

HOT SPRING

Vol. 1

10th February 1991

No. 18

Tiger hunt continues

Early morning at 9.00 a.m. on February, Saturday Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed Tirunelvely.

As usual the victim was a woman and a civilian house.

No Tiger any here there

No Dry Rations on — Food stamps for 7 months

JAFFNA'S LOW - INCOME GROUPS PUNISHED

It is learnt that the low income groups resident in the Jaffna District have not been issued dry rations on the then food stamps for seven months now.

The Government issues free food stamps to persons whose monthly income is less than Rs. 700/- per month. Each member of the family of such a person is entitled to a free food stamp valued at Rs. 30/- each and

on production of this stamp in the Multi Purpose Co-op. Stores holders of such free food stamps are entitled to draw dry rations to the value of Rs. 30/- each month. For one year each eligible person is given 12

such stamps to be used for each of the 12 months in an year.

So far for 1990, the holders of these free food stamps have only been issued

dry rations on these food stamps for four months only. The last such issue was made in Jaffna in July, 1990.

Thereafter no dry rations have been issued on the

food stamps and the holders of these free food stamps have now eight such monthly stamps but no dry rations have been issued to them after, July, 1990.

The holders of these free food stamps were classified (Continued on page 6)

35 Tamils at Miyankulam Lose their earthly possessions

Between the 13th and 15th of January, Sri Lankan army engaged itself in an operation in the Batticaloa District which was styled as a 'search operation'. During the course of this so called 'search operation' 35 Tamil families of Miyankulam completely lost all their

earthly belongings. Their houses and all other movable possessions were badly damaged.

35 families are poor families and all of them with children. The Sinhala Army having gone on the rampage, left 35 families of Miyankulam destitute.

Free cloths distributed to Refugees Help by German Organization

Refugees from outside Jaffna District, who are in refugee camps in the A.G.A's Divisions of Tellipalai, Udulvil, Sandilipay and Nallur are being distributed cloths purchased from funds made available by DIAKONISCHES WERK a humanitarian organization in Germany.

The task of distribution of free cloths to the refugees is being done by the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization.

DIAKONISCHES WERK made available the funds to

the Mallakam Rural Development Society which in turn sought and obtained the services of the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization for distribution of cloths purchased

from the German funds.

Action is being taken to distribute free cloths for refugees in some other AGA's divisions too.

ARRESTED 10 KILLED 2

Ten Tamil refugees in the Tampalakamam Refugee Camp who went to see their houses at Kandakadu were arrested by the Sri Lankan Army on 5th January. Of the ten, two have been killed by the Army. The two dead are Muthulingam and Mahalingam of 98th milepost.

The other eight have been detained by the Army. Six of them are T. Puvanasekaram and V. Selvam of Muliipothanai. M. Ravi of 98th milepost, Indiran of Puthukudiyeruppu, Sekhar of 96th milepost and Uthayan of Kanthalai. The names of two other have not been verified.

At Muttur - Four Co-operative Stores Managers missing

Four co-operative Stores Managers who went to AGA's office Ali Aluwa in Muttur to collect rations for their stores on 22.12.90 have not returned to their homes as yet.

News received in this connection states that Messrs. Sivajinathan, Mylvaganam, Gnanam and Gnanasekaram, Co-operative stores Managers of the villages of Menkamama Manatchennai, Kiliveddi and Ichilampattai respectively,

left on 28th December, 1990 to the AGA's office at Ali Oluwa to obtain dry rations for issue to Food Stamp holders (consumers) of their stores.

They have not returned to their villages yet. Efforts made by the relations of these missing persons to trace them, have so far proved futile.

The relations of these persons who went to the Army Camp and police Station at

Ali Oluwa have been told that none of these persons came or was brought there by any one.

Nobody knows what had happened to these men, though they are now missing for about one and a half months.

Transport Workers Demonstrate Demand Wages

Workers attached to the Northern Region Transport Board (A Government Corporation) took out a massive procession on Thursday 7th January demanding wages.

The procession went through

the principal streets of Jaffna town before the workers handed over a memorandum to the Government Agent of Jaffna to be forwarded to the authorities in Colombo.

The processionists carried banners and placards and shouted slogans containing their demands.

It is to be noted that the Transport Board buses are not plying since the current war broke out in June last year. The Main Transport Board at Kondavil also had earlier come under bomber attacks from the Sri Lankan Air Force planes.

Though the workers are willing to work they cannot work because of the non-availability of fuel.

It is further learnt that the transport workers had not been paid their wages for several months.

The slogan shouting workers demanded the payment of their wages and the stoppage of all bombing.

Fisheries Ministry Opened at Trincomalee

The Ministry of Fisheries which had hitherto been functioning at Colombo like all other Ministries, has now been transferred with effect from 15th January, 1991 and is functioning in a building at Inner Harbour Road, Trincomalee.

Readers will remember that in our issue of 6th January, we referred to the Government's proposal to transfer the Ministry of Fisheries to Trincomalee from its present quarters at Colombo and stated that this is yet another

part of the plan to Sinhalise Tamil areas.

As pointed out in our earlier issues, large tracts of inland territory have been robbed from the Tamils to colonize Sinhalese in Trincomalee. It is only along the coastal belt that the Tamils are still strong in numbers. The present move is designed to bring Sinhalese to the coastal villages also, making use of the present military rule and the large exodus of Tamil population from Trincomalee as refugees to other parts and to India.

"Hot Spring" for attention of Australian MPS

Mr. Lew Reid, President of the Humanitarian organization called "Human Rights-First the Child" functioning from Australia, has in a letter addressed to Mr. S. Sribaskaran, President of the Mallakam Rural Development, acknowledge receipt

of two copies of "Hot spring" sent by the letter to Mr. Reid. Mr. Reid is also an ex-M.P. of the Australian Parliament.

Mr. Reid has further written to Mr. Sribaskaran that he would bring the publication to the attention of the MPS in Australia.

THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

OH MR. GANDHI

You were the Prime Minister of the largest Democracy, so were your mother and grandfather before you. You are not only the scion of a great family but a citizen of a great nation and an international figure of standing. Is it therefore right and proper for an individual of your calibre to nurse a prolonged vendetta against the modest group called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, whom you not so long ago classified as FREEDOM FIGHTERS and not mere terrorists as declared by the government of Sri Lanka.

It may well be that this group, the dominant of all Tamil groups erred in your opinion in opposing the now dormant INDO-SRI LANKA ACCORD and the exact details for such a disagreement is not on open record and as such we the very ordinary members of the Tamil population here in Sri Lanka have to draw our own conclusions. It might be now an opportune time to state our point of view.

We Tamils who had been brutalised by the Sinhala people for decades, were no doubt thrilled when your country intervened militarily, moreso, as you had displayed great care and concern about our welfare just prior to the Indian intervention. In reply to a question by the BBC as to why you chose to intrude Sri Lankan airspace and carry out the food drop, you stated quite categorically as follows: "IT IS A SIGNAL TO JAYAWARDENE" mind you it was plain JAYAWARDENE not MR or President but when you came over to sign the accord, you did appear to have done a volte-face. Because in response to a query by the international Press, as to when the IPKF would leave Sri Lanka, you did state as follows: "NO SOONER PRESIDENT Jayawardene orders us to leave".

Can you blame us Tamils for being distraught at this blatant change of stance on your part. Here you were in Sri Lanka quite ostensibly to save us from Jayawardene's marauding murderers and yet you openly declare that you will relinquish your

role of guardian angel of the Tamil victims, no sooner the oppressor of the Tamils requests you to do so. This to us was the major blunder committed by you, the others being the off hand manner in which you chose to treat the leader of the dominant Tamil group. Had you given him due consideration and concern and brought him into the formalities of the accord signing, then it may well be that the Indo-Sri Lanka accord may have been a total success.

We do realise that you erred in relying on the advice of individuals like Gamini Dissanayake and Thondaman and others of that mettle and more importantly on your very arrogant High Commissioner Dixit, who in response to a query again by the BBC, as to why the IPKF blew up a Press of a Tamil Newspaper, did reply very undiplomatically but honestly, that the Tamil Press had been blown up as it was openly ANTI-INDIAN.

So dear Mr. Gandhi you must now admit that the Tamils did have sufficient cause to distrust the Indian intervention as architected by your administration, with or without the RAW.

We also realise that Rajiv Gandhi is not India and likewise India is not Rajiv Gandhi. We are also grateful to your country for sheltering the present horde of Tamil refugees and we sincerely hope that your country will strive to set right the mistakes of the past and that in the interim you will be magnanimous enough to halt your vendetta against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and so remove the bitterness of the past for which both sides may be responsible.

ICRC the Undertaker

The Tamils in Sri Lanka have been butchered by the Sinhala people for the past thirty five years and during the past three decades, the slaughter has been carried out without any foreign observation until the arrival of the Indian army in mid 1987, when the slaughter came to a complete halt, only to be taken over by the Indian army. Then there was a period of lull when the Sri Lanka government entered in to talks with

(Continued on Page 5)

OUR READERS SAY

Lion Flag was not accepted by the Tamils

The Editor,

Last year when President R. Premadasa advocated the hoisting of the Lion Flag on every house on Sri Lanka's so called Independence Day, he had stated that the said Lion Flag was unanimously accepted as the National Flag including the minority representatives of the Tamils and Muslims as well, which was not quite true.

President R. Premadasa would have succeeded once again in the leading the Tamils up the garden path by his pious promises and loud-sounding nothings, had it not been to the publication of Prof. Suntharalingam's speech in Parliament on the Language Question in the "Hot Spring".

When the Cabinet discussed the question of a National Flag to replace the British Union Jack, even before Independence, late Prof. Suntharalingam had declined to accept the Lion Flag as the National Flag of Ceylon and had even threatened to resign from the Cabinet on the Flag issue. Due to the Oath of Secrecy, Prof. Suntharalingam's objection to the Lion Flag did not become public, a fact which he had mentioned during the debate on the Language Bill.

Further the very first move by the First Premier D.S. Senanayake to get the House of Representatives to endorse the Lion Flag as independent Ceylon's National Flag, was successfully thwarted by the Member of Parliament for Vaddukoddai, late Mr. Kanagaratnam and the leader of the Tamil Congress, the late Mr. G.G. Ponnampalam by moving the adjournment motion before the conclusion of the debate. As the normal practice then was to adjourn the house at 4.00 p.m. on Fridays for the week-end, the then Speaker Sri Molamure had to adjourn the House.

So the question of a National Flag for Sri Lanka was not settled even at the time of Independence.

A Sub-committee of both Houses, the House of Representatives and the Senate was appointed to submit a report recommending a National Flag for independent Sri Lanka.

When that Committee finally submitted a report recommending the Lion Flag with the mere addition of two stripes Orange and Green representing the Tamil and Muslim Communities, one of the members, Senator

Nadesan had submitted a dissenting report which was incorporated as an adjunct to the main recommendation.

When the recommendation of the Sub-committee was approved by parliament, the Member for Kankesan-turai, Thanthai Chelvanayakam objected to the flag by hoisting the Nanthi flag-the flag used by Sankilian, the last king of Jaffna on his motor car.

Hence it was not quite correct for President Premadasa to say that the Lion Flag was accepted as the National Flag even by the representatives of the minorities including the Tamils.

Further late Prof. Suntharalingam had resigned his seat in Parliament to create a By election on the Flag issue. The United National Party fielded an ex-Mayor of Colombo, Mr. Cooray as a candidate against Suntharalingam. In the p'ebiscite which ensued, the Tamil speaking voters of Vavuniya rejected the Lion by overwhelming majority, returning Suntharalingam to Parliament. The rejection is a democratic verdict of the Tamils, not to be forgotten in any future peace talks to settle the ethnic issue.

Chundikuli.

Anandan

Why this discrimination against Christians?

The Editor,

During Christmas time many thoughts flood one's memory, especially the Christmas of yester-years in comparison to the One we witnessed. So the Christmas of today invariably reflects minds of the war-afflicted communities of the North-East.

Very significantly, a Christmas Crib in the North depicted the Christ-child being born in a 'Bunker' and not in a Manger which many people

in the South may not be accustomed to see.

People in the South, nurtured as they are by the local news media and the Pontifical pronouncements of the Deputy Minister of Defence at Press Conferences, may tend to dismiss this news as 'Bunkum' and a figment of imagination. It is a live situation in these war-afflicted parts of Sri Lanka.

Birth of a Baby in a Bunker is certainly news! This news takes us back to Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate. The Government Gazette stipulates in the matter of employment Baptismal Certificates and Certificates of Birth issued for the purpose of Code of Regulations of Assisted Schools will not be accepted. Why is this discrimination against a segment of Citizens labelled as Christians?

It is therefore desirable that this clause "Baptismal Certificate will not be accepted" for purposes of employment be deleted as this is flagrantly discriminatory against Christians.

The Church may also take notice and bring this aspect of discrimination to the notice of the Government. Advertisement notices of the Government should expunge this requirement for purposes of employment and insist on production of Birth Certificates only.

J. Arulanandam

Congratulation

The Editor,

I feel happy to receive your news paper Every Sunday. I congratulate you. It always comes on time. I hope your Paper 'Hot Spring' will continue for many years. I wish it well. As it's war-time, your services are good. I hope you will continue to inform the world at large of our ethnic problem.

S. Surendran

Kilinochchi

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

TAMILS ARE A NATION

SINHALESE LEADERS HAVE COMMITTED BREACH OF FAITH

G. G. PONNAMPALAM Q. C.

When the heat and dust of this Debate have died down, I do not anticipate that we would have heard the end of the struggle that has begun. I foresee the division of two peoples with ancient and proud cultures who have at least in the last few hundred years at least developing a united outlook in the affairs of this country. I see looming before me a tragic reversal of that process I see two great nations that have learnt to look unitedly upon this beautiful Island of ours as a common land beginning to wonder whether it is indeed a common culture and common heritage.

Language and language rights affect people so deeply, that indeed it has been the view of some that in the darkest pages of history even religious persecution could be tolerated but denial of language rights cannot be tolerated. What justification can there be for the people who speak one language wanting, in this civilized age, to force their language down the unwilling throats of another linguistic group?

I say it in all seriousness, that the history of civilization does not record anything more dark, anything more gloomy than this, namely, the marshalling of forces and the machinery of a Government to enforce one language, the language of one nation upon another. The only justification in the past has been where at the point of the sword after military conquest the language of the conquerors willynilly has been adopted or forced upon an unwilling conquered race.

I venture very seriously to ask those who have posed the question to the Tamil-speaking people of this country: You, who have been pleased to study the English language and made a good job of it, why is it that you find it so difficult in having to study the Sinhalese language and making a good job of it? - I ask them in all sincerity, to ponder over the expression of that nature so lightly mouthed, so airily viewed, and consider their implications.

We of this generation find that the English language had already been imposed upon an earlier generation of generations, by conquest.

Does any analogy lie between the Tamils having learnt and continuing to learn the English language and their being called upon in the year of grace 1956 to adopt Sinhalese as the sole official language of 'his country'?

Language is a medium which enshrines our thoughts, it is a means by which we give expression to our feelings. It is a thing we carry from our infancy to the grave, so taught in the lullabies of one's mother, perhaps truths and philosophies which others may not understand.

it might not only end in homogenising linguistically but that it might extend to the religious sphere. It is not necessary for me to go into that. But I may say this, that in doing that, or in attempting to do that, the Government of this country does not seem to have learnt any lesson of the century or two of an attempt by superior force, by constituted authority, to interfere with the fundamental language rights of a nation.

Lord Curzon in his attempted partition of Bengal failed

to do now to us was done by the Tudor Kings of England in respect of Scotland, in respect of Wales in respect of Ireland. They may have succeeded in bringing about and establishing a United Kingdom but have they really succeeded in spite of everything they have done during the intervening centuries of placating the outraged feelings of the Scotsman, the Welshman the Irishman and welding them into homogenous nation? They even offered to wals the doubtful compliment of making the Heir-Apparent to the British

In the last few years, particularly after the removal of British power in Ceylon those of us who had carried on for years before that a persistent political agitation were not animated any feelings of antipathy or hostility to the Sinhalese by a genuine and understandable desire to see that when the sovereign power is removed from us this freedom which we looked forward to and fought for would be equitably distributed. We did not dream of such a situation as this.

One has merely very cursorily to look over the history of the annals of the constitutional agitation that has been carried on to see whether there was ever any suggestion that the Tamil language should either be relegated to the limbo of forgotten things or that any other language should become the sole official language. There was never at any time any kind of apprehension expressed by any Tamil in that regard. Therefore it must be understood that with the transference of power, there was not the slightest suggestion that the two predominant major communities should fly apart.

In considering this question let us remember that for 130 years during the British occupation and governance of this country although English was the strict official language in this country it was conceded by the British sovereign power that Tamil and Sinhalese would enjoy equality of status. The two languages were accepted on terms of equality from, if I remember right, I believe, 1830 up to date.

Therefore, in attempting to make Sinhalese the official language you are reversing what a foreign power had not thought fit to reverse.

During the Portuguese era Sinhalese and Tamil were accepted by the Portuguese with all their intolerance as equal languages and given equal facilities. The Dutch who followed them printed books in Tamil and Sinhalese and carried on instruction and education in their schools in Tamil and Sinhalese.

I now go on to more recent history. It will be readily conceded that when

(Continued on Page 4)

In four previous issues of our weekly we serialised the speech made in Parliament by the late Prof. C. Suntharalingam in 1956 bringing the breaches of faith and treachery on the part of the Sinhala leaders in regard to the Language question.

It would appear from the correspondence received from our readers that there is a desire to learn more and more of the treacherous conduct of Sinhala leaders towards the Tamils.

In trying to render such instances, we also found that all Tamil leaders had always taken up the position that the Tamil are a separate nation. Late Mr. G.G.Ponnampalam Q. C., leader of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress who also came to support a sovereign Tamil State towards the end of his life, had earlier felt that the trends in politics in Ceylon - as this Island was then called - suggested that the country would soon be divided into two.

We are publishing excerpts from the late Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam's speech in parliament during the Debate on the Sinhala Only Bill.

It will be my endeavour to carry conviction to the serried ranks across of Floor of this House that what is proposed by a denial of that fund a mental human right of one's language is by implication a denial to the Tamil nation of its continued existence as a separate identity, as a separate integer and as a separate entity. It is inevitable. It will be, having regard to the geographical position which we occupy and having regard to the seas that surround us. The imposition of Sinhalese as the sole official language of this country must inevitable and inexorably put an end, to the Tamil nation and the Tamil people as such.

I say that language will determine nationality and eventually the nation that will inhabit this country. The direct result of this Bill would be in the foreseeable future, not in the distant future, the creation of a one nation, the homogenising of the population into a Sinhalese speaking population.

It is not necessary for me to attempt to exacerbate the feelings of people in saying that in the process

because he did not understand that the bonds that united the Babu, the Hindu, with the Muslim ryots of Bengal were the bonds of language which were stronger and deeper than even divergences of religion. The Imperialists did not understand it. The partition of Bengal failed. It is an extraordinary thing that years afterwards the British imperialists did not Understand when they decided to divide Bengal into two that they were unleashing forces which would defy both Hindustan and Pakistan and the centripetal forces of language within Bengal would bring the Mussalman and and Hindu together in spite of the difference of religion. These tendencies are today apparent because of one language when numbers of people in East Pakistan are prepared to sever their allegiance and connections with the Pakistan Central Government and the people of West Pakistan and Hindustan are prepared to sever their connections with Union of India to get together.

I do not know whether hon. my Friends opposite realise that what they are attempting Throne. The Prince of Wales, but that did not kill Welsh

nationalism. They ruthlessly put down Erse the Irish national language: they put it down to the extent that today after Ireland has become a free State Erse is one of the official languages most of the work, official and otherwise, is carried, on English. Nevertheless, the spirit of resistance, the spirit of opposition, spirit of terrible antagonism to the English has been kept alive through the centuries by ruthless suppression of the Erse language in Ireland.

We put it as our considered view, not fear, that the inevitable result of the course of the folly of my Friends opposite is that the Tamil language will disappear and it will be the genocide of the Tamil race. If they still propose to persevere with this Bill, then let it be understood that they are doing it with the full consciousness of the consequences that would inevitably flow. Let them not say thereafter that when they were rending this country into two they did not contemplate that the steps they were taking were likely to result in a rupture so deep that cannot be healed.

Tamils.

(Continuation of Page 3)

a foreign and alien power withdraws or is sent out of a country then the national language or language of that country must come into their own. May I ask my hon. Friends to ponder the question, if it seems so natural to them that English must be displaced by Sinhalese has it ever occurred to them what the psychological background is to that urge, to that very natural urge, on the part of the Sinhalese that English must be displaced? Because English represents to them and to us the language of the conqueror. Independence therefore means nothing or very little if the language of the conqueror continues. Indeed there are some who say that for instance, English though it has been the language of the conqueror, has today become an international language, that it no longer bears with the badge of serfdom, of inferiority and so on: but nevertheless, let us face up to it. What is it that has carried my Friends opposite on the crest of a wave to power. It is because they place before the Sinhalese nation the picture of the Sinhalese language coming back into its own.

I repeat language therefore is the first and most important external symbol of one's freedom and one's independence. If that applies to the Sinhalese what will the Tamils feel? Is the change a change of masters? We who had to accept for the last 150 years English as the official language, today are invited to accept Sinhalese as the official language. Your are inviting the Tamils to accept Sinhalese in place of English. Is this that great freedom that the Tamils are supposed to have fought for with the Sinhalese to obtain? Is this all that independence is to mean to the Tamil community That from white masters, from masters who crossed the seas and whose sway over this country at any rate has been slightly more impersonal and some what more distant, to an indigenous brand of masters permanently settled in this country?

Is not that what it amounts to, if your expectation is to accept the Sinhalese language in place of English? I am speaking without emotion - I am trying to make myself as detached as possible - does it not amount to that? I have ruled out that it would appeal in abundant measure to the emotion, to the pride, to the imagination of the Sinhalese nation, but please, I ask you in catering to that maw, that insatiable maw, have you considered

what it means to us? And may I pose this question, do you think that we on our side who have been the inheritors of shall I say, as proud traditions of language, race and of culture, can be expected in this enlightened age to put up, however, good your intentions may be, with a measure the result of which must strike anybody in the face as one again of subservience, of inferiority, of reducing us again to the position of a subject race?

Mr. Speaker, we have in this Bill a most extraordinary phenomenon. I have never known of a bit of legislation so far-reaching in its implications, so devastating in its consequences to a very large section of the people of this country, so very fruitful of results to another section of this country, which

I have taken the trouble to be extremely careful in the summary. I am making. I shall give the hon. Members the various citations, if necessary, and I should be certainly obliged if I am corrected, but I am sure there will be no major differences or errors in the sketch I make. It will be much easier for me to read extracts than turn over these ponderous tomes that I have to carry in this House.

In May, 1944, Mr. Jayawardene introduced a Motion with the object of making Sinhalese the official language. The words are, "that Sinhalese should be made the medium of instruction in all schools" - mark you, Mr. Speaker, "the medium of instruction in all schools", "that Sinhalese should be made compulsory in all

And later on:

"Other countries are putting up with more than two official languages and are carrying on reasonably satisfactorily. I do not think there would be any harm at all in recognizing the Tamil language also an official language. It is necessary to bring about that amity".

Mind you, Mr. Speaker, I invite my hon. Friends opposite to listen to this, to note it down, to take it to their bosoms, before they come to vote:

"It is necessary to bring about that amity, that confidence, among the various communities. I have no personal objection to both these languages being considered official languages, nor do I see any particular harm or danger or real difficulty from this".

PONNAMPALAM TRACES HISTORY OF TREACHERY

has been reduced to an irreducible minimum such as this Bill has done. It is really a one-Clause Bill, namely, "that Sinhalese shall be the Official Language of the country"

The history of this controversy goes on to nearly 12 to 15 on the Floor of the legislature of this country. To a number of my friends who have attained to legislative and representative distinction in the recent past, a good deal of this would be history which they will not believe. But, nevertheless, it is history that is permanently enshrined in the records and annals of our nation.

I content myself with beginning in the year 1944, in the May of that year, the then Member for Kelaniya (Mr. J.R. Jayawardena) who I must say, has remarkably persisted in Sinhalese only, has by a remarkable intervention of providence been made to contemplate - I do not say by way of nemesis, but as a direct result of his own machinations - another Government executing a policy and principle which he haltingly attempted to adumbrate in the year 1944. It is one of those curious intervention of providence, Mr. Speaker, that those who on that side of the House, as I said, today panoplied in parliamentary power, who used to accuse the then Member for Kelaniya as a reactionary Sinhalese communalist for the crime of having introduced this motion to replace English by Sinhalese only, should live, by the extraordinary turn of the wheel of fortune, to implement his fondest desires.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Kelaniya in May 1944 introduced a motion which I shall summarise as follows. I do not wish to weary the House. I can assure that

public examinations; that legislation should be introduced to permit the business of the State Council to be conducted in Sinhalese", and so on. In the course of his speech he said, "I have the intention of proposing only Sinhalese should be the official language of the Island" but he was generous enough later on in his speech to add "but if it the desire of the Tamils -". Mr. Jayawardena comes from another planet - "that Tamil should also be given an equal status with Sinhalese, I should not think we should bar it from attaining that position". How generous!

That was the motion of then Member for Kelaniya. If one wanted an advocate, if one wanted any body to breathe the air of liberalism and oppose the implications of that Motion, we had one, Mr. Speaker. That was a Sinhalese. May I be permitted to refer to a very few passages, because in fairness to him I think this must be quoted. I hate reading extracts, but I want to. Members just to listen to this: "It is through the vehicle of language that the aspirations, the yearnings and the triumphs of a people throughout centuries are enshrined and preserved. Therefore, all that it means to a nation, from the psychological, from the sentimental, from the cultural points of view, the value of nationality, from all these points of view, are expressed through the medium language".

There was, Mr. Speaker, a person who one felt, was living still close to the dreaming spires - somebody said "squires" - of Oxford. Mr. Speaker, he went on to say as follows:-

"I think it would be ungenerous on our part, the Sinhalese, not to give due recognition to the Tamil language..."

Thus spoke the Hon. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike in the year 1944. Mr. Speaker, I do not think I could at the end of my speech say anything -

Mr. M.P. de Zoysa: In the Donoughmore days.

Mr. Ponnampalam: You see how fatuous that remark is? What have the Donoughmore days got to do with it, please, may I beg of my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, not to remark and call forth some kind of rebuff I would not like to make to any of the Junior Members opposite. What has that got to do with it - Donoughmore days, Soulbury days or some other days? Really it is totally irrelevant, my Friend. What we are considering is the fact that hardly ten or twelve years ago, when the then hon. Member for Kelaniya moved a Motion seeking to make Sinhalese the only official language of the country, displacing English, my hon. Friend the present Prime Minister then Minister of Local Administration, spoke up generously, spoke in an enlightened fashion against the motion of the then hon. Member for Kelaniya. So may I really assure my hon. Friends that, whatever the days whatever the Constitution then prevailed, it is totally irrelevant to the sentiments expressed.

I wish to say this, also in the hope that some of us are not so completely lost as not to have a feeling of contrition, of regret, even at this stage to change our attitude on this question. To the hon. Appointed Members, therefore, it might of interest if I very briefly refer to what their political ancestors or predecessors had to say on this identical question, still venturing to hope - I shall not say completely lost to a sense of right and wrong -

that they are completely dead to the reasons that led to their presence in this House: that they are absolutely forgetful that some of us, against the abuse of our Sinhalese friends, stood up for their continued representation in the legislature of this country even after the attainment of independence. In the name of heaven, I ask them not make us feel that, within a short period of ten years, all that we have been brought up to believe in the Britisher and in those who preceded the Britishers in this country was another chimera and that really my Friends opposite were completely right. I can understand the attitude that in a thoroughly representative legislature some of my good friends here have no place whatsoever. Some of them are citizens of this country; nevertheless we felt that for a transitional period, for sometime to come, they should be here. May I only tell them this? That I cannot understand how they, who were appointed Members of this House could feel differently, within a short space ten years, from their immediate predecessors on an identical question.

May I refer to Major Oldfield's speech on this occasion, very briefly? He said:

"I am certainly opposed to this Motion, as to my mind its adoption would be most retrograde step this House can take..." Official Report, 24th May, 1944; Vol. I. P. 755)

Just note the words: "the most retrograde step this House can take". I ask the European Appointed Members - I am not being personal to them; I think personally they know that even when I say the hardest things I do not mean to say anything personally against them - of this legislature who may turn the scales in regard to this bit of legislation - they have a right to cast a vote, a deciding vote on this question - do they feel that what their immediate predecessor, Major Oldfield felt was utterly retrograde in the year 1944 has become progressive in the year 1956? I venture to think not. Otherwise, I shall certainly feel that in the fairly large and chequered political history of my life one of the worst services I have rendered this would have been to put up a not uneloquent plea for the continuation of representation of British interests in the national legislature of this country. And to my hon. Friends the representatives of the immediate predecessors of the British, namely, the

(Continued on Page 5)

VVT Residents' Petition to UN Commonwealth & Non - Aligned Nation

President Premadasa is also notified

Some senior citizens of Valvettiturai have sent separate petitions on behalf of the residents of that town which was subject to destruction by aerial and artillery bombardment for four continuous days between 20th and 23rd. January, 1991 to the Secretary - General of the UN, Chairman of the Non - Aligned Movement, to the British Prime Minister and other Commonwealth countries. They have also sent a letter to President Premadasa.

In the letter addressed to President Premadasa the petitioners say that the Government of Sri Lanka is involved in a process of mutual destruction and says that the attempts to keep the Tamils under subjugation would be futile.

In the circumstances, the Valvettiturai petitioners have called upon the President of Sri Lanka to invite a neutral international organization like the UNO or the Non-Aligned Movement or the Commonwealth Secretariat to mediate in the current dispute between the Sinhalese and Tamils.

The letter to President Premadasa reads as follows:-

We trust that the Air Force would have correctly briefed you on the extent of damage they had done to Valvettiturai in their relentless bombing of the length and breadth of Valvettiturai commencing from 3.30 p.m. on the 20th and continuing until 1.45 p.m. on the 23rd of January, 1991. Even the Church and Temples were not spared. The two main temples in the town, the famous Sivan and Amman Temples have received no less than twenty-five direct hits and have been badly damaged and desecrated. A number of defenceless civilians had been killed and a large number injured. Colossal damage had been done to civilian properties.

Your Excellency cannot be unaware of the fact that the Tamils in this Island have been made to feel by the actions of the Sinhalese that no responsible solution can be reached by negotiations with the Sinhalese and under the Unitary Constitution and that only by restoring the separate self Government of the Tamils that we can live with honour and security.

The despicable attack on the residents of Valvettiturai

by the Sinhalese Air Force only proves the correctness of our stand and increase our resolve to achieve our objective.

Please understand the futility of carrying on this process of mutual destruction and also the futility of attempting to keep the Tamils in subjugation by the use of the Armed Forces.

We feel that the sensible thing to do under the circumstances is to invite a neutral International Institution like the UNO or the Non Aligned Movement or the Commonwealth Secretariat to mediate in our dispute. We are writing to these institutions requesting their mediation.

We trust that you will also realise the advisability of resolving our dispute in such a manner and do the needful.

Petition to the Secretary of the U.N.

General of the U.N. The petition to his Excellency Javier Perez de Cueller reads as follows:

Oppression of Tamils in Sri - Lanka.

We are appealing to Your Excellency to use Your Excellency's good offices to take immediate steps to prevail upon the Sinhalese Government of Sinhalese Lanka (Sri Lanka) to halt its military atrocities against the Tamils and to commence negotiations to restore the lost Self Government to the Tamils in the Island. We also appeal to Your Excellency to send urgently a representative to visit our town and see for himself the wanton destruction of civilian houses and buildings by an in-human, savage, barbaric and racist government dominated by the Sinhalese and supported by a few self-seeking and traitorous Tamils. This government is indulging in a scorched earth policy against the Tamils.

The oppression of the Tamils by the Sinhalese Government are too numerous to be listed in this short letter and too well known also. However, we are citing the latest act of oppression in our Tamil homeland and this comes to Your Excellency from all the residents of Valvettiturai town consisting of more than 10,000 people and signed on their behalf by some senior citizens. We are sure it reflects the views of all patriotic Tamils in our Tamil homeland called Tamil Eelam.

On Sunday the 20th January, 1991, at about 12.45 p.m. a Sinhalese Lanka helicopter dropped leaflets over Valvettiturai, coastal town in the northern Jaffna peninsula. The leaflets were cyclostyled in English and Tamil separately. These were not dated and did not reveal as to who was the issuing authority but it ordered the residents of Valvettiturai to leave the town with all their belongings within 48 hours. At about 3.30 p.m. the same day i.e. within 3 hours of dropping the leaflets four bomber planes started dropping bombs while three other military planes joined the fray and started dropping barrel bombs containing inflammable material causing seven deaths and destroying houses and buildings. This attack was directed against civilians and their properties. When the onslaught ended after about one and a half hours, a number of people lay dead.

In one place 5 persons were killed in an underground shelter. A number of houses were completely demolished. Two temples, one Sivan and the other Amman were badly damaged. A large number of persons were injured. The people started fleeing in panic and searching for shelter. The digging of those buried in the underground shelter had to be abandoned as a second wave of bombers started dropping bombs. This lasted for about an hour. This was followed by an artillery attack on the town from the Army base at Palaly which is about 10km. away. At night fall when the attack appeared to have stopped, the people hurriedly buried the dead in their own com-

pounds and fled the town to save their lives.

This large scale bombing of the town continued the whole day on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Your Excellency can easily imagine the hardships to which the people of the town have been subjected to with an economic blockade in force for more than 6 months denying the people all essentials for living. Now the people have been driven from the town itself without any arrangement being made to look after them.

While the Sinhalese Lanka (Sri Lanka) Government itself is a member of the U.N. and professes to be a champion of peace and advocates that differences should be settled through Sinhalese President Premadasa's 3 famous Cs i.e. Consultation, Compromise and Concensus and have give State patronage to the Buddhist religion on one hand, it is on the other hand committing horrendous atrocities against the minority Tamils in this Island.

We trust that the member countries of the U.N. and specially those of the "Aid Consortium" will show sufficient moral strength to

This and That...

(Continuation of Page 2)
the Tigers but when these talks broke down, the slaughter has commenced with a vengeance and this time it has taken on an extremely depraved and degenerate position, because the cowardly Sinhalese unable to face the Tigers in direct combat, have shamefully resorted to blind aerial bombing of Tamil Eelam. During the past few days, these cowardly scoundrels under the direction of the patron saint of all murderers, have been bombing blind and killing many innocent civilians and damaging many homes and buildings and this under the very eyes of the ICRC.

Would it not be therefore wrong to classify the ICRC as the undertaker who is either willingly or unwittingly playing this disgusting role and if so why. It will be of interest to know as to who invited the ICRC to oversee the slaughter of the Tamils or did the ICRC volunteer to play this role and if

take up the cause of the oppressed Tamils in this Island and pay immediate attention to this appeal of ours.

— To British Prime Minister

In a similar letter addressed to Mr. John Major the petitioners have reminded the moral responsibility for the UK to intervene in the matter and help the Tamils restore self-government as it was the Britishers who brought under one government two different peoples who had their separate kingdoms before the advent of western imperialism into the Island.

—And to the Chairman of the Non - Aligned Movement

The letter addressed to the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement the President of the Yugoslavia, in like terms seeks the good offices of the Non-Aligned Movement to take up the cause of the oppressed Tamils. Similar petitions have been sent to other Commonwealth Nations and Non-Aligned Nations.

so why. We look for an honest answer before the entire Tamil Eelam is devastated by the Sinhala savages.

May be we should ask members of the Indian Red Cross to be associated with the members of the ICRC to ensure that the ICRC is doing its job properly.

Tamils..

(Continuation of Page 3)
Dutch or those of Dutch descent, I would like to refer again, in passing, to the very distinguished Burgher Member, Mr. Wille. He said this, and it might do well for them to ruminate and see, if the utterance has lost its force in these last 10 or 12 years:.

"This is a small country and our population except in certain parts of the country is mixed -

How mixed - "and if we try to introduce one particular language simply because it is the language of the majority of the people all over the country it will do a great deal of injustice".

HOT SPRING

VOL: 1 SUNDAY 10.th FEB 1991 ISSUE 18

4th of February

The local dailies of 5th of this month carried the news that ten persons were killed, five wounded, five shops and three mini buses were damaged' the previous day, 4th of February when Sri Lankan War Planes dropped bombs at Uruthirapuram in Kilinochi.

We were then suddenly reminded that the previous day was Sri Lankas' Independence Day.

We have no doubt that Independence Day celebrations would have taken place in Sinhala Rata with all the pomp and pageantry that such an occasion demands. But what is the position in Tamil Eelam?

The kith and kin, neighbours and others of the ten dead would have mourned the deaths and carried on the funeral arrangements.

So, in one part of this 'united country' while independence day celebrations would have evoked enthusiasm and pride in another part of this 'country' people would have carried on funerals. And these funerals were the direct consequence of the so-called 'independence'.

This is not the first time.

Way back in 1956 - on Independence Day - certain Natarajan fell dead near the Trincomalee Clock Tower. His assassin was a Sinhalese who fired a shot from hiding.

Natarajan and other Tamils had collected near the Trincomalee Clock Tower to hoist a black flag on the clock tower there as a mark of protest against the imposition of Sinhala Only.

While they were returning after hoisting the black flag they were fired at from behind the walls covering the Public Market at Trincomalee.

The Bauddha - Sinhala style of settling political differences was amply demonstrated to the Tamils by the assassin's bullet.

From that day onwards while February 4th was celebrated by the Sinhalese as Independence day, the Tamils observed the same day as a day of mourning.

Perhaps passage of time brought in woe after woe to the Tamils - almost daily - that today February 4th does not have any special significance to the Tamils.

However, the Government of Sri Lanka does not want the Tamils to forget the day. They want the Tamils to constantly remember the 4th of February as the day when they came under a new and monstrous master.

The aerial bombing on the 4th of this month and the consequent death of ten civilians who were on their own business on that day would not have been possible at all if governmental power was not transferred from the British exclusively to the Sinhalese on that memorable day in the year of grace 1948.

And governmental power would not have been transferred exclusively to the Sinhalese, if the Tamils had not been misled by the myth of a Ceylonese Nation then.

Those leaders who were misled by that myth remained alive to regret their mistake ever after and came to the conclusion that salvation of the Tamils depend on the restoration of their lost state and nationhood.

The youths of Today have no illusions as some of the leaders of the earlier generation had. They had the opportunity of knowing all what happened after the 4th of February, 1948 So, should the Government keep on reminding that February 4th is the day when the Tamil, were chained to slavery under the Buddha - Sinhalese.

Making and Breaking Promises is nothing new to Sinhala Politicians Revelation by a Sinhala Gentleman

Making promises and breaking them is nothing new to our Sinhala politicians; nor is disillusionment new to our leaders. The following extracts will amply illustrate my statement:

'The formation of the Ceylon National Congress was the crowning achievement of Arunachalam in the political field. He united, as never before in our history, all the different communities in a common effort and a common aspiration. Even some of the Burghers joined the Congress!

The last two years of Arunachalam's life were a

period of disappointment and disillusionment. The ideal he had steadfastly held before him was a united Ceylonese nation in which the minorities will be adequately safeguarded and to which each compenent community would make a distinctive contribution ..

S. Ponnampalam

In 1918 and 1919 he had succeeded in inducing the Tamils to come into the Ceylon National Congress on the strength of a pledge given by the Sinhalese leaders at the time, that they would provide for due safeguards

for the minorities in the scheme of territorial representation advocated by them. But in 1921 a militant group of Sinhalese, who had gained control of the Congress, compelled the leaders, much to the disgust of men like the late Mr. C. E. Corea and the late Mr. E. T. de Silva, to repudiate the assurances given to the Tamils, and Arunachalam to his great regret was forced by Tamil opinion to leave the Congress. ...

Source: PORTRAITS OF TEN PATRIOTS

By: Mr. W. Thalagodapitiya, Retired Commissioner of Assize.

NEWS ROUND UP

12. 1. 91

At Vannankulam and Adampan in Mannar District - bomber attack - House, Rice Mill and tractor damaged. 10 milking cows killed.

15. 1. 91

At Erlalai in Valikamam North - shell attack from Palaly Army Camp - Civilian T. Sellathurai injured and admitted to hospital.

16. 1. 91

At Iyakachchi - bomber attack - A small girl named Mathy serious by injured.

20. 1. 91

At Thondamannar - bomber attack - Irrigation Dept. Building and Field Work Centre building damaged.

At Sirupiddy - Night bombing by Avro plane - One house completely destroyed.

K. Sathasivam, his wife Sellamah (40), daughter Jayachelvi (13), sister Nirmaladevi (29) and her daughter Vasanthi (03) injured and hospitalized.

At Sirupiddy - Helicopter attack - Young girl N. Jayanthini (20) injured and admitted to hospital.

21. 1. 91

At Putur - Helicopter attack A Sasikala (19) and Naguleswaran (05) injured and admitted to Hospital

At kokkuvil - 4 bombers dropped 12 bombs. S. Mahathevan (68) retired teacher died. Injured included - Uma Kanthiah, teacher, S. Shanmuganathan (48), Mrs. S Mahalingam (45) teacher, T. Kannan (12) Charlie Lambert (10) Selvarasan (45), S. Sivasub-

ramaniam (49), A. Iynkaranesan (42) Mrs. S. Kumar (45) and K. Parameswaran. Ten houses were badly damaged.

21. 1. 91

At Chavakachcheri - Helicopter attack with rockets. S. Ratnam injured. One shot damaged old District Court premises.

At Kaithady. Helicopter attack. S. Sithamparam (44) injured

22. 1. 91

At Periyapandivirichchan in Mannar. 4 Bombers and 2 Air Force Planes attack. Houses and shop buildings damaged.

22. 1. 91

At Kanagapuram in Kilinochchi - 4 bombers attack. Houses damaged. One house completely destroyed.

At Nedunkerny in Mullaitivu District. Shell attack from helicopter. One shop completely damaged.

No Dry...

(Continuation of Page 1)

as low income earners by the Government itself and issued free food stamps as a measure of subsidising their income to eke out a living even in normal times. But after the outbreak of the war in June, 1990 almost all persons in Jaffna have had steep fall in their income earning capacity and cost of living is unimaginably high.

Even as a measure of relief to the war-stricks North, the Government has so far issued only seven weeks' dry rations

At Karainagar. Navy launches shell attack at Karungaly from Navy camp.

At Chavakachcheri and Vembirai. Bomber attacks. Six houses damaged. Thavasiammah (53) lost one hand.

At Manipay. Bomber attack. One house damaged. One bomb that fell within the Manipay Ladies' College premises failed to explode and students were thus saved.

At Atchuvely. Helicopter shoots at MPCSLorry carrying foodstuffs. Lorry damaged. Driver and cleaner escaped.

23. 1. 91

At Thondamannar - Bomber attack Buildings damaged.

At Kondavil. Bomber attack. Three houses completely damaged. Some houses partially damaged.

At Sangaraththai in Vaddukoddai. Bombers and Air Force planes attack. K. Thirunavukkarasu (67) retired Government Officer, T. Kulanthaivelu (58) and Mrs. S. Satchithanandan (50) died on the spot. 10 houses and 5 shops damaged.

Note:- This round up excludes attacks on civilian targets reported as separate news items in the previous issues of our paper.

though the war is 32 weeks old and is still continuing. It is to be noted that with the outbreak of war all transport between the Commercial Centre of Colombo and Jaffna, was suspended in June, 1990 itself. The Government and its armed forces place embargo directly or indirectly on movement of goods into the North but to avoid world criticism of starving the people to death, the Government has just given seven weeks rations for eight months as is given to victims of such natural causes as flood and drought.