

HOT SPRING

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Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat

"I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering."

From Mr. Winston Churchill's speech in the House of Commons on 13th May, 1940 on his becoming War - Time Prime Minister of Great Britain.

WHILE EXAM IS ON

MILITARY OFFENSIVE STARTED

INDEFINITE CURFEW

DEFENCE MINISTRY Vs EDUCATION MINISTRY

An indefinite curfew was announced over the Colombo Radio on the morning of Thursday, 25th April, 1991 throughout the Jaffna Peninsula though the specially fixed G. C. E. (A/L) Examination for North East had already begun on the 23rd instant and is continuing and will be continued till the 13th May 1991.

But even before the curfew was announced, the combined forces of the Sri Lankan Government, commenced an attack on the Island of Karaitivu at about 4.30 a.m. the same day. The whole of that night - i.e. the night - of the 24th and very early hours of the 25th witnessed a barrage of shell and cannon fire attack on the Karaitivu Island. On the morning of the 25th the Sinhala Army encamped at Palaly and Kankesanurai, started shell attack as also did the Army at Kayts. The Army started a major offensive from the various camps in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Reports reaching Jaffna stated that at Naranthanai near Kayts eight persons died

as a result of shell explosion. The shell is believed to have been launched from the Palaly Army Camp. Seven of the dead belonged to the same family.

The offensive operation launched by the Sri Lankan Armed forces on the 25th instant, have created a lot of speculation. The operations, coming as they do within less than one week of

President Premadasa's message to Parliament wherein he categorically stated he wanted to end war and enter into peace negotiations with the LTTE, have caused grave doubts on the bona fides of the President who speaks and preaches peace, while his Armed Forces are engaged in active war operations.

"There is another aspect of this war", said a resident of Jaffna, "The G.C.E.(A/L) Examination which should have been held in August last year, was not held then. When representations were made that this examination should be held, the local education Department officials were told that the Government had no objections to holding the Examination but that the Department officials in the North East must obtain the LTTE co-operation and see that they do not do anything to disturb the examination. Of course, there was no question of the examination being disturbed in anyway by the LTTE. The Government having been assured that the examination would not be disturbed in anyway and in consultation with its

Army, scheduled the examination between the 23rd April and 13th May. But suddenly on the 25th April, without any advance information, an indefinite curfew was imposed and military operations started by Government even before the announcement.

There is the possibility that the Government launched on this offensive operation because it expected the LTTE to observe peace during the period of the examination and that therefore, it could have some military advantages".

The announcement of the curfew created confusion in the minds of the candidates for the G.C.E.(A/L) Examination, parents and department officials. The examination was being held throughout the North East. The curfew was imposed in the Jaffna Peninsula.

So if the examination was cancelled in Jaffna, there was no likelihood of another examination being held and candidates from Peninsular Jaffna will suffer.

They will in effect have lost one year completely. So the department officials decided to continue with the examination - curfew or no curfew. The examinations were held and students answered the papers. Some candidates who sat for the examination papers on the 25th instant stated that they answered the papers, while explosions were heard nearby. They had no alternative as otherwise they would lose completely. Certainly there concentration was affected by the noises, they said. "People are getting used to carry on their normal work in spite of the military activities in their homeland", said another resident of Jaffna. Another parent asked whether the Defence Ministry was

(Continued on Page 6)

Abducted and Killed by Muslims

Thirty Tamils (all males) who were living as refugees in the Karaitivu Refugee Camp in the Amparai District who had gone to work as hired labourers in paddy fields belonging to Muslims have been abducted and killed.

The same report adds that these Tamil refugees were abducted and killed by Muslim thugs though these Tamils had gone to work on paddy fields belonging to Muslims.

The incident is reported to have happened on the 25th of March, 1991.

HACKED TO DEATH BY SRI LANKAN ARMY

Munthappody Ganesan aged 27, a married man was hacked to death by soldiers of the Sinhala Army stationed at Palayadiveddai.

The reports received in this connection state that some soldiers of the Sinhala Army encamped at Palayadiveddai rounded up the village of Thalavai in Vellaveli in

the Batticaloa District. They arrested Munthappody Ganesan (27) at his house and bound his hands together. Thereafter, they hacked him to death.

The soldiers are also reported to have severely assaulted his wife who was in the house. She is the mother of two small children.

Shell Attack

Deth toll of an Entire Family Tragedy at Naranthanai

An artillery shell believed to have been launched from the Army Camp at Palaly hit a house at Naranthanai South in Kayts killing eight persons who were at the house. Three others were injured. The house was severely damaged. The combined forces of the Sri Lankan Government commenced offensive operations from their camps in Karainagar, Kayts, Palaly and Kankesanurair from the early morning of 25th April, 1991. While the Air Force and the Navy were also engaged in the offensive operations at Karainagar, the Army at Palaly, Kayts and Kankesanurair started launching aimlessly directed artillery shells.

One of these shells - believed to have been launched from the Palaly Army Camp hit a house at Naranthanai killing 8 persons, injuring three others and severely damaging the house.

Seven of the eight deceaseds were members of the same family who were at their house which was hit by the shell. There are Lazarus Leenappu (45), his wife Vrisittammah (40) and their five children Julius (16), Rita (13), Eugene (10), Swarna (8) and Theresa (5). The other girl who died, Aloysius Matilda (12) is also a relation of the deceased family.

The injured include Saveri Raphial (75), father of the deceased Vrisittammah and another boy named Aloysius Arulseelan. (15)

Musings of Mr. Meddle



Indian High Commissioner, Mr. J. N. Jha has stated that the LTTE must prove its claim to be the only accredited representative of the Tamil people of the North East.

— News

Wonder whether the I.P.K.F. fiasco is the North East is not sufficient proof to India of LTTE's status.

Desultory Rambling of

'VADALI VELAN'

Hey presto! Another Egg!! Oh, these troublous times, especially for a country yokel like me. To yours truly it has been a mind-boggling experience, shattering my self-esteem and confidence, perhaps beyond repair. The constant booming and whirring sounds in my ears and other strange happenings drove me to despair of my faculties and into the arms of medicine man. I have now been assured that nothing is amiss with me and that I had not been misled by my perceptions nor been given to hallucinations. It has been firmly established that these sounds have a factual source in the explosive boomings of lethal bombs and shells the droning of bombers and the whirring of 'whirly-birds' and further that the sudden appearance of holes on my roof and the shrapnel that skinned my nose are real. I have been told that all these visitations have been contrived with the compliments of a government, waging an undeclared ethnic and religious war on her people, including yours truly. As part of the therapy, I am to, advisedly, orient myself to my surroundings and to take a more lively interest in the happenings around me. I came away a thoroughly chastened and wiser individual. I have now given up my attention to the cow and the tobacco plant, launching myself on a voyage of discovery and understanding. Howbeit, I have been to date credited with possessing my quota of native

shrewdness and, among other things, been told that I am presently in the land of the living solely because I threw in my lot with the people when they fled my village at the approach of some blokes from abroad who avowedly - so they say - wanted to 'keep the peace'

As a result of my discourses with those around me and, perhaps, due to my untutored mind, the situation seems to become 'curioser and curioser'... 'Lay down arms'; 'what for?'; 'to make it easier for me to slit your throat'. The one-time leader of our mighty neighbour did just that. He attempted to inspect a parade in his honour, mind you, without even a cutglass at hand and got a bashing for his troubles.

A kind friend recounted to me that the Indian nation, in her quest for greatness and a niche among honourable nations of the World, has done for my country of Tamil Eelam. She laid an egg! An egg of discord - still in the hatching, becoming well nigh addled and unhatchable. The events leading to this misadventure had been laced with high comedy, tragic farce and deceitful make-believe. After

all fond Bharat is a land of strong thespian urges, producing in excess of 800 cinemato-films in the year; outstrips the rest of the world! Whilst the main political and humane issues of our country remain untouched or are continuing to be aggravated, our mighty neighbour insists on making direct and brash overtures, over the head of our people, to a Sri Lankan government now defunct in the North and East Tamil Eelam territories.

I am now informed that there is every likelihood for India to experience another of its urges. Black gold is beckoning from the Gulf of Mannar. Why not another fishing expedition in troubled waters? Opportunity is knocking at the door, luring India, irresistibly to lay another egg! It wouldn't do, at this stage, for our great neighbour to backtrack in efforts to retrieve her badly mangled honour and image. What does an additional transgression matter? One that is against a puny, battered and helpless people's a transgression that would pale into insignificance against a backdrop of a host of other 'raw deals', India has served to all and sundry of her neighbours? Correct me, if I am wrong.

Moral: The clean are not so clean, after all.

SRI LANKAN ETHNIC PROBLEM A MUST IN ELECTION MANIFESTO

Mr. Thomas Abraham, a former Indian Envoy to Sri Lanka has stated that all political parties in India

must stress the importance of resolving the Sri Lankan ethnic issue in their Election Manifestos.

He stated so when he was addressing a Seminar organised by the Faculty of Education on 'South and South East Asia' by the University of Madras.

A Committee comprising former Diplomats, Educationists and Journalists which participated in the Seminar, requested that India should review its policy towards Sri Lanka and that it should drop the policy of Non-interference in Sri Lankan Affairs and review its policy on Sri Lanka.

Those who participated at the Seminar were prominent journalists like N. Ram of 'The Hindu', Madras, S. Sivanayagam a former Editor of the Saturday Review, Ex-Indian Envoy of Sri Lanka, Mr. Thomas Abraham, R. Sampanthan, former Member of Parliament for Trincomalee, Dr. V. Suriyanarayanan and S. Muthiah.

So far the only political party which made mention of the Sri Lankan ethnic issue in its Manifesto, is the A.D.M.K. headed by Miss Jeyalalitha. The A.D.M.K. has suggested the signing of a fresh Agreement between the two countries on the issue.

A Just Resort to Arms

From times of known history, the two races are at war, How the violent turmoil due to absence of par. In all spheres of life the Tamils were kept low; No redress through courts: there is no law. Can long this indignity in silence be borne? Non-violent path resorted: but useless it had shown. Alternate armed action was the available path, Hence justifiable it is, and none need show wrath. Forever they had thought, the Tamils are ever meek, And surely now they know, in their belief is a leak. Way back in '83 the Government did sponsor, A race riot islandwide - a gory venture - For the loss of soldiers. - a mere thirteen in number - But now when scores are daily killed, - no change in temper. The just cause of the Tamils the world should ken, Their sufferings, the past decades, are very sad to pen. Oh! Countries of the world: - Stop your arms supplies; To loans and financial aids too, this call applies. Be it known that here exists no Democracy, Only the Kesalwatte Demon (has) gone crazy!

'RAM'

THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

Why India Why

You have granted recognition and representation in New Delhi to the Palestine Liberation Organisation. You have granted recognition and representation in New Delhi to the African National Congress. You have granted recognition and representation in New Delhi to the South West African People's Organisation, yet you have unashamedly hounded out the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam from your shores. Why Oh! why have you done so?

Is it not because you do not give a damn for the plight of the suffering humanity in Palestine or South Africa or South West Africa, just as much as you do not give a damn for the plight of the Tamils in Eelam. But in granting recognition to those three organisations, namely the P.L.O., the A.N.C. and the S.W.A.P.O. you were only hoping to score cheap popularity with the vast Arabic and Africa continents, merely to enrich your exporting opportunities.

Is filthy lucre the only criteria in your international relations and dealings? Cannot it be said that the Father made modern India, the Daughter gave it the Polish and the Grandson wrecked it.

Premadasa's Challenge

Speaking at various public meeting recently, the President of Sinhala Sri Lanka Ranasinghe Premadasa has stated, that the Tigers would be wise to settle their dispute during his tenure of office. One begins to wonder as whether this is a threat or a prediction based on premonition. Does Premadasa feel that his days are numbered and he may go the way of Ranjan Wijeratne or is he contemplating retirement and planning to enter the Buddhist priesthood as a clean shaven monk, abdicating his role of husband and father? Of course one remembers that immediately after his election as President (with IPKF supervision) he did state, that his party had nominated him, as they feared that they may lose the Presidential elections. Could it be then, that in the snap polls that he is

contemplating, he fears that he may be given the order of the boot, considering that he botched up the chance to reach an amicable settlement with the Tigers after leading them on for fourteen long months and thus causing the deaths of many hundred innocent sinhala soldiers. Of course a satisfactory solution at this juncture would definitely restore his badly tattered public image and so help him in the contemplated snap polls. The question is, whether the Tigers would be willing to oblige him yet once again.

The bad and the good

First the bad news, on the 13 April I was shattered to learn that an old class mate of mine namely E.G. Anthonipillai had the tragic misfortune to be the recipient of an Artillery Shell directed by the cowardly sinhala Veerayas from far away Palaly. This cowardly act not only damaged his house but killed his dear wife and injured him and others. So my sincere condolences to him and his family members, most of whom are abroad. One wonders the logic behind this depraved and cowardly action of the Sinhala army - what do they hope to achieve by such actions? Frighten the Tigers or the Tamils or do they wish to make the resolve of the Tamils to resist that much more determined.

Now for the good news, like E.G.A. reader W.J. P.G. (Hot Spring 14.4.91) was also a class mate of mine. He was so perfect with his reading, that the English Tutor always nominated him to read the lesson much to the delight of the entire class, who impressed by his splendid reading, called him MR. ACCENT. It is always a pleasant experience to renew past school friendships, more so after so many years and I am glad that he enjoys reading the Hot Spring and my column in particular and I trust that he will find the future issues just as interesting as before. Whilst I have enjoyed renewing past friendships, it is sad that one had to be under a black cloud but that then is the true plight of the Tamils today.

FORGET THE PAST AND LOOK AHEAD

We Tamils must learn to forget the past and look ahead, as otherwise we may be left stranded minus our goal. It may well be that in the past our political leaders may have blundered and trusted the Sinhala politicians to play fair by the Tamils and other minorities. But it is now an established fact, that the Sinhala politicians acted quite to the contrary and there is no useful purpose served by crying over spilt milk.

Let us therefore forget the Arunachalam brothers, G.G. Ponnampalam and Chelvanayakam and the other Tamil parliamentarians who followed them and put our faith in Velupillai Pirabakaran and his devoted band and hope that they will lead us to the promised land of EELAM, where the Tamils can live in peace.

But to achieve this, we must of course publicise our cause and in so doing, we must take extra care to

ensure, that the reader, more so the foreigner does not get confused with the unnecessary native terms and names, which may distract them to desperation. Nor should we interpret past actions of the colonial power as being biased in favour of the Sinhala or Tamil people. A writer maintains that the British considered the Sinhala people to be loyal subjects and hence granted a constitution favourable to them. As against this assertion, if you consider that the British Governor in 1915 at the time of the Sinhala / Muslim riots considered the Sinhala people to be treacherous and had them shot like dogs, then this contention falls flat. The hard fact is that out of the three colonial masters, the British were the best and they treated their subjects in this country fairly and squarely, treating each case on its merits.

Here I wish to deviate and record a minor incident

that happened to me and which really made me think afresh. I was seated on the beach one evening a little forlorn and sad, when a fisherman known to me approached me and enquired the reasons for my pitiful state. I told him that I had read the day's papers and also listened to the Radio news all of which were most discouraging. Whereupon this fine and simple man looked me straight in the

A. S. Kumar

face and stated, that I ought not to believe everything in the papers and radio but make my own decision after reading between the lines. He went on to state, that he had a long chat with the Tigers in the nearby camp and found them all very cheerful and full of hope and went on to ask me, if they, the Tigers' can be so carefree and happy, then why the hell should we

worry. Yes, Sir, I thought why in hell should I worry and that is exactly what I have done since then. Time and tide waits for no man, so let us Tamils make the best of what is left without mourning over what has gone before.

The simple hard fact is that the sovereignty that flowed from the British Constitution granted in 1948 ceased in 1956 with the declaration of the Sinhala Only Bill and from 1956 this country has been devoid of sovereignty and the Tamils have been brutalised by the larger Sinhala community to toe the line. But in 1977 the Tamils decided enough was enough and told the Sinhalese so.

And what did the Tamils say to the Sinhalese - look here you have assaulted our people in your Sinhala South West, you have raped them and murdered them and also destroyed their homes under Government patronage. So we said hell with your uni-

tary form of government and withdrew to our homelands in the North East. But encouraged by your own savagery in your own Sinhala South West, you have followed us to our own land of EELAM to carry on your evil tasks with greater force and venom, with the assistance of Chinese arms and Italian Bombers and Israeli frigates and many other arms and ammunition and above all under the bogus pretext of protecting the sovereignty of this country, which sovereignty no longer exists. If this act of self defence is rebellion then so be it, because we Tamils intend to establish EELAM come what may.

So I say dear friends forget the past and look ahead and let us together with the late Martin Luther King say "I have a dream, yes a dream, that some day we will overcome" it was this dream that brought the black Americans to a normal and prosperous way of life and as night follows day, it will bring us Tamils too to the promised land. So until then let us forget the past and forge ahead thinking of the period 1948 onwards leading up to EELAM. Until then let us let our past politicians rest peacefully in their graves.

Mild declarations followed by Wild operations

Jaffna Citizens' Committee Writes to President Premadasa

"Time and again it is declared and announced by Your Excellency that a military solution is unattainable for the present crisis and that an early peaceful political solution will be found. But these declarations are immediately followed by intensive military operations" - So states a letter sent by Jaffna Citizens' Committee to President Premadasa.

The letter goes on to state that every aspect of life of the entire Tamil-speaking people in the North East, has been paralysed and the people deliberately allowed to vegetate, starve and perish and gives the following figures as a close approximation of the actual figures of damage wrought by the war during the last ten months:-

1. Total Number of displaced person	1,000,000
2. " " " Destitutes	1,100,000
3. " " " dead and missing persons	8,000
4. " " " injured and disabled	20,000
5. " " " houses destroyed and damaged	65,000
6. " " " public buildings damaged and destroyed	3,000
7. " " " public places of worship damaged	400
8. " " " Schools/Colleges damaged	400
9. " " " Shops, business houses etc. damaged	25,000

In addition the people have been deprived of all essential day to day needs.

The Citizens' Committee's letter concludes hoping that the President will lose no time in finding a solution to ending the crisis.

Prosecution or Persecution

London's Old Bailey Courthouse ruling in March, 1991 in the case in which six persons who were in prison for 16 years were exonerated and let free, came as a rude shock to all persons the world over.

The simple facts of the case are that in November, 1974 bombs exploded in two pubs in Birmingham, killing 21 people and injuring over 160 persons. The Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility for the bombings. The IRA also denied that the six men now freed after sixteen years of imprisonment were involved in the bombing. These men were arrested just hours after the bombing in 1974.

They were charged in Court, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1975. Ever since, they were making all attempts to have themselves exonerated of the charge. The attempt succeeded at last after 16 long years in prison. For sixteen long years innocent people have been suffering in prison.

Who is responsible for the prosecution of innocent people on false charges? The British claim to the honesty and integrity of its Police Force, is seriously affected by the

ruling of the Old Bailey given last month.

But what is intriguing is that this is not the first time that innocents have been falsely prosecuted, when incidents connected with the IRA arose. About two years ago, an Appellate Court set free four other persons convicted in another set of IRA bombings also in 1974 in Guildford. The Government itself ordered in August, 1990, the review of the convictions of seven others in a case in which they were charged of running an IRA bomb factory. By the time the Government made this order, the persons concerned had been set free after completing prison terms!

When some incident connected with the IRA arises, does the Police prosecute or persecute innocents? Time has come for the British Government to allay the fears aroused in the minds of the people all over the world.

The sufferings of the innocents in Britain naturally arouses anxiety for the fate of those persons in the jails of Sri Lanka too. Here too a large number of persons are in prison without even being indicted.

The six now set free are Richard McIlkerny (57), Patrick Hill (45), Hugh Callaghan (60), Gerard Hunter (45), William Power (44) and John Walker (55).

Relief - After Army Occupation

Security forces will capture all areas in the Vavuniya District very soon. Items of food will be sent to the people there through the Co-operative Branches, only after completion of the occupation by the Army. So said Additional Govt. Agent Vavuniya, Ratnayake to a question posed by the Gramasevakas of the region.

Since last September, no food relief had reached the thickly populated areas of the District where the Tamils reside.

A meeting of the Gramasevakas was held at the Vavuniya kacheheri on 18th April where the Addl G.A. Vavuniya addressed the meeting. 'The occupation of the rest of the Areas of Vavuniya District' referred to by the Addl. GA is apparently the territories adjoining Mannar District near Madhu Church and the Refugee Camp run by the UNHCR which is housing over thirty thousand Tamil refugees from Vavuniya and Mannar.

OUR READERS SAY

Benz Car-India and Ranjan

The Editor,

It is alleged that the late unlamented Ranjan Wijeratne was gifted a Benz Car by the government of India and it was in this self same car that the late unlamented Wijeratne was travelling, when he and his entourage were blown to smithereens on the 2nd March of this year.

It would be of interest to know the answers to the following:-

When was this Benz car gifted by India to Wijeratne?

By which administration (Chandrasekhar - V.P. Singh-Gandhi) was it gifted?

Was it long before the explosion or just prior and was there a built in explosive device in this car?

It is indeed strange that when all other Radio stations reported that the explosion had been caused by a car bomb, it was only All India Radio that reported the explosion was the result of a landmine (which is the favourite modus operandi of the tigers).

Will High Commissioner Nagendra Nath Jha please clarify.

As for us Tamils the Indian rope trick appears to be getting curioler and curioler.

A. S. Kumar

Good Things No Cheap, Cheap Things No Good

The Editor,

I remember the good old days before World War II, how the chinaman used to home-peddalling on his bicycle with a big bundle on his pillion and spread his wares on a mat and try to sell his goods and the only phrase he knew was "cheap things no good, good things no cheap". Where times have changed, man has changed and so has the chinaman.

Now he is a permanent Member of the Security Council, has a big say in the world forum - one reason his big population.

Now when he sold the Y. 12 planes, arms and ammunition to the UNP Government, surely he would have known for what purpose they were going to be used - or did he ask the UNP Government why it wanted these weapons? Surely, Sri Lanka

is not going to declare war on America, Britain or India?

The Chinaman knew they were going to be used to kill innocent Tamils unarmed and in the result, many are left orphans, widows, properties damaged, and many without limbs.

Now when the Iraq-Kuwait war was going on, China was shedding crocodile tears - violations of human rights and issuing statements. Did the Chinaman think what was happening to the Tamils in the North-East? Did he cry for a halt? No, Sir. There are good Chinese people who are decent and have a sense of justice - but most of them are ruthless. What happened at Tianamen Square during the Freedom for Democracy - many - thousands were killed, butchered murdered buried and burnt and many sent to prison. Well, chinaman, to hell with your Y. 12 planes and arms and ammunitions! If ever I sight you this side of Vavuniya, I will catch you by the scruff and put you in in a pot of boiling water and make a beggy, smokey, chinese soupey and give it to my dog. I wonder even that dog will sniff at that soupey.

Well, chinaman, change your ways and learn to do what is right morally and not try to mislead the world by your bogus pious ways.

A. R. Rajadurai

Kopay.

The Eelam Problem

The Editor,

Day in and day out President Premadasa proclaims that he does everything justly without looking into one's race or religion. He also says that unless the Tamil problem is settled during his leadership, it will never get settled, implying that he is the only leader who will play fair by the Tamils.

Is it because he is the best friend of the Tamils that he took back Mr. Cyril Mathew into the U. N. P. Committee, when he was pushed out by President J. R. Jayawardane, for his anti-Tamil outbursts and actions?

If President Premadasa is indeed the leader who plays fair by all, will he bring back into the Constitution, Article 29 of the Soulbury Constitution, the Article that prohibits Parliament from

passing any legislation that will benefit or hamper any one community but will not benefit or hamper all the other communities; the Article that induced poor Mr. Suntharalingam and Mr. Sithampalam to wholeheartedly support the idea of a united Ceylon. Words may satisfy Donor Countries (they do indeed, because in those countries, the leaders say what they mean) but only actions will satisfy the Tamils.

The 13th Amendment to the Constitution reads, "2. Tamil shall also be an official language. 3. English shall be the link language, 4. Parliament shall by law provide for the implementation of the provisions of this Chapter." (One cannot understand why Parliament should pass a law to give effect to 2 & 3 above). This 13th Amendment was certified on 14th November, 1987 and President Premadasa has, months back completed two years in office but Parliament has not passed any law to give effect to 2 & 3 above and Sinhala continues to be the Sole Official Language of Sri Lanka.

Yet again in Appendix II of the 13th Amendment clause 2.5 reads 'The distribution of all allotments of such land in such projects will be on the basis of national ethnic ratio. In the distribution of allotments according to such ratios, priority will be given to persons who are displaced by the project, landless of the District in which the project is situated and thereafter landless of the Province.' This prohibits the distribution of land in a Province to any one in the other provinces. Nevertheless in the Eastern Province, thousand and thousands from the other Provinces are being allotted land - probably not a single Tamil or Muslim from the Eastern Province had been allotted a plot of land since June 10, 1990.

President Premadasa says the war is not against the Tamils but it is against the L.T.T.E. The North and East are bombed at random and the spokesman for the Air Force declares, as if on oath, that they bomb only L.T.T.E. targets. But what about the Artillery Shell attacks from Army camps that hit here, there and everywhere? Can the Army men say that they are hitting only L.T.T.E. targets.

Again what about the Economic Blockade of the

North. Is this not an example of the Fairplay that President Premadasa so loudly proclaims?

Come, Come President Premadasa! Back up your pious pronouncements by action! Or else sooner or later the cat will be out of the bag even in the donor countries. Also you have to assume that the LTTE might get tired of playing fair by the rules of war and start hitting at Sinhalese Civilians as is being demanded by the Kith & Kin of the Civilians who have been murdered by your Bombs and Artillery Shells!

S. Alagaratnam

Urumpirai

Delay in issue of Passports

Dear Sir,

Kindly publish this letter in your magazine of understanding and social justice to spotlight the grievances of the oppressed, suppressed and depressed classes of this racially torn Island, Sri Lanka. (Ceylon)

Some 675 completed passport applications have been sent by the regional office attached to the Kachcheri, Jaffna to the Controller of Immigration and Emigration Department, Galle Buck, Colombo I, before the civil war broke out on 10.6.1990.

Upto date the said passport applicants have not been issued with the passports; some of their applications have been sent to the said office in January 1990. I think this lapse is another world record in the delay of issuing such travel documents. It is reliably learnt that the said department is not willing to send the passport by registered posts for security reasons. They insist

the applicants to come to Colombo to obtain their passport with the relevant receipts and other proofs.

It is humanly impossible for all the passport applicants to go to Colombo to obtain their passports. It will be highly appreciated if the said passports are sent by the ships under the care of the ICRC and to be issued by them or the Government Agent. It will be recalled that liquid cash in millions are being sent to the local banks by ships; and so far there had been no such attempts to threaten them. The people of good will, particularly the passport applicants will be very grateful for such largeheartedness.

It will also be greatly appreciated if the said office at the Jaffna Kachcheri is reopened to receive the passport applications to ease the untold sufferings of the applicants to go to Colombo to submit their applications. The security arrangements at the said Kachcheri have been commendably tightened and the people also give their co-operation to enable them to discharge their duties allotted to them efficiently and sincerely.

It is sincerely hoped that this case will receive the most sympathetic consideration of the leaders of the Government and the passport officials. It is unwise to suspect all the people, most of them want to live in peace and harmony and to mind their own business.

However these lapses have been published in the local newspapers and representations to the relevant minister concerned.

J. Arulanandam

Vayavilan.

Jubilee Celebration of Catechist

The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of a devoted Catechist of St. Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna, - Mr. Abrahampillai Philuppupillai, called as Mulhiah Upathesiayar was peacefully celebrated at the said Cathedral on evening 18.4.1991.

The thanksgiving celebrated holy mass was presided over by His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna, Rt. Rev. Dr. B. Deogupillai, assisted by several priests of the diocese. A large number of people from all walks of life graced the occasion and wished the jubilarian and his wife all the best in life.

Immediately after the holy mass, a felicitation meeting followed at the said Cathedral esplanade. Various cultural and drama items were staged. Several speakers addressed explaining the

various activities of the Jubilarian.

Rev. Fr. S.H. Jebanesan, the parish priest of St. Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna, praised the jubilarian for his valuable services to assist him and to relieve the workload of his huge parish.

Mr. Muthiah was born on 18-11-1911 at Jaffna town.

In 1930 he came in contact with the late Rev. Brother Eugene Grussault, O. M. I. who was rendering various forms of relief and spiritual services to uplift the poor and unfortunate classes of the people of the town.

He also had the privilege to study catechism under the famed Rev. Fr. (Nallur) S. Gnanapirahasar, O. M. I. at his headquarters at St. Francis Xavier's Church, Tirunelveli.

SUFFERING SHALL INSPIRE VICTORY

Sir Winston Churchill, War-time Prime Minister of Britain, was a famous leader who inspired his country to victory in the face of Nazi threats.

Britain faced numerous air raids - not to mention the barbarous attacks upon the civilian population especially in London city. The citizens of London bore with exemplary composure and fortitude all the savage air attacks and this was good cheer to British fighting forces.

Tamil Eelam is today facing murderous air attacks aimed at civilian targets.

The Sinhalese government behaves like the Nazi Government of Germany.

We remind our readers what Churchill said on 11th September, 1940, when he went over the air on a broadcast to the nation.

- Editor -

It is with devout but sure confidence that I say: Let God defend the Right.

These cruel, wonton, indiscriminate bombings of London are, of course, a part of Hitler's invasion plans. He hopes, by killing large numbers of civilians, women and children, that he will terrorize and cow the people of this mighty imperial city, and make them a burden and an anxiety to the Government and thus distract our attention unduly from the ferocious onslaught he is preparing. Little does he know the spirit of the British nation, or the tough fibres of the Londoners, whose forebears played a leading part in the establishment of Parliamentary institutions and who have been bred to value freedom far above their lives. This wicked man, the repository and embodiment of many forms

of souldestroying hatred, this monstrous product of former wrongs and shame, has now resolved to try to break our famous island race by a process of indiscriminate slaughter and destruction. What he has done is to kindle a fire in British hearts, here and all over the world, which will glow long after all traces of the conflagration he has caused in London have been removed. He has lighted a fire which will burn with a steady and consuming flame until the last vestiges of Nazi tyranny have been burnt out of Europe, and until the Old World - and the New - can join hands to rebuild the temples of man's freedom and man's honour, upon foundations which will not soon or easily be overthrown.

This is a time for everyone to stand together, and hold firm, as they are doing. I express my admiration for the exemplary manner in which all the air Raid Precautions services of London are being discharged, especially the Fire Brigade, whose work has been so heavy and also dangerous. All the world that is still free marvels at the composure and fortitude with which the citizens of London are facing and surmounting the great ordeal to which they are subjected, the end of which or the severity of which cannot yet be foreseen.

It is a message of good cheer to our fighting forces on the seas, in the air, and in our waiting armies in all their posts and stations, that we send them from this capital city. They know that they have behind them a people who will not flinch or weary of the struggle -

hard and protracted though it will be; but that we shall rather draw from the heart of suffering itself the means of inspiration and survival, and of a victory won not only for our own time, but for the long and better days that are to come.

Cinefilm 'Captian Pirapakaran' screened in Madras

Prominent film star and producer, Vijayakanth has produced a new Tamil Film titled 'Captian Pirapakaran' which is now being screened all over Tamil Nadu. Vijayakanth is an admirer of the L. T. T. E. Leader, Pirapakaran so much so that he has even named his son as 'Vijaya Pirapakaran'.

Will this Film have any impact on the Elections in Tamil Nadu and influence its results?

D. M. K. under the leadership of C. N. Annadurai won fifteen seats in the First Election it ever faced but

Refugee Rehabilitation Fund donates Bicycle

The Refugee Rehabilitation Fund (RRF), an NGO working in the North, gave a new bicycle to Mr. A. Sukirtharajah, a mechanic who lost one of his legs, when the office of the Tamil Daily Uthayan was bombed in October, 1990.

Mr. Sukirtharajah had then gone to the Press to attend to some repair work there,

when the Press was bombed resulting in an employee being killed on the spot and two others including Mr. Sukirtharajah, sustaining serious injuries.

The RRF also gave a loan of Rs. 5000/- to the Nayanmarkaddu Community Centre which is running a coir industry where about 15 girls are working. The coir industry makes coir brooms. The loan is repayable in instalments. Also the RRF gave a water pump to the Community Centre to enable the Centre to use the pump for irrigating agricultural gardens cultivated by members of the Centre in the vicinity.

The assistance thus provided by the RRF was made at a meeting of the Community Centre held on 21st April, 1991 at the Community Centre Hall. The donation and loans were formally handed over by Mr. S. Paramasivam of the RRF. Mr. S. Velayuthapillai presided at the function.

Tamils in South must go to Eelam Should pay 50% More Taxes

Diatribes of a Former Prime Minister

"If the TULF or any liberation Tiger movement wants a separate state they must bear full responsibility for the entire Tamil population living in this country. They should be prepared to evacuate the Tamils living in the Southern parts of the country to their separate state. If any Tamil wants to work and live in this part of the land, they must be prepared to pay enhanced taxes.

"Those fellows should be charged fifty percent more than the others. Most of the Tamils are working here in Colombo and its suburbs. They are in the Railway, Postal Department, Clerical Service and every government department. An unusually large percentage of them is

in business. You think those business fellows will go back to Jaffna to the State of Eelam? The majority of them will never subscribe to the Eelam demand."

Sir John Kotelawala-quoted in the Ceylon Daily News 2nd July, 1979

Govt. Pensioners call attention to 1987 Promise

The Nallur Pensioners' Benefit Association has written to President Premadasa again reminding him of the Government's promise made in November, 1987 to pay Special Living Allowance to all State Officers including pensioners. The promise remains a mere promise to date as far as the pensioners are concerned.

The Secretary of the Association, Mr. P. S. Thiruchelvam, said that the promise made in November, 1987 was partially fulfilled with the state officers being paid

the Special Living Allowance with effect from January, 1988. This allowance was, however, not paid to the pensioners and when the matter was raised, the President promised to have this allowance paid to all pensioners as well. Despite the repeated reminders this allowance has not been paid to the pensioners to date.

Mr. Thiruchelvam said that the pensioners are disappointed that a promise made so long ago remains unfulfilled and have decided to send an appeal to President Premadasa again.

5 Civilians Killed and Burnt

Sinhala soldiers killed and burnt 5 civilian Tamils at Bakiella in the Batticaloa District on the 14th March, 1991.

The victims have been identified as:-

1. Samithamby Suntharalingam (30) male of 35th Colony, father of six children
2. Kanthamby Konesan (14) male, a student of 35th Colony
3. Velupillai Veerasingam (42) male of 37th Colony, father of 4 children.
4. Kanagaran Nallathamby (40) male of Kalacholai, Kakkachiveddai
5. Velupillai Somasuntharam (52) male of Kalacholai Kakkachiveddai, father of six children.

Palayadivettai Army continues atrocities

The villages of Kalvettai, Kalimadu, Nediavettai and Vilanthoddam in the Batticaloa District were rounded up on the 3rd. March, 1991 by the Sinhala Army stationed at Palayadivettai who opened fire indiscriminately in several areas.

Two persons were killed, some injured and six persons arrested. The injured were pushed into the lagoon by the soldiers and the arrested persons were taken away. Of those pushed into the lagoon some who could swim, escaped.

The two dead persons have been identified as Nagamany Kirupai (50) male of Kalvettai and Thangarajah Nesiah (45) male of Aliyavettai.

One of the injured is Muthusamy Nirmalan (35) male of Pillai Aliyavettai.

Five arrested persons are identified as -

1. Parisaripody Kanna-moorthy, male, father of two children of Aliyavettai.
2. Kalikutti Sangarapillai (60) male of Naya-truvettai.
3. Murugupillai (18) of Aliyavettai.
4. Murugappan Mamangan (30) male of 35th colony and father of 6 children
5. Samithamby Thedchana-moorthy (56) male of 35th colony and father of 4 children.

In the same area on the next day the Sinhala soldiers went on the rampage and opened fire on the civilians working in their paddy fields. Thereafter the soldiers gave vent to, their 'anger' by ripping open the bicycle tyres of these peasant farmers and throwing the bicycles away.

HOT SPRING

VOL: 1 SUNDAY 28th. APRIL 1991 ISSUE 29

Peace is far away

Last week we had occasion to publish a late news conveying President Premadasa's message, to Parliament wherein he stated that he wanted to talk peace to end the war. We had our comments then also to make.

But before the news of the President's speech reached us, we commented in this column how people are being led up the garden path about reported peace moves here and there and stated as follows:

"There is no sign at all that the war is receding in action. Still less is there any indication that the Government or the Sinhala political leaders have begun to have fresh thought in the matter of Sinhala - Tamil conflict in the Island. Deceit and treachery with the object of imposing Baudha - Sinhala rule on the Eelam Tamil Nation is only augmented by military power."

What we stated last week has been amply proved by the events of this week.

A sudden Radio announcement on the early morning of 25th of this month stated that a curfew had been imposed all over the Jaffna Peninsula. As usual the period of duration was unlimited. Even as we write this editorial on the 26th morning the curfew has still not been relaxed and is in force. How long it will be in force, we cannot say.

But even before the curfew was announced, the combined forces of the Sinhala Government had begun their operations at Karainagar. Artillery shell attacks and cannon fire attack from naval boats directed towards the Island of Karainagar were made throughout the night of the 24th and from early hours - around 4.30 a.m. - on 25th. Sri Lankan Air Force planes and helicopters begun attack on Karainagar.

Simultaneously artillery shell attack were launched from the Palaly Army Camp, Kay's Camp and Kankasanturai Army Camp on the 25th.

It is to be noted that the G.C.E. (A/L) examination which should have been held in August, 1990 was not held in the North East because of the war situation then. This is a highly competitive examination held to admit candidates for admission to the Universities. While the examination was held in Sinhala areas of the Island in August, 1990, the examination was not held in North East. Later, however, the Education Department took up the matter with the Government and the Government after consultations with the Defence Ministry also fixed this examination to be held in the North East from the 23rd. of this month. This examination is scheduled to be over on the 13th next month.

But the Sri Lanka Army started its artillery shell attack from the Palaly Camp just on the day of the commencement of the examination directing attack towards Vadamarady including an examination centre. Fortunately the shell did not explode in the examination centre itself but in the vicinity. Then on the 25th savage air attack started on Karainagar and other Islands. and is continuing even as we write this on the 26th.

There is no provocation for this attack. Neither the Karainagar Army or Navy Camps nor Palalay Army Camp or any other came in for any attack just prior to the commencement of examination or thereafter. Shortly and simply this is an unprovoked war of aggression which the armed forces of the Sinhala Government have commenced.

The outbreak of these offensive operations by the armed forces of the Sinhala Government makes it very clear that the President's message to Parliament was a calculated step to cheat - to cheat not only the Tamils but the world at large.

Why should the Government commence offensive military operations, when it had earlier decided and in fact had started holding the G.C.E. (A/L) Special examination in various centres in the North East? Whom is the Government fooling? How does the Government expect students to sit for a highly competitive examination, when its armed forces ravage the area?

As a matter of fact the people were feeling some what safe with the news of the President's quest for peace coupled with the conduct of the examination. People thought they would be free of attacks at least during the course of the examination. They have been proved wrong.

The charge levelled against the Government that it does not want peace - that President Premadasa indulges in peace exhortations only to cheat the world, stands proved.

Woes of Amparai Tamils

No work - No Houses - No Food

Some Missing

There were Tamils living in many small villages here and there all over Amparai District. Most of these people were daily wage earners. These Tamils in the Amparai District who lived in small hamlets, have been the worst affected people after the current war broke out in June, 1990.

Quite apart from the large numbers done to death in this District by Muslim thugs and the Special Task Force (STF), those who have escaped death, are undergoing immense hardships. They have no properties; their houses exist no more. They have no work and they have to live in constant fear of death both at the hands of Muslim thugs and the Sinhala Government's armed forces.

About 245 Tamil families from Kannakipuram, Ninthavur and Vinayagapuram have been taken into a refugee camp set up by the ICRC at Panankadu. Altogether about 1,944 persons from other areas also are accommodated in the Panankadu Refugee Camp.

These refugees have to depend for their food entirely on the government ration supplies which are totally inadequate. The refugees are thus less than half fed. As far as basic sanitary and other amenities are concerned they are very poor and many refugees have been the victims of contagious diseases. These refugees are unable to go to work like wood cutting or work in the fields because

of the Muslim thugs and the STF.

The STF prohibits these refugees from returning to their own villages. Most of their houses have been burnt down and shrub jungles have grown all over.

There were about 850 students at Kannakipuram. Temporary arrangements have been made by the ICRC for these children to continue their studies in an improvised Rural Development Society Hall at Panankadu but the lack of facilities and more so the pathetic conditions in which these refugees - especially many having lost their fathers or mothers or both - live - retards any growth in education. Many children do not go to this temporary school.

There are about 810 families from the villages of Alayadivembu, Periyakulam, Karung-

kodittivukulam, Navatkadu and Ward 7 of Akkaraipattu in Alayadivembu. A.G.A's Division who have lost their dwellings and are rendered refugees. Most of these villagers were principally agriculturists primarily engaged in the cultivation of manioc almost for the entire year. Recently when the refugees attempted to return to their villages and engage themselves in manioc gardening, the STF has prohibited planting manioc. So they face starvation.

But the most distressing feature in the lives of these refugees is this. Some of the refugees were invited to return to their villages and when they returned accordingly, some of them from the 4th Colony in the Central Camp area have been taken away by the STF. Nothing is known as to what had happened to those who had been so taken away.

NEWS ROUND UP

12-4-91

At Akkaraipattu STF opens fire. 3 persons killed.

13-4-91

At Vavuniya - One person seriously injured as a result of treading on a booby trap placed by the Army.

At Kilinochchi - Bomber and helicopter attack. Old man injured. Five houses damaged.

At Trincomalee - Army opens fire - 4 people killed.

14-4-91

At Nayar & Kumulmunai Bomber attack. Mother and 3 children killed. They are S. Parameswary (38), S. Jalin (10), S. Thayarasa (8) and S. Jeevarasa.

Nine persons were injured. They are Lingarasa (40), L. Sri deve (38), L. Thayapara (8), L. Sriharan (6), L. Sriivatharan Visvanathan (17), Vijaya kumari (25), Thivakar (4) and Kanchana (3).

16-4-91

At Kerativu (Sangupiddy) - Helicopter attack. Three persons injured.

At Naraianthankulam - Army opens fire. Three persons killed. They are K. Parasingam (47), P. Selva-

kumar (22) and T. Pavala-anthan (20).

17-4-91

At Chavakachcheri. Helicopter attack. S. Thavanesan was killed in this attack and two persons were injured.

18-4-91

At Palaly. Artillery shell attack. Many persons injured.

22-4-91

At Araly Helicopter attack. Two persons were injured are - A. Kalayanathan and A. Premathasa.

At Vavuniya Army attack. Six persons injured. In another bomber attack five persons who were injured. They are T. Thangathurai (30), M. Thayanothy (19), S. Pathmayath (27), S. Thavarasa (32) and Satkunasingam (39).

23-4-91

At Valvettiturai. Shell attack. Many houses damaged.

Military...

(Continuation of Page 1)
at war with the Education Ministry. The Education Ministry decided to hold the examination after consultation with the Defence Ministry. Also while the examination was on, the Defence Ministry imposed a curfew. The Education Ministry has now decried the Defence Ministry by conducting the examination in spite of the curfew.

Bank Manager Arrested

Kanapathipillai Sithamparam of Kovil Porativu who is a Bank Manager, is reported to have been arrested and taken away by the Sri Lanka Army accompanied by some Tamil gangsters on the 14th March, 1991 around 8.00 a.m. Nothing further has been heard of the arrested Bank official.

Helicopter Attack

A Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter fired on a lorry transporting paddy at Thumpakerni in the Batticaloa District on the 7th March, 1991 killing the cleaner of the lorry on the spot and also injuring three other pedestrians. The lorry was completely damaged.

The dead cleaner of the lorry has been identified as S. Amarasingam (30) of Periyakallaru.