

HOT SPRING

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A man's a man for a' that

"In these fourteen eventful years (1931 - 44) upon every question that affected one community or another, the Divisions Lists (in the Hansards) disclose a very significant and pregnant fact; the Sinhalese voting en bloc on one side, and the minorities on the other"

Quoted from the Presidential Address of Mr. G.G. Ponnampalam at the first Plenary Sessions of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress held on 27-11-1944 (Brackets are ours)

Sinhala imperium spreads over Amparai

Tamils out - Muslims disappointed - Sinhala fishermen make hay
Sinhala forced down throats of Tamil children

Pottuvil and Panama villages from where the native Tamils were forcibly driven out by the Sinhala Army with the active help of the Muslims are being fast colonized with Sinhalese much to the chagrin of the Muslims.

Reports received from Batticaloa in this connection state that Tamils and Muslims inhabited the villages of Pottuvil and Panama in the Amparai District.

When the current war broke out in June last year, the Muslims joined hands with the Sinhala Army and committed lot of atrocities against the Tamils. A number of Tamils were murdered by the Muslims. The Muslims

also damaged and destroyed the houses belonging to Tamils and looted the properties of the Tamils. The Tamils who could not bear the atrocities committed on them by the Muslims supported by the Sinhala Army, were compelled to flee their homes. These Tamils who were thus rendered refugees, are presently living in villages like Komari, Thambiluvil and Thirukovil.

The areas occupied by these Tamils are now overgrown with shrub jungles for want of human habitation. But the Sinhala Government has brought in a large number of Sinhalese from outside to do fishing in the Pottuvil area.

It is further reported that seasonal fishing in the area had begun and the new Sinhalese fishermen have started fishing in the area under the pretext of deep sea fishing. These fishermen have been provided with modern fishing equipment

too. They have also been given fast-moving fishing boats and up-to-date fishing nets which can hold a large catch. Naturally with all the incentives, the Sinhalese fishermen are able to maximise their catch of fish.

The fish so caught is also immediately transported to Colombo and Up-Country areas after icing process is done. The Sinhalese fishermen are thus earning large sums of money daily.

The Muslim fishermen of the area are not in possession of any modern fishing equipment. They only have the old model conventional equipment. At this seasonal fishing time, the Muslim fishermen are compelled to wait and watch the intruding Sinhalese fishermen make hay

in deep sea fishing while Muslim fishermen are both disappointed and worried but are unable to do anything in the matter. They themselves joined the marauding Sinhalese to drive away their counterparts - the poor Tamil fishermen.

In Panama too, most of the Tamils have vacated their homes and are living in Komari, Thambiluvil and Thirukovil but a very few of the old Tamil families are still living there.

There is a Tamil School at Panama and a teacher named Yogarajah, was teaching Tamil to the children of these families. The Sinhala Army has driven this teacher away and now a Sinhala teacher named Chandrasena, has been appointed to teach Sinhala to these students. The Tamil children are thus forced to study Sinhala abandoning their mother-tongue.

ICRC Hands over dead bodies of
Sri Lanka Soldiers to Sri Lanka Navy

The ICRC sub-delegation in Jaffna handed over the dead bodies of 23 of the Sri Lankan Army to the Sri Lankan Navy at Point Pedro on the 2nd of this month.

A press communication issued by the ICRC to the newspapers in Jaffna as well as to the media in Colombo, states as follows:-

On the afternoon of 2nd April, 1991, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) handed over 23 bodies of Sri Lankan Army soldiers killed in combat with the LTTE to the Sri Lankan Navy at Point Pedro.

The Press Communication has been signed by Mr. Fred Grimm, Head of the ICRC Sub-Delegation in Jaffna.

The dead bodies of the Sri Lankan soldiers were recovered by the LTTE at Veppankulam in the Mannar District after a fight between the Sri Lankan Army and the LTTE at Veppankulam on 30th March, 1991.

The reports state that the Sri Lankan soldiers stationed at the Kadjuwattai Military Camp in the Mannar District, came out of their Camp on the 30th of March and were met by the LTTE at a place called Veppankulam near the Camp. The battle which ensued between the two lasted for nearly six hours.

At the end the Sri Lankan soldiers retreated to their

camp, abandoning their dead and many weapons also. The victorious Tigers recovered the Army weapons as well as the dead bodies.

The dead bodies and weapons recovered by the LTTE were brought to Jaffna where the dead bodies were handed over by the LTTE to the ICRC to be in turn handed over to the Sri Lankan Government.

The dead bodies thus received by the ICRC were handed in turn to the Sri Lankan Navy on 2nd April, 1991.

In this connection the LTTE has saluted 11 of its dead cadres who fell in the battle at Veppankulam.

BOMBER ATTACK ON
MIYANKULAM

Two bombers of the Sri Lankan Air Force carried out widespread bombing in the village of Miyankulam in the Batticaloa District.

Reports from Batticaloa state that large number of civilian dwellings mostly small huts and houses were severely damaged and destroyed.

The reports also state that chena cultivation in the area was severely damaged as a result of the aerial bombing at Miyankulam.

Fortunately no deaths have been reported. It is further stated that almost all the inhabitants of this village of Miyankulam had fled the village and are living as refugees elsewhere in other places or forests and therefore they have escaped physical injuries to their persons even though the village was subjected to indiscriminate attack.

The air attack on Miyankulam took place on 13th of January, 1991.



Left: A picture of some dead bodies in coffins of Sri Lankan soldiers killed at Veppankulam.

Centre: A picture of some weapons recovered by the LTTE from the Sri Lankan Army at Veppankulam.

Right: Another picture of more weapons recovered by LTTE from Sri Lankan Army at Veppankulam.

OUR READERS SAY

G. C. E. (O/L) EXAMINATION

Editor,

The Scholarship examination was held on the 30th March. The G.C.E. (Advanced Level) Examination is scheduled to begin. The date for this examination has already been announced and the candidates are busy preparing for the examination inspite of all the handicaps such as want of lights-even a candle at that.

However, there is another group of students about whom no mention is being made so much so that one is inclined to think whether all have forgotten about the existence of this batch of students.

The G.C.E. (O/L) examination which ought to have been held in December, 1990 was not held in the North-East - except possibly at some centres in the East under Army control but where hardly any Tamil student could sit that examination. As far as the North was concerned, there was not even a mention about this examination.

Children who had to sit for the G.C.E. (O/L) examination last December are even unable to find accommodation in their own schools because the G.C.E. (O/L) students for 1991 have been accommodated in the classroom where these students were last year. The result is that these students are just idling at home. Though the dates for the Scholarship examination and the G.C.E. (A/L) examination were announced, the date for the G.C.E. (O/L) examination was not announced.

The G.C.E. (O/L) examination takes only one week to be over. It is necessary that the G.C.E. (O/L) examination for December, 1990 too is conducted early. It is already too late. It is grossly unfair by these children that the date of their examination is not announced. They must be given incentive to prepare for the examination.

It is hoped that the Education authorities in Jaffna will take immediate and necessary action and relieve the students and their parents of the anguish. This examination can be conducted during the April vacation itself.

Jaffna A. Mahalingam

Was the Bishop the biggest fish?

The Editor

We, the parishioners of St. Nicholas Church, Mirusuvil request you to reserve a column in your esteemed

'Hot Spring' to convey our deep regret over the assault sustained by the Bishop of Mannar, Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Savundaranayagam.

We are really astonished why the state news sources keep silent over an incident of so great importance of public absorption. Perhaps, the State News Agencies might have thought that Bishop Savundaranayagam might have been the biggest fish of all whom the Security Forces searched to trap.

Dear Readers, a Catholic Bishop is customarily identified by some specific symbols, viz. Robe, Cross, Chain, Ring etc. So it would certainly be absurd to justify the assault on the pretext that the Bishop was mis-identified. It is therefore, evident that the Bishop was assaulted only on ethnic ground.

How could a Christian tolerate the assault causing disgrace and embarrassment to his 'Chief Pastor'? How could Catholics, worthy of the name, endure the assault of their Bishop in whose person, the Divine Lord Jesus Himself, who is the High Priest forever, is present among them? So we are deeply grieved at the insult and discredit sustained by our Chief Pastor, as if it were sustained by Our Lord Jesus Himself.

History records many striking instances which show that God's infinite Mercy seems shut off from those who pride under the guise of material authority, revolt and dash themselves up on the consecrated Ministers of God. Furthermore, up to the present, even a shadow of discredit was not sustained by a Catholic Bishop since Christianity was brought to Sri Lanka in 1505. This is the first uncivilized attack on a Bishop under the guise of terrorism.

Hence, Dear Editor, let us unanimously express our deep regret and stern condemnation over the beastly attack. We also wish to make our submission to stress that this assault is a very serious sacrilege for which appropriate steps ought to be taken to find proper redress and pacify the grief and grievances of the afflicted Bishop and those of His Diocesan Flock.

M. E. George
on behalf of the Parishioners
of Mirusuvil

Hot Spring
the one and only
English Weekly

The Editor

I am a regular reader of your Hot Spring English Weekly Newspaper. As a tutor in English, may I suggest that the Hot Spring should as far possible meet the needs of the present day student population as well because every student should familiarize himself or herself in reading and understanding this standard of English.

Jaffna is reputed in the world as the Second England because of the high standard of English prevalent here. Furthermore, this is a land which had produced silver-tongued orators in English, voracious readers in English and men who mastered the English Language paralleling Englishmen, if not excelling them.

Even at present time, it is somewhat heartening that the same traditional standard of English is maintained here, though to a somewhat lesser degree. This land should continue to produce such men.

English is an international and world language and a good knowledge of English is of paramount importance to every present-day student to understand the world in a wider perspective. Therefore every student should read this English Weekly Newspaper.

V. N. Kandasamy
English TutorDiscrimination
of Pensioners

The Editor,

Sri Lanka is said to be a Democratic State of the people, by the people and for the people. The Government has a responsibility and duty by the people, viz every citizen. The administrative functions under the guidance of Administrative Regulations-viz. Establishment Code, Financial Regulations and Circulars and Regulations issued from time to time. Apart from these, is the Minute on Pensions. A citizen of Sri Lanka joins the Government Service on the results of Competitive Examinations or Interviews and rises to higher positions till he reaches the retirement age and retires from active service in terms of the provisions in the Pension Minutes. Every step of his

(Continued on Page 5)

THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

Some Facts to Remember

1. That the sovereignty of this country which flowed from the British Constitution of 1948 ceased with the declaration of SINHALA ONLY in 1956.
2. What has passed off for sovereignty since 1956 has been Sinhala brutality by virtue of their numerical majority which was granted some semblance of legality by the purely Sinhala constitutions of 1972 and 1978 and which were never acknowledged by the Tamils.
3. Despite 1 and 2 the Tamils did endeavour to make a go of the mutilated sovereignty but Sinhala intransigence made it impossible.
4. That as from 1956 the multiracial Public Service, Police Service and Armed Forces were rapidly converted to sinhala-only bastions, so as to pursue the sinhala only policies to the very letter and so violate the British Constitution of 1948 and even the Sinhala constitutions of 1972 and 1978.
5. That the Sinhala population in the Tamil North-East (now called EELAM) was a modest two percent during the British era, made up of employees and itinerant traders and fishermen and that it has leapt to a massive thirty three percent since the departure of the British, as the result of Sinhala Government sponsored colonisation of the Tamil region.
6. That Ranasinghe Premadasa was the Minister of Local Government and his Sucharita colleague Sirisena Cooray was the Mayor of Colombo in July 1983-when the Householders List compiled by the Colombo Municipal Council were hurriedly distributed to the Armed Forces thugs in civils, so as to enable them to ransack, loot and destroy every Single Tamil home in the metropolis.
7. That when J. R. Jayawardene in one of his rare moments of sanity proposed the granting of a merged North / East Provincial Council, if was Ranasinghe Premadasa who vehemently opposed such a move, stating that a merged North East Provincial Council would be the stepping stone to EELAM.
8. That it was Ranasinghe Premadasa who invited the LTTE for talks whilst the IPKF were still here and after talking to them for one whole year and more gave them nothing tangible.
9. That whilst talking to the LTTE he was sending hundreds of Sinhala police personnel armed to the teeth to the Tamil North - East where there were no police stations or even buildings to operate from.
10. That the Sinhala Government failed even to acknowledge the Indian propped EPRLF Provincial Government and commenced talks with the LTTE which opposed the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord.
11. That the Sinhala Government attempted to talk to and recognise the EPRLF Provincial Council after the talks with LTTE had collapsed.
12. That although it was Bandaranayake's Government of 1956 that embarked on an open anti-Tamil policy, it was the UNP Government of 1977 led by Jayawardene first and Premadasa later that began to pursue a blatantly violent anti-Tamil policy.
13. That it was this violently blatant anti-Tamil policy of the 1977 UNP Government that compelled the Tamils to take to arms.
14. That the Tamils prior to the taking up of arms, had tried every possible democratic means open to them, to come to an agreement.
15. Finally that EELAM is not negotiable only the boundaries are.

The foregoing points should be taken due notice of at this present juncture, when Ranasinghe Premadasa has requested his advisers to compile a peace package, in the hope of achieving a viable and durable AGREEMENT without any outside intervention as such an agreement will be to the benefit of both Tamils and Sinhalese.

(Continued from last week)

The extracts from the evidence of Waithilingam Duraiswamy before the Donoughmore commission (published in the last issue of Hot Spring as part of this article) reveals that he was living in a fool's paradise as far as the politics of the Tamils of the Island were concerned. He says with much self assurance that the Tamils or other minorities were not afraid of the Sinhalese and that in course of time the Tamils and other minorities

well as political arrangements for a Governmental system must be based and built on a sound theoretical position. The Britishers who devised a system of representation on a community base operated on the principle that the Sinhalese and Tamils were two different nations, that they had racial, religious and linguistic differences and could not become a homogenous population. The recognition that the Sinhalese and Tamils are two different nations is the theory that underlined the practice of

stood later in this article. Excerpts from Ramanathan's evidence before the Commission on 30th November, 1927 are given below and will throw much light.

".....The meeting (All Ceylon Tamils Conference) was held at the Tower Hall and the gentleman who presided was the Hon. Mr. W. Duraiswamy, who is a gentleman from Jaffna, a very able and straight man - a man who has done yeoman service to our country in the past. He was

The British Colonial authorities were anxious to prevent the Tornado of Indian Nationalism with its strident demands that was at peak levels in the twenties from infecting Ceylon whose strategic importance in the ocean highways was considered supreme. As nationalism escalated in India, Britain sought to immunize and insulate Ceylon by granting a taste of executive power to the people. Britain was equally anxious to minimise the political importance of Tamils in Ceylon as their

in the thirties and to the Soulbury Commission in 1945 a well reasoned and logically consistent case for Constitutional safeguards, checks and balances. His theoretical position was very simple. The population of the Island was not a homogenous population. It consisted of the two nations besides certain religious groups. In view of the multi-racial character the Devonshire doctrine and the principle of race-based representation was the obvious course.

Quest for Swaraj on the Constitutional plane thwarted by treachery

would give up the racial base of representation. He is confident that with responsible government the position of the Tamils could be quite safe. He had in his evidence referred to the neglect of the Kayts harbour the second largest harbour in this Island. Even with so glaring a neglect before his eyes he does not want to demand that the Tamils ought to be allowed to manage their own affairs.

He displayed brazen confidence that the Tamils (minorities) need not have any fear territorially when one of the very first acts of Senanayake after becoming a Minister was to colonize the Tamil homeland with Sinhalese thugs under a scheme of State-aided-Colonization.

He has mentioned that the membership of Ceylon National Congress is identical with that of the Lanka Maha Jana Sabha but all the policy formulations of one is not embodied in the other. He also points out that the proceedings of the Lanka Maha Jana Sabha as well as its rules are in Sinhala while the National Congress conducts its proceedings in English. This peculiar feature and the trend it reflects has not awakened Duraiswamy to the shape of things to come.

He is well aware that Arunachalam the founder President of the Ceylon National Congress and the pioneer in fostering the concept of Ceylonese Nationalism was forced to resign from that body because he found himself in an alien atmosphere with Sinhala colleagues pursuing and propagating the concept of Sinhala Nationalism. He is quite happy to live in a dream world and assure the Donoughmore Commissioners that they have no fears of the Sinhalese.

Harold Laski is specific that political demands as

representation in the Legislature on a community base. The ratio 2:1 between Sinhalese and Tamils (formerly it was 1:1) is just incidental. The basic principle is that representation is on a population-base achieved by counting heads. When Duraiswamy was giving evidence the Duke of Devonshire's thesis and formula that in a multi racial colony no single community should be in a position to outvote the other communities put together, was in operation in this Island. The theoretical base of the Devonshire formula is self evident. Duraiswamy's evidence demanding the retention of 2:1 ratio looks childish in the face of his admission that the ratio need not be continued together with his complete failure to propound the theoretical base for the race based system of representation. His assurance that the Tamils have no fears of the Sinhalese did undermine and erode the case for race based representation put forward by the other groups of Tamils.

He had an excellent opportunity to deal a stunning blow on the heads of the Commissioners when they remarked that the agreement to preserve the existing 2:1 ratio between Sinhalese and Tamils reached by the Sinhala and Tamil legislators was not binding on them i.e. on the Commissioners. He should have reminded the Commissioners that Constitution making is a matter of agreement, compromise and consensus and not something to be imposed by outsiders. Even though the agreed proportion may appear odd, it has the great quality of voluntary agreement which is the essence of Constitution making. Earlier it was stated that the action of the Donoughmore Commissioners to replace the chosen spokesman of the Jaffna Association; Canagaratham by Duraiswamy would be urde

waited upon by some members of the proposed conference and he consented to preside as also did another member of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Mr. A. Canagaratnam, whose residence also is in Jaffna. As regards the opinion of the first Chairman, Mr. Duraiswamy, he must have been under the impression that his duty was only to come and preside at that meeting and keep order there, and this is the newspaper report:-

"...As regards communal representation he was opposed to certain communities being deprived of their representation until those communities themselves came forward and surrendered of their own accord those privileges which they now enjoyed.

S. Vanniyasingam

He was on the other hand as strongly opposed to the existence of the system of representation on a communal basis".

The report goes on to say -

"Concluding Mr. Duraiswamy said: 'To me the only thing that matters is the getting of control over our own affairs into our own hands. As to how that control will be exercised by us is really a matter that, the people of Ceylon should decide in agreement with the representatives of the various communities that compose our population'".

So it is quite clear that the Chairman of the meeting of the All Ceylon Tamil Conference on the 16th of October this year had no particular views of his own to recommend to the meeting that was then held. He said that it was a matter for future settlement by all the interested communities meeting together and coming to an agreement.

of commissions were only required to put in effect what was decided in White Hall. Waithilingam Duraiswamy's evidence before the Donoughmore Commission and his self assurances and glib-tongued expression of views removed all mental discomfort the Donoughmore Commissioners had in pompously proclaiming that communal representation will promote communal thinking and that territorial representation will promote thinking along national lines. Whatever mental discomfort the Commissioners had in making such a sweeping statement was headfully wiped out by Waithilingam Duraiswamy making these glib pronouncements. The Commissioners were well aware of Duraiswamy's flexibility and malleability and that is possibly why the Commission imposed Waithilingam Duraiswamy as a spokesman of the Jaffna Association in place of Canagaratnam.

G. G. Ponnambalam however presented to the public

Whereas those who talked of proportional representation and 2:1 ratio before the Donoughmore Commission did not make out a theoretical base for their demands, Ponnambalam erected his demands on a solid theoretical structure that the people of Ceylon did not constitute a nation, they did not form a homogenous population and that Constitutional safeguards, checks and balances and the presence of the British authority at the apex of the political structure was sine qua non.

Ponnambalam however made two big mistakes. He assumed as a permanent and immutable parameter the continuance of the British power in the Island. The second mistake he made was to take the Britisher at his words and believe in the popularized professions of British justice and fair-play. British Colonial or Imperial policy was full of Machiavellian stratagems, tricks and bargains. During the war years as a result of Senanayake's unstinted co-operation to the war effort (i.e. the export of Ceylon produce at rock bottom prices and the maximisation of such output, e.g. slaughter tapping of rubber trees) confirmed British Colonial authorities of their earlier assessment that the Sinhalese were Empire-loyal and that their interest should be fostered notwithstanding the earlier Colonial policy of Constitutional safeguards, checks and balances in multi-racial State. Ponnambalam was totally unaware of the vast change that has taken place in British outlook in the later face of the Donoughmore era.

Thus notwithstanding the scientific and logical presentation of the case for Constitutional safeguards, checks and balances, the Soulbury Commission was able to reject Ponnambalam's pleas. In rejecting Ponnambalam's pleas as the Soulbury Commissioners could find much mental comfort in Duraiswamy's

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Eelyom Tamil Plight must Receive International Attention

Obtain Tamil Nadu Verdict

An open Letter to Chelvi Jayalalitha

Madam,

You are a woman who has achieved an almost unparalleled esteem in the public mind in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere. You achieved this greatness in the film world as an actress. You have now taken to politics and inevitably you invited the attention of critics. If you try to understand what helped you to achieve greatness in the film world and endeavour to stick to those qualities and traits that helped you to achieve greatness in the film world, you can achieve the same greatness in the world of politics also.

Some persons think that you achieved greatness in the film world because you were the heroine in the films in which M G R acted the part of the hero. This is most misleading and really mischievous. Other women have acted as heroines with M G R but they remain unknown. As an old time student of Humanities, let me assess how you became great in the film world. You acted in the role of a heroine in many films. In your performances therein you represented and reflected the best of the womanly traits and qualities with exquisite symbolization. That is the crux of your success as a film actress. The public appreciated and lauded your representation of the best of womanly virtues and traits.

What are the womanly qualities which are appreciated by mankind as symbolizing the best of womanly virtues. It can be stated straightaway that the social conscience of a woman is awakened much more readily than that of a man and this is what mankind at large appreciates in women. A woman cannot witness atrocities and remain passive. Her social conscience is roused and sympathy dominates her attitude and outlook. She does whatever possible to alleviate the sufferings and pain to which mankind is subjected. The nursing profession is manned by women because it is in the nature of women to tend and afford relief to suffering humanity. Protests against violation of human rights, atrocities and other crimes is often pioneered by women. One of the most sensitive issues which attracts not merely the attention of Tamil Nadu but also the whole world is the unbelievable enormity of the atrocities, violation of human rights senseless slaughter of men, women and children and the extensive destruction of property in Eelyom which lie so close to Tamil Nadu. These atrocities perpetrated by the Sinhala Armed Forces and other militant organizations of the Sri Lanka Government are of unparalleled viciousness. The International Red Cross, and the various International Organizations which monitor

human rights violations, civic rights etc. have surveyed and documented the afore-said atrocities in large volumes and an International Organization with a membership of 43 countries had unequivocally condemned these violent actions of the Government of Sri Lanka. In fact according to press reports a lawsuit has been filed before an International forum in Geneva by a group of Christian religious leaders actuated by their conscience. All over the world criticisms have been voiced to the callous indifference to human sufferings exhibited by the Armed Forces and other militant organizations of the Sri Lanka Government.

In Tamil Nadu itself there are nearly two lakhs of refugees temporarily housed in a number of districts and their needs are looked after by the Government of India and other International Refugee Organizations. There are several lakhs of refugees in improvised camps within the North-Eastern Districts of the Island of Lanka. They are experiencing unmentionable hardships and violence at the hands of the Sinhala Armed Forces.

The atrocities and tortures are aggravated by heartless policies of economic sanctions. From time immemorial supplies to Tamil Eelyom went from India by schooners and Cargo boats plying between the ports of Tamil Nadu and the Northern ports in Lanka. But the Britisher who was keen to immunize and insulate her Crown Colony of Ceylon from being infected by the strident cries for Swaraj which raged in India and Tamil Nadu in the 'twenties closed all the Northern ports of Lanka and laid down that supplies from India should be routed via Colombo. This anomaly has lasted ever since and it is really tragic to reflect that food supplies from India have to reach the neighbouring Eelyom by a devious and expensive route via Colombo and be cut off by heartless economic sanctions imposed by a genocidal Sinhala Imperium.

Unfortunately these sufferings and hardships and the issue of the Tamils of Eelyom are not brought before the appropriate International forum in a proper way by any established Government. These International fora will consider and take effective

measures if only the issue is brought forward by some member Government.

Eelyom Tamils have suffered enormously for much more than a decade. Once before the violation of human rights in Sri Lanka was brought forward by distant Argentina and the organization sought for a report from the Secretary General of the U N O but as India intervened and claimed to bring about a viable political solution the investigation by the U N body was not pursued.

Again on 4th August, 1987 the U. S. Congress was scheduled to debate a bipartisan Resolution on the violation of human rights in Sri Lanka. But Since Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi hurriedly signed an Accord with President Jayawardene claiming to achieve a political solution the debate was forestalled. Rajiv Gandhi has always been alert to protect Sinhala Sri Lanka from adverse criticisms in the International fora in regard to the Eelyom Tamils issue. Madam, as I mentioned earlier that your performance in the world of politics will be glorious as your performance in the film world if you stick to the principle of reflecting and symbolizing womanly virtues at its best in your political career as you did in your film career. It was a matter of mere coincidence that your performance as a heroine in films where M.G.R. took the leading role reflected some ideology appealing to the public and you were able to bring into focus your capacity to reflect and symbolize the best of womanly virtues. In the world of politics Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has never symbolized or reflected any ideology that can appeal to the people. His hold on the electorate is solely by reason of his being the Establishment Man of the National Congress

which played a glorious part in the Freedom Struggle and secured Swaraj. Your association with Rajiv Gandhi is not going to bring about any opportunity where you can bring into focus the best of womanly virtues- the feature that achieved greatness for you in the film world. There can be synergic effect of associations in the film world but associations in the world of politics dictated by bargains and concessions will only have a negative effect.

Madam, if you expect the glorious feature in the field of politics you ought to reflect and symbolize the best of womanly virtues; it will be tragic if you abandon this sheet anchor of your success in the film world and seek to enter in to bargains, negotiations, coalitions and caucuses. If you stand on your own feet and raise the issue of the Tamils of Eelyom and seek a verdict from Tamil Nadu that New Delhi ought to bring before International fora the atrocities perpetrated against the Tamils [and the overall issue of the political rights of the Tamils of the Eelyom for adjudication by International fora or by some arbitral body then you have a grand opportunity of bringing to bear on the minds of the public of Tamil Nadu that you are capable of giving expression to the best of womanly virtues in the field of National and International politics as well. The issue of the sufferings and hardships of Tamils of Eelyom must be decided once and for all by the voters of Tamil Nadu in the forthcoming elections. Tamil Nadu need not ask New Delhi to support militarily or otherwise the demands of Tamils of Eelyom. Tamil Nadu should be asked to give a simple verdict for justice: bring the issue before an International forum or arbitral body for adjudication. There can be no objection to this simple and obvious election plank particularly as Article 51D of the Indian Constitution enjoins the Government of India to endeavour to bring International disputes for arbitration.

— Nestor

What happens in Sri-Lanka today

*The desire to subject an unwilling race,
Is what that is in Mr. Premadasa's case.
The bitter life the Tamils have long lived,
Has roused them not to bear being so whipped.*

*The Tiger, a God-send, is the Tamils' belief,
It seems so; their actions give relief.*

*What abject life the Tamils have long had!
If told, the story shall indeed be sad.*

*From now on the fight for Eelam starts,
And we fear no shell or bomb blasts.*

*This, a thrust of the Sinhala politician on the
Sinhala masses.
They surely wanted no bitterness between the races.*

*The politicians' desire to cling to power,
Has caused buds without blooming to flower.
The North and East today- a hot bed of war,
Where to bomb, shell or shoot, there is no bar.*

*Here, thousands are homeless, and food nearly nil,
Yet the starving are bombed by the Government at will.
The world sees this and just looks on!
While the realm of the Tamils by this tyrant gets torn.*

Amen

K. Vadivelu

Public Markets destroyed in the Vanni District

Four Public Markets were damaged and destroyed in the Vanni District due to the indiscriminate attack on civilian property carried out by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces during the current war.

1. The Kilinochchi Super Market was bombed by the Sri Lankan Air Force planes and thereafter the Sri Lankan Army burnt and destroyed the remnants.

2. The Paranthan Public Market was also burnt

down by the Sri Lankan Army.

3. The Mullaitivu Public Market also drew the wrath of the Sri Lankan Navy. Apart from being bombed from the air, the Sri Lankan Navy sent volleys of cannon fire from naval boats off the sea at Mullaitivu. What was left after the two attacks, were looted by the Sri Lankan Army.

4. Mankulam Market received extensive damage by aerial bombardment.

Death Benefit to Next - of - Kin

Pensioners Ask for Scheme

The Nallur Pensioners' Benefit Association has written to the Hon. Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs and Provincial Councils asking for a Death Benefit Scheme to ensure in the evening of their lives proper custodial care and a decent and dignified cremation or burial after their death.

The Association has urged this Scheme to be on the lines of the Health Insurance Scheme ensuring the public servants proper medical care and treatment, already introduced by the Government to be undertaken by the Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation.

It is believed that in this event that not only the Next-of-Kin, the Chief Dependant or Supporter, a close relative but even a kind-hearted individual or a welfare institution would not be reluctant to provide custodial care for the state pensioners.

The Association in its memorandum has suggested a compulsory or optional payment of Rs. 10/- per month for a period of 10 years while in service or in retirement. It would ensure the contributor a minimum outright grant of Rs. 10 000/- (ten thousand) to the Next of - Kin on production of the death certificate and a Next - of - Kin Certificate recommended by the Assistant Government Agent of the Area that the claimant had looked after the deceased during his last days and that he met his funeral and allied expenses. The payment of contribution will operate

only for a maximum period of ten years when the policy becomes matured and thereafter the contribution stops.

The Association further believes that this Scheme would not only reduce the number of helpless persons in the State or Voluntary Homes for Elders assisted by the Department of Social Services but also avoid crem-

ations or burials at state expense. Hence at least each stat pensioner would be a "wanted" person and not an "unwanted" man and a burden on society especially in the North where most of the children of pensioners are away or a broad seeking better pastures leaving their parents high and dry, the memorandum concludes.

When is war morally justifiable

The following criteria for deciding whether a war is morally justifiable have won general agreement:

- **JUST CAUSE:** The war must confront an unquestioned danger. War fought in self-defence is the classic example.
- **COMPETENT AUTHORITY:** The leader committing a nation to war must be acting on behalf of his people.
- **RIGHT INTENTION:** The reason set forth must be the actual objectives. Thus some theologians have said Bush would be justified in waging war to force Iraq to give up its conquest of Kuwait, but not to destroy Saddam Hussein's capacity to make war.
- **LAST RESORT:** All peaceful alternatives must have been exhausted.
- **PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS:** The chances of achieving the war's purpose must be reasonably assured of success.
- **PROPORTIONALITY:** The good that will be achieved by war cannot be outweighed by the harm

Whether Bush or Saddam or Pirabakaran or Premadasa fulfill the above criteria is worth analysing. While both Bush and Saddam may be said to satisfy three to four of these tests, and Pirabakaran could well - on an objective assessment - claim justification on at least five of the six counts, if not all six, the glaring fact is that Premadasa's war against the LTTE (which is to all intents and purposes a war against the Tamils in the Northeast) is sadly wanting in all six criteria:

Quoted from S. Sivanayagam writing in the TAMIL NATION (London) dated 15th February, 1991.

Bank Account holder asks for interest

A current account holder of the Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna Branch, has written to the Manager to pay him interest on his current account balances, as the Bank is unable to encash the cheque drawn by him on account of non availability of liquid cash with the Bank.

A current account holder of the Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna Branch wished to encash his own cheque. He presented his own cheque for Rs. 25,000/- to the Branch Manager and requested that he be paid cash. The Branch Manager had told him that though the customer had funds to his

credit in his account, the Bank did not have liquid cash to pay the account holder. This happened on the 27th March.

The Account holder is Mr. S. Kumarasamy of Valtitturai. He told our correspondent that if the Bank was not able to pay an account holder out of his own funds at Bank, then the Bank should at least pay interest at the rate of fixed deposit interest until such time as the Bank is able to pay money to the account holder. Mr. Kumarasamy said that he has written to the Bank Manager and is hoping to receive a favourable reply.

G. C. E...

(Continuation of Page 2)

rise to higher grades is governed by stipulated examinations and regulations. Salaries or Pensions are paid on the stipulated dates.

For the past nine months, pensions due to retired Government Employees are not being paid on the due dates, as far as the Pensioners of the North and East are concerned. These persons are old, sick and feeble. Cash

payments are not being made. Further, widows who receive pensions are suffering a lot. Cheques are being issued at the Rural Bank to the pensioners. When can these old and feeble ones, get their cheques cashed? Brokers and private persons are charging Rs. 100/- to Rs. 150/- for every Rs. 1000/- as Commission.

Further, His Excellency the President announced that a Cost of Living Allowance will be paid to all with effect from November, 1989, at the eve of the Presidential Elections. It is a dead offer as far as the pensioners are concerned. The State Employees in service at present are enjoying this benefit but the poor pensioners are denied of this benefit.

The employees of the Public or Private Sector could put forward any reasonable demand and could achieve their aim by threatening trade union action.

But it is really pathetic and a thing to be regretted that discrimination has been openly adopted in the case of retired employees of the State who sweated for the advancement and progress of the state machinery. Why is this discrimination?

May Mercy, Sympathy and Goodwill prevail?

Tellipalai K. Eliathamby

Quest...

(Continuation of Page 3)

evidence before the Donoughmore Commission and the stark fact that he sat as the Speaker of the State Council for eleven elongated years from 1936 to 1947 thus serving as an instance to illustrate the contention that the people of Ceylon have a National outlook and allegations of racism were unfounded.

Struggle on the Constitutional plane.

Any struggle on the Constitutional plane that the Tamils could launch ought to centre round a well planned scheme of non co-operation. Such a scheme of non co-operation requires two pre-conditions.

1. The Tamil public must give unqualified support for such scheme of non co-operation.
2. A legal or Constitutional alternative must be available.

Such an opportunity for a struggle for Swaraj on

the Constitutional plane arose in 1956 when Bandaranaike enacted the Sinhala Only Act. The entirety of the people of Eelam irrespective of race, religion and political affiliations stood shoulder to shoulder in opposing the Sinhala Only Act. The people of Eelam as a whole were prepared for a scheme of action on the Constitutional plane through non co-operation. The Nation was emotionally prepared. The alternative avenue of Constitutional pursuit was very clear and inviting. It was a simple task to refrain from attending the Sinhala Only Parliament, to constitute a representative Constituent Assembly and declare the formation of a Dominion of Eelam owing allegiance to the British Crown. The Sinhala Government could take no legal action as Eelam Tamils would have proclaimed their allegiance to the British Crown. The people of Ceylon whether Sinhalese or Tamils owed allegiance only to the British Crown and not to any Sinhala Prime Minister. Such an agitation on the Constitutional

plane would be perfectly legitimate and earn the support of the Western powers and Britain herself.

In fact Suntheralingam and Ponnambalam strongly pleaded for abstention of members of the North - East from the sittings of the Parliament and agitation at the ultra Parliamentary level. But Chelvanayakam would not agree to refrain from the sittings of the Parliament. Since he had the overwhelming support of the majority of the Tamils nothing could be done without him. In fact the strategy of declaring the Dominion of Eelam could have been pursued at a psychologically appropriate time between 1956 and 1972. But throughout this period Chelvanayakam dominated Tamil politics and completely mislead and misdirected the Tamils. In fact in 1970 he and his cohorts attended the Constituent Assembly sittings convened by Sirima Bandaranaike at Navarangahala and enabled the resolution to create the Republic of Sri Lanka to be adopted nemine contra. They could have easily

declined to vote for the resolution even if they did not object to such a resolution. As things stand the creation of Republic was unanimously agreed upon whereas in reality the ULF's call for the Mandate was summarily rejected by the North and East and the Mandate Chelvanayakam and his cohorts got from the North - East was to create the Tamil Arasu.

Unimaginably stupid strategies and schemes were pursued at the Constitutional plane across the nearly seventy years that elapsed between Britain's reformulation of a Colonial policy and the TULF's experience of being forced out of the Parliament in 1983. Never before in history, the interest of a people have been so grossly betrayed by the elected representatives and every chance of pursuing Constitutional opportunities was wantonly sacrificed as were done by Chelvanayakam and his cohorts and a few other self seeking individuals who got elected to the Legislature.

HOT SPRING

VOL: 1 SUNDAY 7th. APRIL 1991 ISSUE 26

Solution after Local Elections

President Premadasa is reported to have said that he was having proposals to end the North East war which he will come out with after the Local Government Elections scheduled to be held in the Sinhala Rata, are over.

Many in this part of the world and notably President Premadasa look for auspicious times based on astrology to undertake any important task. But in this case President Premadasa seems to be less concerned about auspicious time - as is his wont - but more concerned about propitious time!

It, therefore, follows that President Premadasa is not concerned about settling the problem for the mutual benefit of the Tamils and Sinhalese but like every other Sinhalese politician hopes to spread and retain intact Sinhala imperialism and as its champion retain himself in power.

Mr. Premadasa claims he has been elected by the people to be their leader.

If he is a leader, isn't it very necessary that he should lead and not be led?

Unfortunately Mr. Premadasa has shown his knave quality to be led.

It was not long before he asked the SLFP to let its proposals for solution of the Sinhala - Tamil problem known to him. But the SLFP did not oblige him but said it would wait for the Government's proposals.

Then we also witness an amusing joke in an All Party Conference, meeting over and over again but deciding nothing. The reasons for the failure of this body of sick men are far too obvious to mention.

But President Premadasa's reported statement must open the eyes of the Tamil people.

Mr. Premadasa says he will come out with his proposals after the Local Government Elections - i.e. he will face the Sinhala voters only as the Sinhala hero who fights the Tamils. Mrs. Bandaranaike would not let her 'secret' proposals out until after the Government announces its plans.

If anything is clear from the stand these two Sinhala leaders take, it is that both want to present themselves as the saviours of the Sinhalese race and Baudha Sasana.

This trend in Sinhala leadership is not confined to the UNP or the SLFP. Did not the LSSP and the CP do the same?

To give a concrete example - did not the UNP change its language policy and treacherously opt for Sinhala Only, when it found that Bandaranaike had started his Sinhala Only within 24 hours cry? Some UNPers still try to make out that all the ills in the Island only started in 1956, forgetting their own sinful contributions.

Writing in the Letters to the Editor column of the then Times of Ceylon, Mr. George R. de Silva who was a UNP member in the First Parliament posed the question. 'If the UNP wants to follow the SLFP policies, why not the people?'. He was teasing the UNP for opting for Sinhala Only, even though the then UNP leader and Premier, Sir John Kotelawala made promise - not once but thrice - on Jaffna platforms to amend the constitution making provision for parity of status to both Sinhala and Tamil.

But for us Tamils, it would be dangerous to be content with only laughing at the obvious comical steps taken by Sinhala leaders to entrench themselves in power, making good use of the Tamil - Sinhala conflict. The Sinhala leaders are power-hungry but they are not the less Sinhala minded for that reason. Unfortunately the Sinhala - Buddhist clergy has misled itself and the Sinhala people by the myth of their being the only saviours of Buddhism and the Sinhala race.

None of the Sinhala leaders is prepared to face the problem boldly and accept the right of the Tamil nation in Eelam to their inalienable right of self-determination but is eagerly waiting for his opponent to make a 'slip' so that he or she could cash in.

Well, we Tamils have witnessed this game of the Sinhala leaders far too long and suffered the inequities also for well over half a century. We can end this only by liberating Tamil Eelam and ourselves from Baudha-Sinhala yoke.

UN Association Jaffna Unit informs World Health Day - 07 April 1991

Slogan - Should disaster Strike - Be Prepared

The seventh of April each year is celebrated as World Health Day because it marks the date in 1948 when sufficient countries had ratified their signatures to bring the constitution of the World Health Organization into force.

Ever since 1950, a theme related to international public health has been selected for each World Health Day, with an appropriate slogan. The member countries then devise their own ways of bringing this theme to public attention on 7 April, and of keeping it in the public eye throughout the whole of the year. The theme for 1991 is emergency preparedness - a particularly fitting theme since the United Nations has proclaimed the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Disasters of all kinds - whether natural or man-made - strike at the well-being of

people all over the world. And unfortunately the countries where they are most prevalent are often those which have the least resources of deal with their social and health consequences. But WHO believes something can be done to mitigate those consequences, provided the

right steps are taken before disasters occur, in their immediate aftermath, and during the slow reconstruction and rehabilitation process.

This is why the chosen slogan for World Health Day 1991 is:

SHOULD DISASTER STRIKE - BE PREPARED!

Students burnt to death in Batticaloa

Later reports say that boy was burnt to death with old tyres heaped on him.

A student named Kannamuthu Thinakaran aged 23 was burnt to death at Chavalkadai by the Sri Lanka Army stationed at Chavalkadai in the Batticaloa District.

It is reported that on the 7th of January, Thinakaran was on his way to Kalmunai from Mandur, when he was arrested by the Sri Lankan Army personnel stationed at Chavalkadai.

Similarly on the 20th January, another student named Mamankan Thevakavalan aged 22, was arrested by the Sri Lankan Army personnel stationed at Kalawanchikudi. Thevakavalan was on his way to Kalawanchikudi. He was arrested and later found to have been burnt to death on a heap of old tyres at Kalawanchikudi.

NEWS ROUND UP

16-3-91

At Kurikadduvan, Pungudutivu, Navy opens fire. A fisherman Pillaiar Chelliah seriously injured.

At Vavuniya - Ponniah Ponrajah lost his legs by treading on an Army booby trap.

18-3-91

At Orr's Hill, Trincomalee - Army rounds up residents and arrested nine people. Fate not known.

At Udupiddy - artillery shell attack from Palaly. Sappathy Asuvathy (57) killed - her head was smashed... Another woman named V. Theivanai (45) and K. Chandramohan (12) were respectively injured.

23-3-91

At Kopay - Gun firing from helicopter severely injured R. Sathialingam (32).

24-3-91

At Nilaveli, Trincomalee District. Five men arrested by the Army were not released.

25-3-91

At Keerimalai. Army open fire. Kandasamy Jeyalalitha severely injured.

At Vavuniya. Army opens fire. Nadesan Subramaniam (25) severely injured.

Primary School and Houses blasted

A Primary School in the village Vellaveli and four civilian dwelling houses there, were blasted by the Army by bombs timed to explode inside the buildings.

Similarly on the same day at the 31st Colony, the Sri Lankan Army demolished the house of Kanagasingham

Thuraijah by exploding bombs inside the house.

All the incidents took place on the 4th of January when the Sri Lankan Army stationed at various places in the Batticaloa District, were out on the rampage, taking advantage of the unilateral ceasefire then observed by the LTTE.

BICYCLES THIEVES

Murugupillai, Selvarasa, Paramanandam, Nesathurai, Kanapathipillai, Thangathurai and vadivel all of the 37th Colony have lost their bicycles in one day on the 4th January, 1991.

It is reported that the Sri Lankan Army stationed at Palayadyveddai moved into the 37th Colony and roamed about for sometime and returned to their camp.

When they left the Colony, they took away with them seven bicycles belonging to seven different persons of the Colony.

These Colonists have now been relieved of their valuable possessions. A bicycle is a valuable property for a peasant colonist, though it may not be for soldiers of the Sri Lankan Army.

BAN ON FISHING AFFECTS ECONOMY

The seasonal fishing in the Batticaloa and Amparai Districts starts around February each year. It is estimated that about 20% population in the two Districts eke out a living by fishing.

In addition to fish, prawns, crabs and other sea foods are caught in fairly large numbers and the poor fishermen make some money only during this period. Even fresh water fish is caught

in large numbers during this period.

But the Government of Sri Lanka has imposed a ban on fishing on the sea coasts of these Districts, which has resulted in a large number of fishermen being unemployed and without income. The reports state that this loss of employment avenue to fishermen has aggravated the economic hardships these people are facing owing to war activities.