

An indefinite curfew has been imposed in the Mannar District commencing from 5.45 a.m. on the 1st. of November.

Joint Army, Navy and Air Force operations commenced at 6.00 a.m. the same day. Reports indicate that large numbers of civilians dwellings have been subjected to aerial bombing, artillery shelling and firing from Naval gun-boats especially in the Thalvupadu area.

Reports indicate that the combined Air Force, Naval and Army attack continues at Mannar.

HOT SPRING

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30 Tamils Burnt to Death

HEINOUS CRIME AT ARMY CAMP

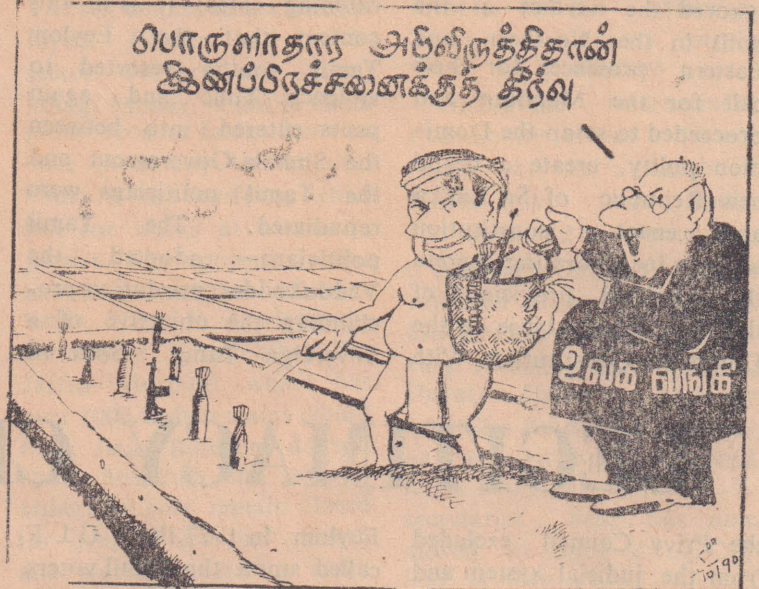
Reports received here indicate that thirty Tamil Civilians have been burnt to death inside the Army Camp premises at Arayampathy in the Batticaloa District. Lighted tyres have been used to burn these people.

The reports add that on 31st. October, the Sri Lankan Army and Muslim Home Guards surrounded the villages of Arayampathy, Kallady, Thalankudah and Puthukudiyiruppu and took thirty civilians to the Army Camp at Arayampathy. At

the camp the civilians were subjected to torture and on the following day on the 1st. of November all these persons were burnt to death.

The reports further state that the LTTE surrounded the Army Camp at Arayampathy after the news of this heinous crime was known and started attacking the camp with mortar shells.

On the morning of 2nd November the Army retaliated with shell attacks and came out of the camp to meet the attackers. A fight ensued and the army withdrew to the camp. No further details are available on this confrontation.



Economic Development is the solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka says World Bank.

(Courtesy: Eelanatham)

Schools Damaged in the North

In the last issue of 'Hot Spring' we published a list of schools damaged in the Valikamam North area from and after 17.10.90. There were 15 schools listed.

Here we publish the names of other schools damaged up to 31.10.90 in the North. All these schools were damaged by aerial bombing shell attack or other form of military offensive undertaken by the Sri Lankan Security Forces.

1. Hindu Ladies' College.
2. Vayavilan Central Maha Vidyalayam.
3. Holy Family Convent, Mullaitivu
4. St. Anthony's College, Kayts

5. Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai
6. Velanai Saraswathy Vidyalayam
7. Jaffna Hindu College
8. St. Patrick's College, Jaffna
9. Parasakthy Vidyalayam, Allaipiddy
10. Mulliyavalai Vidyalayam, Mullaitivu District
11. Pandateruppu Maha Vidyalayam
12. Ariyalai Sri Parvathi Vidyasalai
13. Puloly Methodist Mission Tamil Mixed school
14. Jaffna Central College
15. Vembadi Girl's College, Jaffna
16. St. James' Maha Vidyalayam, Jaffna

ACUTE DRUGS SHORTAGE IN JAFFNA

Ordinary drugs and medicines like Vitamin Pills, Panadol, Aspirin, Priton tablets and the like are not available in the Dispensaries Medical Stores and Pharmacies in Jaffna.

Apart from Government Hospitals, there are a large number of private Hospitals, Dispensaries and Consultation

clinics in Jaffna.

Government institutions and private institution alike are unable to find drugs and medicines for the patients.

Though there are many drugs and medical stores and Pharmacies, these too do not have supplies to meet the demands made on them for various drugs.

"No drugs and other medicines have come into Jaffna since the outbreak of the war in June. We are only selling the stock that was with us before the outbreak of the war", said the owner of a private drug store in Jaffna. More specialised and important drugs are completely out of the market.

On Thursday 1st November Rev. Sister Jean Marie Saverimuttu of the Holy Family Jaffna died of dog bite. She could not be treated properly as anti-rabies vaccine was not available in any part of Jaffna. This is but one example of the dangerous situation arising from shortage of drugs and medicines.

Canada wants N. E. War Stopped

The Canadian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka delivered a note from the Canadian Foreign Office at

the Office of the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry on 1st. November.

It is learnt that the Canadian Foreign Ministry Note clarifies the Canadian Government's view on the on-going war in the North East.

Canada has, it is learnt stated that the North East problem is one that needs settlement by negotiation and has called upon the Govern-

ment of Sri Lanka to stop the on-going war in the North East immediately.

It is further learnt that the note also reminds the Sri Lankan Government that

representatives of American, Australian and Canadian Governments have made known their views to the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Mr. D. B. Wijetunge in Paris recently.

Third Anniversary of Killings at the Jaffna Hospital

The staff of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital functioning at Manipay observed the third anniversary of the killings of Hospital Staff, patients and visitors on 21st. October 1990.

The Indian Army personnel charged into the Jaffna Hospital and killed about 80 persons including Hospital Staff and patients on 21st. October 1987.

The ceremony consisted of the unveiling of photo-

graphs of 21 employees of the Hospital. Lighting of lamps and observing 5 minutes silence in memory of all the deceased. All employees of the Hospital participated in the ceremony.

The Jaffna Medical Journal of April and December, 1987 published by the Jaffna Medical Association had the following comments to make editorially while giving an account of the incident :

"On the following day (23.10.87) a total of 80 bodies were cremated in the Hospital, which is an unprecedented event in the history of any institution in Sri Lanka. 21 of these bodies were of Hospital employees (3 Doctors, 3 Nursing Officers, 2 Overseers, an Ambulance driver and 12 Labourers) thirty four were of patients, seven were relatives of patients and 18 were unidentified. People of Jaffna can neither forget the brutality nor forgive those responsible for it."

Musings of Mr. Meddle



State Minister of Defence Mr. Ranjan Wijeyaratne is reported to have stated that investigations would be made into the finding of thirty headless bodies in Akkarai-pattu.

With whom will he have a head on clash over these headless bodies.

Red Cross Built Houses Demolished

Houses constructed by the Norwegian Red Cross Society as a Housing Scheme in Kankesanturai have been demolished by the Sri Lankan Army. The Primary Medical Centre has also been damaged. The Norwegian Red Cross Society had these houses constructed for the benefit of the poorer section of the people in this area.

(Continued from last week)

There was an enthusiastic response for the call for Mandate but only from the seven Sinhala Provinces. The call for a Mandate was summarily rejected by the voters of the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Voting figures were as follows:-

Northern Province - Total votes polled: 336,027;

Votes polled for the Mandate: 16,179;

Eastern Province - Total votes polled: 245,444;

Votes polled for the Mandate: 79,323.

Total votes polled in both Province: 681,471;

Total votes polled for the Mandate: 95,502.

The call for the Mandate was rejected by the voters of the Northern and Eastern Provinces both collectively and severally.

But the Sinhala politicians who had the Governmental machinery in their hands ignored the verdict at the polls in the Northern and Eastern provinces for their call for the Mandate and proceeded to scrap the Dominion polity, create a brand new Republic of Sri Lanka and enact a constitution without incorporating therein the restricted provisions of the entrenched clause of the Dominion Constitution. With

movement and it is from this movement that the different militant groups took shape.

The youths today in every part of the world are impatient. They cannot tolerate the dilly-dallying approach of the politicians. They feel infuriated by the hypocrisy

of politicians who do not live up to their professions which they trumpeted about for catching votes. It is in this context that the Eeylom Tamil youths resorted to violence. Time and again pacts entered into between the Sinhala Government and the Tamil politicians were repudiated. The Tamil politicians adopted the Vaddukoddai resolution proclaiming the objective of a Sovereign Tamil State of

Sri Lankan (Sinhala Government) over the North and East is pure aggression with the object of establishing a Sinhala imperium over the Tamils - really a genocidal effort to destroy all elements of the Tamil population that do not submit to domestication to the Sinhala imperium. A handful of Tamils might chose to be domesticated to Sinhala imperium. But the overwhelming proportion of the rising generation is determined to be free to manage their own affairs.

Indian Interlude

India intervened in the ethnic conflict of Sri Lanka even before the racial violence of July 1983 which sent tens of thousands of Tamil refugees to India. Prime Minister Indra Gandhi raised with the Lankan High Commissioner in New Delhi the enactment of certain Emergency Regulations violating Human Rights which affected the Tamils rather adversely. Subsequent to this, Sri Lanka sought India's assistance to bring

India is a land where there is much faith in mantrams. Nobody cares to examine the rationale of the mantram but develops an unquestioning and absolute faith in such mantrams. The effect of this mantram was simple. India hired her military machine to Sri Lanka but waived the payment of the hire under the pretence of a political settlement embodied in the Rajiv Gandhi-Jayawardane Accord.

Diplomat Dixit himself has said that the successive Sinhala Governments had reached several Agreements with the Tamil politicians and that on every such occasion the Sinhala Government had later repudiated such Agreements. He, however claimed that the political settlement in the Gandhi-Jayawardane Accord stands guaranteed by the Government of India. But even before Diplomat Dixit's speech appeared in print President Premadasa of petty little Sri Lanka ordered Indian troops brought under the Accord to quit Lanka. He also asserted that

the turbulent seas and the Sinhala naval gun-boats; their quest is safety and security. Several boat loads of refugees have gone to the bottom of the sea as a result of overloading. All these serve as an index of the fear to which they have been subjected by the doings of the Sinhala Armed Forces. A group of such refugee boats, it is reported in the Press, were brought back by a naval gun-boat to the shore at Mannar, the males among the refugees were taken to Army Camps at Thallady while the women and children were left stranded in deserted Pesalai. These refugee families were from distant parts of the North-East and they have no one to help them at Pesalai. They remained helpless in the deserted village day after day anxiously awaiting to learn about the fate of their husbands or other male relatives. Nearly nine lakhs out of a total population of 20 lakhs of Tamils are refugees elsewhere within the North-Eastern Province.

LEGITIMACY CRISIS IN NORTH - EAST

the Privy Council excluded from the judicial system and the entrenched clause, Article 29 having been liquidated the Tamil youths in the Public Service found that their attempt to invoke the judiciary in relation to the highly discriminatory Sinhala Only Act was frustrated.

It was in May 1972 that the new Republic of Sri Lanka was created. The Tamil members of Parliament did not participate in the constitution making process when their demand for a Federal Union was disallowed by the Sinhala politicians. Deliberate and open discrimination in Education and employment resulted in the Tamil youths organizing themselves and involving in political agitation. It was around this time that the Sinhala Police in the Jaffna Station went on rampage at an open air public meeting held as a finale to the Seminar of the World Tamil Conference. When a number of foreign Scholars were on the platform the police shot at the temporary electric installation and eleven persons were electrocuted. The foreign Scholars and others on the platform had to run helter skelter for safety. According to evidence led before the Sansoni Commission it was after this brutal and insulting Police performance at the finale of the World Tamil Conference that the Tamil youths decided to ignore the Tamil Politicians' lead and organize themselves to a militant organization. It was originally known as a students'

Eeylom. In 1977 the TULF called upon the Tamil voters to declare with firmness and fortitude that Sinhala imperialism shall quit the Tamil homeland. The voters responded magnificently. On this election plank they got the largest number of seats and the largest number of popular votes they ever got. But after this electoral verdict they quietly took the Oath of Allegiance to the Sri Lankan (Sinhala) Republic and took no meaningful steps to achieve their objective. When the racial violence of 1977, 1981 and 1983 occurred the members of Parliament who called upon the Tamil voters to proclaim that the Sinhala imperialism should end in the Tamil homeland remained passive spectators. In fact the militant youths believed that the elected M.P.'s functioned as fifth column to the Government of Sri Lanka in its fight against the Tamil militants. The militancy of the youths and their utter disregard for conventional politics stems from this disgusting background. The youths have resorted to the bullet because the ballot has been frustrated. The youths faced the problems; the future is theirs. It will thus be seen that the Sri Lanka (Sinhala) Government has neither a *de jure* nor a *de facto* claim to exercise any form of sovereignty or to have any sort of jurisdiction over the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Far from being operations for the maintenance of Law and Order, the use of force by the

about a political settlement and Prime Minister Indra Gandhi lent the services of one of her trusted advisors, Mr. G. Parthasarathy, to help Sri Lanka in evolving a political settlement. But the obstinacy of Sri Lanka would not permit Mr. Parthasarathy's efforts to be crowned with success. After Mr. Rajiv Gandhi succeeded as Prime Minister, New Delhi's Sri Lankan policy appears to have undergone a right about turn. Mr. Parthasarathy was dropped from the position of being the chief advisor on Lankan affairs and Mr. Bhandari and still others became the chief advisors on India's Sri Lankan policy. There were several confabulations between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Jayawardane as well as Security Minister Mr. Athulathmudali on the other side. Senior officials from Ceylon as well as President Jayawardane's brother H. W. Jayawardane a Senior Lawyer had close consultations with the authorities at New Delhi. The result of all these was a right about turn in India's Sri Lankan policy. India appeared to have decided to help militarily Sri Lanka in its efforts to suppress the Tamil militants struggling for Swaraj for their homeland Eeylom. It seems that Minister Athulathmudali employed a mantram:- 'an independent State of two million Tamils will mean a fortiori, another independent State of 60 million Tamils' He also reminded New Delhi of the fact the cry of cessation was first raised in India by Tamil Nadu.

the subject of devolution of power to the Provincial Councils which was the vertebral column of the political settlement embodied in the Gandhi Jayawardane Accord, was an internal matter and that India had no status in regard to the question of devolution of authority to the Provincial Council. India had to submit meekly to President Premadasa's peremptory orders and proclaim that the problem in the Island was an internal matter. Tamils are therefore convinced that no political solution other than Swaraj for their homeland, is workable.

India, unfortunately, is not in a position to take a detached view of the problem in Sri Lanka. Her perceptions are heavily refracted as a result of India being bedevilled with well organized demands for secession in several States. Kashmir, Punjab and Assam readily occur to one's mind but less well organized demand for secession permeates below the surface in several other States. India is very much in the position of a judge, whose wife steadfastly refuses to live with him, hearing matrimonial actions. India's blunders in the past in regard to Lanka are of serious dimensions. It however looks as if the present Government will out-do its predecessor in the enormity of his progression in its blundering policy in relation to Sri Lanka. A simple example will suffice. More than a lakh of Tamils have fled to India in improvised fishing boats braving

Such is the fear complex created in the minds of the Tamils by the atrocities of the the Sinhala Armed Forces. In this context India is negotiating with Sri Lanka for the Government of Sri Lanka to set up huge refugee camps in Vavuniya and Mannar in order to reduce the influx of refugees to India and the financial burden resulting therefrom. Obviously Lanka's Armed Forces are to look after the safety and security of these refugees. It appears to be a case of entrusting the lamb to the wolf for safety. Why cannot India place the matter of refugees before the U. N. Organization handling refugee problems?

An appeal to the Comity of Nations

When Russia proceeded to take military action against Lithuania, for declaring independence, the United States cautioned Russia against the use of force; and Russia listened to the cautioning by U. S. When Iraq invaded and annexed Kuwait a number of countries intervened to preserve the Independence of Kuwait.

South Africa never resorted to a fraction of the inhumanities employed by Sri Lanka (Sinhala Lanka) against the Tamils struggling for Swaraj. Even in a war with an enemy country the Armed Forces avoid attacking Hospitals, Public Libraries, Churches, Temples and other places of worship and indeed all civilian targets. But Sri Lanka's

(Continued on Page 3)

HOT SPRING

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Should Justice wait for Compelling Events?

Ceylon attained Dominion Status in 1948 and Mr. D. S. Senanayake formed the first U. N. P. Government

One of the first Acts to be passed in Parliament was the Citizenship Act of 1949. The Act purported to define who a citizen of Ceylon was. But the real intention of the framers of the legislation was to decitizenize the Tamil Plantation workers in the up-country. The passage of this legislation in parliament decitizenized all the Tamil plantation workers in the up-country. The Tamils and the Moors elsewhere became doubtful citizens.

The first Parliament of independent Ceylon had seven Tamil members representing the up-country Tamils. The deadly effects of the Citizenship Act and consequential amendments to the franchise act were such that in the second Parliament there was not a single Tamil member returned from any of the up country constituencies.

The Government was not satisfied with decitizenizing and disenfranchising the Tamils. It counted the heads of these Tamils for purposes of carving out electoral districts which would inevitably only return Sinhalese members.

In spite of the Srimala - Shasthira Pact the up-country Tamil problem was not effectively solved. It was quite alive and the Government of Mr. J. R. Jayawardena was compelled to pass legislation to grant citizenship to all plantation workers who had not got Indian citizenship. Thus by an irony of fate, the U.N. P. Government which decitizenized the plantation workers and made them stateless had to bring legislation conferring citizenship on all remaining stateless persons.

In 1956, the late Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake started his Sinhala Only cry and immediately the U.N.P. followed suit. Bandaranayake triumphed at the polls and brought the Sinhala Only Act.

The communal riots of 1956 and 1958 followed directly from the Sinhala Only Act. All the members of Parliament representing the constituencies in the North-East to a man voted against the Sinhala Only Act. Sinhala Only was foisted on the Tamils and Muslims despite their unanimous opposition. All Muslim members from other constituencies elsewhere in the Island - except of course the then Minister C.A.S. Marikar - better known as Sinhala Marikar - voted against the Sinhala Only Act.

Sinhala Only policy was pursued with a vengeance and when the constitutionality of the Act was challenged in courts the Sinhala politicians devised a way to get rid of the constitution itself and thus save the Sinhala Only Act. In this task, the S. L. F. P. was in the forefront ably assisted by the traditional left parties also.

The result was the 1972 constitution embodying the Sinhala Only Act of 1956 as part of the constitution itself. Thus the attempts of the Tamils to dislodge the Act on the ground of unconstitutionality were forestalled.

The 1972 constitution was followed by the 1978 constitution. This constitution also made Sinhala the Only official language. After the bloody wars that ensued during the period 1983-87, the Government of the then President J.R. Jayawardena brought in constitutional amendments making Tamil also an official language and English as the link language.

It should also be mentioned that all Governments pursued the Policy of colonisation of Tamil areas with Sinhalese. Both Mr. Bandaranayake and Mr. Dudley Senanayake as Prime Ministers were however compelled to agree to give up the Government's colonisation policy in separate pacts entered into with Mr. Chelvanayagam. That the Sinhalese leaders did not honour the pacts is a separate matter.

After war and turmoil, death and destruction, the Jayawardena Government brought in the Provincial Council Act and the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

The various Pacts and Agreements taken and read together as a whole are a testimony to the justice of demands of the Tamils. Isn't it belated justice without waiting for compelling events?

Recognize Tamils' Right of Self-determination Elankai Tamilar Manram appeals to UN

The Elankai Tamilar Manram has sent out an appeal to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In its appeal the Manram states that the International Community must come to the rescue of the Tamils and further urges that the right of self-determination for the Tamils should be recognized.

Here is the text of the appeal:-

Over the centuries primitive and tyrannic governments have mercilessly persecuted minorities. A very recent example is the mass murder of Jews by Nazi Germany. Even today in many parts of the world minorities are fighting for their very existence. And here in Sri Lanka the Sinhala majority government is waging a ruthless war against the Tamils.

According to the Geneva Convention civilian population and property should be spared. "Neither the civilian population as such nor civilian persons shall be the object of attack. Attacks shall be directed solely against military objectives". The Sri Lankan government observed this principle when it crushed the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, called "subversives", in the South and West of Sri Lanka where the population is predominantly Sinhalese. It did not bomb them, shell them from army bases and gun boats or use artillery over a distance of about 15 miles.

In North East the Tamil fighters for rights are called "terrorists". Jaffna within a period of about 4 months has been bombed over 500 times. Shells are fired from gun boats and Sri

Lankan army bases into residential areas any day, any time. North is facing an economic, transport and communication blockade since last June. To satisfy the world, the Government sends by ships once in a way meagre supplies. Factories are not running. Fishermen do not go to the sea. The self employed are unemployed. Private and public sector workers are mostly idling. Money is not in circulation because Banks function once in a way for about 2 hours if the curfews, which last for weeks at a stretch, permit. The power station has been bombed about 4 times. There is no electricity for nearly 3½ months. The Jaffna Hospital which has over 1000 beds remains closed from June. Bombers do not spare hospitals and schools either. Schools remain closed for over 4 months. Death and starvation stare at every citizen here.

East is one vast graveyard. House to house search and destroy operations are on. The armed services and allied groups with various names including the Muslim Jihad have licence to kill. No questions asked. No explanations needed. In Amparai over

2000 Tamils are reported to have been killed.

Lakhs of Tamils have been made refugees in their own home land. Earlier when the Tamils faced riots in Sinhalese areas, they could seek refuge in their home lands in North-East Sri Lanka. About 1½ lakhs have reached South India by boats. Many could not make it - some met Watery graves, some were killed by the Sri Lankan gunboats and some others were taken by them, where to no one knows!

The Sri Lankan Government is on the rampage. There is no one to restrain them. So it appears

Unless the International Community comes to our rescue, we the Tamils of North East face death, starvation and disappearance.

Amnesty International has reported about the present Government in full. It was very revealing and the local Deputy Defence Minister called the Amnesty International terrorist and humiliated it in many ways. The A. I. secretariat here has now moved to Hong Kong. Our loss is their gain.

The most brutal atrocity against humanity is happening here and now. Please recognise the legitimate struggle for freedom by the Tamils and their right of self determination. All aid to Sri Lanka should be withheld since such aid is used to by arms, bombers and gunboats to kill the Tamils.

Legitimacy...

(Continuation of Page 2)

Armed Forces carrying out Law and Order operations from the air have Hospitals, Schools, Market places, Government offices essential service installations and busy centres of business as targets.

We wish to pose before the Comity of Nations the following questions.

(i) Does the coercive authority vested in the State embrace such use of force as bombing, helicopter strafing and shelling from naval vessels and camps over a whole region?

(ii) Does the exercise of force in the process of Law and Order operations sanction the bombing, shelling, destruction of Hospitals, Medical Facilities, Churches, Temples, places of worship and other places essential for community life?

(iii) Does the exercise of Force in the process of Law and Order operations sanction the arrest of a category of persons such as all these between the ages of 15 and 50 and detain them at Army Camps?

(iv) Does the process of Law and Order operations sanction the use of torture against persons pointed out

by masked nodding head witnesses?

(v) Does the use of Force in the process of Law and Order operations include firing and shelling on boatloads of refugees of one ethnic group fleeing to another country for safety from the atrocities of Armed Forces?

(vi) Does the Comity of Nations regard as Law and Order operations military activities which compel several lakhs of persons of one particular ethnic group to flee from their homes and hearths to foreign countries for safety?

(vii) Does the Comity of Nations consider as Law and Order operations military activities which compel some nine lakhs of persons of an ethnic group of about 20 lakhs to flee from their homes to Temples, Churches, Schools etc., situated within the region. Does the Comity of Nations sanction the use of weapons like swords, katties, axes and other knives against the civilians in the process of Law and Order operations?

(viii) Should the Comity of Nations remain passive and unconcerned when genocidal

attacks are sought to be represented as Law and Order operations?

(ix) Are gifts and aid from the developed countries meant to benefit the people or merely to benefit the regime and groups behind such a regime?

The concept of human rights is, in effect, the obverse of the concept of the nature and limits of the coercive authority of the State. The latter concept constitutes a more positive approach. The State must function and necessarily exercise coercive powers over its citizens - whenever necessary. Hence to define the nature and limits of the coercive power of the State sanctioned by the society at large is productive of orderly life and stability. The concept of human rights proceeds along a blind alley: it does not take into cognizance why human rights are violated and consequential action on human right violations is impossible. The concept of the limits and nature of the coercive power of the State is macro - in approach while concept of violation of the human rights is micro-oriented. (The end)

"We Desire to preserve our Individuality As a People"

'We Object to being Bullied or Terrorised'

Mr. J. R. Jayawardena, when he was President, once mentioned that the Eelam demand started in 1922. He did not mention anybody's name as the founder of the Eelam demand in 1922.

It can, however, be reasonably surmised that he had the activities and speeches of Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam in mind when he referred to the Eelam demand originating in 1922.

Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam was the founder of the Ceylon National Congress in 1919 and pioneered for constitutional reforms with the ultimate object of securing responsible self-government.

Within two years Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam was a disappointed man and formed the Ceylon Tamil League in 1922 of which also he was the Founder-President.

We reproduce here the text of an address delivered by Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam to the Ceylon Tamil League in 1922. Unfortunately Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam died in 1924 and did not live long to serve his people and Tamil Eelam. But his activities within the short period of two years on behalf of his people has earned him the name of being the progenitor of Tamil Eelam.

"I offer a hearty welcome to the members of the Ceylon Tamil League in General Meeting assembled today. This is the second General Meeting since its inauguration. I am glad also to see many members of the general public. From the proceedings today they will be in a position to judge the work the League has so far done and of its aims, and of the

claims it has upon the public confidence.

There is no need for me to speak at length, as the Committee's Report sets forth fully the League's work and aims and ideals. The League was brought into existence by the Political necessity, but Politics is not its raison-d'etre. It has far higher aims in view, namely to keep

alive and propagate these precious ideals throughout Ceylon, Southern India and the Tamil Colonies, to promote the union and solidarity of the Tamilakam, the Tamil Land. We should keep alive and propagate these ideals throughout Ceylon and promote the union and solidarity of what we have been proud to call TAMIL EELAM. We desire to preserve our individuality as a people, make ourselves worthy of our inheritance and worthy members of the British Empire. We are not enamoured of that Cosmopolitanism which would make of us "neither fish, fowl, nor red herring".

That does not mean that we are to be selfish and work only for the interests of the Tamil Community. Who have done more for the welfare of all Ceylon than the Tamils? Who has fought more vigorously for the welfare of the Sinhalese in the "Dark days of 1915" when our Sinhalese brethren were in distress and helpless? Who came to their rescue but the Tamils? That statue which was to be

Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam

the grateful memorial of the help rendered, may (as proposed in some quarters) be flung into the sea. But the Tamils are not going to abandon the proud duty and privilege of Service to all our brothers of every race and creed.

But we do object strongly to being bullied or terrorised, we object to being underdogs of anybody. We mean to make ourselves strong also to work for the common good. The Europeans with all the power and prestige, with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Planters Association, European Ceylon Association feel the necessity of improving their organisation. Much more should we. We cannot any longer afford to be apathetic.

The Jaffna Association and the Tamil Maha Jana Sabha have done most useful work in the Northern Province. There are small Tamil Associations scattered over the Island and admirably fitted to promote local patriotism and watch over local interests. With all

these it will be our aim to work in friendly and hearty co-operation.

We wish also to co-operate with every other Community in the Island - European, Burgher, Sinhalese, Mohamedan and Indian etc. We believe that such co-operation is the best and shortest to our political advancement.

In order to further the objects of the League we shall work for the establishment of a daily paper in Colombo - a vital necessity. The Committee's proposal with regard to this will be laid before you. We shall also work to establish an Agency in London and a Club in Colombo.

All this requires heavy outlay of money for which I trust the Tamil Community, and especially its wealthier members here and in F.M.S., will contribute liberally. But it requires also enthusiasm, perseverance, united effort and these I believe will not be wanting. May God bless and prosper our efforts."

NEWS ROUND UP

Bomber Attack at Sandilipay comes under Kopay

A retired teacher, N. Vinasithamby (65) who was standing in the front yard of his house died and 2 others, Vinasithamby Sothy and Chelliah sustained severe injuries when 2 Sri Lankan Air Force Planes bombed the Kopay village on 22.10.90. Many houses around the Kopay Kanthasamy kovil, and the building of the Saiva Development Society were heavily damaged.

Chavakachcheri Market Bombed Again

The Chavakachcheri market was bombed for the third time in the current war by Sri Lankan Air Force planes on 24th October. One man died on the spot, his head was smashed and severed from the body making identification difficult. About 20 persons sustained injuries. Over 25 shops and a hotel were badly damaged.

Sandilipay comes under bomber Attack

The village of Sandilipay came under attack from Sri Lankan bombers on 24th October towards noon. A rice mill was completely damaged and the shops opposite the mill were also damaged. 3 civilians were admitted to Manipay Hospital with severe injuries.

Civilian Death at Batticaloa

Kanapathipillai Poobalaratnam (40) of Arayampathi in the Batticaloa District died as a result of the army opening fire at Periyakulam in the Batticaloa District on 24th October.

Bombers Attack Jaffna City Again

Two Sri Lankan bombers attacked Jaffna city again on 27th October at about 8.30 a.m. The bomb that fell on the David Road - Cathedral Road junction resulted in Joseph (69) and Angela Sebarajah (34) of Cathedral Road sustaining

severe injuries. Another woman, 2 men and 2 children also sustained injuries. The house of Mrs. A.F. Sebastiampillai was completely damaged.

Aerial Attack in the Peninsula

On 28th October Sri Lankan Air Force Planes bombed at various places in the Jaffna Peninsula resulting in the death of 8 civilians and causing injury to over 20 persons. The Planes attacked Chundikuli, Gurunagar, Pandateruppu Vaddukoddai, Kokuvil and Chunakam. At Pandateruppu 4 persons died on the spot, 1 at Vaddukoddai, 2 at Gurunagar and 1 at Kokuvil. A number of civilian houses were damaged. The Chunakam Post Office and the Telecommunication Centre were also damaged.

Tractor Driver Dies

A tractor driver named Rajah died on the way to the Manipay Hospital where he was rushed after he received severe head injuries when an Air Force Bomber attacked a Saw mill at Ariyalai. The Saw Mill and an adjoining house were completely damaged. A young girl named Nanthini (16) also sustained abdominal injuries.

Commune with God

O God, Father of heaven,
Why art thou so silent,
Can't Thee hear us bawl and rack our throats,
Doth not the cry reach thine ears,
Or is it a joke for Thee.

I oft doubt Thine existence!
Haven't the hot fumes of our sighs
Burnt Thine heart?

O Father, halt Thine matters in the heaven for awhile,
And come down to earth at least to sight:
Man weakened and eaten by man himself,
Man roasted by man himself.

God haven't these stirred Thine Soul
Yet, Thou hath not said a word!

- Vasantha Thambiratnam -

Fishermen Taken into Custody

V. Ehambaram (27) and V. Karunkaraharan (17) two fishermen who were out on a Cattumaram to do fishing were intercepted by the Sri Lankan Navy and taken into custody at Karainagar on 28th October. Other fishermen who went with them jumped into the sea and escaped.

In a separate incident on 27th October who went out fishing on a Cattumaram were assaulted and thrown into the sea by navy personnel travelling in a speed boat off the sea at Munai in Point Pedro. The fishermen later swam their way to the safety off the shore.

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HOT SPRING

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