

HOT SPRING

Vol. 1

20th January 1991

No. 15

Out dated Drugs and Medicines for Jaffna

This paper already published many reports about the acute shortage of drugs and medicines in Jaffna. In our issue of the 23rd December we carried the news that drugs and medicines worth Rs 4 million necessary for Jaffna Regional Director of Health Services. Now we have received the news that in a supply of drugs and medicines made to Jaffna Regional Director by the Colombo Health Dept, some drugs and medicines are found to be out dated and not fit for use.

A COWARDLY WAR

SHAMELESS AIR ATTACK AT KILINOCHCHI

The Sri Lankan Air planes bombed Kilinochchi at three different times in one day on the 12th January causing extensive damage to property and loss of civilian lives.

In one instance a bomber fired a rocket mortar on a moving vehicle on the main Kandy Road opposite the Police Station premises killing seven passengers who were all civilians.

Four other civilians who were in a nearby boutique were also killed in the same incident.

Thus altogether it was reported that eleven persons died and about seventeen were injured in the bomber attacks in Kilinochchi.

A Christian Church belonging to the JDCSI was severely damaged and three persons were injured.

At the YMCA colony in Kilinochchi, a father and son were injured and six houses were damaged. Five shops inside the market were severely damaged.

Of the seven persons killed opposite police station, three persons belonged to the same family.

They are Kulanthavelu Theivisuwaran, 26 years,

Vairamuttu Anantharatnam 38 years of age and Thivakaram Jayarani 19 years. The bodies of these three persons were brought with great difficulties to the same house at Valvetty and on the Thai Pongaday, their funerals took place simultaneously.

Theivesiwarn was already a refugee having fled Trincomalee after the war. He had walked for thirteen days through jungles to reach

Kilinochchi. He was married only eight months earlier and his young widow is now bearing her first child for the past six months. Theiveswaran was coming to Jaffna on the 12th from Kilinochchi

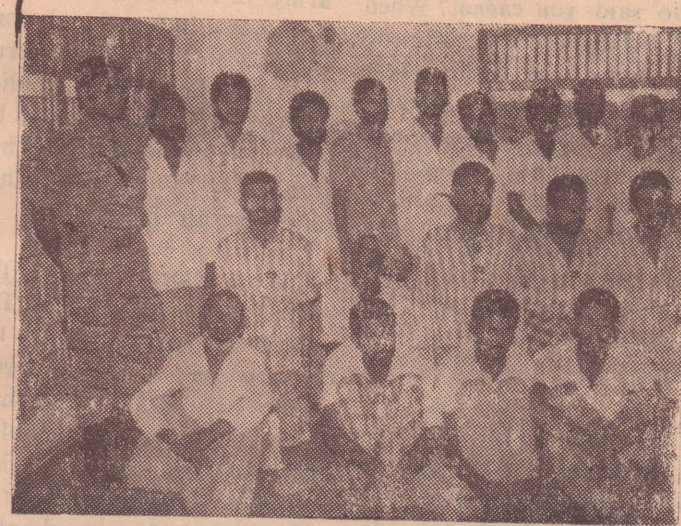
to celebrate his first Thai Pongal after marriage with his wife who was at Jaffna. Anantharatnam was a farmer at Kilinochchi, married and having three children of whom the eldest is only five years old. He was also proceeding to Jaffna for the

Thai Pongal. His family was at Jaffna.

Jeyarani is also a refugee from Trincomalee. Her marriage engagement has only been recently finalised and she was proceeding to Jaffna in the company of her relations for

(Continued on Page 6)

Very Much Alive



Picture above shows some of the 43 Police prisoners in the hands of the LTTE. These are policemen who received much publicity from the Sri Lankan Government as having been 'captured and killed by the LTTE'. The General Secretary of the PFLT is also in the picture.

LTTE hands over Police Prisoner to ICRC

On Thai Pongal day on 14.1.91 the LTTE handed over a Police Prisoner of War to Mr. Fred, the Head of the ICRC team in Jaffna.

Also the dead body of Police Sergeant Karunaratne (1152) was handed over to the ICRC team head on the same day by the LTTE.

A press note issued by the ICRC Team in Jaffna stated that the ICRC Team saw 43 Sinhalese Police men who were in the custody of the LTTE from June 1990, on the 10th of January. After seeing these men the ICRC requested the LTTE to release

one person from amongst them on humanitarian grounds for medical reasons.

The ICRC note said that the LTTE acceded to the ICRC request and released the Prisoner.

It is learnt that the prisoner released by the ICRC is Police Constable Nagaratne (No. 5434) aged 54 who was attached to the Oddusuddan Police Station at the time of his capture. He is stated to be from Ratnapura.

The LTTE also handed over to the ICRC Team the dead body of another Police-

Prisoner, Police Sergeant Karunaratne (No. 1152) aged 50. It is learnt that Karunaratne died on 9th January as a result of a heart attack.

Police Sergeant Karunaratne was attached to the Mannar Police Station at the time of his arrest and is stated to be a native of Hettipola in the Kurunegala District.

It is further learnt that the ICRC Team in turn handed over the dead body of the Police Sergeant Karunaratne and the sick constable, Nagaratne, to the Security Personnel of the Government of Sri Lanka.

KARAINAGAR NAVY LAUNCHES SHELL ATTACK

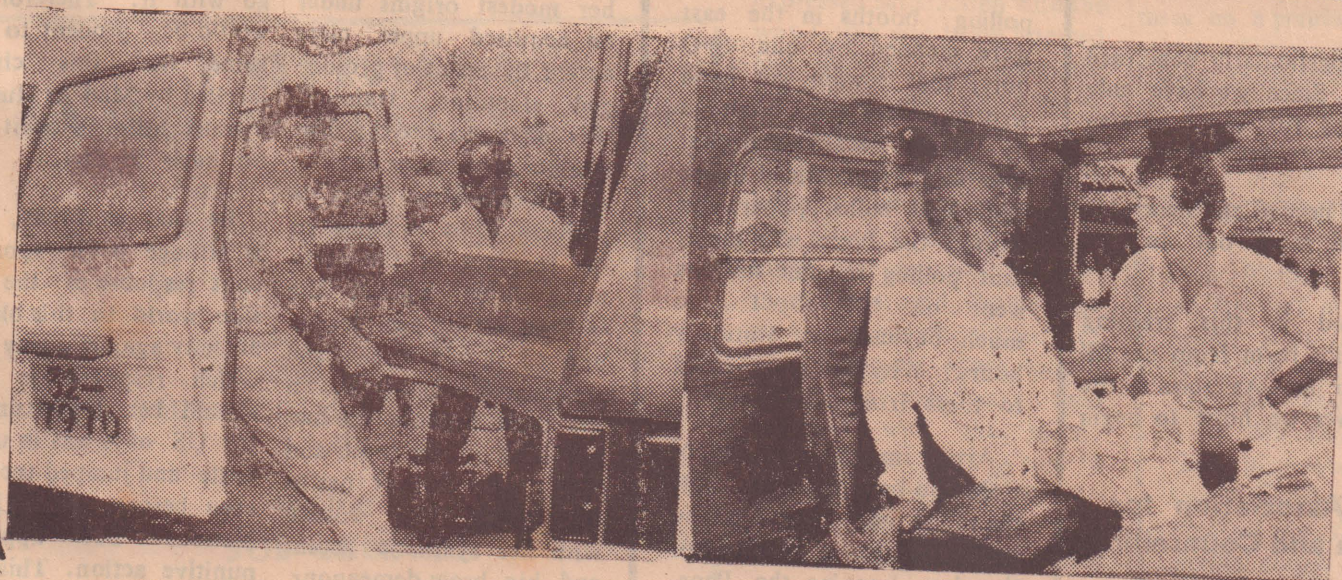
The Karainagar Navy started artillery shell attack from its camp towards the village of Karainagar.

Three shells exploded behind the Sakalavodai Subramaniam

Vidyasalai (school). Fortunately no one was injured.

It is to be noted that the shell attack was launched by the Navy at about 12 O'Clock on the noon of the 10th January even before the Government's decision not to extend the ceasefire was broadcast. The Government's decision not to extend the ceasefire was broadcast at 12.45 p.m. over the Tamil News Service of the SLBC on the 11th of January.

The Subramaniam Vidyasalai which was in sessions when the artillery shell exploded in the back-ground of the school was closed immediately and teachers and students rushed to their homes for safety.



Pictures above show:-

- (1) ICRC official takes over the dead body of a deceased prisoner - Policeman.
- (2) ICRC official converses with another released prisoner - Policeman

AN OPEN LETTER TO BIG BROTHER

Dear Aiya,

Pardon me for calling you "Aiya". It is as a matter of courtesy. I claim no blood relationship because your people claim to be descendants of the "Aryans", whereas I belong to the so-called black Dravidian group. The world is a melting pot of peoples - the black, white, yellow and brown. So it is really puerile to talk of a superior race. I wish I was born a Zulu because 1991 is the year of Independence for him. This means freedom from fear for him. Of course he was never attacked from the air, or shelled from army bases. He may have been butchered or given the "tyre necklace" treatment but not on the scale seen in Sri Lanka.

Aiya, you even now pose the question "Why Eelam, why cannot the Sinhalese live in any part of Sri Lanka?" Who said you cannot? When the Portuguese moved in, do you know that there were three "primary Races" (Veddhas, the Sinhalese and Tamils) in this island and under a variety of forces, Jaffna developed as an independent sovereign power from early ages with its own line of kings? It was the British who created a united Ceylon.

You will admit that Sir Ponnambalam was an outstanding figure who pioneered the struggle for independence. BIG BROTHER and small brother stood shoulder to shoulder in this struggle, whether it be in the political or trade union field. If instead the Tamils had a "Jinnah", they would have been left alone to mind their own business.

The "historical" ill-feeling between us was brewing after independence and the "Sinhala Only" Act introduced by the SW(OR)D of the Nation resulted in the satyagraha at Galle Face Green. The satyagrahis were assaulted by thugs, some were thrown into the Beira and others were urinated on. When the police arrived, the thugs withdrew. But the Prime Minister came and ordered the police away. The thugs returned. This was the first example of Sinhala violence against the Tamils and the government's manner of maintaining "law and order" among the Tamils.

Police thuggery at the Jaffna St. Patrick's College carnival, police burning of the Jaffna market, Jaffna Public Library and the Jaffna M. P.'s house followed. Satyagrahis at the Jaffna Kachcheri were belted by the army in 1961. In the seventies a peaceful international conference of Tamils was disrupted by the Jaffna police and about 9 people died by electrocution owing to wires cut loose by police firing, into the air of course.

Soon after, the Jaffna Mayor was assassinated. The militants - sorry Aiya the "terrorists" - took over. After July 1983 the army, navy, air force and the police went all out for the "final solution". Cordon and search, search and destroy, shoot at sight, no post mortems, loot, burn, dynamite, rape and every other imaginable brutality was let loose on the Tamil. The so-called "accord" followed. The Indians took over from where you left. The Tamils continued to suffer.

His Excellency, your President, who plays a bodhisattva role and preaches told the LTTE, "Please talk to me or take me blindfolded to your den so that we may talk". He told the same thing to the JVP - "subversives" as you prefer to call them. The LTTE opted for talks. For 14 months the talking was on. Now the government says that the LTTE betrayed them. Who betrayed whom?

While talking, your government went on with colonisation pell-mell. They opened police stations in the East and posted STF personnel. Heavy arms like LMGs, SMGs and AK 47s were issued to them. Traditional Tamil villages lay abandoned. It is said that most of the Sinhalese colonists were straight from Welikada. Israel is another country that colonises traditional Palestinian homelands. If Israelis are wrong in doing it, how can your government be right? Also the government failed to dissolve a defunct NEPC and hold elections with the least possible delay. But it procrastinated and in May started a dialogue with the Tamil Quislings. What more, it told the Tigers to surrender arms if they wanted to contest elections. The Premadasa-LTTE talks commenced somewhere in May, 1989. Should the government wait till May, 1991 to call in the Quislings and demand the surrender of arms? Aiya, who betrayed whom?

Your politicians, intellectuals and the media say a monthful about "entering the democratic process". Were all your elections after 1977 conducted according to the rules of the game? Did not your Elections Commissioner report that the NEPC elections were unfair and rigged? That the IPKF prevented non-Quislings from submitting nomination papers resulting in a "no-contest" in the North, that some polling booths in the east were manned by one SPO only, that Jewans got handwritten voters lists prepared by Grama Sevakas and went into booths with armed thugs, demanded ballot papers and stuffed the boxes with them, that polling in some stations went on till about 7 pm much beyond the statutory hours? Why are you blind to these irrefutable facts?

Aiya, imagine the city of Colombo being bombed more than 500 times over a period of 3 months at all times of the day. Imagine the Panagoda army firing shells over a range of 10 miles in all

(Continued on Page 5)

THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

Margaret Thatcher the Iron Lady

This woman was born the daughter of a grocer in suburban England - she lived on top of the Grocery Store with her parents and sister. But she was not the ordinary grocer's daughter, she was very intelligent and equally ambitious and so it was that after an excellent performance at the local Grammar School, she went to Oxford and obtained an honours degree in Chemistry. But the life of an ordinary Chemist was not for her, so she went to London and enrolled at Lincoln's Inn and became a Barrister. Whilst undergoing her legal apprenticeship, she was itching to hitch her limited fortunes to a prosperous bandwagon and what better than the true blue Conservative Party. So she attended as many of its party conferences as she could, hoping to be noticed, if not for her talents but for her striking beauty. But it was not the Conservative Party that took notice of her but an old divorcee of an Oil Magnate called Thatcher and so the humble grocer's lass called Margaret Roberts became the prosperous Mrs. Dennis Thatcher and exploiting the security provided by this alliance, she was able to devote all of her time and energy to politics. First as a mere member of Parliament and later as the record breaking Party Leader and Prime Minister for three full terms.

But the end which finally came her way though sadly tragic was long overdue and was poetic justice for the brutal manner in which she egged out her previous boss Ted Heath. This very ordinary woman who hid her modest origins under an acquired upper class accent, the result of prolonged elocution training, was made to bite the dust like her predecessor, because the Conservative Party is ruthless when it comes to the fortunes of the party being pitted against the welfare of its own leader and so in mid stream, she was unceremoniously shown the door, because she had got long in the tooth and was of no further use to the Party. This woman with her synthetic accent and high brow demeanour, coupled with her bogus and magical promises such

as slashing the mortgage rate from twelve to two percent, which never materialised, her brutality as so vividly symbolised as when she ordered the sinking of the Argentine Naval ship the SS Belgrano with a complement of three hundred sailors, when this ship was nowhere near the battle front in the Falklands, had to be dismissed sooner than later. Her parting remarks that in retirement she hopes to be a back seat driver not for her British successor but for George Bush the American President, possibly to wind him up yet further against Iraq, indicates the measure of her blood lust. So do rest in peace dear Margaret, England and the world will be the better for it.

MAD AS HUSSEIN

The Iraqi Dictator's first name SADAM in reverse would read MAD AS and that in a way is most appropriate because who else but a mad man would have done what Hussein did to little Kuwait - One fine day we heard over the air waves that he had accused little Kuwait of tapping Oil in Iraqi territory and the next minute his mighty army invaded this little Emirate without any let or hindrance, taking the whole by surprise. Now we well know what it is to dig a water well and that it would definitely not be possible for one to stealthily dig such a water well in the land of our neighbour, without our neighbour noticing the trespass. If that is so with an ordinary waterwell, then how much more conspicuous would have been the digging of an OIL WELL with all the technical ramifications that go with it. Therefore it would be prudent to assume that this charge levelled by Mad As Hussein against little Kuwait has no basis in fact.

Be that as it may, what is strange is the spontaneous response of the outside world to this blatant atrocity against a tiny state which response is as it should be. Unfortunately the US of A was in undue haste and jumped the gun, even before the United Nations had approved punitive action. This fait accompli by the US of A

(Continued on Page 5)

Skilled Helper's Training Program

The eight year war and the four decades of oppression would certainly have impacted our lives. In such an environment we need to take care of our physical and mental health.

Our center - "Shanthiham" is particularly concerned about mental health of our people. Since we have only a skeleton staff, we feel the need for more women and men in the field.

We certainly would provide the needed and necessary training for volunteers who would reach out to the needy in the community.

Those of you who are interested in this training program, please get your application form from us, fill them out, and send the same to us. As soon as the personal screening interviews are over we hope to begin our training sessions.

Executive Director,

The Association for Health and Counselling,

"Shanthiham"

15, Kachcheri Nallur Road, Jaffna.

The Tamils have been betrayed

In our last issue we published portions of Prof. C. Suntharalingam's speech in Parliament on the Debate on the Sinhala Only Bill.

Prof. Suntharalingam exposed the breaches of faith and treachery committed by the Sinhalese leaders in his speech. We continue Prof. Suntharalingam's speech this week also.

(Continued from last week)

The Ceylon Tamil Congress which had by then raised the 'fifty-fifty' cry was loud and insistent. Its counterpart the Sinhala Maha Saba which had been formed by Mr. Solomon W.R.D. Bandaranayake was no less communal in its croaking that time. My good Friend, the Hon. Prime Minister was openly charged by the present Hon. Minister of Education, with suffering from that horrible disease which has already been described as "communalism complicated by careerism". Communalism by itself was a bad disease, but when complicated by careerism was too wicked and unbearable. So said indignant and not degenerate Mr. Dahanayake, when he came to the Jaffna Youth Congress meeting presided over by me in 1941. Mr. Dahanayake devoted a good deal of his speech to the communalists who were careerists the chief of them being my good friend the Hon. Prime Minister.

Committee of the State Council

A Committee of the State Council was appointed on September 20, 1945, on the Motion of my good Friend the Hon. Prime Minister who was then acting as Leader of the Council. In that Committee Mr. J.R. Jayawardene was Chairman and Mr. Julius de Lanerolle was Additional Secretary. I repeat that the Committee was appointed to secure the object of making Sinhalese and Tamil as official languages of Ceylon. The Committee submitted its report to the Government in December, 1946. It is published in Sessional Paper XXII of 1946 entitled "Sinhalese and Tamil as Official Languages". There was no question but that both were to be official languages on equal footing.

I am not going to weary the House with details of the recommendations made in that Sessional Paper. I would invite the attention of the House to Chapter 13 of that Sessional Paper which contains a summary of the recommendations which, whether you agreed with them or not, were very comprehensive and detailed in nature. They

appeared under heads such as: "Fundamental", "Development of Languages", "Local Government", "Administration of Justice", "Civil Administration", etc and in fact minute details were given in respect of certain departments of Government. I must bring to the notice of the House two recommendations in particular: (i) From January, 1957 English shall cease to be the language of Administration and Sinhalese and Tamil shall take its place" and (ii) "Legislation be introduced to make the language of the majority of the population living within the jurisdiction of a local body the official language of that body whenever it can be conveniently done before the close of 1951."

Now, my good Friends there want these two recommendations to be modified by deleting the words "And Tamil" Now suppose you pass this Bill and you want to make Sinhalese the official language let us see what will happen to the Municipality of Jaffna. The procedure in normal sessions can be in Tamil but when it comes to the question of writing to headquarters in Colombo - I hope it will never come - when that arises, what happens? You will have resistance and rebellion. What happens if a person who writes from Jaffna to Colombo must write in Sinhalese?

Mr. C. R. Beligammana (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Local Government and Cultural Affairs) Learn Sinhalese.

Mr. Suntharalingam: Yes, we will learn to use firearms before we learn Sinhalese. Make no mistake on that score. Learn Sinhalese, he says! The Commissioner of the Jaffna Municipality must be a Sinhala Basha man, a Sinhala Bunkumsingha C. C. S... That shall not be. Certainly not in our lifetime. Look at the supercilious way a responsible Member of the Government deals with this matter. Look at him He. says "Learn Sinhalese."

No, we need not. We can understand the lingo that you talk-even better than some of you-but we do not want to waste time in writing your language. We do not want

it. What benefit can we get? A knowledge of English will enable us to walk freely and open to us doors all over the world. Study Sinhalese and do what? I want to know that. The Report and recommendations of the Select Committee of the State Council were, as rightly stated by the hon. Member for Jaffna never considered by the legislature. They however formed the basis of certain piecemeal action by the Board of Ministers under the Donoughmore Constitution and later by the Government of Ceylon under the Soulbury Constitution.

Prof. C. Suntharalingam in Parliament

The first Cabinet under the Soulbury Constitution was constituted in October, 1947, with the late Mr. D. S. Senanayake as Prime Minister. My good Friend, Mr. S.W. R. D. Bandaranaike, was Minister of Health and Local Government, Leader of the House and Senior Minister in Cabinet, presiding in the absence of the Prime Minister. At that time he was the heir-apparent to the Prime Ministerial Top Hat! Mr. C. Suntharalingam was Minister of Commerce and Trade. In case, some of my new Friends do not know the fact may I repeat it? It concerns the specific circumstances in which I became Cabinet Minister in the Senanayake Cabinet. Mr. D. S. Senanayake appealed to me to join his Cabinet because, as he stated, in the presence of Sir O. E. Goonetilleke-our Governor General-if the Tamils did not join no claims for independence would be entertained by the British Government and that Ceylon would have no chance for any further political advancement.

My good Friends opposite do not realize, as they should that the Soulbury Constitution never gave us full Dominion Status. It had to be obtained from the British. Mr. D.S. Senanayake persistently appealed to me and my good friend Sir John Kotalawela and Sir Oliver Gooneatillake, who was not Governor General then, on more than one occasion visited my house to persuade me to join the Cabinet.

I wish to summarize the position of the three languages, English, Sinhalese and Tamil vis-a-vis - each other as at the time of the first Parliament of Ceylon: a position with which my good Friend, the Hon. Prime Minister was in cordial agreement and which he strove to build up:-

(1) In place of English, Sinhalese and Tamil were to be the official languages of Ceylon. (2) Transitional steps were being taken to achieve that object. (3) Sinhalese and Tamil were to be the official languages on an equal footing. They were to be accorded "equality of status" the then equivalent of "parity of status" throughout the Island. (4) English was not to be completely displaced. It was "also" to be used in the legislature.

Now I come to the crucial point. What does "parity of

Tamil will not be treated alike there would have been no independence and no independent Ceylon and no occasion for this Bill.

National Flag

I do not know whether my good Friend the Prime Minister remembers the occasion when in the Cabinet Mr. D. S. Senanayake came forward with the proposal that the *Bauddha Sinhala Kodiya* should be the national Kodiya of Ceylon-I protested most strongly. I walked away from the Cabinet meeting and my good Friend the

status" mean? That phrase has been bandied about for the last 18 months in this country and during the course of this Debate. I have never heard or read a more addle-headed expression of views than in regard to the meaning of this phrase. The worst offender in this regard is my good Friend the Hon. Prime Minister himself. He defined, in October, 1955, parity in the following terms: "if you have parity as between Sinhalese and Tamil you must teach Sinhalese and Tamil in all schools in the country. That is a sine qua non. But you have not done so."

Has my hon. Friend taken leave of his Oxford education? Whoever said that "parity of status" meant that Sinhalese children must learn Tamil and Tamil children should study Sinhalese all throughout the Island?

So, you will observe that in 1947 parity of status meant and implied that Sinhalese and Tamil were in practice to be on the same footing in all matters where any Governmental action intervened or was necessary. That was the situation when in 1947 the first Parliament met and the first Cabinet under the late Rt. Hon. D.S. Senanayake was formed.

You are aware, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or perhaps you are not aware but most of our Friends on both sides of the House are in fact not aware that the Cabinet had to consider practically as its first duty after independence three questions: the Indo-Ceylon question in regard to the securing of the civic status of Indian and Pakistani persons and the flag issue. There was no language question. I must say at once even at the risk of repetition that if at that time there was any doubt or misgiving or suspicion that Sinhalese and

Prime Minister very kindly telephoned to me to make peace with our leader D.S. Senanayake. I told Mr. D.S. Senanayake at that time that if he brought any resolution on the National Flag to Parliament I shall speak against it, I shall vote against it and I shall get out of the Cabinet. D. S. Senanayake never dared bring a resolution making the *Bauddha Sinhala Kodiya* the national flag of Ceylon. A Committee was ultimately appointed and there was a report issued. You will see, on the top of the building of this House, during the day time, the ugly abomination called the fraud flag flying as the national flag.

I am happy to see that the new Members on the other side are now all flying either the Buddhist flag or the ancient *Bauddha Sinhala Kodiya*.

Defence Agreement

You will observe again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Cabinet in dealing with this independence went on the basis that Sinhalese and Tamil were on an equal footing. My good Friend the Prime Minister knows only too well - only three of us who were in the Cabinet are Members of this Parliament - that before we could discuss independence we had to discuss the military bases in Ceylon.

The Hon. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike: That is utterly untrue. We discussed no military bases in Ceylon. That is not true at all.

Mr. Suntharalingam: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Prime Minister is either talking through his hat or talking through a false memory or uttering a falsehood.

(Continuation of Page 4)

The Tamils...

(Continuation of Page 3)

The Hon. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike: Certainly not.

Mr. Suntharalingam: He says "certainly not". I have sent for the Sessional Paper now and I shall show him that it is recorded that the defence agreements had to be decided upon before our independence was agreed on.

[The Hon. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike: That agreement has nothing to do with bases.

Mr. Suntharalingam: My good Friend says that agreement has nothing to do with bases. Has my good Friend taken leave of his knowledge of the English language. I want to know that.

The Hon. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike: Look at the Motion and read it.

Mr. Suntharalingam: If you will oblige me by getting Sessional Papers of 1947 and 1948 I will show the Prime Minister -

The Hon. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike: Are you discussing bases of the language question?

Mr. Suntharalingam: This has everything to do with the language Bill. If you will be patient a bit we will deal with some of your somersaults and kuthukaranams in a few minutes. You think you can fool the country as you fool your friends.

The Hon. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike: You can succeed in fooling nobody.

Mr. Suntharalingam: Oh! You wait and see.

The Hon. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike: You buffoon.

Mr. Suntharalingam: You idiot.

Hon. Members: Withdraw, withdraw.

Mr. Suntharalingam: You withdraw it first.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Prime Minister must also withdraw his remark.

Defence Agreements

Mr. Suntharalingam: Now you may be interested in this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My good friend the Prime Minister seeks to get away with the misdeeds of his past. In the Debate on the Independence Bill or rather on the Governor's Address of the day, there was specific reference to these British bases, to these agreements, there was specific reference in my speech to the necessity, if those agreements could not be terminated by mutual agreement for terminating them only by an

Act of Parliament. And yet he has the temerity to come and tell us that there are no agreements about bases. When that document comes I shall show him what it is. I shall also show him that there is provision for your writ not to run into the Trincomalee area.

My hon. Friend shakes his head. If that is the way he wants to deal with this question I am sorry, not for him, but for this country. I shall deal with him later in this regard.

Language Question - Late forties and early fifties

The Cabinet had also to consider from time to time the implementation of the language Bill and the recommendation of the Select Committee of the State Council in so far as they were accepted by the Cabinet. Amendments to the Education Code and circulars were made from time to time. I was dismissed from the Cabinet in December, 1948 on the Indian and Citizenship Act.

In my time there was no such thing, not even a whisper about the language issue or any problem in the offing. In 1949, my good friend the Hon. Member for Dandagamuwa, now Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs, elevated to the high dignity of an important office.

Mr. Iriyagolle: It is no dignity.

Mr. Suntharalingam: Just a rise in the ladder - there is only one more step for him - the Hon. Member moved an Amendment in the course of the Debate in the Governor-General's address:-

"But regret that Address does not disclose that Your Excellency's Ministers propose to take any steps towards the introduction of the national languages as the State languages - Official Report 14th July 1948 Vol. 6 c. 183."

My good friend nods assent. I refer to Hansard Volume 6 column 183. proceedings of 14 July, 1948. It will thus be seen that everything, even on that date, was settled policy in regard to official languages of Ceylon, and the present Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs was only a little impatient in regard to the early implementation of this policy.

The Government Parliamentary party seems to have considered the question of official languages about 9 months later and I find in the statement made by the

last Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, in the last Parliament on October, 19, 1955 in connection with the Debate on State Languages on the parity motion introduced by the present hon. Leader of the Opposition the following remark:-

Mr. Bandaranayake - that is our Mr. Solomon Bandaranayake-

"could not have forgotten that he himself had confirmed in the Government Parliamentary Party of 3rd. April, 1950 the fact that Sinhalese and Tamil have been declared to be the official languages of the country on terms of equality"- Official Report on 19th October, 1955 Vol. 23 c. 652;

It may be convenient for my good friend the Prime Minister to listen to this. As late as April, 1950, the present Prime Minister Solomon Bandaranayake said that Sinhalese and Tamil were the official languages on terms of equality. Please see Hansard Volume 23, column 652, proceedings of 19th October, 1955.

Mr. Iriyagolle: Is all this relevant? You were then on the Government side.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: order please.

Mr. Suntharalingam: I was not there. After 1948, you have been there more than you wished. A few months later on 19th July, 1950, the Senanyake Cabinet, of which the present Prime Minister was then still the leading Minister issued a White Paper containing Government proposals for Educational Reforms in Ceylon. They were debated at length on the 26th and 27th September, 1950. My good friend the present Minister of Education took part in the debate and so did the hon. Member for Vavuniya. At no time did any of the speakers in the course of the Debate utter one word - not even my good friend the Junior Minister for Home Affairs - about only one language being the official language of Ceylon. Then in, December, 1950, the Education (Amendment) Bill was passed and in that connection my hon. Friend the Minister of Education gave expression to these prophetic words. I quote him from Hansard Volume 9 column 985 proceedings of 12 December, 1950.

"When we look through the other provisions of this Bill we see how dangerous it is to allow this country to be ruled by a coterie of amateurs and careerists (Official report 12th December, 1950 Volume 9 c. 985)"

How prophetic were those words and how prophetic of himself. That Bill came into operation in 1951. It is still good law. It gave effect, in the sphere of education, to the policy which was till then beyond doubt the policy accepted after consideration and controversy by the country. For the first time without using the phrase "equal footing", "equality of status", "parity of status" in fact that Act enacted what, in practice, parity of status to Sinhalese and Tamil, meant and implied. Up to this date it is good law.

I want to know the effect of this new Bill on that law. I would invite the attention of the House to Regulations 4, 5 and 6 where under the caption of "Medium of Instruction in the Schools", there are special provisions in the Schedule to the Act No. 5 of 1951. According to that, in any school in any part of the island if there were not less than fifteen children speaking the Tamil language in the whole of that school in the primary section, Government had to make provision for their schooling. Vice Versa: If there were fifteen Sinhalese children in any Tamil area the State had to make provision for their schooling in Sinhalese. To this day, that law obtains.

You can see how a system, carefully designed, is now being sought to be thrown to the winds. Those Regulations are law, it is not merely a code, it is a part of the Education (Amendment) Act No. 5 of 1951. There is provision for Muslim or Burgher children to study through English. There is provision for English as a second or rather bilingual language from the third standard onwards and complete instructions in Sinhalese and Tamil from the third standard onwards. You see how the whole system gets integrated. Sinhalese children study in Sinhalese and English. Tamil children study in Tamil and English, and Burgher or Muslim children study in English and Sinhalese or Tamil - a perfect example of parity in practice as far as schools are concerned.

In regard to examinations, exactly the same thing was introduced. You can take up an examination, S.S.C. or H.S.C. in English, Sinhalese and Tamil. There is parity in the system. And what is still more important, when it comes to the question of university education, all those children can follow a course of study in English and they can be compelled to retain

their knowledge of Sinhalese or Tamil by compulsory essay papers or similar papers at the university stage. Correspondance between the members of the public and the Departments of Government was carried out in English, Sinhalese or Tamil.

But what do our good Friends, the neo-nationalists do now? You will see how in fact by administrative action parity of status was accorded to Sinhalese and Tamil which had been ordained by resolution of the legislature to be used as the State language of Ceylon.

Arthur Wijeyawardena Official Languages Commission

Soon after the Enactment was passed in 1951 the Official Languages Commission, consisting of Sir Arthur Wijeyawardena as Chairman, Mr. Villavarayan and Mr. de Lanerolle was appointed. The terms of reference of that Commission related to use the very words *"to the proposed transition from English to Sinhalese and Tamil as the official languages of the administration of the Government"*. My good Friend the Hon. Prime Minister was even then a Member of that Cabinet, when that Commission was appointed and he must be presumed to have approved of its terms of reference.

You will thus see that at that time in May, 1951, there was no language problem at all. There was not even the semblance of a language issue. My good Friend the Hon. Prime Minister was sailing on placid waters, with moonshine all around and not a speck of cloud on the clear blue skies - at least he was not aware of it.

As I said before, was he not the heir-apparent to the late Rt. Hon. Don Stephen Senanayake, the Prime Minister? There was then, perhaps, no fear that the Top Hat might find its way on some one else's head; and Sir John Kotelawala himself indignantly refused such honour. At that stage did not my good Friend say he would be happy to be the humble servant of the people of Ceylon, with all the humility, which he alone could show? I defy my good Friend the Hon. Prime Minister or any hon. Member on the other side, including the hon. nominated Members prove to me that there was any official language problem in 1951.

(to be continued)

BETWEEN THE LINES IN THE NEWS

Gracious Gesture!

The pompous Proclamation by Government pundits that there will be a 'temporary cessation of military operations on Tamil Thai pongal Day -14. 01. 91' is a pious platitude trotted out to the world at large that the Government desires Peace and Happiness of the Tamils. Their actions, however, give the lie to their public pronouncements. What did the Sri Lankan Armed Forces do on Deepavali Day and X' mas Eve? They dropped Ranjan's 'bread baskets' on a stricken and starving Tamil population already bowled over by an economic embargo on essential commodities and medical supplies. Even torch cells and candles and fuel are taboo on the grounds that it will reach Tamil militants!

Six more months of war on LTTE!

The Government spokesman of the Army High Command in the person of Hamilton

Wanasinghe poured forth his venom for continuation of war in the same breath as they proclaimed a 24 hour cessation of military operations on Pongal Day. This prolongation of the conflict is reminiscent of another Army Commander under the former President, Junius Jayawardena who wanted three months to bring the 'Tigers' to book. Alas! he is in the higher echelons of the Army High Command now swallowing his own words after so much blood has flowed under the bridges of time. Thus another prospect of six more months of bloodshed and destruction is foreshadowed in the New Year!

This bellicose pronouncement of this gentleman, Hamilton is drownd in the World longing for Peace and yet rocking on the edge of a precipice of War;

President's Pet Aversion

As former Prime Minister of Housing under the

Jayawardena Government — President Premadasa won the plaudits of the International Community for his housing policy in advocating houses for all in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan spokesman at Male in Maldives has proposed that Nineteen Ninety One should be an International Year of Housing at the SAARC meeting. what a travesty and parody! and a tongue in cheek policy of the

Jingle bells

Government. At a time here in the North East we see destruction of houses and public buildings by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces. Is it a ruse to get International Aid to divert Funds for destruction in the North East under the garb of a National Housing Policy? We hope the International Community will not be fooled all the time!

'Radio SEAC'

The South Asian Beam of the SLBC for listeners in

South Asia is strongly reminiscent of RADIO SEAC during World War II. It has the unique distinction of beaming simultaneously in four languages - Hindi, Sinhala, Tamil and English. Its News Versions are at Variance with one another in all languages notably English and Tamil. Comments are broadcast from the local dailies and Government Gazeteers - Thinnakaran and Daily News with some comments from 'Dinapathi', Virakesari and The Island if they suit their propaganda purposes!

Significantly, the SLBC has invited enterprising enterpreneurs for advertisements, spots and jingles for broadcast for its South Asian Air waves. Here is a sample of a 'Jinlge' which could be used with profits for the SLBC coffers.

Memorial Tablet

In Austria for Amparai Tamils A. I. expresses Disappointment

The Amnesty International at Worgl, Austria has planted two linden trees in the heart of worgl(Austria) and erected a memorial tablet between the two trees for two Tamil farmers from the Amparai District. The memorial tablet briefly informs passers - by the fate of the two Tamil farmers.

For a number of years Amnesty International has been investigating the cases of Sinnathamby Karthigesu and Manikumaran Murugesu, two young Tamil farmers from the Amparai District, who in December, 1985, were taken into police custody in Kondavadduvan in the Amparai District. From the police station they were taken to the local prison. Since that point of time, they have "disappeared".

The Amnesty International therefore decided to inform the media in Austria and the public, who supported the request for information about the whereabouts of Tamils with more than 12,000 signatures on a petition addressed to the Government of Sri Lanka. In summer, 1990 this petition was handed over to

"Come to Sri Lanka for the Gam Udawe Housing Exhibition, 1991 and the Venue is the bloody sceario of the North East where there is space and more to build houses on the ruins of public buildings and houses can rise like the phoenix from the dust at a faster pace than their destruction. "The background for this jingle could be the muffled spine tingling sound of-bombs and shells and the crackling of live bodies roasting on old tyres!

Let us hope that Industrialists abroad will make use of this Golden Opportunity to advertise their pre-fabricated houses in Sri Lanka especially in the North and East where they are most needed.

the Consulate of Sri Lanka in Vienna supporting the A.I. appeal for clarification of the fate of the Tamils.

It is learnt that neither the Government of Sri Lanka nor its representatives in Austria showed any reaction. There was not even a confirmation that the Government had received the 12,000 signatures. The A. I. has expressed its disappointment at the apparent lack of interest in 'Human Rights Issues' and the 'disappearance' of the two Tamils in Amparai.

In memory of the two young Tamils, the A. I. planted two linden trees in November 1990 in the heart of Worgl and erected a memorial tablet between the two linden trees. The memorial tablet briefly informs passers-by of the fate of the two Tamils. This event was given wide publicity in the Austrian Press with pictures of the trees and tablet and people collecting to read the engraving.

The A. I. continues to agitate for information in respect of the two Tamils and seeks the support of all for its work on Human Rights.

An open...

(Continuation of Page 4) directions at any time, any day. Imagine gunboats firing shells into villages from the coasts. Imagine your markets and other public institutions being bombed repeatedly. All these are happening to the Tamils in the North and East. From almost the 11th

of June, you have imposed an embargo on all items coming to the North. We have no electricity- Even the Jaffna Hospital under the ICRC is short of drugs. At this Hospital, water tanks are filled once a day at 6 am and lights on from 6 pm to 9 pm only, because of insufficient fuel to operate the

generators. In the East it is mass genocide of Tamils by the forces, the allied groups and the Muslims encouraged and aided by the Government. Tamil villages have been emptied and the homeless are roaming the jungles foodless. Where are the NGOs? Lakhs of Tamils are refugees. Your bombers dropped on us "shit bombs" as well.

Hitler buried the dead but your Government burns them with tyres or throws them into rivers or the sea or leaves them by the wayside to be eaten by crows and dogs.

In the Island of Nainativu, sometime back, people were asked to assemble for rations. His Excellency arrived soon after by helicopter. He went to Palali Base too. Do you believe that the Tamils gave him a rousing welcome and expressed satisfaction with the way Jaffna was being bombed and starved of all essentials? How long can this sort of propaganda last?

Aiya, just think of the billions that have gone down the drain, the thousands killed and maimed, the properties destroyed, the damage to the economic growth of all-Sri Lanka. More than 3 Mahavelis could have been achieved with the money spent. Each Tiger is said to cost a staggering US\$580,000/- Is it worth it?

Why not live and let live, dear Aiya?

Yours Sincerely,
small brother.

This and That...

(Cnotinuation of Page 2) has in fact taken the edge off the international action and one must await developments to know the outcome. But to us Tamils here in EELAM, the solicitude displayed by the world community does indeed look strange, when no one seems to care about the brutality being displayed to the Tamils by the powers that be.

If George Bush thinks that Saddam Hussein should be tried for war crimes, in that Iraqi soldiers shot two Kuwait children in front of their parents, then how many war crimes should be arraigned against Jayawardene and Premadasa or is it that the Tamils lack prosperous oil wells and therefore their lives are cheap and dispensable. Oh justice strange are thy ways.

J SITHARA DRIVE IN RESTAURANT

A Name for Wholesome - Tasty
HOME COOKED MEALS
For the First Time in Town

(Opposite Lane in Front of
Chundikuli Girls' College)

19/3, COLOMBOGAM ROAD, CHUNDIKULI.
JAFFNA.

Managed by :

JOE EGERTON

ZENITH MARKETING AND
ADVERTISING SYSTEMS

Freedom Fighters

Once freedom fighters were made in our soil.
At last but not least fighters are born in our soil.
Enemy sows thorns in our soil.
We warn against thorns sown by enemy.
Freedom fighters have talent to destroy the thorns,
Even with bare feet, but with great morale!
Once destroyed, never flourish.
Spirit for freedom is not extinguished.
Fighters for free nation are distinguished.
Rights should be got by fight!

- Vel -

HOT SPRING

VOL: 1 SUNDAY 20th JAN. 1991 ISSUE 15

War is War So let us have Peace

The news report covered in these pages would give some indication of the loss of life to the Tamil civilians and destruction of their property after the Sinhala Government decided to restart the war after a temporary and not altogether too lullseven - day old cessation of hostilities between the 3rd of January and 10th of January.

Nor are the reports covered in these pages exhaustive.

Even with these available reports it is clear that Tamil civilians pay a very very heavy price.

It is in these circumstances that the Government's empty boasts that it is carrying on a war only against the LTTE and not against the Tamil people - is not merely a mockery but also very very tragic.

Like a lawyer with a subtle and sharp brain to distinguish various matters in a net work of complications the Sri Lankan Government has announced that its war in the North East is not against the Tamil people.

Well, not only the day to day incidents of this war - but the history of Sinhala imperialism puts to falsity the pious claims of the Government of Sri Lanka.

Treacherously in 1956 - the Sinhala imperialists brought the Sinhala Only Act. The Tamils protested very peacefully opposite the Parliament.

What was the reaction? Assault - not only on the protestors but also on Tamil pedestrians and others going about on their business in various parts of the City of Colombo.

Was it all? What happened at Gal Oya in the Amparai District in 1956? Simultaneously with the assault on Tamils in Colombo Sinhala hoodlums - settled in Gal Oya for the prime purpose of converting Tamil areas into Sinhala areas - set upon the Tamils and their property there. The Gal Oya holocaust made the Tamils realise that Sinhala colonization of Tamil areas under pretext of land development and agriculture can make them slaves in their own homelands. Against whom was the war of 1956? Was it not against the Tamils?

Again in 1958- the Sinhalese hooligans and rowdies were let loose against the Tamils all over the Sinhalese areas. In 1958 Tamil people throughout the seven Sinhala Provinces lost lives and property and it was their homeland-Tamil Eelam - that was their only refuge. The Tamils have not forgotten this.

Then leaving minor incidents here and there, we come to the Tamil holocaust in 1977 and 1983. There was the 'Dharmista' Government of the sanctimonious cat. During both these years the Tamils in the Sinhala areas who had gone there for employment or business had to pay dearly with their lives and property. Again it was Tamil Eelam which gave consolation to the Tamils.

What is most despicable in all these pogroms was that someone or other of the leading lights of the Government of the day had their hidden hands behind these anti-Tamil pogroms.

The 1983 pogroms brought foreign intervention. Perforce Sinhala imperialists were compelled to 'change tactics'

'War is war but not against the Tamil people' theory is the newest invention of Sinhala imperialism after 1983 - to lull foreign countries. But Tamil people do realize that Sinhala imperialist war has changed theatre only merely to deceive the world.

Genocide is taking place in the Tamil homeland now under of course the pretext of fighting 'terrorism', little realizing that world history is full of evidence of state terrorism.

Well we would reiterate that if the Government does not want to commit genocide of the Tamils-the only thing it can do is to abandon war and go for negotiations with the LTTE. Without of course counsel from those Buddhist clerics who renounced mundane pleasures for the attainment of 'Nirvana' but are still wealthy enough to contribute to the war fund to commit genocide of Tamils.

- ★ Over 2,500 Dead ★ Over 200 sexually assaulted
- ★ Over 2,000 houses destroyed!
- ★ Over 166,000 rendered refugees!

Preliminary Survey in Batticaloa District

A preliminary survey of the death and destruction due to the North East war in Batticaloa District undertaken during the period of temporary cessation of hostilities between the 3rd. to 10th January indicates that more than 2500 civilians had been killed in the District, more than 200 women married and unmarried have been subjected to sexual assault; more than 2000 houses have been blasted or burnt by the armed forces and over 5000 houses looted.

The report adds that the Batticaloa District consists of ten AGA's Divisions. Except in one of these AGA's Divisions - namely the Koralaipattu North AGA's Division (Vaharai) - the armed forces of the Sri Lanka Government have entered all other areas and caused great death and destruction.

There are about 100,000 Tamil speaking families with a population of about 450,000 persons. A total of 35082 families had been compelled to flee their homes. The number of persons constituting these families is around 166,000.

These 166,000 refugees are living in over 50 refugee centres in houses of friends and relations or in forests to escape the Sri Lankan Army attention.

The Sri Lankan Army is encamped in over 50 centres including four school buildings. At the same time refugees in schools are being vacated.

There are over 1,500 muslim refugees from the villages of Kattankudy and Eravur.

It is estimated that over 2000 houses have been blasted or burnt and over 5000 houses looted by the Sri Lankan Army and allied gangs.

Temples, libraries and social service centres have also been damaged by the Sri Lankan Army. It is estimated that over 500 such common institutions have been badly damaged by the Army. Thousands of cattle and poultry have been captured and taken for food by the army. Thousands of acres of paddy lands and highland cultivations also have been destroyed by the Army.

The report adds that over 2500 civilians have been killed by the Sri Lankan Army and over 200 women both married and unmarried, have been subjected to sexual assault. About a hundred civilians have died due to lack of food or medical care.

So far as relief work is concerned the report adds that some Non-Governmental Organizations both local and foreign based-have undertaken certain relief measures which however are grossly inadequate.

So far as the local organizations are concerned the Eastern Relief and Rehabilitation Organization, Young Men's Hindu Association, Young Men's Christian Association, Lions, Gandhi Seva Sangam and Sarvodaya are some Organizations which undertook some relief work.

CARE Organization, International Red Cross, M.S.F., Quaker Peace and Services and UNICEF are the foreign based organizations doing relief work.

Despite the fact that these organizations have undertaken some relief work, the demand for relief work is so very high that the services rendered by these organizations are grossly inadequate.

CARE Organization has distributed rice and other food parcels, fertilizers, seeds and sprayers. M.S.F. renders medical services.

Quaker Peace and Services provides transport for urgent sick and also provides escort. UNICEF has provided clothes. These organizations are likely to wind up their work in the District soon.

Local organizations have distributed plasticware, milk food, cadjans and similar assistance.

The ICRC has not engaged itself in the grant of such relief to affected persons. They transport drugs to non-motorable areas and provide transport for patients. It is also alleged that the ICRC refused to render assistance to the villages of Sathurukondan and Kokkuvil. Over 175 person died in these two villages as a result of the Sri Lankan Army and Muslim Home Guards' operations.

The Sri Lankan Army has prohibited the transport of Government relief dry rations to the Koralaipattu AGA's Division, though refugees from the Trincomalee District have taken shelter there.

New Project

Hand - made Paper Factory in Jaffna

A factory to produce hand-made paper was inaugurated on Thai Pongal Day (14-01-91) at Nallur.

There is a great dearth of all writing papers. Even school children are unable to get their stationery requirements. As a matter of fact no papers of any description have come into Jaffna since the outbreak of the war in June, 1990, though there is a very big demand for writing papers and newsprint.

The proverb that "Necessity is the mother of Invention" has come true by this project for a hand-made paper factory.

Mr. S. Subramaniam, Education Officer in charge of Non-formal Education in Jaffna, is the person who made this project feasible. It is learnt that Mr. Subramaniam worked almost single-handed and carried out

many experiments before he finally succeeded in producing hand-made papers.

"All what is required is old paper including card-boards, waste paper, old newspapers etc. and a few easily and locally available chemicals to run a hand - made paper factory", explained Mr. Subramaniam, to our correspondent. Mr. Subramaniam also said that this project can well be a cottage industry and hoped people would take up to it.

The invitation cards for the inaugural ceremony were printed on paper produced by this hand - made paper factory.

The inauguration ceremony was well attended.

Mr. K. Kanagarajah, a leading industrialist in Jaffna speaking on the occasion mentioned the appropriateness

of the project at a time when printing paper was in short - supply.

Various types of papers already manufactured for experimentation and raw materials were on display for the gathering to see and understand the project.

A Cowardly...

Continuation of Page 1)
the marriage ceremony to be held soon after Thai Pongal.

Shamelessly the Government had been claiming that they had bombed the LTTE ammunition factories at Kilinochchi when in fact they only Killed civilians going about their private business and damaged houses, shops, vehicles and a church. This false claim of the Government was repeated by the State Minister of Defence at a Press Conference.