

# HOT SPRING

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No. 9

**Reluctantly - Reluctantly  
R-E-E-L-I-N-G**

..... It is, of course, true that twice before such proposals were scuttled, once when the UNP and others opposed the Bandaranaike - Chelvanayakam pact and when the SLFP and others opposed the Regional Councils proposed by the late Prime Minister, Dudley Senanayake.

But it is such opportunistic politics which has brought the country to this tragic plight and we believe that the people are mature enough to grasp this truth.

*From the Island Editorial 14-10-90*

## No Examinations in N. E.

### Over 88,000 Children Languish

(By our Reporter)

Education has been badly disrupted in the North - East because of the military operations undertaken in these areas by the Government of Sri Lanka.

A large number of schools had been the targets of direct bomber attacks, still others have been blasted by the Army or come under shell attack and a number of other schools are occupied by refugees and some even by the Army.

A large number of children have fled their homes and are living as refugees elsewhere.

In case of some children in the East, forests are their homes.

Even in areas where the Army does not move about and where schools are functioning with difficulty after a spell of about 4 to 5 months, the stress and strain caused to children is very great.

In addition to the impediments in the pursuit of Education caused by military activities of the Government, the children of the North - East are further penalised by not being

examined at the end of the Academic Year. The Government has not even announced the measures it proposes to undertake to rectify the wrong done to these children.

The Yaer V Scholarship Examination for 1990 was not held in the North - East. The Government announced that the results of this Examination would be the basis of selection of students for the Secondary Schools, apart from the Award of Scholarships. So today the Primary School children and their Parents are not aware as to where these

children should go for their Secondary Education.

In the Jaffna District alone over 14,000 children have not sat for this Examination because the Government did not hold this Examination.

It is estimated that over 20,000 children in the Primary Schools in the North - East are affected by the failure of the Government to hold this Examination.

Similarly the G. C. E. (Adv. Level) Examination was not held in the North-East for 1990. This Examination is highly competitive and the results of the performance at this Examination are

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### IN TRINCOMALEE TAMIL OFFICERS OUT Sinhalese to Replace Them

Consequent to the outbreak of war a large number of Tamils officers were forced to leave their work and residences at Trincomalee. Most of them are refugees in other places.

The Government sent out instructions that all such officers should report for duty before 31st October. That there is no transport between Trincomalee and Jaffna and between Trincomalee and Batticaloa was not the concern of the Government. The Government did not offer these refugees even transport.

It is understood that the North - Eastern Provincial Governor Lt. Col. Nalin

Seneviratne is treating these Tamil officers as having vacated posts and is proceeding to appoint Sinhalese in their places.

### Bombing at Oddusuddan

Indiscriminate bomber attack in and around the village of Oddusuddan in Mullaitivu District resulted in the death of nine persons. The Oddusuddan Mahavidyalayam and Thanthorri Easwar Temple were also damaged by bombs dropped from Sri Lankan Air Force bombers.

Reports received in this connection state that on 27th. November Sri Lankan bombers circled the village of Oddusuddan and suddenly started indiscriminate bombing.

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### Two Tamils Shot Dead at Amparai

Two Tamil refugees who went out to pluck coconuts were shot dead by the Sri Lankan Army on 27th November at Sinnawattai in Amparai District. The deceased have been identified as P. Sangarapillai and S. Vadi-vel from the village of Thurainilavanai.

versa. The Government escapes the charge of attempts at economic strangulation of the people of the North but nevertheless achieves the same result by means of a curfew north of the Vavuniya Town.

The curfew has caused scarcity of goods in the Mullaitivu, Kilinochehi and Jaffna Districts.

### AUSTRALIA TAKES INITIATIVE

Mr. Gareth Evans, Australia's Foreign Minister recently told the Australian Senate that he had discussed with Sri Lankan President Premadasa ways of making progress towards a settlement of the ethnic problem in the Island. He also said that he discussed with President Premadasa the possibility of involving the Commonwealth or other appropriate multi-lateral mechanism for the purpose.

The Australian Foreign Minister also told the Senate that he was extremely concerned by the situation in Sri Lanka. The Australian Foreign Minister is also reported to have said: "We are concerned about the blood - shed, especially the deaths of non-combatants,

about the breaches of human rights and about the implications for Sri Lanka's future as a nation."

In the meantime Senator Janet Powell, leader of the Australian Democrats, is reported to have written to Canberra Tamil Association the horror and distress of the Australian Democrats at the continuing violence in Sri Lanka.

She has further said that the Australian Democrats would continue to support constructive proposals to resolve this conflict on principles of non-violence, justice and democracy.

"This includes the establishment of a democratic quasi-state in the North - East of the country", Senator Janet Powell is reported to have stated in her letter.

### VAVUNIYA CURFEW: INDIRECT EMBARGO

The curfew imposed in Vavuniya on the 22nd of November is still in force. The curfew imposed on Jaffna on Nov. 20th was lifted on the 1st of December.

The curfew imposed in Mannar and Kilinochchi was

lifted on the 6th December. The curfew north of Vavuniya in the Vavuniya District remains in force though there is no curfew in Vavuniya Town and Vavuniya South.

It is to be remembered that the curfew was imposed in Vavuniya after the LTTE attack on the Mankulam camp began on the 22nd November. The Army camp fell to the Tiger attack on the 24th November itself. The Government has lifted the curfew even in Mankulam from the 6th December. The curfew is now on only in those areas of the Vavuniya District, North of Vavuniya Town.

As a result of the curfew lots of passengers from Colombo are stranded at Vavuniya. They are unable to proceed from Vavuniya

to their destinations North. It is reported that large number of such passengers are staying at refugee camps in Vavuniya hoping to continue their journey once the curfew is lifted.

Another result of the curfew is that goods are not flowing into Jaffna with the result that there is a scarcity for most consumer goods too. Similarly Jaffna products cannot go out to Colombo and this has resulted in a drop in the market prices of items like onions.

Why is the curfew only enforced in the Vavuniya District-Excluding the town only?

Observers say that it is an indirect way of embargo on movement of goods from Colombo to Jaffna and vice

### Widespread Heli Attack in Peninsula

Sri Lankan Helicopters carried out widespread attacks from the air all over the Jaffna Peninsula on 21st. November.

Many of the injured have been admitted to Hospitals. Helicopter air strafing took place in Tellipalai, Kadduvan, Veemankamam, Kollankalady, Alaveddy, Chunnakam, Inuvil, Maruthanamadam, Kokkuvil, Kondavil, Thirunelvily,

### Heli Attack

Nayanmarkadu, Ariyalai, Atchuvelli, Puttur, Valalai, Thondamanar, Kodikamam, and Meesalai areas.

Thanabalaisangam Puvanasangam (20) of Kollankaladdy, Kiruparajah Sivapackiam (35) of Tellipalai and Kathiresu Velupillai (72) of Veemankam were admitted to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital with severe injuries. A number of others were treated for minor injuries.



We reproduce excerpts from the book "Political Memoirs of an Unrepentant Communist," written by Mr. N. Sanmugathasan, General Secretary of the Ceylon Trade Union Federation and General Secretary of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party.

Much of the rationality of thought and action among the Sinhalese can be attributed to the lack of a rationalist tradition in Sinhala/Buddhist thought. Such myths as that the Buddha visited Sri Lanka three times during his life and that on one of these occasions left the imprint of his foot on Adam's Peak, are still current. The only historian who had sufficient scientific objectivity and courage to dispute this theory was Dr. Paranavitana, who was also Sri Lanka's most eminent archaeologist.

Although there were certain differences in text and interpretation, all these three sects belonged to the Theravada or the traditional school of Buddhism. But a new movement gained ground among the Buddhists in India which, as Dr. Paranavitana explains, distinguished between the attempt to strive for one's own salvation and striving for the salvation of all humanity. The movement's followers characterised the latter as the greater career - The Mahayana. The goal of working for one's

of the Spanish Inquisition, imagine what would have happened to the intellectual climate of Europe if the Reformation had been crushed. That is what happened in Sri Lanka.

The role of the Buddhist monks in Sri Lankan politics has been largely negative and reactionary, although there have been instances when they played a positive role. The Buddhist monks with a few notable exceptions, are illiterate and ignorant. They do not learn even Tamil. They are narrow-minded, sectarian and inward-looking and identify Buddhism with the Sinhala race. It is no accident that it was a Buddhist monk in saffron robes who snuffed out the life of the most popular

sanayake who brought him to see the President.

Priests like Ven. Madihe Pannaseeha, Chief monk of the Vajirarama Temple, Colombo, provide the thin intellectual veneer to cover the naked racialism of other monks. India Today of 15, September, 1983 quotes him as alleging that as many as 261 Buddhist shrines and Monasteries in the Island's North and East have been destroyed by the Tamils. Of course, he adduces no proof. He is quoted as saying 'This was the price we paid for allowing Tamil invaders from South India to stay back because of our hospitality. We allowed the Tamils to stay anywhere in the island, even to intermarry.

the time of Vattagamani (103-102 BC and 89-77 BC) introduced the practice of donating lands to monasteries for the Sangha to derive revenue therefrom. This was in complete contradiction to the principle of Buddhism, because members of the Sangha were to be free from material attachments. Vattagamani introduced this practice to reward the priest who had helped while he was in exile. Other kings continued this practice for the purpose of winning the favour of the Sangha. The bestowal of material benefits to the Sangha led to the increase of its members because the members of the Sangha began to be assured of a good life - a far cry from the teachings of Buddha. Thus, these monks became parasites on society - doing no productive work but having all their wants met. Such a fate did not overtake the Mahayana sect because the monks of this order did labour of a productive nature.

## Role of Buddhist monks in politics Largely negative and reactionary

Another such myth is that the Buddha, before his passing away, had entrusted the safety of Lanka to Sakra, because he knew that his doctrine would eventually be established in this island, and that on receiving the Buddha's command, Sakra summoned Vishnu and entrusted the protection of the island to him. Such legends tend to be accepted as historical facts. This is what happens when a monk becomes a historian as was the author of the Mahavamsa, Sri Lanka's greatest historical chronicle, which was written in the 6th century AD by a monk, Mahanama. All his sources were preserved by the Sangha (monks) of the Mahavihara. It was like a breath of fresh air to read the article by Dr. E.W. Adikaram, a respected educationalist which advocated that all the copies of the Mahavamsa should be burned, they were responsible for a lot of the communal thinking of the Sinhala Buddhists (see his article of 25 September, 1983 in the Sinhala Sunday paper, Rivirasa).

To understand Buddhism in Sri Lanka, it is necessary to refer to the schism that occurred in the Buddhist church very early in its history. In all doctrinal and disciplinary matters, all Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka accepted the authority of the Mahavihara, considered the established Buddhist church from its inception. But early in the second century BC a new sect known as the Abhayagiri sect became established. (Later on, another faction broke away from the Abhayagiri sect, which was to have the Jetavana monastery as its headquarters).

own salvation they stigmatised as the lower career - the Hinayana.

One can easily recognise a similarity in some respects between this schism in the Buddhist church and the schism in the Roman Catholic Church brought about by the Reformation. Like the Reformists, the Mahayana school of Buddhism was more liberal, and, therefore progressive and attracted to its fold the bolder philosophers. The Mahayana doctrine found disciples in the Abhayagiri monastery, while it was stoutly opposed by the Mahavihara, which became the stronghold of the traditional school of Theravada Buddhism. Thus, the Mahavihara taught the teachings of the Southern Buddhist of Sri Lanka, Burma, Siam and Cambodia, while the Abhayagiri monastery taught teachings of northern doctrines of Kashmir, Tibet and China, learned from the Indian Vaituliya.

A heated controversy arose between the Mahavihara and the Abhayagiri monasteries. This furious debate sometimes took the form of wholesale persecution of the opposite sect - beginning in the reign of Voharaka Tissa (215 - 237 AD). The records kept by the Abhayagiri monastery were burnt and destroyed - a very un-Buddhist act. Thus, the Mahavihara or the traditional school completely defeated the Abhayagiri school of Buddhist thought. It is the Hinayana doctrine of Theravada Buddhism that unfortunately triumphed. It is to this that we owe the intellectual stagnation of Buddhist thought in Sri Lanka. Remembering the inequities

Prime Minister and that another was convicted of conspiracy in that crime and sentenced to jail, where he died.

### N. Sanmugathasan

No wonder that more than one Buddhist monk, with his robes raised, was seen leading the mobs during the recent disturbances. It is also rumoured that, during the disturbances, President Jayawardena had to seek the aid of Ella Gunawansa, a virulently anti-Tamil monk, to pacify the racialists. It was Minister Gamini Dis-

In 1977, there were over one lakh Tamils in Colombo, but only a few thousand Sinhala soldiers in the north. Pannaseeha was among the first to raise the demand for sending a thousand strong Sinhala army to the North - so much for Buddhist piety and compassion.

Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka, except perhaps in the case of the poor, village monks, do not lead a simple life, freed from material possessions, as the Buddha preached. Many of them are rich exploiters. This trend started early in Buddhism in Sri Lanka. Sinhala kings from

Thus, the Buddhist Sangha has, for the most part, played a negative role in Sri Lanka. Unless the Sinhalese, or rather those of them who are Buddhist, secure their release from the domination and tutelage of the Sangha, the future will be grim. Indeed, the very concept of a Sinhala Buddhist runs counter to Buddhism's basic tenets. One wonders whether most Sinhala Buddhists would accept or know that the Lord Buddha was not a Sri Lankan but an Indian. There is no future for Sri Lanka unless religion is divorced from politics.

direction and leadership death has acted mercilessly and cruelly by removing him. It is also unfortunate that the curfew that has been imposed by the Govt. had prevented many of Mr. Nadesapillai's kith and kin from attending his funeral on 22nd. November, 1990.

"His life was gentle; and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world This was a Man."

RAMACHANDRAN  
Chief Accountant.  
Kachcheri,  
Jaffna.

### Wonderment

At times I wonder  
At this world, for  
At times it looks like  
An unweeded garden, where  
All the wholesome flowers  
Are choked up,  
And nothing but,  
Weeds could thrive.

- Vasantha Thambiratnam

### APPRECIATION

### P. NADESAPILLAI

When the undersigned met Mr. Velupillai Nadesapillai, Asst. Food Controller, of the Jaffna Kachcheri on the 19th. of November, 1990, little did I realize that I was meeting him for the last time in my life. On 21st. November, 1990, the Tamil papers carried the shocking news item that my worthy and esteemed friend passed away on the 20th. of a severe heart attack. Mr. Nadesapillai was barely 39 years of age when he breathed his last. The profound shock and void that has been created in the circle of the kith and kin of Mr. Nadesapillai, will remain unfilled till we also part from the face of this earth.

Mr. Nadesapillai joined the Sri Lanka Administrative Service at the comparatively young age of 26 years on the results of a highly competitive examination and was initially posted to serve

in the Puttalam Kachcheri, as a probationer. It was at the Puttalam Kachcheri in 1977 when I too served for a short spell of time. Mr. Nadesapillai became a staunch and esteemed friend of mine. His winsome smile, amiable manners, and earnestness to gather knowledge on men and matters, are traits of his life. Coming as he was of a middle class family from the Island of Analaithievu, he rose head and shoulders above all his kinsmen. As Assistant Food Controller of the Jaffna Kachcheri, Mr. Nadesapillai had at his finger tips, the food requirements of every article of consumption of the Jaffna District and the stock position at the various granaries and even at the sales centres. At a time when men of the calibre of Mr. Nadesapillai are much wanted particularly in Tamil areas to weather the storms and stresses and give correct



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## Don't Disturb Our Education

Education is a priority with all humanity.

The Government of Sri Lanka appears to pay scant regard for the Education of the Tamils. Indeed it stifles the hunger for Education of the Tamils - notably by the nefarious standardisation process.

Since the current war started a large number of schools have become the targets for aerial bombing. In fact the Methodist High School at Puloly, Point Pedro was bombed on more than one occasion.

In most areas, especially in the East, the schools have been deserted both by the children and teachers. They have fled their areas to escape army atrocities.

When our children's education has been disrupted by Government, things appear to be normal in the Sinhala territory. We don't envy that. We have, however, to point out certain matters.

The Government holds three public examinations for school children. They are (i) The Year V Scholarship Examination (ii) G. C. E. (O/L) Examination (iii) the G. C. E. (A/L) Examination. Whilst the first and third Examinations are competitive the second is a qualifying Examination.

Both Competitive Examinations have been held for the year 1990 in all Sinhalese areas but not in the Tamil Territory of the North - East.

The results of the Year V Scholarship Examination, it was announced by the Government, would be the basis for selection of students to Secondary Schools for 1991.

The results of the G. C. E. (Advance Level) Examination would be the basis for selection of students for Universities. One can imagine the plight of the children in the North - East.

Currently the G. C. E. (O/L) Examination is being held all over the Sinhalese areas but not in the North East. We discount the so-called Examination centres in certain towns of the North - East which are under the Sinhala army occupation because these centres are much publicised by Government only for political purposes.

What is the fun of holding Examinations when you have chased students from their homes?

The only known instance when Education and Examinations were disrupted in the North was in December, 1987 when the Indian Army was battling the LTTE. Of course the Indian Army was a foreign army and it could not have cared much for the education of children in a foreign country.

Education has been affected even worse in 1990 when the Sinhala army is occupying certain parts of the Tamil territory. Unlike the Indians, the Sri Lankan Government insists on saying that North - East is part of Sri Lanka and the people of the North East are people of Sri Lanka. But their actions do not support their claim.

The Government has so far failed to announce what it proposes to do with the education of the affected children.

At this point of time one is reminded of the fate that befell the then Director of Education in Jaffna in 1987/88, Mr. Mansoor. He pressed strongly the claims of the Jaffna students to hold a Special G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in place of the unheld December, 1987 Examination. The reasonable demand could not be resisted. So the then Minister of Education, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, did the only thing he could do - held a special Examination but showed his spite by transferring the Director of Education out of Jaffna ultimately as the Principal of a School. Even if Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe had been in the Chair of the Director of Education, Jaffna, he would have had to plead for the holding of a Special Examination which he could not refuse even from the elevated Ministerial Chair. Poor Mr. Mansoor had to bear the entire ministerial wrath meekly. Where the Government does not intervene with its military, life is normal in the North - East. It must also be said to the credit of the LTTE that they never disrupted Education. The only known instance when they called out School Children on a Hartal, was during the time of the Indian Army occupation in the North East when the LTTE called a Hartal on August 15th - Indian Independence Day.

In the circumstances why can't the Government stop disturbing Education in the North East?

## RACIAL AFFINITY

### Basis for Support for Oppressed Peoples World Over COIMBOTORE ADVOCATE TELLS

While questioning Mr. Nedumaran, the President of Tamils' Nationalist Movement Party, (ASIDE - 31 July, 1990), your reporter observes that apart from race, the Tamils in Tamil Nadu have nothing in common with the Tamils in Sri Lanka and asks the interviewed whether he was justified in his vociferous support for the cause of the Sri Lankan Tamils. Though Mr. Nedumaran answers by referring to Indian support to the cause of Palestine and for the freedom fights in Namibia and South Africa but the point is unfortunately missed. The point is: Is racial affinity sufficient to go in support of the political causes of the oppressed people next door?

The answer is to be 'yes' as one observes the scenario of political struggles in Europe, Africa and Asia. In the case of Palestinians' movement to retrieve their Palestine, they are backed by the Arabs living in 21 Arab countries in the Middle East and parts of Africa. In their relentless fight against the pernicious and loathsome system of 'apartheid' of the white minority in South Africa the majority Black people there are morally, politically and materially backed by the whole of the Black Africa. Racial affinity everywhere Sir!

It is because of the rest of the Arabs have backed Palestinians and rest of the Black people in other parts of Africa, have stood behind the Blacks in South Africa, other countries elsewhere, though not racially related with either Palestinians or Blacks in South Africa have felt a moral and political compulsion as members of world comity to support the South African Blacks and Palestinians in the Middle East. Can your reporter deny it? If he chooses to deny, can he please enumerate factors other than common race which motivate the Turkish people in mainland Turkey to support their brethren in the neighbouring Island State of Cyprus?

The minority Turkish people faced repression and death by the majority Greeks in Cyprus and the Turkish minority is fully backed by their brethren in Turkey. The minority Turks of northern Cyprus proclaimed themselves the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) and Turkey immediately recognised it. The Irish people in Republic of Ireland are backing the Irish people of Northern Ireland under the control of the British. The minority English in Northern Ireland are patronised by England

against the majority Irish people. Though the respective religious sects are important factors in the politics of Northern Ireland, the basic factor in the support of the Irish people of Ireland to their brethren in the Northern Ireland and the basic reason why England wants to retain political control of Northern Ireland where its own English people are a minority is ethnic affinity. Is it not? In our own country, the Bengali people of West Bengal were solidly behind their ethnic brethren of the

India is located in West-Asia - the scene of action by Palestinians? We would have been scared of 'bloodshed and law and order problems'?

The reality seems to be otherwise. Egged by the united demand of the people of West Bengal state, to go to the rescue of their ethnic brethren in the then East-Pakistan, the Indian Government engaged in a full scale war with Pakistan and saw to it that Pakistani Army in the eastern theatre surrendered and a free Bangla Desh was born. Prior

'ASIDE', a Fortnightly magazine published in Madras, carried in its issue of 31st. July, an interview with Mr. P. Nedumaran, President of the Tamils' Nationalist Movement.

The following question and answer were also published :-

Q. Reporter: "Apart from race, the Tamils of Tamil Nadu have nothing in common with the Tamils of Sri Lanka. Given this, is your vociferous support for the Sri Lankan Tamil cause justified?"

A. Mr. Nedumaran: "Is India's support for the Palestinian cause justified? Is India's support of the freedom fights in Namibia or South Africa justified? After all, we have nothing in common with these people either. If all that is justified, then my support of LTTE's struggle for Eelam is justified too."

Advocate P. Padmanabhan of Somanur in the Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu sent a letter to 'ASIDE' answering further and fully the reporter's question. Mr. Padmanabhan's letter was unfortunately not published in the 'ASIDE' but was published in the Tamil Nation (London) issue of 1.10.1990.

We reproduce the letter for the benefit of our readers by courtesy of the Tamil Nation, London.

then East-Pakistan, now Bangla Desh, despite the total religious dissimilarity between the West and East Bengalis - What were the reasons other than common race? Hence, the all important factor for extending support in political struggle is the racial affinity. For that is natural.

Your reporter commits a blunder again by pointing out that in extending sympathy to either Palestinians or South African Blacks "we are not personally affected. In the case of the LTTE, our support brings bloodshed and law and order problem to our own shores".

So India's support to political causes is not merit based? Is it available only if India itself is not hurt? If this reasoning is correct, then India would not have supported the South African Blacks if we are next door to South Africa and the White racist regime of Pretoria brow-beats us or sends its crack troops to check the presence of ANC members within our territories or if the oppressed Blacks cross the border seeking refuge in our territories? We would not have supported the cause of Palestine if

then East-Pakistan, now Bangla Desh, despite the total religious dissimilarity between the West and East Bengalis - What were the reasons other than common race? Hence, the all important factor for extending support in political struggle is the racial affinity. For that is natural. Your reporter commits a blunder again by pointing out that in extending sympathy to either Palestinians or South African Blacks "we are not personally affected. In the case of the LTTE, our support brings bloodshed and law and order problem to our own shores". So India's support to political causes is not merit based? Is it available only if India itself is not hurt? If this reasoning is correct, then India would not have supported the South African Blacks if we are next door to South Africa and the White racist regime of Pretoria brow-beats us or sends its crack troops to check the presence of ANC members within our territories or if the oppressed Blacks cross the border seeking refuge in our territories? We would not have supported the cause of Palestine if

to that 8 million Bengali-speaking East Pakistanis flooded Indian soil in refuge and India patronised them by taxing every citizen of India. Remember the refugee relief stamps and the requirement to affix the same even in documents like a pronote? Why should ASIDE talk of the Sri Lankan Tamils, just reaching a simple one lakh yet, as they come to Tamil Nadu as refugees, that "very soon the refugees become a burden and an embarrassment which the host country would gladly be rid of?"

Please let ASIDE, and its reporters get rid of their bias against the Lankan Tamils.

ASIDE has to be different from other periodicals in Tamil Nadu. For no other magazine in Tamil Nadu, to my knowledge, has a Chief Editor who is a scholar in history. ASIDE has to stand by historical facts and correlate them correctly to the current events including the Lankan Tamil problem. Agree Sir?

Thanking you, very much, Sir.

Yours Sincerely,

P. Padmanabhan

Coimbatore.



# Signs of Desperation

## The Sinhalese Political Leadership and their Armed Forces are in the a quandary

The Modus Operandi of the Sinhalese political leaders against the Tamils in this Island has been to systematically drive them away from this country and exterminate those remaining here. There has been a method in this whole madness which is clear to all those who know the true happenings in the last few decades. The repeated pogroms, the land grabbing, flagrant discrimination against the Tamils in University entrances and for those jobs in Government Service and State Corporations, utter neglect of Tamil areas, State terrorism in Tamil homeland are well known oppressive methods that are being adopted.

**S. Selvarajah**

Ever since the Tamils started their last ditch battle for their survival, the Sinhalese Government has gone to great lengths to accelerate the process of Exodus and Extermination. They have struck covert deals with countries like South Africa, Israel and Pakistan to bolster their armed forces. They have succeeded in setting the Tamil Speaking Muslim Community against the Tamils and use them as cats' paw. This pretext is being used to seek aid from fanatical leaders of some Muslim countries, and obtaining help from both Israel and the Muslim countries at the same time shows the ingenious manner in which the Sri Lankan Government is operating to carry on the genocide of the Tamils. Another example of the Sri Lankan Government's

nefarious skill is the manner in which it has succeeded in hoodwinking the western donor countries. Due to the intensified genocidal activities of the Sri Lankan Government, large number of Tamils have been compelled to flee their homeland. Many of them are living in a number of western countries as refugees. These refugees in such large numbers in these alien countries understandably have become a burden to the host countries. One would have thought that the best recourse for such countries is to use their influence with the Sri Lankan Government to persuade it to concede the legitimate demands of the Tamils and render financial help to rehabilitate the refugees in their own homeland. Instead they are pouring more aid which invariably will help the Sri Lankan Government in its unjust war against the Tamils. It is obvious that the Sri Lankan state machinery has succeeded in keeping these countries from knowing the extent of genocide it is carrying out. While the Tamils know the evil intentions of the government and experience the horrors of the war, the foreign governments which assist the Sri Lankan government are showing a callous disregard to the plight of the Tamils and are aiding and abetting the Sri Lankan government in its unholy war against the Tamils to their own detriment. During the present war which is now in its sixth month, there was a period when the State appeared to run short of amunitions as war planes were

dropping rocks and rubbish. But now, judging from the lavish manner in which bombs are being dropped indiscriminately in the Tamil homeland, it appears that the alleged supply of weapons and amunitions from China has started flowing in. The Sri Lankan government seems to have played its Buddhist Card adroitly with China.

*Are the Western countries, China, Pakistan and Israel aiding and abetting the Sri Lankan Government in its unjust war against the Tamils?*

It was not long ago that the former President Mr. J. R. Jayawardena took the inexperienced cavalier Rajiv Gandhi for a ride in grand style and got him to do the dirty work for him. Rajiv Gandhi was under the illusion that he had scored a diplomatic triumph. His army which was brought in allegedly to safeguard the Tamils ended up wreaking severe damages to the Tamils. Although the IPKF had to leave Sri Lanka disgraced and disillusioned, Rajiv Gandhi still appears to continue to live under that illusion.

### No Examinations...

(Continuation of Page 1)

decisive for University entrance. Usually the cut-down marks for University Entrance at this Examination is higher for the Jaffna District than even Colombo. This is evidence of the keen competition at this Examination. The students are languishing not knowing what will happen to their hopes, aspirations and endeavours to acquire University Education.

In Jaffna District alone over 11,000 children who were entitled to sit for this Examination, could not sit

In conventional wars the adversaries confine themselves to attacking military targets and as the war drags on the losing side becomes desperate and starts running amok and attacking civilian targets. In the case of Sri Lankan soldiers, they have shown a disinclination to engage the militants in combat, and from the inception of the war, they appear to revel themselves in attacking the civilians. The bombing of market places, hospitals,

If one considers the overall situation where both the politicians and the military have acknowledged their failures, the situation becomes understandable. Politicians could not find a political solution to the ethnic problem in this Island. They only aggravated it and called upon the armed forces to solve it for them. The armed forces started off thinking that they can finish off the armed boys and girls in no time. Like the great Indian Army which learnt a bitter lesson here, the Sinhala Army soon realised that there cannot be a military solution and some of its Generals openly advocated a political settlement.

However the politicians have proved themselves to be incapable of taking hard decisions. Caught up in this dilemma, the armed forces are showing their frustration by flagrantly attacking the civilians and avoiding the militants while the politicians are procrastinating and hoping that their armed forces will cow down the Tamils. It appears that they cannot see the writing on the wall and will realise their folly when it is only too late to do anything to hold the country together.

for the Examination. The estimated number of affected children in the North-East is more than 16,000.

Currently the G.C.E (O/L) Examination is being conducted by the Commissioner of Examinations. This Examination is not being held in the North East. The Government has, for purposes of propaganda announced certain centres in the East, Vavuniya and Mannar, as G.C.E (O/L) Examination Centres, but children are not there to sit the Examination. On the results of the G.C.E (O/L) Examination admission to

A/L classes is decided. Students in the North-East suffer disadvantage - viz-a-viz, their counterparts in the other Provinces. The Government does not care for these children.

Over 28,300 children are eligible to sit for this Examination in the Jaffna District. The total number of G.C.E (O/L) students affected in the North East is estimated to be over 51,000.

Education Department officials in Jaffna said they had not received any instructions in regard to holding these three Examinations that have not taken place in the North-East.

### Bombing...

(Continuation of Page 1)

ing which affected civilian dwellings. Nine persons died as a result of the bombing.

The dead are: Mahalingam (27) of Mulliyawalai, K. Selvarajah (21) of Oddusuddan, Vigneswaran (23) of Puthukudiruppu, Arunasalam (65) of Mankulam, his daughter (12), Thangarajah Sivatharan (12) of Oddusuddan, Velupillai Sivarajanai (13) of Mulliyawalai, Mahendran (21) of Oddusuddan and Subramaniam Kavithan (23) of Oddusuddan. Apart from the death of these nine persons, a number of others sustained injuries.

### Heli Attacks Poonakari

Sri Lankan Air Force Helicopters carried out widespread air strafing in Poonakari area on 30th November.

### 12 Year old boy dies

A twelve year old boy died and two others sustained injuries when Sri Lankan Air Force planes attacked the villages of Thunukkai and Mallavi in the Mullaitivu District on 30th November. Barrel bombs were also dropped in these two villages.

### Curfew lifted but Jaffna Bombed

The curfew imposed in Jaffna on 20th November, was lifted on 1st December. But on the same day Sri Lankan Air Force planes hit Thirunelvally, Alaveddy and

Valikamam North. At Alaveddy an old woman named S. Visaladchi (70) died on the spot. At Thirunelvally three persons sustained injuries and four houses were damaged.

### Tamils removed from Sambaltivu

Reports reaching Jaffna indicate that the Army surrounded the villages of Sambaltivu and Salli adjoining Trincomalee town and removed all the residents there in buses towards Trincomalee Town

on 27th November. Though like other villages of Trincomalee people have fled their homes after the June war, Sambaltivu and Salli were exceptions in that some people continued to stay in their homes though most others had fled. Now the Sri Lankan Army had rounded up the remaining and taken them towards Trincomalee. Their fate is not known. Sambaltivu and Salli have, like other villages in Trincomalee, become deserted now.

### Shot dead at Kurumanweli

The Sri Lankan Army shot dead a young man named Suntharan Prabhakaran (25) of Ondatjee Madam at Kurumanweli, when he was on his way to Kaluwanchikudi from Mandur in the Batticaloa District. This happened on 28th November. On the same day the Army arrested another person named Kunchuthamby Rasappah at the same place. Again on 1st December the Army is reported to have arrested Muthuvel Kanagalingam (22) of Velaveli, Thangarajah and Gopalan of Mahalurmunai. The fate of the arrested is not known.

## NEWS ROUND UP