sanctum sanctorum were damaged. Naguleswaram temple is an ancient Hindu temple and formed one of the five EESWARAMS-temples dedicated to Lord Shiva-referred to by the late scholar, Sir Paul Peiris, himself a Sinhalese, as having existed before the advent of King Vijaya-the legendary founder of the Sinhala Race - to the Island.

Another Hindu temple which came under attack was the Gnanavairavar Kovil at Urumpirai.

The Anglican Church at Urumpirai also was bombed and severely damaged. This church was rebuilt recently

after it was damaged by the IPKF operations.

On the seventeenth, Sri Lankan Air Force aircraft bombed the Government Hospital at Tellippallai. The operating theatre, Wards 1 and 2, the X-Ray room

Mortuary and the Ambulance shed of the Hospital were badly damaged. The indoor patients have been moved to the Government Hospital at Chankanai, about six miles away, as an emergency measure. The market

Square at Thirunelvely was also bombed on the 18th. The bombing and the shelling are continuing. Reports so far received indicate that at least five civilians have died on the spot and another fifty injured. Extensive damages to many buildings and property have been caused by these continuing attacks.

WHEN CAME MAHADIVULWEWA AGA'S DIVISION?

The SLBC in a news broadcast on the morning of 3rd. October stated that Government relief measures would be given to refugees in the AGA's Division of Mahadivulwewa in the Trincomalee District.

The news is intriguing. When came this AGA's Division of Mahadivulwewa?

The tank known for generations as Periyavilankulam was changed to Mahadivulwewa by administrative fiat and Sinhalese colonists settled there after 1977 against the opposition of the Tamils.

The Government has of late created Grama Sevaka divisions in these colony areas and Grama Sevakas are appointed in place of Colonization Officers who were earlier in charge of these colonies. This is a subtle device under the guise of administrative reforms to give antiquity to recently created colonies as old villages.

Periyavilankulam now called Mahadivulwewa is only a Grama Sevaka Division within the Morawewa AGA's Division. Even Morawewa had its original name in Tamil as Muthalikulam. The name Muthalikulam

appears in the name stones put up by the Irrigation Department which originally undertook the work of restoring the tank. Here too by administrative fiat a Sinhala name was imposed on the Tamil name which was in use.

Now the reference comes to a Mahadivulwewa AGA's Division. Before Independence and long thereafter - there was no Sinhalese Divisional Revenue Officer (as the Assistant Government Agent was then designated) Division in the Trincomalee District. By administrative manipulation the Government created a number of Sinhalese AGA's

Divisions, the Seruvila, Kanthalai and Morawewa AGA's Divisions in the Trincomalee District.

There is something else unique about the Trincomalee District. Trincomalee District is the only District where every Tamil village also has an additional Sinhala Grama Sevaka. All village divisions elsewhere have only one Grama Sevaka for each village division. Of course in the Trincomalee District Sinhala village divisions have no additional Grama Sevaka - leave alone a Tamil additional Grama Sevaka.

The clever manipulation of the administrative machinery to change the demographic pattern of the Trincomalee District is strikingly flagrant.

Deny Education?

The Director of Education Jaffna, gave instructions to the Principals of schools in the Jaffna Peninsula to re-open the schools on the 10th of October. These schools had earlier been closed without a date for re-opening consequent to the war declaration by Government in the North-East. The Director's instructions were sent to the Principals the previous week and newspaper publicity was given to the Director's instructions in the local dailies.

The Director's instructions also stated that blue and white flags should be very visibly exhibited over schools and the display of this blue white flag as an identifying and precautionary sign would be communicated to the Ministry of Education through the Red Cross.

Just on the day previous to the re-opening of the schools i.e. on the 14th of this month, Sri Lankan bombers took up schools for their targets.

The Sri Parvathi Vidyasalai at Ariyalai Jaffna came in for direct bombing. Some of its buildings including the Science Laboratory building were damaged. Similarly bombs were dropped at the Udupiddy - Valvettithurai Junction where the American

(Continued on Page 4)

MUSINGS OF MR. MEDDLE.



Sri Lankan State Minister or Defence has stated that Sri Lanka was only doing what India did in the North-East. So we can expect Sri Lanka forces to vacate the North-East very soon as India did!

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ACCUSES

The World Council of Christian Churches has accuse the Government of Sri Lanka of killing Tamils under pretext of fighting the LTTE.

The World Council has further stated that 332² Tamils have been killed and over 6000 are missing. These are ordinary Tamil Civilians and not LTTE cadres.

The report further states that the largest number of killings of Tamil civilians had taken place in the Amparai District where over 1500 Tamil civilians had been killed.

The World Council has obtained this information from its own representative in Sri Lanka. This news came over Radio Veritas in Manila, Philippines.

BOMBING CONTINUES

For the third day in succession Sri Lankan Air Force planes continued their widespread bombing at various places. Reports so far received indicated that at least seven civilians died and a still larger number sustained injuries.

The Tellippalai Union College was bombed resulting in severe damage to the

School. The school library, science laboratory, Principals' Office and number of class rooms were severely damaged. The Church within the College premises was also severely damaged.

The bombing near the Tellippalai Post Office resulted in the death of six civilians and the Post Office building also was damaged.

WAR FOR PALALY CAMP EXTENSION?

Mr. Ranjan Wijayarathne, Sri Lanka's State Minister for Defence, has stated that the on going war in the Palaly area is with a view to extend the Palaly Camp area as the LTTE is launching mortar shell attacks from nearby thus causing damage to the runway.

But the question is, if the government really confines the war to absolute needs, from its point of view why impose an indefinite

curfew all over the Jaffna District and the adjoining Kilinochchi District too?

The curfew has obstructed the transport of essential food items to the various parts of Jaffna and the Government Agent, Jaffna has been constrained to address the Defence Ministry asking for the lifting of the curfew to enable him to transport food from the Main Stores at Point Pedro to other parts of Jaffna.

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 continued in this issue.

(h) Refugees within the Island

Nearly nine lakhs have become refugees within the Island. They fled from their houses because of the atrocities of the Armed Forces in the villages. These refugees have sought shelter in schools, Churches, Temples and other public places. They are harassed even in these refugee camps by the Armed Forces, allegedly in search of supporters of the LTTE. The Sri Lankan Government has prevented all charitable organizations from giving aid to these refugees directly. Only the international Red Cross, the Armed Forces and the Special Task Force

services rendered to the public by the Government. Of late the security services have adopted the strategy of setting fire or otherwise destroying such Kachcheris and other offices and thereby denying all types of Governmental services to the public.

(k) Denial of Electricity supply

Supply of electricity from the national grid with its source from the Hydro electric plant at Laxapana has been cut off two months ago. When the repairs were at last effected on the high tension lines, the main

Guards are provided for each village but only for Muslim and Sinhala villages. Some Muslim Youths have been instigated, obviously through handsome rewards, to kill Tamils. Clashes have therefore developed allegedly between Tamils and Muslims. But these are really committed by a handful of Muslims and possibly fifth column Tamils at the instance of the Government. In the Eastern Province whole villages have thus been destroyed.

Never before in the history of the Island have there been clashes between Tamils and Muslims. It is noteworthy that most of the Muslims in the mainland of the Northern Province and the Eastern Province are engaged in Agriculture. They have the same occupational interest as the Tamils in the near by villages. In Sinhala districts the Muslim population is engaged in trade and other crafts while the Sinhalese are

J. R. Jayawardene confessed that he was obliged to insist on transporting to Colombo the 17 LTTE men captured on the High Seas by the Ceylon Navy and handed over to the IPKF. This move to deal with them outside the jurisdiction of the IPKF particularly after a general amnesty is a negation of the provisions of the Accord. The Accord specifically made the IPKF responsible for the security in the North-East and necessarily in the adjoining territorial waters. The move of the Armed Forces to take them to Colombo for interrogation is a flagrant breach of the Accord both in its letter and spirit. That the then President Jayawardene had to submit to this wrong headed request of the Armed Forces is an index of the latter's arrogance and the former's helpless submissiveness. It is reported that Diplomat Dixit even offered to have the entire interrogating

arrogance of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces, surrendering India's rights and responsibilities under the Accord.

Recently a stunning experience revealed the utter helplessness of political authorities in the face of self-willed members of the Armed Forces. Minister Hameed, entrusted with the task of negotiating a cease-fire with the LTTE, reached Palaly Aerodrome. Mr. Dominic of the LTTE who went to receive him at the Palaly Air port was shot at by an Air Force personnel just in front of Mr. Hameed. Mr. Dominic went to the aerodrome after making due arrangements for the purpose with the authorities at Palaly. No comments are needed except to observe that Minister Hameed and the Defence Secretary tendered profuse apologies to Mr. Dominic. It looks as if even certain policy decisions (e.g., the Home Guards) emanated from over-enthusiastic Service personnel. The Officer Ranks of the Service personnel are

Govt. Military Operation A NEGATION OF LAW AND ORDER

are allowed to have access to these refugee camps. A Catholic Clergyman who went to a refugee camp was arrested and taken to the Army Camp. The life of these refugees is really intolerable. Sinhala refugees really mostly thugs brought in for State Aided colonization have been carefully looked after in comfortable places including the well provided Fort Frederick at Trincomalee.

(i) Proliferation of Army Camps

Army Camps are established at so many places in the Eastern Province and the ubiquitous presence of an Army Camp nearby denies security and safety for the Tamil villagers.

(j) Destruction of Government Offices serving the public

The public office known as Kachcheri is the Government centre for a variety of

transformer as well as the thermal plant at Chunnakam were blown off by repeated aerial bombing and most parts of Northern Province remain in darkness. This is a cold and calculated act. The denial of electricity affects industry and production and throws a larger number of people out of employment. It also seriously affects vital medical services. It is further aggravated by the denial of supply of other fuel such as kerosine oil, firewood etc. The Armed Forces employ generators and secure supplies of electricity for themselves from such thermal sources.

(l) Postal and Telecommunication Service

Telecommunication services were denied for a long time and now Postal Services have also been stalled.

(m) Home Guards

A most malicious strategy has been worked out. Home

engaged in Agriculture. The Sinhalese peasants always feel that they are exploited by the Muslims traders. Thus there is an in-built factor pre-disposing communal clashes between Sinhalese and Muslims. There is no such predisposition for communal clashes between Tamils and Muslims in the North-East. Serious ethnic conflicts have arisen in the past only between Sinhalese and Muslims as in 1915 when Indian troops were called in to quell the Sinhalese rioters.

The strategy of Home Guards is a negation of the whole theory of the State. It is the duty of the State to provide security and safety for the inhabitants. This responsibility is performed within the framework of the law of the land. The State cannot delegate this responsibility to other agencies. Giving guns for individuals or groups for their security or the creation of Home Guards is an abdication of the role and responsibility of the State. It is a pity that the Sri Lankan Government has not realized that this action really amounts to abdicating its claims for sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction over the area in question.

(n) Armed forces in the Ascendant

There is some evidence that the Armed Forces, the Sri Lankan Air Force in particular is not quite amenable to instructions and directions from the political authority, i. e., the President. After ceasing to be president Mr.

staff of the Ceylon Government transported by Indian Airforce to Palaly. The local commander of the IPKF is said to have been instructed from New Delhi to allow the LTTE men to be transported to Colombo. It seems that the Indian Prime Minister himself had submitted to the

not interested in maintaining the discipline of the profession of soldiers. Racism flourishes among service personnel. There is no hope of a balanced and objective view guiding the thinking either among politicians or Service personnel.

(To be Continued)

Food Consignment Returned to Anuradhapura

21 lorries sent by Government with food items and 3 lorries arranged by Non-government Organisations with food items to Kilinochchi were all stopped at Mada-wachchiya Army Camp on the 22nd August. On 24th August 7 of these lorries including the 3 lorries arranged by the NGO were allowed to proceed to Kilinochchi but were turned back at Mankulam. Subsequently the 3 lorries arranged by the NGO

proceeded to Kilinochchi, while the 21 lorries arranged by the government went back to Anuradhapura. The goods were unloaded there and the lorries returned to Colombo. Later the government instructed the GA Kilinochchi to provide vehicles for transport of these goods from Anuradhapura to Kilinochchi. The GA Kilinochchi was unable to do so as no fuel was available.

Springing Thoughts

We have to learn to fail,
And fail again, but to bounce back,
Not be defeated;
Go thro' the black tunnel which
We must all enter from time to time,
And to come out at the other end
Strengthened not weakened,
With more courage - not less -
With feelings of determination
And resolve, rather than of self-pity

— Vasantha Thambiratnam —

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JAFFNA

HOT SPRING

VOL: I SUNDAY 21st OCT. 1990 ISSUE 2

THE BATTLE FOR THE FORT

The Battle for the Fort of Jaffna has at long last ended. The Sri Lankan Armed Forces withdrew from the Fort presumably before early morning on the 26th. September and on the same day the LTTE hoisted the Tiger Flag inside the Fort.

Of course the drama was preceded by an all night fight out between the Sri Lankan Army and the LTTE. All what the public knew was the hearing of deafening and deadly sounds heard miles and miles away from the Fort emanating from a variety of weapons and amunitions which kept the people in mortal fear throughout the night.

Sri Lanka Radio announced on the 26th evening that the Armed Forces had been withdrawn to enable the ICRC to take over the Fort and the Jaffna Hospital - for the latter to function again. Earlier the LTTE announced that the forces withdrew with losses unable to withstand further their assault. Whatever it be, the people are happy and relieved that the Army occupies the Fort no more and the battle for the Fort has ended.

The question to be asked in retrospect is: What did the Government achieve by clinging on to the Fort all these days?

At the early stages of the war there were some talks between the Government and the LTTE through the agency of the ICRC about the Army withdrawal from the Fort. The LTTE made public announcement that they would permit peaceful passage to Palaly Camps via the main Road under ICRC escort for all the sick and wounded soldiers. As the food problem became acute inside the Fort the LTTE again through the agency of the ICRC agreed for the total withdrawal of the entire armed forces together with all their belongings and vehicles too but insisted on such movement being along the main Jaffna - Palaly Road in small numbers. Of course this settlement was not agreed upon and war continued for over three months.

The result of the failure of these talks was that an entire city - the premier city in Tamil territory - where even Sinhalese traders made their profits - was reduced to dust and ashes. In terms of monetary value the loss would amount to hundreds of million rupees. And all these lost properties belonged either to the ordinary people of Jaffna or to the Government itself. People died, lost their limbs and were forcibly uprooted from their dwellings. They went about the streets carrying as much as they could of their belongings seeking refugee elsewhere. It was most pathetic to see a settled and orderly citizenry with reasonably good standards of living roaming about like beggars and nomads. The Government was entirely responsible for this outrage on the people.

Now there are reports to say that the Government wants to vote monies for the repair of the Jaffna Hospital which was damaged by the Government's own Air Force. Why should public Funds be wasted this way? Could not the resources of Government be utilized for the attainment of more positive results?

Would it be worthy of any Government to show death and destruction as its achievement?

In this context it would be relevant to recall what President Premadasa said towards the beginning of this year when talks were afoot between the Government and the LTTE. He is then reported to have stated that the Army should be withdrawn from all its camps spread out not only in the North East but from other areas as well and that only the Police Force - recruited from amongst the people of each area - be entrusted with the task of maintaining law and order in that area.

It was unfortunate that the President did not proceed along the lines of his thinking.

DESPERATE HOURS - FINEST HOURS TOO

Fifty years ago, the much dreaded Nazi Germany's Air Assault on the British homeland, in preparation for the invasion - The Battle of Britain took place. This was part of Adolf Hitler's March of Conquest. Hitler was full of bluster "A great empire will be destroyed". He thought Churchill's Government could be brought to terms by the mere threat of an invasion. Soon the Battle of Britain ensued with intensive bombing raids on shipping and other military targets initially but the resistance given by the British defenders made the German pilots feel depressed as they had been deprived of their expected quick victory. As the fighting went on the German pilots who all these times picked military targets for attack dropped their payloads on civilian targets which provoked a swift retaliation on Berlin. Hitler threatened to answer British bombing a hundredfold and started bombing London killing civilians. Day after day, the pounding continued. The night raids on London known as the Blitz continued for months but to no military purpose.

The desperate hours were also, as Churchill declared, their finest as the Britishers managed to turn the tide against Nazi Germany.

The Tamil homeland is going through a similar bloody experience that Britain underwent fifty years ago. The Sri Lankan Government of the Sinhalese obsessed with its intention of perpetuating the oppressive Sinhalese dominance over the Tamil minority has unleashed the state military apparatus against the Tamils. Genocide and arson have followed in areas where the Army moved

in. Hundreds of Thousands of Tamils had to flee their homes as refugees. Thousands of Tamils have been done to death in cold blood by the Sri Lankan armed forces and the armed Homeguards. This is particularly so in the East where the Government is eager to uproot the Tamils and colonise Sinhalese. Those fleeing across the sea are hounded by the Sri Lankan Army, Navy and Air Force and entire families have perished in the sea. Battered bodies being washed ashore is a common sight.

Sri Lankan Planes have been roaming the skies of the Tamil homelands and from

by

S. Selvarajah

the inception of hostilities they have been bombing civilian targets. It is doubtful whether the Nazis would have descended to such mean and cowardly acts of flagrantly bombing hospitals, schools, temples, churches, mosques, market places, cinema theatres and even refugee camps. Not a single hospital in the North had been spared. The main District Hospital had to be closed a day or two after the outbreak of war in June. The Sri Lankan bombers fired rocket mortars at the Nelliady market killing over ten civilians and wounding over twenty others. On 9th. October, 1990 over ten civilians were killed and over twenty others wounded at Chavakachcheri where a Helicopter fired at the market square. Day and night random bombing and killing of civilians are a daily occurrence for the last four months. On 10th October, 1990, a six day old child in his mother's lap miraculously escaped unhurt while his mother and two year old brother got killed

while his father got seriously injured when the Sri Lankan bombers dropped bombs on their house. The father too died subsequently.

Dropping of barrel bombs with incendiary device is a speciality of the Sri Lankan Air Force. These are dropped liberally setting ablaze large number of civilian properties. An additional feature has been the dropping of human faecal matter and surgical waste matter from Hospitals. Nauseating stench was covering a large area around the places where these filth were dropped. It is not clear whether this is a crude attempt at Biological warfare by the Sri Lankan authorities to spread typhoid, cholera etc which even Nazi Germany would not have attempted. The worst act of cowardice is the firing of the mortars and artillery shells into residential areas from the Army camps and from the Navy camps. People are not given a chance to go into underground shelters as in the case of aerial bombing and whenever the shells fall, people around get instantly killed.

Like Hitler's Bluster, the Sri Lankan Minister of State for Defence had been boasting that he would wipe out the Liberation Tigers from the face of the earth. Just as the Battle of Britain turned out to be the Britisher's finest hour there are increasing signs that the indomitable will of the Tamils in facing up to the challenge has begun to show results.

The desperate hours the Tamils are experiencing are indeed turning out to be their finest hours in their endeavour to free themselves from oppression comprehensively.

Jaffna Citizens' Committee Requests more help from ICRC

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee has requested the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva to augment the ICRC staff in Sri Lanka and in the North-Eastern Province to enable the latter to meet the desperate situation that has arisen in the Province consequent to the war.

The letter states that the enormous task of providing for the accommodation, food, clothing and sanitary facilities of those beleaguered in the North Eastern Province is left in the hands of Non-Governmental Organisations as the civil administration in these areas had ceased to function effectively. The Citizens' Committee had sought the assistance and the humanitarian role of the ICRC team in Jaffna, but could not avail of their

services in any fruitful manner as they (ICRC) appear to be busy with tackling a host of problems with their limited staff.

The Citizens' Committee further says that they have failed in their efforts to meet Dr. Philip Comtesse to discuss with him the many urgent problems confronting them and devise ways and means of bringing relief and redress to the displaced and the destitute persons and all the beleaguered people in the

region. The subsequent appointments sought by the Citizens' Committee from the ICRC Leader in Jaffna were also not granted.

The Citizens' Committee has given the following figures in its letter:-

- (a) Total population in Jaffna Peninsula (approx) 1,000,000
- (b) Displaced persons as at 11.08.90-
 - (i) Within the Jaffna District - 336,195
 - (ii) in Mullaitivu 50,098
 - (iii) in Mannar 61,506
- (c) Total population in the North East Province - Approx. 2,100,000

(Continued on Page 4)

Three months' loss equals 3 years

The B. B. C. quoting its Colombo Correspondent reported on 6th September that the death toll suffered by the Sri Lankan armed forces during the three month old war with the LTTE in 1990 equalled the death toll suffered by the armed forces during the three year period prior to the July 1987 Accord between India and Sri Lanka.

Sea Around Mannar Mined

It was reported on 7th September that Tamil refugees fleeing to India had stated that the Sri Lankan Navy had mined the sea around Mannar.

Belgian Red Cross Official Complains

The Belgian Red Cross League official Miss Ellis who visited Jaffna in early September stated to the local press that all parcels containing relief items she brought were opened at the Army check point at Vavuniya and checked and all boxes of matches and candles were confiscated and burnt.

Night Bombing

For 5 consecutive nights commencing from the 8th September Air Force planes bombed Jaffna town and its suburbs at irregular intervals throughout the night causing damage to property and panic to the civilians. The bombs included Colombo made barrel bombs weighing 100-150 kgs. Some of these barrel bombs failed to blast.

Napalm Bombing of Jaffna

On 16th September some Napalm type bombs were dropped over Jaffna town area. They did not explode but the surrounding area caught fire and heavy smoke choked the area. In the meantime chemical analysis made on the bombs dropped on the 13th Sept. revealed that there was Phosphorus mixed with some other chemicals. A tin of oil and cotton rolls were found inside the bomb.

Navy Attack at Mathagal

On 21st. September, Sri Lankan Naval Forces launched an attack on the local fishermen at Mathagal and more than twenty - five fishermen were severely injured.

Rampage at Batticaloa & Amparai

On 19th. September, at Thalankudha area in the Batticaloa District Sri Lankan Army troops and the Muslim Homeguards went on a

the Palaly Army Camp and started shooting at these lorries between Vallai and Avarangal junctions. The lorry drivers and cleaners narrowly escaped death but were injured very badly.

100 Tamils arrested at Thampuluvil

On 4th. October, in the village of Thampuluvil in the Amparai District about one hundred Tamils were arrested by the Sri Lankan Army and the Special Homeguards Unit in this area and were taken to the Akkaraipattu Army Camp. It is not known what has happened to these villagers.

Aerial Attacks

On 5th. October, heavy shelling and bombing took place at Kadduvan and Kankesanthurai areas. On the same day, severe shelling from the helicopter also took place at Maviddapuram, Ampanai, Keerimalai and Tellippallai areas and several civilians were injured.

Drowned at Sea

On 7th. October, twenty-five Tamil refugees sailing from the Valvettithutai coast to South India were drowned near Dhanushkodi. Seventeen bodies were later washed ashore and their burial took place in South India.

On 6th. October, in another incident, sixty - seven Tamil refugees were drowned near Puthukkottai in South India. These refugees were going from Analativu to South India.

Civilians Arrested by Army

On 7th. October, Sri Lankan Army troops surrounded the areas of the Kaluthavalai village in the Batticaloa District and arrested about forty Tamils. They were all taken away to the Army Camp for purposes of investigations. No information is available in respect of these arrested persons.

Aerial Attacks

On 9th October, after an interval of thirteen days in the Jaffna Town area. helicopters and bombers commenced their aerial attacks. Further, attacks also took place at Thirunelvely, Kokuvil, Kondavil, Kalviyankadu, Irupalai, Alaveddy, Vilan, Keerimalai, and Myliddy areas.

Deny...

(Continuation of Page 1)

Mission Boys Shool and the American Girls' College are Separately situated.

Again on the 15th Morning when schools were in session Sri Lankan bombers attacked the Puloly Methodist Mission School damaging many of its buildings including the building constructed from funds made available by the Asian Development Bank, after the school building were damaged in the pre1987 war. Fortunately all present escaped unhurt.

The question is why were Schools selected as targets for aerial attacks when schools were cautiously reopening after a spell of four months. Does the Government deny the Jaffna children education altogether?

NEWS ROUND UP

Massacre at Saththurukondan

On 11th September Sri Lankan army surrounded the village of Sathurukondan about 4 miles from Batticaloa town whilst Home Guards and Muslim thugs entered the village and massacred about 150 Tamil civilians. In the same area one week earlier 50 Tamils were killed and burnt with tyres by the Army.

Diarrhoea in Jaffna

Medical authorities stated on 15th September that diarrhoea prevails in Jaffna and that on an average 2 or 3 children were dying daily at the Manipay hospital alone.

rampage and massacred twenty -five Tamils and burnt down five houses and many fishing boats.

At Savalakkadai in the Amparai District five Tamil farmers were shot dead by the Sri Lankan Army.

On 25th. September, at Akkaraipattu in the Amparai District four Tamil youths were stabbed to death and another four Tamils were arrested and taken away by the Army.

Transport of Food Items Affected

On 4th. October, two lorries belonging to the Nallur M. P. C. S. Union were transporting essential food items from the Point Pedro harbour to the Jaffna area. A helicopter came from

Jaffna....

(Continuation of Page 3)

(d) Total displaced in North East Province over 830,000

(e) Total destitutes which constitute workers thrown out of employment in the public and private sectors approx. 1000,000 and states further that normally supplies of food fuel, drugs and other articles in daily use are brought from Colombo but the movement

of goods and persons between Colombo and the North East is blockaded by the Security Forces. Local supplies of rice and other food commodities are also not available as agriculture has been devastated and all industries crippled by the ravages of war, worsened by the non-supply of fuel and electricity.

The most heart-wrenching situation is the complete lack of infant milk foods, drugs, dressing and life-saving oxygen. The affected people, half famished and lacking proper shelter and sanitary facilities are exposed to infections. The Non- Governmental organisations are further handicapped for want of fuel necessary for transport to reach the camps of displaced persons.

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee's letter further states that in this context the services of the ICRC become invaluable as it is in constant contact with the Sri Lankan Government in Colombo and

can act in liaison with the Government in bringing the vital requirements of food, drugs and fuel. The Citizens Committee regrets that the ICRC has not risen adequately to the occasion to provide displaced persons with food, shelter, urgently needed drugs and medical assistance. The Committee says that the ICRC has not made attempts to trace missing persons and re-uniting separated families. The citizens' Committee has therefore appealed to the ICRC in Geneva to initiate suitable action to have the staff in the North East augmented to provide timely aid to the displaced and the destitutes in distress.

24 Hour....

(Continuation of Page 1)

On the 16th of October the SLBC announced the re-imposition of curfew in the Jaffna AGA's Division and the Kayts AGA's Division as well as the continuation of the curfew in the Valikamam North AGA's Division.

On the 17th morning the SLBC again announced that

Our Readers Say

Apathy of the All India Radio

Nowadays the Tamil speaking people are sadly disappointed over the way All India Radio is broadcasting happenings in Tamil areas.

It lost no time to announce that the Sri Lankan Army had broken through the besieged Jaffna Fort.

But when the Sri Lankan Army withdrew from the Fort on 26th September, the news came at snail's pace, only at 6.30 p. m. over its regional bulletin.

the curfew would cover the entire Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts.

So to-day the twenty four curfew enters the 2nd month in the Valikamam North Division.

Will any of our readers enlighten us on a Parallel in any part of the world?

But in Jaffna, news spread quickly and people came to know the withdrawal in the early hours of that day. There were deafening sounds of crackers all over Jaffna Peninsula.

Perhaps Mr. Karuppusamy was as usual in Colombo unable to get an authentic report of the story.

Bravo to BBC which carried the news items at 1.30 p.m. over its hourly English Broadcast.

People are wondering why all India Radio is always a little reluctant to announce promptly what the Tamil people think is good news for them.

- An Inquisitive Mind

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