

HOT SPRING

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No. 20

ICRC too not spared

An ICRC vehicle on its way to Verugal from Mutur has come under Sri Lankan Army attack on 21st. of this month.

The report further states that the ICRC vehicle was damaged.

THAI PONGAL DAY

Government under taking Broken by Forces

The Government announced a cessation of all offensive operations on 14.1.91 in view of the Tamil Thai Pongal celebrations on that day. But as far as the Batticaloa District was concerned, government undertaking was observed only in the breach.

On 14.1.91 various areas in Batticaloa came under search operations undertaken by the Army. There was aerial bombing and artillery shell attacks too.

Reports received from Batticaloa state that the

Sri Lankan Army entered the villages of Mahilavedduvan, Ilaka, Irailakulam, Miyan-kulam and Tharavai and destroyed the huts put up by refugees from other areas as shelter for themselves. The Army has also destroyed

the chena cultivation done by these refugees in small scales.

At Mylavedduvan village the Sri Lankan Army brought down the building put up by the ICRC as a medical centre for the refugees by exploding bombs inside the building. All medicines and medical equipment in the centre were also reduced to ashes.

Also at Mylavedduvan the Sri Lankan Army burnt down 35 dwelling houses of Tamils together with all household belongings and a further 27 shops with all goods therein.

At Palamadu the Sri Lankan Army burnt down the houses of one Markandu together with 150 gunny bags of paddy stored in the houses.

The Sri Lankan Army stationed at Vadduvan burnt down 15 houses in the village of Irailakulam. Lot of paddy and a few tractors

were also burnt down during the operations. Two persons were killed in this village the same day as a result of artillery shell attack. One of the dead has been identified as Kumarapody.

This is how the Army observed the cease-fire on Thai Pongal day in certain parts of the Batticaloa District.

Thirty five Tamil houses damaged and destroyed by Sri Lankan Army

Thirty five houses together with all household goods therein were damaged and destroyed by the Sri Lankan Army in the village of Miyan-kulam in the Batticaloa District.

News received from Batticaloa in this connection state that between the 1st and 16th of January this year, the Sri Lankan Army stationed in various places at Batticaloa carried out what

they called "Search operations".

In the course of these so-called search operations the Sri Lankan Army damaged and destroyed the dwelling houses numbering thirty five together with the household goods that were found in these houses.

All these houses belonged to and were occupied by Tamil families with children - most being small children.

Mullaitivu Kachcheri made non function

The Mullaitivu Kachcheri does not function now. This is so because the Kachcheri was heavily bombed and thereafter the Sinhala Army entered the Kachcheri, ransacked it and burnt all documents there in.

It is to be noted that the

Kachcheri is the key department of government for District Administration.

The Sri Lankan Armed Forces have destroyed the Chief Government institution undertaking civilian administration of government in Mullaitivu.

List of Schools Damaged in the Vanni District

Twenty schools in the Vanni District were destroyed or damaged by aerial bombardment during the period 20th June, 1990 to 31st. December, 1990. The details are as follows:-

1. Kanagarayankulam Maha Vidyalayam.
2. Omathai Maha Vidyalayam.
3. Kalmadu Govt. Tamil Mixed School.
4. Mankulam Maha Vidyalayam.
5. Oddisuddan Maha Vidyalayam.
6. Thaneeroottu Govt. Mixed School.
7. Thaneeroottu Roman Catholic School.
8. Mullaitivu Maha Vidyalayam.
9. Kallippadu Govt. Tamil Mixed School.
10. Mullaitivu Roman Catholic Govt. Tamil mixed School.
11. Vadduvahai Govt. Tamil Mixed School.
12. Mullivaikkal Govt. Tamil Mixed School.
13. Selawaththai Roman Catholic Govt. Tamil Mixed School.
14. Ninamadu Govt. Tamil Mixed School.
15. Kilinochchi Madhya Maha Vidyalayam.
16. Tharmapuram Maha Vidyalayam.
17. Chekkadipulavu Govt. Tamil Mixed School.
18. N. Jukulam Maha Vidyalayam.
19. Cheedikulam Maha Vidyalayam.
20. Pavatukulam 1st Unit Govt Tamil Mixed School.

Tamils Vacate 10 Villages in Vavuniya

Tamil residents of ten villages close to the Vavuniya town numbering about 5000 have vacated their villages and gone elsewhere as refugees.

On the 10th of this month the Sri Lankan Army encamped at Mamadu in Vavuniya came to the main road causing damage and destruction to the life and property of Tamils on the way.

It is reported that the Tamil villagers were compelled to vacate their homes and flee for safety elsewhere as

the Sri Lankan Army approached.

At least 10 villages close to the Vavuniya town have been deserted by the inhabitants. These villages are Nochchimodai, Peyadikoolankulam, Thandikulam, Marakarampanai, Paththiniyar, Mahilankulam, Oyar Sinnakulam, Puthukulam, Manikavalavu, Sasthirikoolam and Nelukulam.

It is estimated that the persons who have thus evacuated their villages and took refuge elsewhere number 5000.

About 1500 of these 5000 refugees, it is learnt, have gone to the Madhu Church where they are now living as refugees.

At Kadatkaraichenai Two houses burnt down

Two houses belonging to two Tamils have been burnt down at Kadatkaraichenai in Mutur by the Sri Lankan Army.

The news received from Trincomalee in this connection state that on 23.1.91 Sri

Lankan soldiers stationed at Kadatkaraichenai village proceeded towards the village of Kadatkaraichenai.

At Kadatkaraichenai these Sri Lankan Army personnel burnt down two houses that belonged to P. Arasaratnam and R. Arumathurai.

VERY ANGRY WITH NGOO?

During the last quarter of 1990 various humanitarian Non-Governmental Organizations functioning in the Mullaitivu District came un-

der bomber attacks by the Sri Lankan Air Force.

At Karaichchikudiyuruppu the Redd Barna Head Office and Stores were completely damaged by bomber attacks:

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Senior Accountant quits post

It is learnt that the Senior Accountant, Mr. T. T. Asokan, attached to the RRR & D Programme of the Sarvodaya has quit his post.

He has said that hardly any Accountant can carry out any accounting functions under the present set up of the SSM in a manner that would satisfy himself and the Donors.

GOVT'S WAR EFFORT

Only an attempt to wipe out Tamils and colonize Tamil Homeland with Sinhalese

Citizen K. Thiru writes to Foreign Envoys

A startling truth has surfaced in Sri Lanka's politics after the recent visit of the Indian External affairs Minister Sri Vidya Charan Shukula. The Indian Minister had advised the President to enter boldly into negotiations with the L.T.T.E. The sad truth is that Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne the Deputy Minister for Defence of Sri Lanka has had the last say in every thing pertaining to the civil war now raging in the North and East. This was made evident by the pronouncement made by Mr. Bradman Weerakone, the official adviser to President Premadasa on International Affairs. In an interview with the Press Mr. Bradman Weerakone in answer to questions relating to what had actually transpired at the meeting between the President and the Indian Minister regarding the prospects of a cease-fire had denied any knowledge of the out-come of the talks and had advised the Press to contact the Deputy Defence Minister. Mr. Bradman Weerakone has thus inadvertently admitted the shocking fact, that Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, the Secretary to the Defence Ministry Mr. Cyril Ranatunge and the army chief Mr. Hamilton Wanasinghe have taken complete command of the present situation to deal with the Ethnic War as they deem fit, regardless of the President's feelings or opinion. This would in effect spell the final doom to the fate of the Tamils in the North and East of Sri Lanka. These responsible officers are the sworn enemies of Justice Humanity and Reason. They are aided and abetted by the Buddhist Priesthood whose implacable hatred towards the Tamils in Sri Lanka was the subject of a lengthy article in the Times of Ceylon by the celebrated Manchester Guardian correspondent Mr. David Sourborn. His observation was "Suffragan Buddhist Priests armed with machine guns are posing the gravest threat to working out an acceptable solution to the Ethnic Conflict".

While the Deputy Defence Minister shrilly insists that the L.T.T.E. Camps and hide-outs are the Prime and sole targets of Aerial Bombardment, the actual facts are far otherwise. Indiscriminate bombing is the order of the day, irrespective of Refugee centres, Markets, Temples, Churches, Schools,

Hospitals, Hospital Security Zones and even funeral processions. In short wherever any gatherings of people or travelling passenger vans too are noted, it becomes the immediate target of savage aerial strafing. This situation was brought forth eloquently by the London B.B.C. Broadcasts on the 6th and 7th instant, in which pointed reference was made to the attack on three passenger buses and a few lorries transporting food items into the North in a village known as Puthukudierppu 30 people died and many were seriously wounded in an Aerial attack. These people were refugees. The very next day at the Uruthirapuram Market Square people died of an Aerial attack and many more were seriously injured and disabled. There was a repeated attack later on at the same village spot which claimed many more lives and damaged a Government Department Building viz Agrarian Services Office, Uruthirapuram. Even the funeral procession which took place the following day was not spared. But the Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne vehemently denied all the above incidents, as is his wont. Congratulations to the Sri Lanka Deputy Defence Minister for having out beaten Herr Hitler's Goebels. Artillery shells from the Navy and Army Camps directed against heavily populated areas are continuing unabated. It is no wonder that the Hon. Sri Vidya Charan Shukula was able to perceive the fatal weakness of the President and prescribed the bold remedy.

Unfortunately, the Indian Mission has not brought about any tangible change whatever towards the cessation of hostilities between the two major communities.

Mr. Premadasa and his cabinet Colleagues are not genuine in their efforts for a negotiable settlement. Mr. Premadasa never fails to pose as a peace-lover in any of his public appearances. At a recent Public meeting held at Batticaloa Town Hall, he had invited the LITE for peace negotiation subject to the conditions that they throw away the Arms and co-operate with the discredited Tamil movements in his peace process. It is shocking how such conditions be accepted after colossal loss sustained by the Tamil

Community in terms of lives and properties. This abundantly proves beyond the least shadow of doubt that the Government is still on the war path.

Refugee camps in the North and East of Sri Lanka have become horror chambers and murder dens. There is no denying this grim fact. We reliably learnt that talks are going on between the British and Sri Lanka Governments to open up refugee camps in the North especially in Vavuniya to house those unfortunates presently in Tamil Nadu, India. We appeal most earnestly and humbly that in the event of such measures getting translated into reality, British personnel should be in the over-all charge of such institution on humanitarian grounds.

The Sri-Lankan President's utter hypocrisy as a lover of peace is best illustrated by his appeal for peace between Iraq and the west through the SAARC at a time when his Army, Navy and the Air Force, Special Task Forces and Home Guards are running berserk in his own land against Tamil people. The Army have enforced a stringent blockade against the flow of essential items of Food, Fuel, Electricity, Medicine, Torches, torch-batteries, etc., to North East.

Repeated furious aerial bombardments and strafings are the daily events in the North. When concerned representatives from foreign and local establishments such as the I.R.C.S. and the Human Rights Institutions visited the war ravaged North East and saw for themselves the unbelievable destruction to life and properties wrought by the Sri-Lankan Air Force, they were deeply shocked and vowed to do everything humanly possible to stop this mad out burst of GENOCIDE inflicted on the noncombatants in the above said territory. When these representatives met in person the Air Force Top Officials and expressed their horror and shame at what they themselves had seen in the Northern and Eastern theatres of war and persuaded them to cry halt to this mad activity of his men, the Air Chief appears to have softened in his stand and gave them

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THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

Demo Against Price Increases

We learn that the good people of the Sinhala nation called Sri Lanka are planning a demonstration against the price increases in that nation and are to be led by that forthright man Vasudeva Nanayakara, the likes of whom should multiply a hundredfold. We in far flung Eelam do not know the exact magnitude of the increases that have taken place in the Sinhala Nation but assume that they are high enough to cause consternation and therefore wish our Sinhala friends the best of luck. Having said thus, it may interest our Sinhala friends in far off Sri Lanka to know what we Tamils in Eelam are undergoing as far as the prices of essential goods are concerned.

We pay forty rupees for a kilo of rice - seventy rupees for a kilo of sugar - sixty rupees for a kilo of flour - One hundred and twenty rupees for a kilo of tea and similar prices for other food items that may be available. On top of it all we pay eighty five rupees for a standard torch battery (cell) and fifty rupees for a pen-torch battery, both of which are in great demand since we do not have electricity in these dark backwoods, we also need them to be in touch with the outside world by operating our radios on these batteries.

May we suggest that you follow the grand example of your forbears in far off Bangladesh and stage your demonstration daily from dawn to dusk until the present administration is compelled to resign, paving the way for democratic elections. Lest I forget may I add that we also pay ninety rupees for a litre of kerosene and one hundred rupees for a litre of coconut oil and thirty rupees for a single coconut not forgetting petrol at two hundred and eighty rupees a litre.

Who is Conning whom?

Not very long ago we had the Lance Corporal in charge of Joint Operations telling us, that the thugs

of the Sinhala Air Force were not amenable to reason and were operating on their own. This was in response to a complaint that they were bombing blind all over the North East i. e. Eelam.

We now have Ranjan Wijeratne who is fast becoming the Court Jester in King Premadasa's Palace telling us, that he is unable to control the armed forces who are itching to go to battle in Eelam. But a couple of days ago the Sinhala Air Force Helicopters were dropping notices in Jaffna in which it was very clearly stated 'that the Armed Forces had been instructed by the government to mount a massive offensive against the Tigers'.

Who therefore is conning whom we may ask and quite rightly too.

Houses for all by year 2000 A. D.

Guess who said the above? Was it Adolf Hitler? Was it Pol Pot? or was it Ranasinghe Premadasa? Yes it was the last named who coined this phrase 'Houses for all by year 2000 A. D.' and won world renown in the process.

He is building houses for the Sinhala Nation and declaring them open every Sunday and offering them gratis with title deed etc to the Sinhala masses but no such housing schemes have been done in Eelam and why not. O. K. so the sinhala government does not believe in rendering such assistance to the Tamils in Eelam. But then is it necessary to flatten the privately built and privately owned houses of the Tamils in Eelam using Bull Dozers, Fuel and Fire and now bombs from the skies to flatten these Tamil homes. And how many such houses have been flattened - Ten,

Twenty or fifty thousand? Your guess is as good as mine. Yes if the Tamils want Eelam we will make them start from scratch by destroying everything they have.

Power Hegemony Must Go.

Enlightened views must prevail

This letter was written to President Premadasa on 22nd May, 1990. Talks were taking place between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE at that time.

The author of the letter is Mr. Somasuntharam Vanniasingam, a retired lecturer in Economics. Mr. Vanniasingam served as a lecturer in Economics at various educational institutions beginning from the Ceylon Technical College at Maradana and ending at the University of Jaffna.

Though the letter was written about eight months ago, we are publishing it, as it gives expression to an independent point of view placed before President Premadasa even before the current war started.

The President's Secretary had acknowledged receipt of this letter.

Old order is never restored after a Political Storm

I had occasion to send a communication to you earlier focussing attention on a certain truth namely that the old order is never restored after a political storm and that the parties must learn to adjust themselves to a changed pattern of relationship.

You are now at the cross roads and any false move can put the clock back. I therefore feel that as an old fellow who takes only an intellectual interest in politics, I should draw your attention to certain other truths.

Moral courage is a rare virtue, difficult to cultivate but a person who displays moral courage at the right time finds a niche in history.

Honesty is the best policy.

The head of the executive Government of a country is a trustee and should act according to his mature convictions.

'Ars longa vita brevis est.' Applied contemporaneously, it signifies that the life of a nation is very long but that of the individual politician is infinitesimally short.

Several Sinhalese leaders have confessed quite frankly that they were wrong in pursuing racist policies but they could not help doing so because of political compulsion. It is here that the moral courage is required.

Why cannot a Sinhalese leader stand up before the Sinhalese community and announce somewhat as follows:

"Look here, my countrymen, the Tamils are as much entitled to Swaraj as the Sinhalese are. Tamils are entitled to manage their own affairs as much as we are. Sovereignty resides with the people and national sovereignty comes into existence only when the people voluntarily and willingly join together to be in the same polity. We cannot force a group of people to be in the same group with us."

Rational policies not feasible under racio-religious fundamentalism

The proper noun 'Demala' in Sinhala has degenerated into a word of contempt. But the corresponding proper noun in Tamil Sinhala (Singular) and Sinhala (plural) is absolutely neutral.

The Tamils who were not aware of the hardened attitude prevailing among the Sinhalese towards the Tamils have found the average individual Sinhalese with whom he deals in his day to day life in work-places, business deals, professional levels quite amiable and the neighbourhood has been quite nice and helpful. It is only when the collective personality of the Sinhalese seeks expression that this racio-religious fundamentalism comes into play. That hostile ethnocentric attitude is being churned out by some persons who are able to make an appeal to sentiment and the collective ego. They are not necessarily politicians. Statesmanship among the Sinhala nation lies not in seeking to appease those who churn out such sentiments and nurse such collective ego but in seizing the bull by

the horns and dashing it to pieces. No rational policies could be formulated or a sensible management of the polity is feasible so long as racio-religious fundamentalism governs the outlook of the people and politicians entrusted with power are governed by the compulsions of such parameters.

National self-respect, a sense of national pride and self-confidence stemming from such thoughts are undoubtedly essential for progress of all categories. But a collective ego founded on superstitions should not be mistaken for national self-respect or national pride. These qualities are based on psychological truths and get the benefit of the synergic effect.

Colebrooke - Cameroon Unification intended to manage Kandyan Nobles.

The concept 'national minority' and 'national majority' should be banished from the country's political thinking. These were coined by the Britisher and should disappear from the political vocabulary of the country with the exit of the Britisher. Are the Welsh and the Scottish people referred to as minorities.

It is a fallacy to think that 'divide et impera' was Britain's imperial policy. It is more correct to say that 'Lump together and keep under the thumb' was Britain's imperial policy. Even in Ceylon the Colebrooke - Cameroon unification of the Island's administration was specifically for the purpose of being better able to manage the Kandyan Nobles in an all-Island context since they were creating difficulties by harping on the Kandyan Convention.

I remember reading a column by 'Flybynight' in which he revealed that a bevy of Buddhist bhikkus called upon D.S. Senanayake and wanted to be given a status in the affairs of the polity as under the ancient Sinhalese Kings. It would seem that Senanayake came dressed in white, worshipped the bhikkus and told them that the temples were in a

parlous state and to devote their energies in looking after the temples and that he would look after politics. That firm detached and dignified attitude was not followed by subsequent Prime Ministers. Kotelawala threatened to disrobe the political bhikkus, Bandaranaike embraced the bhikkus for harvesting votes having become a convert to Buddhism at the politically appropriate age. Dudley Senanayake was too weak to pursue any policy with firmness. Sirima, the author or rather, the swallower of the phrase 'rapacious West' swallowed, if I may say so, politicised Buddhism. In one of the rare moments of enlightenment, Jayewardena once said that the Bhikkus knew no modern language and accused them of being inward looking. But later political compulsions, as he thought, did not allow him to abandon racio-religious fundamentalism.

At Cross Roads.

Earlier I wrote that you were at the cross roads. One road leads to the old track of racio-religious fundamentalism. The other leads to a modern concept of politics and nationhood. You are at the cross roads; do not take the wrong road which may

Force is something personal. The Supreme Force cannot be gheraoed or bribed. There can be no broker between man and the Supreme Force. There is no scope for 'union' action in relation to the Supreme Force. Organized religion defeats the purpose sought to be achieved. Organized religion becomes the medium for the development of collective ego and the root of infinite violence.

Religion is a matter of faith. Further there is no scope for communization in religion. Political decision-taking ought to follow reasoned judgement. Religion, which centres round faith, should not be allowed to intrude into political decision-making. The Protestant Europe and North America kept religion as far away as possible from politics and it is those countries that experienced growth development and stability.

Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne is reported to have refused to answer the question relating to the LTTE wielding power in the Eastern Province and walked away taking his files of papers. Why could not he tell Sirima Bandaranaike and her party the blunt truth straight to her face and silence all criticism? Why cannot he say something as follows.

"Bandaranaike and his party are responsible for the chaotic situation in the country. It is they who caused the Tamils to revolt first by violating the conditions of the conditional polity by enacting the Sinhala Only Act in the teeth of the opposition from the entire North-East;

by Somasuntharam Vanniasingam

look deceptively popular. You have the necessary firm personality to adopt a statesman like approach and guide the country into a modern and forward looking polity.

Lord Buddha could not have blessed Lanka and the Sinhalese people exclusively. For him all beings, human and non-human are alike and he loved them all.

In the modern world, we all accept that the pursuit of all religions is the same to help cleanse men of the evil that afflicts them and enable them to enter into communion with the Supreme Force to seek guidance and solace. Faith begins where reason fails. The Supreme Force is beyond our comprehension. More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. But prayer, the attempt to enter into communion with the Supreme

and later by 'dismantling the conditional polity of the Dominion of Ceylon and creating a Republic on the strength of a Mandate, the call for which was rejected by the voters of the North and East jointly and severally, thereby placing the legitimacy of the Republic and the Constitution under a big question mark;" and that you are endeavouring to mend fences, negotiating with the Tamils and retrieve the situation from Chaos into some sort of respectability and acceptability. There should be no hesitation to talk the truth and scare away the devil.

Tamils demand Swaraj

Tamils demand Swaraj and are totally unconcerned about New Delhi's reactions. They welcome the Sinhalese as friends and neighbours but

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Jaffna Citizens' Committee:- Reminds President of Geneva Conventions Eastern Students Need Relief

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee in a letter addressed to President Premadasa has invited his attention to certain Geneva Conventions on International Humanitarian Law which says that "the occupying power has the duty of ensuring the food and medical supplies of the population" and that "the occupying power must permit necessary relief operations to aid the population and facilitate them by all means at its disposal, particularly by authorizing the charitable work of a neutral state, or the ICRC or any other impartial humanitarian organization"

The Citizens' Committee has reminded the President that since July, 1990, it has been writing letters to him every week calling for supplies of food, medicines and other necessities but that despite intimation from His Excellency's Secretariat that suitable action was being taken on those letters there has been no improvement in the supply position.

The Citizens' Committee's letter states that 50% of the Tamil population are languishing in Refugees' Camps for the last seven months and charges the Government of continuing to deprive the entire Tamil population which

the Government claims to be under its care and protection, for over seven months of food, medicines education, electricity and other means or livelihood. The letter also charges the Government of allowing the Tamils to perish uncared for and to be tortured and massacred by unknown forces particularly in the Batticaloa and Amparai Districts.

The letter also states that it is inconceivable that medicines given by the Ministry of Health in Colombo for supply to the General (Teaching) Hospital, Jaffna and to the Regional Director of Health Services, Jaffna are not permitted by the Joint

Operations Command to be transported to Jaffna. It further states that vehicles donated by a foreign Government for anti malarial work have been taken over by the Security Forces for their purposes.

The letter points out that in view of the existing short supply of medicines, increase in cases needing medical attention due to the war and the ban placed on private transportation of medicines by pharmacies and drug stores by the armed forces the quantity of medicines suppliable to the Government hospitals has to be doubled.

The letter also gives a sample price index of essential consumer goods like rice, sugar, kerosene and coconut oil in the black market and calls for immediate supplies of such consumer goods to save the people from starvation.

The letter points out that Government pensioners have not been paid pensions for the months of November and December, 1990 yet. These payments have not been made because of the non-availability of liquid cash in Banks According to the letter a sum of Rs. 265,000,000/- is required monthly for Banks to make pension payments.

Although the Electricity Board has made several applications for transformer oil to make at least limited supplies of electricity available, the request has so far not been allowed and the Citizens' Committee has requested the President to ensure the supply of this limited quantity at least early.

The Jaffna Citizen's Committee has also brought to the knowledge of the President the plight of about 500 students from the East who are going through their

higher education at the University of Jaffna. According to the Citizens' Committee these undergrads do not receive any financial assistance from their parents because they had lost contacts with their parents whose whereabouts are not known yet.

As the Jaffna University itself has no funds to help these students, the Citizens' Committee has requested the President to make available special financial assistance to these students through the Vice Chancellor of the Jaffna University until normalcy is restored.

The Committee's letter concludes by saying that no community can hope to prosper or survive by destroying another and reiterates its appeal to the President to reconsider his decision to continue the war and violence.

Power..

(Continuation of Page 3)

not as masters. They want to manage their own affairs; they do not propose to allow the Sinhalese to manage the affairs of the Tamils. The Tamils are no longer interested in complaining of discrimination; that was in the distant past in the phase when they were part and parcel of the same conditional polity called the Dominion of Ceylon.

The Tamils are not unmindful of the environment: that the Sinhalese and the Tamils have to live in the same Island. When the Sinhalese and the Tamils, each seek to manage their own affairs, the relationship between the two groups need not resemble that subsisting between India and Pakistan. The unhappy relationship between Pakistan and India is the direct result of the Indian National Congress obstinately refusing the demand of the people of what now constitutes Pakistan the right to manage their own affairs. This obstinate objection proceeded on the thesis that British India constituted a single political unit. The Indian National Congress refused to accept the vast diversity in what was then British India and to make appropriate arrangements for the substance of self-government to inure to all the

diverse elements. They never conceded that majority decision-making in such a diverse setting constituted an error in the democratic structure and ought to be appropriately modified. Jinnah offered through Mountbatten a confederal political set-up which would preserve India as a single unit in respect of certain subjects and ensure the substance of self-government to the States in others. Nehru rejected this confederal solution on the ground that the States were given too much power and the Centre too little. Nehru suffered from the obsession of socialist planning and was asserting that the Centre must have much more powers to enable centralized socialist planning. The rejection of Jinnah's offer, mainly on account of Nehru's obstinate objection resulted in much bitterness, antipathy, partition, large scale shift of population and endless bitterness between India and Pakistan. A settlement on the lines of a confederal set up envisaged by Jinnah can be adopted in the case of Lanka and all the unhappy relations that obtain between India and Pakistan could be avoided if it is agreed that the two groups, the Sinhalese and the Tamils are entitled to the substance of self-government, the right to manage their own affairs and

be the architects of their own future.

One should open one's eyes and look around. Belgium was described by Western historians as the cockpit of Europe. Today Brussels is the centre for co-ordinating and harmonizing state policies of European Economic Community countries. There is much greater unity and liaison between the countries of the European Economic Community than what obtains between the States of the Indian Union which is really an imperial polity, the Centre wielding far too much of power than is good either for India as a whole or the States individually. What is the secret underlying the transition from a warring Europe to a United Europe harmonizing State policies and facilitating and promoting the free flow of goods and factors of production? Well, as a result of the tragic experiences of the second World War, the European nations began to look outward and forward instead of, as in earlier time, inwards and backwards. Enlightened co-operation and co-ordination with other peoples replaced the ideas of power hegemony and of false sense of national ego. Why cannot the Sinhalese think along such lines. The Tamils have always been ready to reciprocate. Some Leader with a strong personality and determination is needed to break

the ice and lead the Sinhalese people to develop a modern outlook.

A Confederation of States

The outlines of a confederal set-up is easily presented. The Provincial Council set-up is tainted with imperialistic structure. The divisions must be founded on the principle of autonomy. The Provinces are also too small to permit professional detachment in the Administrative Function. The configuration of the political units in the seven Sinhala Provinces concerned is for the people there to decide but an outside observer would suggest a Ruhuna State, a Rajarata State, a Kandyan State apart from the Tamil State in the North East apart from a Metropolitan territory. The J.V.P. is really the Ruhuna element in the Sinhala population and a State where they could exercise political power through the ballot is the easiest means of eradicating the use of arms in political processes.

Details could be worked out once the principle is accepted. The Tamils cannot acquiesce in a political set-up in which an ethnic majority can masquerade as a political majority. What Ponnambalam sought in the thirties and the forties through constitutional safeguards are now being sought by the

militant youths through the bullet. The viable political solution lies in some five autonomous states brought together in a confederal union. The Union will not have a Parliament. The authority for the administration of the subjects that are assigned to the Centre would be by agreements as in the E.E.C. The subjects for the Union Authority would be External tariff, Inter-State and International transport and Communications, Energy, Currency and Banking, Control of the Professions, the Apex structure of the judicial function and other such subjects. The creation of five autonomous States and a confederal Union of Lanka would inhibit a partition of the Island into hostile units and estranged relations and possible further interferences from India. The Union of Lanka on a Confederal political set-up will be a genuine Union with every one of the autonomous States anxious to work unitedly in respect of the common subjects to be handled by the Union. The subject Defence is not mentioned advisedly. The Island will not be able to defend itself in the event of an attack from outside and we will have to rely solely on international organizations. Defence expenditure has contributed most to inflation.

These suggestions are put forward for what they are worth.

Genocide - the Buddhist Sinhala way

Tamils are being driven from their homes as refugees by the Sinhala armed forces.

Defenceless civilians are taken away from their homes and refugee camps and summarily shot dead.

The Sinhala Air Force carries out bombing of heavily populated civilian areas. Their targets are hospitals, schools, temples and churches, refugee camps, any moving vehicle including hospital ambulances and residential houses.

The Sinhala Air Force often carries out carpet bombing of towns and villages for days at a stretch without any military significance.

Artillery shells are fired indiscriminately into residential areas from Sinhala Army Camps.

Sinhala Navy fires shells from gun-boats in coastal areas without any rhyme or reason.

Sinhala Navy prevents any fishing activity and when they

encounter any Catamarans trying to fish close to the coast, they simply shoot and kill the fishermen or take them away and God only knows what happens. The Sinhala Navy fires at defenceless refugees fleeing to India. Entire families have perished at sea in this manner.

Through an economic blockade preventing the flow of electricity, petrol, diesel, torch batteries, manure and even medicines Tamils are being strangled to death. To hoodwink the world at large, a few shipments of a few bare essential items are being made with a lot of publicity.

Education has been completely disrupted with frequent bombing of schools and non-holding of examinations, lack of school books and stationery and lack of transport facilities and non-supply of mid-day meals.

All transport and communications have been brought to a standstill. Even the few emergency travellers come

under firing from helicopters and bombers.

All state assistance like food-stamps for the poor, pension payments and other subsidies have been suspended.

All rehabilitation work for the damages done in the past and development activities have been suspended.

People cannot draw moneys from banks and salaries are not paid as there is a cash shortage.

People cannot do even urgent repairs to their damaged houses, as there is no cement or any other building materials.

Daily wage earners have been deprived of their livelihood due to the oppressive nature of the war.

Press is being strangled without the availability of newsprint. Freedom of travel has been denied as the Sinhala army is occupying airports and harbours in Tamil homeland. Travelling to the Capital of Colombo has been made dangerous and tedious with army

(Continued on Page 6)

Protest of Mothers' Front in the South

There was a demonstration on 19.02.91 in Colombo to protest against the 'disappearances' of persons in various parts of the South and against 'Human Rights' Violations by the Mothers' Front.

This Front, according to reports by the BBC, is spearheaded by Dr. Manorani Saravanamuttu whose son, Richard de Zoysa, a prominent broadcaster, journalist and T.V. Commentator was killed by men in 'uniform'. It may be recalled that the 'Hot Spring' of 17.02.91, published excerpts from the Annual Report of the Centre for International Judges and Lawyers (CIJL) in which the 'disappearance' of Richard de Zoysa was spotlighted. Batty Weerakoon the lawyer who appeared for Dr. Manorani Saravanamuttu at the Magisterial Inquiry was at the 'receiving end of death threats'. The Security Forces, Police and the JVP have been allegedly responsible for these 'disappearances'. In an interview with the BBC she has stated that although the

official figure is estimated to be nearly 30,000, the figure is almost double.

As far as the North is concerned, the Mothers Front has been active in the past.

Readers may remember the 'Broomstick March, Mothers' March, the Fishermen's March to protest against the North being parcelled into Zones viz. Security Zone, Surveillance Zone etc.

Recently too, we witnessed a Women's March to protest against the indiscriminate bombing, the lack of essentials of food and medicines and the anti-social actions of the local black-market-cers and violations of Human Rights.

Who said 'woman was the weaker sex; Frailty, thy name is woman!'. It is good to remember that more things have been wrought by women than this world ever dreamt of. Remember, Cleopatra, Madame Curie, Margaret Thatcher, and Mother Theresa.

'A Local Reader'

Govt...

(Continuation of Page 2)

a solemn assurance that the Air Force activities against civilian targets would be a thing of the past. Well, it was not an assurance that was to be taken seriously as subsequent events have abundantly illustrated. Honour, Truth and Kindness are not virtues that Service Chiefs display at critical junctures in the life of a Nation. After the 6th inst. the following daily bombardments and strafings have taken place. We fear that there might have been many more incidents of such nature that have not come to our knowledge.

7-2-91- At Kerathivu - San-kupiddy Jetty in Jaffna District. Many people were seriously injured.

At Kollankalady, near K. K. S. Jaffna District a Hindu Temple was bombed. The Priest's wife died and many worshippers were seriously injured.

8-2-91- At Chavakachcheri Area - Jaffna District at 4 p.m. Helicopter strafings and some civilians were injured.

At Jaffna Town at 6 p.m. Grenade dropped from Helicopter six people seriously injured.

At Meesalai and Kodikamam at 6 p.m. two Helicopters and two Bombers bombed and two died and a few houses completely destroyed.

9-2-91- At Meesalai-Puttur Junction main Road in Jaffna District. A passenger van was completely damaged and passengers were hurt seriously by helicopter attack.

10-2-91- Kodikamam market was bombed. Two died and many seriously injured. At Potpathy Road, Kokkuvil, Jaffna District. A Temple was bombed and four civilians in one family died and many were injured. In short bombing and strafing are the daily events in the Jaffna District and in North East as a whole.

In the wake of the recent official visit of His Excellency, President Premadasa to the city of Trincomalee, a high-powered committee comprising top Government officials - civil and military had been formed for the sole and sinister purpose of converting the traditional Tamil homelands which had been deserted as a result of the atrocities of the Security Forces into Sinhalese areas.

On 12.2.91 at Neelavanai, Batticaloa District, 400 Tamil civilians were taken to camps.

On 11.2.91 the Security Forces shot and killed about 25 to 50 innocent civilians between Vavuniya and Nochchimodai but the Government announced over the Radio that 25 LTTE killed in the Vavuniya-Thandikulam confrontation. What a pity these dead

bodies (men, women and children of unknown destination) were lying along the roadside as food for animals.

The thriving and most populous city of Valvettiturai in Jaffna District was carpet bombed as no other city in the North - East after two hours of warning to residents to vacate their homes with their baggages. Not a single building in the city is left intact. Even places of worship belonging to different faiths and school buildings were razed to the ground.

The refugees from Eastern Province numbering about 3,300,000 are scattered all over the Northern Province viz. Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Mannar, Kilinochchi and Jaffna Peninsula. They are on the verge of utter starvation. Even the minimum basic requirements in food to keep the body and soul together are denied them viciously. But the Sri Lankan Air Force comes as unwanted visitors and bombs them mercilessly. The remaining numbers look ghastly and are a miserable lot hoping against hope for deliverance from their desperate plight.

The Government has placed a stringent embargo on all items of human consumption and even salaries of Public Servants and pension to retired officers and widows and Orphans are not paid regularly. Fertilizers are not spared. Just imagine, Sir, that a litre of coconut oil or kerosene is hard to come by even for Rs. 100/-

Such indeed is the pathetic plight of the Tamil people in the North. The situation in the east defies all description. It is a veritable hell. It can stand comparison only with the Concentration Camps in Nazi Germany during World War II.

The Sri Lankan Government has fabricated matters in such a way for India, or China or European Economic Community or any other Nation to come to a conclusion that the war in the North - East of Sri Lanka is an internal issue. BUT IT IS ABSOLUTELY INCORRECT. THIS IS PURELY A WIPING OUT OF THE TAMIL PEOPLE AND COLONISING THE TRADITIONAL HOMELANDS NORTH EAST - WITH THE SINHALESE.

The Tamil Homes around the Sri Lankan Army Camps all over North - East which have been deserted by Tamils through of fear being shot dead by Army have been razed to the ground by the Army, after removing all valuables, doors, windows and fittings and left no sign if any houses having existed there.

We understand that the Sir-Lankan Government has made arrangements to increase the strength of the Forces to 1,20,000 and also have requisitioned highly sophisticated weaponry, fighter planes, Helicopters, Tanks, etc., etc., from China, China or any nation selling Arms to a very small country like Sri-Lanka does not realise that its bus-

iness with Sri Lanka Government, is for destruction of the Tamil people in Sri-Lanka. This could be interpreted as a threat to neighbouring countries as well. All these are for complete wiping out of the Tamils first and then? It is evident that even a penny given as loan or Aid to Sri-Lanka is being diverted to purchase Arms and to strengthen the Armed forces BUT NOT FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT. On humanitarian point of view, at least at this hour, the Europe Economic Community, the World Bank, the whole Christian West, should stop all Aids, to Sri-Lanka Government forthwith.

In the name of our Lord, the Creator, we appeal to all the Nations the world over to stop forthwith the sale of any Military hardware and fuel used for this genocide and to pressurize the Premadasa's Government to come back to their senses to stop their Military Activities and work out a just honourable and acceptable solution to the Ethnic Strife.

Any talks held with any others by-passing the LTTE, will not bring any solution to the Ethnic Strife at any time in Sri-Lanka.

There is no doubt about it that the only Party or movement second to Almighty above, which looks after the interests and safety of the Tamils in Sri-Lanka is the LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM.

HOT SPRING

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Not Eelam But All

President Premadasa recently spoke at a meeting at Batticaloa. He spoke in Sinhala which was interpreted to Tamil.

In the course of his speech he said: "Eellaa Nevael Eltaa Dhenava". Rendered into English this means: "Not Eelam but (I) will give all". The word 'Eelam' has been strained to rhyme with the Tamil word 'Eltaam'. This is not the first time that Tamils have heard pious promises from Sinhala leaders when they visit Tamil homeland.

Readers will recollect portions of the parliamentary speech of the late Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam published in our last issue.

Mr. Ponnampalam had stated in his speech that a former UNP Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawela, made promise to amend the Ceylon Constitution providing for parity of status to Sinhala and Tamil as official languages at three different platforms in Jaffna in June, 1955 and in September, 1955 in Colombo denied having made that promise.

Not that we suggest that President Premadasa has also made the Batticaloa promise with a furtive intent to prevaricate later.

We question his right to make that promise at all. We are also certain that his chief political opponents, as well as the Buddhist clergy will question the President's right to make such promises at the most opportune moment of their choice - for different purposes altogether!

When President Premadasa made that promise, it was clear that he was conscious of holding all power to make such a promise. A similar promise cannot emanate from anyone who does not feel that he is all powerful.

It is unfortunately here that President Premadasa has blundered like all his predecessors - be they Presidents or Prime Ministers.

It is axiomatic in the concept of democracy that sovereignty resides in the people. Even the Constitution of Jayawardene making specifically says so.

Right from the time the British masters left handing over the reins of power to the Sinhalese, the Tamils have consistently refused to give power to the Sinhalese to govern the Tamils.

The Senanayake, Kotelawala, Bandaranaike, Jayewardene or Premadasa have never given a mandate by the Tamils to govern the Tamils or to wield power over them in their own homeland.

The Sinhalese have surreptitiously usurped the power to govern the Tamils. Further so by the promulgation of new constitutions in 1972 and 1977 in the teeth of the opposition of the Tamils. The power the Sinhalese wield over the Tamils today, is only a pretended power without any foundation and sustained by the power of the bullet.

When President Premadasa made the Batticaloa promise, he felt he had that power, to govern the Tamils and their homeland. It is unfortunately this false concept of power that has led to so much bloodshed in the Island from 1950 onwards.

It is needless to reiterate that the Tamils are a separate people with all the attributes of a distinct nation.

When that distinct nation has consistently denied the Sinhalese the right to rule it, by what right can the Sinhalese regard themselves as its rulers?

The death and destruction which this Island is witnessing, can be effectively prevented, if the Sinhalese refuse to think of themselves as the rulers of the Tamils and their homeland.

The moment Sinhalese leaders realize that they have no legal or moral right to govern the Tamils, they will cease to make promises genuine or not is a secondary matter. They will think of building up the bonds of friendship between the Sinhalese and Tamils on former foundations as it existed before the days of British imperialism.

Presently the Sinhalese seem to think that power rests with them and so they can exercise that power and give or not give the Tamils what they (the Sinhalese) think best.

The Tamil position is that the Sinhalese have nothing to give us because that is ours by right and if somebody else keeps what is ours by right, he has stealthily taken it from us or is at least guilty of retaining stolen property.

Married women - Sexually assaulted Beastly behaviour of Sri Lankan Army

Reports received from Batticaloa state that on two days the Sinhala soldiers committed sexual offences on married Tamil women in the Batticaloa District.

In one case the offence was committed in a refugee camp. On 4.1.91 soldiers of the Sinhala Army entered the refugee camp at Kaakachiveddai School and committed sex offences on three Tamil refugee women who were staying in the camp. All three are married women with children. One woman is 23 years and has one child. The other is 30 years old with four children and the third who is 32 years old, has five children.

The second incident of rape took place at the 3th colony. Two women were subjected to sexual assaults in this

colony of 5-1-91. Both the victims in this case too are married and one of them is 55 years. Sex offences on these women were committed by soldiers of the Sri Lankan Army stationed at Palayadiveddai.

Though the names of the five victims of the beastly behaviour of the Sri Lankan Army are known, their names are not being published to avoid embarrassment to the victims.

NEWS ROUND UP

30.1.91

At Periyakuma in Vavuniya Artillery shell attack from Poonthoddam Army Camp. Some persons including one named Singaram injured. Some houses were also damaged. Villagers around Poonthoddam left their homes in fear.

31.1.91

At Vavuniya - Army fired at Colombo bound passengers. One person died on the spot. Three persons injured. One of the injured, A. Thiyagarajah (48) who was admitted to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital with head injuries, was reported to be in serious condition.

Bomb attacks at Adampan, Parappukadintan Kuruvi in the Mannar District. Damage not known.

Artillery shell attack from Elephant Pass Army Camp directed towards Kilinochchi, Murasumoddai and Periyapalai. Miss N. Patmanathan (18) of Periyapalai sustained severe injuries and lost one of her legs also. Some houses were damaged. At Murasumoddai, a shop called 'Selvam Stores' was completely destroyed.

1-2-91

At Chavakachcheri. Helicopter fired at a private pilgrims' Van. Driver S. Nithyanandan (45) and two passengers injured.

At Murukandy, Mullaitivu District. Two bombers and one helicopter attack. Three civilians died. Nagarajah (32), his daughter Loginy (02) and a school boy, Thangarajah (12) died. Several persons were injured.

2-2-91

At Kokkuvil in the Jaffna District. Bombers attack. The Kokkuvil East Ramakrishna Mission Sarah Girls School building completely destroyed. Some refugees from Valikamam North were in this school. A refugee girl named Selvaratnam Geetha (16) lost one of her legs and was seriously injured. A house belonging to Sinnathamby Ambikapathy in the neighbourhood was also damaged. Ambikapathy (55)

and his daughter Premawathie (27) were injured. Another person Sriskandaraiah (49) of Kokkuvil East was also injured.

At Mulankavil and Natchikudah Junction in the Mannar District, bombers attack. Two persons Sivaguru (54) and Chandiran (30) were severely injured. Two school buildings and the Agrarian Services Centre at Mulankavil and the Rural Development Society building, 4 shops and a petrol shed at Natchikudah Junction were damaged.

Shell attack at Achuveli from the Palaly Army Camp at night. Shells exploded in the gardens. No one was injured.

3.2.91

At Thalayady, Point Pedro East Division. Bomber attacks. Four persons injured. Three persons admitted to Jaffna Teaching Hospital. Sellathurai Arunthavarasa (24), R. malingam Gandhidas (39) and S. Ponniah (45). Government Hospital and Quarters and AGA's office were also damaged.

At Puranattakal in Vavuniya Helicopter attack. Three passenger vans completely burnt together with goods of passengers and cash of Rs. 22,000/-. A few other vehicles and a house were also damaged.

Helicopter straffing from Kilinochchi town to 158th milepost and Umayalpuram. Slight damages.

At Paranthan - Bomber and helicopter attack. Paranthan Chemicals Factory (Government) damaged. Artillery shell attack from Elephant Pass Army Camp towards villages. No damage reported.

04.2.91

At Uruthirapuram, Koolavadi Junction. Bombers and helicopter attacks. 10 persons died and 5 seriously injured. Five shops and three vehicles were damaged. The dead include Tharuni (7), Kugan (22), Jegan (14), Kanthan (15), Ruparr (21) and Kumar (26). The injured include K. Thavanesan (18), Rajah (13) and Rajendram (19).

Genocide...

(Continuation of Page 5)

check-points at Vavuniya and other border points and the despicable air attacks.

Hospitals are devoid of drugs and staff. Frequently the hospitals are the targets for air attacks.

There is no preventive medical work being done. Even anti-malarial work has been stopped. Diseases are allowed to spread and people allowed to die without medicines.

Sinhalese have obtained the active participation of India to harass the Tamils who have fled to India to escape the genocide here.

All these criminal atrocities are perpetrated on the Tamils in the name of democracy just because the Sinhalese Buddhists are a majority, in this Island and they wield state power.

Tamils are not aspiring to dominate the Sinhalese. They are only saying that enough is enough of the Sinhalese misrule and they do not want to be ruled by the Sinhalese. They want to rule themselves in their own homeland, and to achieve this objective, no price is too much.

S. Selvarajah

Very...

(Continuation of Page 1)

The Sarvodaya Office at Vannakulam also came under bomber attacks and was severely damaged.

Last but not the least the ICRC office at Ithukudiyiruppu was also damaged by bomber attacks.

Were these also LTTE 'hid-outs'?

The Government of Sri Lanka has still to explain.