

HOT SPRING

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British M.P.s give notice of motion

It is learnt that 19 British M.P.s gave notice of a motion to be debated in the House of Commons immediately after the unilateral ceasefire announced by the LTTE at the beginning of the year.

It was hoped that immediate dialogue would follow with the participants regarding themselves as equal partners in dialogue process. The motion also called on the British Government to show its practical support for peace in Sri Lanka by ending all direct and indirect aid to the Sri Lanka Government.

LEGALIZING ATROCITY

More Employment for Sinhalese in the Trinco Dist.
Bill to come up before Parliament

The Government proposes to legalize the atrocities it commits on the Tamils furtively by the manipulation of the administrative machinery by providing more employment for Sinhalese in the Trincomalee District than for the Tamils and for this purpose a Bill has been gazetted as a preliminary step before presentation to Parliament.

The Government of Sri Lanka intends to bring in legislation to ensure appointments to the public and public corporation sectors, Govt. Business undertakings, Companies registered under the Companies Act No. 17 of 1982 and Higher Educational institutions are done on an ethnic ratio basis determined by Government from time to time. For this purpose an Appeals Commission is to be established to hear and determine appeals sent to it alleging non-compliance with the ratio basis formulated by Government. Any person aggrieved with a Selection may appeal to the Commission. The Draft Bill enabling the establishment of this Appeals Commission has been gazetted as a preliminary step to the passage of the Act in Parliament.

The Bill gives a schedule of the ethnic ratio applicable for appointments. According to this Schedule in the Trincomalee District, Sinhalese shall be appointed more than Tamils by 36 per cent. For the Trincomalee District, according to the Schedule to the Bill, the ratio is as follows:-

Sinhalese 36.1 - Tamils 32.5. Thus the Sinhalese have an edge of 3.6 over the Tamils in the Trincomalee District.

The Tamil charge that the Sinhala administrative machinery is fraudulently utilised by the Sinhala government to convert Tamil areas into Sinhala majority areas stands vindicated by the following figures issued by the Government itself according to Census Reports.

for the Sinhalese in the Trincomalee District. This higher ratio is illegal because, according to the Bill, the Schedule has to be revised after every census. It would therefore, appear that the present Schedule was worked out on the basis of the last Census in 1981, according to

Population of Trincomalee District
According to Race

Year	Lc/S	KS	CT	IT	CM	IM	others	Total
1881	935	—	14,394	—	5,716	—	1,112	22,197
1891	1,109	—	17,117	—	6,426	—	1,093	25,745
1901	532	671	17,069	—	8,258	—	1,911	28,441
1911	583	755	16,913	320	9,529	185	1,470	29,755
1921	763	733	18,138	448	12,662	184	1,179	34,112
1946	11,191	4,515	30,433	3,362	22,136	1,083	3,06	75,926
1953	10,262	5,034	34,035	3,482	21,748	868	2,204	85,917
1963	21,820	18,130	51,060	2,990	41,950	610	1,660	138,220
1971	29,008	26,300	67,516	5,739	61,698	840	1,88	191,989
1981	85,503	—	87,760	5,372	75,039	—	2,124	255,798

Lc/s Low Country Sinhalese; KS = Kandyan Sinhalese; CT = Ceylon Tamils; IT = Indian Tamils; CM = Ceylon Moors; IM = Indian Moors

It would be seen from the above figures that the Trincomalee District had been a predominantly Tamil District. The Sinhalese in the area were a very small minority. It would also be seen from the above figures that the steep rise in the Sinhalese population in the Trincomalee District occurred after the so-called "independence" in 1948.

The last Census was undertaken by the Government in 1981 and even then the Tamils were in a majority in the Trincomalee District, though the majority had been considerably reduced by Sinhala colonization of the District under the Kantalai, Allai, Padaviya and Periyavilankulam Colonization Schemes and by the induced influx of Sinhalese workers into the District by the Government and Buddhist Organizations.

No general census was undertaken after 1981. The question, therefore, arises how the Government had decided on a higher ratio

which too the Tamils were of the indigenous Tamil population and even against

International Organizations Attacked

A vehicle in charge of the MSF - an international NGO whose members have taken up voluntary medical duties in the Northeast, came in for aerial attack from bombers and a helicopter belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force at Thandikulam in Vavuniya on the afternoon of 3rd. May, 1991.

A team of MSF volunteers were travelling in the vehicle bound for Colombo, when the vehicle came under fire from the Sri Lankan Air Force. It is learnt that 4 persons were injured including 2 female doctors attached to the team. It is understood that an emergency operation had to be performed on one of the injured.

The vehicle when it came under attack, had a pass permitting it to move about even under curfew and was also prominently displaying an international Red Cross Flag.

A Colombo-based press came out with an utterly false story that the Air Force planes were fired at from where the MSF vehicle was passing and that the Air Force planes, therefore, dropped bombs and the helicopter carried out an attack. This story of firing from the ground aimed at the Air Force planes at the relevant place and time, had been denied by the MSF team.

It is further learnt that the MSF has protested to President Premadasa against the wanton attack carried out against its vehicle. The MSF officials are also stated to be re-considering their decision to be engaged in their humanitarian activities in the Northeast.

Earlier on 27th April, 1991 an artillery shell fired by the Sri Lankan Army

the spirit and provisions of the Land Development Ordinance, as it then stood. Now steps are being taken to legalize the illegal acts of the Government and Sinhala colonization which had merely been done furtively and fraudulently by the manipulation of the administrative machinery.

It is also appropriate to mention that the Draft Bill contains penal provisions under which offenders of the Provisions of the Act can be sentenced to jail and fine after trial without jury before the High Court.

The members of the Commission (seven in number) are to be appointed by the President after consultation with leaders of political parties and other relevant organizations, as he may consider necessary.

The proposed Bill before Parliament is an attempt to legalize Sinhala Colonization and administrative atrocities committed furtively and illegally and comes at a time when Tamils are being uprooted from their homes in the Trincomalee District through deliberate military terrorism.

hit a convoy of lorries, chartered by the UNHCR to carry foodstuffs to the Madhu Church Refugee Camp.

Reports say that while these lorries were proceeding to Colombo to bring foodstuffs, the aerial attack took place and a driver of one of the lorries is said to have died as a result. The reports further state that the Resident Representative of the UNHCR, Mr. W. D. Clarence was also travelling in a pick up van along with the convoy, when the artillery shell attack took place but escaped unhurt.

Does the Government want to make impossible the working of international organizations in the Northeast so that it may continue its genocidal programme and say something different to the world?

Desultory Rambling of Vadali Velan

What a wonderful mamma — She has a magnificent and unwavering faith in her progeny and is never weary of proclaiming to the world that her worthy son, yours-truly, would have passed even the fifth standard, if I had set my mind to it afore reaching my manhood. But then from my infancy, I have been in the wont of taking after things, more mundane; and I can assure you, today, that there is no one in the village, however learned, who can ply my inherited bullock cart or retrieve a wayward goat, which has broken its moorings, or even apprehend a naughty hen, which has gone over to a little soil-scratching in my neighbour's backyard, with verve, aplomb and adroitness I can muster. Besides, I am told that ambition and an insatiable a you for lucre increase in geometrical proportions to one's progress in learning often lead a weak minded one to become unmindful of one's antecedents and obligations; and to forsake, for all time, the land of one's forbears. How appalling it is to perceive these erstwhile sons and daughters of the soil cavortveing in comparatite splendour in some distant and alien country, blissfully ignoring the miseries and dire straits their motherland has been plunged into.

Imagine to what a sorry plight my ever-trusting mamma would have been thrown into, perchance, I had taken into my head to put some learning into me. She would have to stint and scrape and even to forego all her worldly possessions to satisfy her offspring's ambition to acquire the necessary 'polish' at the Ox-bored or even at the Sour-born university in preparation for a parliamentary career or to qualify for some other seat of learning and bag the post of diplomat. 'Can you imagine yours truly at the hustings. "mouthing nothings to the people from the loftiness of a hastily erected platform or "lying abroad for my country" or even approving "hit lists" for the elimination of leading citizens of another country occupied, for the time being, by mine - playing the role of a pathological remote-control murderer? Oh no! My poor brain cannot be tutored to cope with manoeuvres alien to my nature and traditionally rugged values. Perceive what is transpiring at present in that great land across the Palk straits: a death struggle of much derring do, subterfuges and mayhem with a few murders thrown in to add spice to the proceedings - all in the name of democratic polling.

The affairs of adjoining nations too serve as griet to the politicalmill or that ancient and honourable land especially at the time of the hustings. As for we Tamil Eelam, her miseries are being bauld about like a ping-pong ball by those involved in that great power's hustings for her own selfish and nefarious purposes.

First, sympathetic noises for my country and my people. Then rumblings and threats, followed by costfree incarceration of our young patriots. Again, sympathies with tongue-in-cheek explanation, interspersed with Jha-rring sounds; and also mixed signals for friend and foe alike with a Pa-diplomat dipping in his oar for what ever it is worth and perhaps rocking the boat still further. Again soulful sound; and on and on it goes!

It is passing strange that none of my friends in the village seem able to put their finger on this game. Anyone aware please let me know, bless you!!

Meanwhile I am clinging on to my sanity and to the dictum pronounced to me, as a toddler, perched on my great-grandma's knee: never entrust even a tummy ache to a "Vada-thesam" man for a cure; at the end of it, only the ache will remain real and not the cure.

Ruhi Maiden Tigress leaves home

— M. E. George

The day dawns after her contemplation, full of emotions throughout the long dark night. Now, Ruhi is not an ordinary school girl. She is a seventeen year old ferocious tigress. She is now a perpetual tigress, for she will not return home until liberation triumph is shown in her traditional homeland.

Though Ruhi is the only cherished daughter of the family, she is prepared to leave her dear ones, her neighbours, relatives, her school and play-mates, and her home which was her own since her birth, for the sake of the nation.

Her own people, for decades, have been suffering, deprived of their culture, language, education and even the fundamental human rights under the oppression of successive Sri Lankan Governments.

The predominantly Tamil land is deprived of her people and is settled with alien settlements. Her people, her fathers and mothers, thousands of thousands are displaced and have sought asylums in jungles and refugee camps as slaves,

A large number of them have fled their home and are stranded abroad badly treated and ridiculed by foreigners as mad dogs and cats.

O Ruhi neither finds helping hands nor hears consoling voice from any corner of the human world. She finds no resort, no alternative. Who is then to liberate her suffering nation? When is the land of her ancestors going to be freed from the alien occupation? Will there be no end to all those cruelties? Should we ever be victims of human slaughter? She can't bear the tortures of the merciless butchers any more.

Then what can she do? There are thousands of her fellow-girls already in the battle fronts challenging the Anti-Tamil blood-suckers. The call and cry of her dead tigers are striking into her ears to run and join the pioneers who took to arms. There are arms that dropped down from the Tamil martyrs. Why should then she hesitate?

The departing moment is nearing. Ruhi is being embraced by father and mother because she is the apple of their eyes. The daughter gets on to her father's feet and kisses. The mother, though sobbing with constrained grief, is very proud in mind.

O, how good, how nice it is for her to think that her daughter is a brave freedom fighter. Yes she is the mother of a tigress and thinks of herself as the ancient Tamil mothers who dressed their sons armed them and sent them to the battle fields to combat the rivals.

The time is come, the departing daughter gives her last kiss to her dear ones. They lovingly pat their daughter's head and smooth her face.

Good bye, Ammah; Good bye Appa. She finally co-troll herself to take her leave in a husky voice. The poor father tries his best to control the lump of grief in his throat and wishes Good bye.

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THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

Indian Instigation ???

It was not very long ago that Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister had cause to admonish the Sri Lankan Government for alleged carpet bombing of the Tamil areas. But today when there is ruthless bombing of the Tamil areas, we hear not a whisper from India or its leaders. We even hear All India Radio having the guts to describe this ruthless bombing of civilian targets as 'mere strafing' of Tiger targets.

On top of this official silence on the part of India over this inhuman actions of the Sri Lankan government, we also see that the Indian representative here, stating that it is in order to bomb specific targets in the event of a rebellion.

Could it not be reasonable to assume, that the Indian silence may be due to the fact, that this bombing was instigated by India and hence her inability to condemn same. Most probably the Indians told the savage Sinhaless 'to bomb the Tamil bastards into submission' and that is precisely what any other group of people such as the Sinhaless bastards or Indian bastards would have done, had they been subjected to such indiscriminate bombing of civilian targets.

Gamini Dissanayake

How have the great fallen? It was only yesterday that we witnessed Gamini Dissanayake riding high on the crest of the political wave in this country. He along with Athulathmudali, Ranil Wickremesinghe were the pet poodles, the were being groomed by that arch-machiavellian character J.R. Jayawardene to be his successor. On the premise that the seat of power would go down from one aristocrat to another but the very ordinary comm-oner from Kehelwatte has put paid to all that and so we witness Gamini

Dissanayake the rotten politician, who had the gift to speak like a statesman, now whining like a cur, that he is being hounded out by his own political party. We in Tamil Eelam remember well how Gamini Dissanayake along with loony Cyril Matthew did the jig in Jaffna, when ballot boxes mysteriously vanished, the Public Library went up in flames and M.P. Yogeswaran's house was reduced to ashes. It may also be recorded that British intellectual and journalist David Selbourne who rode in the Daimler with J.R. and these three poodles, described them all 'as that racist gang' so we say to you Gamini Dissanayake that we in EELAM shed not a tear for you or for Ranjan Wijeratne or for the other two poodles, when their turn for retribution comes as it must in this Buddhist land of Karma and Karma and Karma but one word of advice "do pack your bags and get back from whence you came" as justice and fairplay as your bloody well must know is dead as the Dodo in this land of saffron robed bald headed monks braying like asses in a lingo that no one understands.

Mikhail Gorbachev

Now in a lighter vein let me retail a story doing the rounds in diplomatic circles to borrow a SLBC jargon. Did you know that Mikhail Gorbachev is in fact an American called Michael Corbett, who was taken out of America by the late Edgar Hoover (former CIA chief) as a sperm in a test-tube and planted in the womb of a Russian womb to be born as Mikhail Gorbachev and to grow up and become President of Russia and then completely destroy Russia and her Allies in East Europe, so that Uncle Sam alone will rule the roost whilst Lenin, Marx, Stalin, Molotov, Bulganin, Krushchev, Brezhnev, Gromyko and a host of Russian leaders wriggle in their tombs and the late Czars and Czarinas do a jig with admiration. Which all makes you think that the Russian Revolution of 1917 has been such a sad waste.

LEADERSHIP BY DESTINY

Two nations were in existence before the advent of Europeans - the British in Ceylon, according to the recorded history of Sri Lanka. They were the Sinhalese nation and the Tamil nation. The British brought them together under their rule for their administrative convenience. In the meantime Indian struggle for freedom caused a stir in Asia.

Indian freedom struggle and its effects

Because of the indomitable unrelenting struggles of the Indians, first under the dynamic leadership of Tantir Topi, Rani of Jansi and Nana Sahib and of the Emperor Bahadur Shah in the Indian Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 and then under the galaxy of Indian patriotic, intellectual and political leaders of the calibre of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Aurobind Ghosh, the tenacious Indian nationalism grew up into great dimensions, after Rana Pratap Singh of Mevar - the father of Indian nationalism. Then under the everlasting reliable, dependable, unstinted leadership of Mahatma Gandhi - the beacon light of India, the struggle for freedom, first for Dominion Status and then for Purna Swaraj continued. During this period, the influence of Indian Political Development for independence cast its way in Ceylon too.

The rise of Gandhiji in India in the field of social and political life created an impression in the society about the indispensability of the concept of equality of status among the communities. This theoretical and practical struggle cast also its influence on the shores of Sri Lanka. Most of the Northern intellectuals were more drawn towards the developments and turn of events and the line of political thought prevalent in Indian Struggles. This

led to the realisation of the struggling political plight of the Tamils. Since the time of Ceylon nationalism, the disparity among the communities raised its ugly head. It was the struggle staged by the elite Tamils for communal representation in legislature. In all these struggles for independence, despite the presence of Britishers, the Tamils kept in mind the impending danger of suppression of their equal rights in the future. There were verbal battles either before the British sponsored Commissions or before the State Council.

Post Independence Period

When the other stage came in after Independence, it was a hectic struggle in Parliament for the maintenance of equality of status in every aspect and respect of independent life for the Tamils. The Tamil intelligentsia - intellectual and political giants of the time such as G. G. Ponnampalam, Q. C., S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, Q. C., and Professor C. Suntharalingam exerted every bit of their untiring energy under the well-entrenched constitutional set-up to safeguard the Tamils' identity and the rights of equality. The constitution was replaced by a new one and that very act dealt a death-knell blow to the very fundamental rights of the Tamils and thus led to their non-status identity and the second class citizenship of the Tamils. Many a court battle and wrangle was fought and that created a well based ethical and moral ground for the ceaseless heroic, just and righteous battle for the denied rights.

Then came the other stage of the political and social development of the Tamils in the unfulfilled ceaseless struggle for freedom, as leaders of the Tamils became old in age and physique and

passed away through effluxion of time. The Parliamentary struggles and non-violent struggles were pooh-poohed. The legal battles and wrangles of the Tamils were treated with utter contempt and the line of political thought in the South enhanced its grip of suppression and oppression over the Tamils to unprecedented levels in the annals of the history of Tamils.

Birth of New Leadership

The eighties, three decades of post-independent period, was marked by Tamil historians as the period in which the plight and the conditions of the Tamils ran through an all time record of worst state oppression and suppression. This was a critical and dark period of the history of the Tamils. There was

Kaandeepan

great dearth for competent, efficient, just, versatile and far-sighted leadership. The entire race of Tamils looked to the sky for dependable leadership in times of crisis like these. They felt that they were left in the lurch. Thanks to prayers and sincere penances of the Tamil parents, a new cream of youth came to the fore and took charge of the very responsible leadership to guide the Tamil nation in their cautious and hard path for the salvation of the race.

The mantle of leadership fell upon the alert, ebullent, candid and courageous youth of the Tamils. At the initial stage there was no steady hope among the Tamils about the potency of the leadership as it lacked in experience due to being young in age. Alas! Tamil race was dumb-struck over the amazing dare devil successful achievements of their sons in every field they jumped into action. Whether it is in the field of diplomacy or in politics or in military actions and statecraft, they exhibited rare skill and reached the hall-mark of genius in clear and fair thinking and decency and attained perfection in their approach and negotiations diplomatically in safeguarding their cherished ideals of the Tamil race with regard to their honoured status and the upholding of their liberty.

The present youth leadership of the Tamils of Sri Lanka not only in the Sri Lanka soil but also in the international arena of diplomacy to assert their lost rights in their vigorous struggle

of retrieving it. They had confronted foreign diplomats and local diplomats and successfully stood firm in their stand backed up by the principles of ethics and morality. Their stand was based on virtue. They guarded themselves in every approach with their strong wall of ethics and morality. The Tamils of Ceylon reposed their confidence in their unstinted, viable and versatile leadership. The political stand they took was always far-sighted, the military action they engaged in was always unprecedented as the Tamil race never took up arms for the last 375 years against any major foreign or local aggression, after the great Sankily and Senanayakan (Varnakulathan) who fought valiant battles against the Portuguese.

In statecraft they won the hearts of Europeans and the Scandinavian countries which support the principle of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. It was recently quoted in a Tamil daily that the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, General Cyril Ranatunge said that the exchange of dead soldiers on both sides, has created good faith among the confronting parties. This is a clear indication of their unique display of diplomacy and statecraft. It is a clear attainment of perfection in martial virtue.

Ruhi

(Continuation of Page 2)

In this way, our bloodshed land is experiencing similar parting almost everyday. There are many, many tigresses - Malas, Vasanthis, Shanthies, Sankeethas, Suthas who are given send-off to the war fronts which are daily occurrences.

O, our little brave militants. O, our tigers, tigresses. O Our vigorous pups! How pleasant it is for us to see you devoting yourselves for the liberation of our Tamil pearl-land, wiping out aggression, washing out the tears of your fathers and mothers emancipating the traditional territories of our mother land!

O, Ladies and Gentlemen why we cry to offer two sovereigns of gold? Why should we murmur to offer some rice-parcels to our children with hungry stomachs? To offer only the evacuated houses for the displaced? Why can't we extend our little aid which is nothing when compared with the sufferings of our freedom-fighters, who are

The Machiavellian stratagems, double standard tactics time buying tactics in political and diplomatic negotiations were all scrupulously scrutinised and many a time, counter and righteous line of thought was sought for, by the youth on the part of the negotiations on the other side. All the moves and steps adopted and applied by the leadership in the process of alleviating and ameliorating the grievances of the Tamils in the course of negotiations, were hailed as dignified type of the highest order.

It is a pleasure to quote an anecdote in the life of Netaji Subhas Chandrabose who after the Tripura Congress of 1939 called on Rabindranath Tagore at Shanthi Niketan and sought the blessings of Gurudev. Tagore saw in Subhas, a man of indomitable courage sent by destiny to lead India to the Promised Land. He blessed him thus with all his heart - "Long years did I cry to the yet unborn leader of Bengal and today I speak to him, the chosen of all the people, the leader crowned in glory. Subhas, in the freedom battles which lie ahead, I may no longer be at your side. But you have our country's sorrows your own, and the final goal the independence of our country draws swiftly near and with this before my eye, I give you my blessings this day."

Similarly the present leadership of the Tamils is also a unique one and is felt by the people of all walks of life to have been sent by destiny.

actually our own flesh and blood, skin and nails?

Let us therefore, try our best to help them in any of the many ways. Let us dazzle and enlighten our wonderful freedom tigers that they may get consolation and encouragement in their struggle.

With all the hearty expressions of triumph and Good Wishes for our Tigers and Tigresses. May Tamil Eelam blossom soon!

Heli Attack at Batticaloa

A Sri Lankan helicopter launched rocket attacks in the villages of Aliyaveddai, Kalveddai and Vrilanthoddam in the Batticaloa District on the 6th March, 1991.

The house of one Saminathar was damaged when a rocket hit his house.

Also a couple S. Mahendiran (28) and his wife aged 22 of Vrilanthoddam were injured in the attack.

THE TAMIL TIGER

Has no Bember-Copter - Frigate nor Armoured car
Only the AK 47- Cyanide Capsule and his young life
No urge to kill, Maim, Murder or Rape
But to defend at all cost that which is his
His unarmed kin he has seen murdered
For years on end without a halt
First in Sinhala Lanka where they lived
Later in Tamil EELAM to which they fled
To secure Tamil EELAM is his sole aim
Until that is achieved he will not rest
Can you fault the Tiger for his quest
When Sinhala brutality will not let him rest

— A. S. Kumar

OUR READERS SAY

BISMARCK AND BANDARANAYAKE

Dear Sir,

Mr. Pieter Keuneman speaking in Parliament on the Sinhala Only Bill had this to say during the course of the debate.

"The other major deception is the theory adumbrated by the Hon Prime Minister (The Late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake)

You would have noticed that the Prime Minister did not place this matter on any sordid economic basis. He raised the matter to a high theoretical level, to a clash of cultures, clash of languages that if they did not take special pains to protect the Sinhalese language and prevent the Tamil language from becoming an official language, the Sinhalese language, will die within a matter of 25 years or so.

This theory of the clash of languages and cultures is what Bismarck used to call Kulturkampf. According to both Bismarck and the Hon. Prime Minister its essential basis is that when two cultures, two languages, co-exist within a single state one culture can only survive by suppressing the other. We all know how Bismarck developed this theory in relation to the Prussian State in the 19th century. It is quite interesting to note the similarity not only in theory but also in practice between Bismarck's Kulturkampf and what is being done here.

Faced with the existence of both German and Polish cultures within the then Prussian State, Bismarck contended like the Hon. Prime Minister that the only way out was to see that the German Language was the only language of official administration. He went so far as to say that it could only survive by suppressing the Polish Language and culture and that if he did not do so the German language and culture would die. He set about doing it very systematically. He germanised the Polish Provinces, he saw to it that all law and all legislative bodies worked in the German language that all courts worked in the German Language. German was made the official language. It was made the only medium of instruction

My hon. Friends might be interested to know that Bismarck anticipated subsequent events to such an extent that he even evolved the theory of acquiring large tracts of land in the Polish areas and

carried on state aided colonisation by Germans of these areas. All this was part of the Kulturkampf of the 19th century. But what happened was that the German culture was not destroyed. Polish culture was not destroyed. The only thing that disappeared was Bismarck and the Bismarkians" (courtesy-selected speeches and Articles by Pieter Keuneman)

There is a close parallelism between what has been said above and what has been happening to the Tamils. The Sinhalese language has not disappeared although it is over 300 years since foreign Europeans occupied our land. Neither has the Tamil Language or race.

It is now more than 2 years since Tamil was recognised as an official Language by the 13th amendment to the constitution. Despite this, official letters from Colombo are in Sinhalese and sometimes do not carry even a Tamil translation e.g. letters pertaining to EPF from the Dept. of labour. So much for the sincerity of the 13th Amendment.

Moreover, the Government is hell-bent on seeking a military solution to the ethnic problem at very great expense to economic development (the latest allocation to defence was 2 billion rupees) Adolf Hitler sought European hegemony militarily sacrificing mass soldiery in world War II and ended up by dividing Germany into

the East and the West and it took nearly 45 years for this race to reunify.

History repeats itself and unless we take a lesson from History we will soon learn that the Sinhalese and Tamil races will continue to exist and those responsible for perpetrating the use of force to resolve the ethnic problems will like Hitler and Bismarck, become dirty words for posterity.

Regarding peace Talks what is really standing between is mutual 'Fear and Suspicion' If these two could be eradicated, the ethnic problem will automatically solve by itself.

For example, what happened to the Bandaranayake-Chelvanayakam Pact and the Dudley Senanayake - Chelvanayakam Pact? To what extent has Provincial autonomy, the use of Tamil as Official language been implemented? Has state aided colonisation of Tamil areas been stopped? These unsolved problems naturally raise scepticism in the minds of the Tamils and if these doubts are removed there will be the much sought for unity and rechanneling of funds for economic developments creating more employment avenues and favourable balance of payments. There is no need for the youth to lay down arms-the arms will spontaneously fall down from their hands.

JOSEPH G. RAJENDRAM
Chundikuly
Jaffna.

Does the Sinhala Hierarchy in the Roman Catholic Church Condone Oppression of Tamils?

Assault on Bishop Savundranayagam by the Lankan Forces is not a surprise to those who know the attitude of the hierarchy of the Southern R. C. Church towards the ethnic problem. Being a Catholic, I am well aware that the Sinhala hierarchy thinks the Tamils deserve all those military atrocities against them for demanding their rights. When Father Singarayer was arrested by the Lanka Government, the Catholic Bishops of the South issued a statement against their Brother-priest. It was only after this Fr. Singarayer was assaulted by the Lankan Police. Even though it was confirmed beyond doubt that the Sri Lankan Army murdered Fr. Bastian at Vankalai and burnt his body, the Sinhala hierarchy refused to accept the fact and kept a holy silence. They did the

same when Rosarian Brother Wenceslaus was shot dead by the Sri Lankan Army. The Sinhala hierarchy officially sanctioned all the state atrocities against the Tamils by blessing the Lankan Forces at the Colombo Cathedral-the Official Church of the Colombo Bishop before the forces were sent to the Tamil areas to kill the people there. This was telecast over the T.V., when some Tamil priests met Colombo Bishop Nicholas Marcus Fernando regarding the murder of Fr. Bastian. He shamelessly told them, forgetting the fact that in the Catholic Church, no Bishop is appointed for a particular ethnic group.

The Kandy Bishop, Vianney Fernando donated Rs. 50,000/- to the National Defence Fund, a fund collected to expedite the killing of Tamils.

The other Sinhala Bishops' contributions to the N.D.F. are still to come out. There is a good number of Tamil Catholics in Kandy Diocese. The money of the Tamils have been given to kill the other Tamils and I reliably understand that some Sinhalese who are against the present war, refused to contribute to this Fund.

Now the time has ripened for the Bishops of Jaffna, Batticaloa and Mannar to separate themselves totally from the Bishops Conference of Sri Lanka and form their own. The Bishops of the North and East cannot do any good to their flock by being with the Sinhala hierarchy.

The Holy Family nuns of Jaffna have already released themselves from the yoke of their Southern counterparts. About 5 or 6 years ago the Oblate priests of the North have cut off themselves from the South on ethnic issue.

Catholic Messenger, a weekly of the Colombo Diocese recently appreciated late Ranjan Wiieratne as a brave son of Lanka. Also in the South a Requiem Mass was offered for Ranjan. The Sinhala hierarchy has never thought of conducting a religious service for the suffering people of the North East. Lord Jesus! Does the Sinhala hierarchy really not know what it is doing?

Now I don't attend even Sunday Mass and other obligatory services, when I am in the South, as the Pastors there cannot offer liturgical services acceptable to God while supporting genocide in the North East.

Also I would like to request the Tigers not to include the Sinhala hierarchy (R.C.) in any Peace Talk.

P. Jayakumar
Jampettah Street,
Colombo 13,

WORDS AND DEEDS

Rohana Wijeweera, despite the fool-hardiness of his campaign had been sensible at least in some of his assessments. Once when he was asked why he did not want to believe the President and accept his invitation for talks, he replied that he did not believe in what he says but only in what he does. There cannot be the slightest doubt about the truth of this statement to any discerning observer of contemporary events in Sri Lanka.

The Tamils who have been inhabiting this country from time immemorial-several centuries before the progenitor of the Sinhala race, Wijaya was born-were continuously deceived and betrayed by treacherous Baudha Sinhala chauvinist governments since the granting of independence by the Britishers. It was as a last resort the Tamil youth launched the on-going armed struggle for liberation. The President and his government should remember this before trying to deceive the Tamils again by making promises not intended to be fulfilled and extending invitations for "consultation, compromise and consensus".

The President says that the language rights of the Tamils have been restored by the proclamation of Tamil also as an official language and that recruitment for employments in the public sector is being done on the basis of merit and ethnic ratio. But in actual practice all inter-Departmental correspondence even in North-East and communications with members of the Tamil community are still being carried

led out in Sinhala only with impunity. In the matter of appointments and promotions in the public service the principle of merit and ethnic ratio is followed only in the breach. It is being vociferously asserted that in the present war only terrorist positions are being attacked whereas 99 percent of the targets bombed, strafed and shelled are civilian. There is no government in the whole world which resorts to such cowardly and barbarous acts to quell internal rebellions. It is being said that there is no economic blockade in the North-East but all foreigners who have visited the region have expressed alarm at the severity with which the economic blockade is being enforced. A clear undertaking was given to the effect that there will be no military operations during the period of the on going G.C.E. (A/L) Examination. But no sooner the examination commenced an indefinite curfew was imposed throughout the Jaffna peninsula followed by fierce attacks on civilian targets. There is no end to this list of contradictions between the words and deeds of the banana preaching President Ranasingha Premadasa and his government.

In this context it is absurd to expect the LTTE to lay down their arms and go for talks. Enough lessons have been learnt in the past and they are determined not to get cheated again.

The UNP, SLFP and coalitions led by these parties which are likely to rule the island for some more years to come cannot and will

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DEVIL TEMPTS EVIL

— Swami Chidrupananda —

The climate in the small Island of Sri Lanka today is full of political turmoil which was the outcome of a series of commissions to provide equal opportunities to the Tamils. Many developed countries have not really understood the cry of the Tamils. Today the Tamils here in this Island are massacred and many are living in fear and most of them have lost their close relatives in the ethnic conflict. In a very progressive world a section of a people, the Tamils who have lived for several thousands of years here have become third rate citizens. Is there a way out?

Where do we go from here is the main question, in the minds of many people except the narrow minded politicians, the rulers who have developed a sense of holding to power at any cost, the fanatical religious heads who are steeped in luxury and having a very easy life and the very rich folk who are

under the illusion that everything is normal for them. The poor lot are deeply affected by all that is taking place in and around them. Some of them have lost all hopes to live in the Island which only preaches religious fanaticism.

All religions have failed in this country and some of the religious leaders are pandering to the taste of the rich and curry favour with the rulers for more comforts, wealth and luxury. I had the rare privilege of coming in contact with a monk who is 83 years old now, who had visited this country in the year 1955 and again several times holds this view—“We indulge in many kinds of pursuits to-day, of which the most important and, to many people, the only one,

is the pursuit of wealth”. The pursuit of wealth, the pursuit of pleasure, and the pursuit of power, these pursuits have frozen our hearts all these years of post-independence existence, and have almost destroyed the creative spirit of the people and taken all on to the brink of disintegration. This evil tendency can be reversed only by a new pursuit which will help to purify all other pursuits and destroy whatever is evil in them; and that new pursuit is the pursuit of excellence. We had said goodbye to all concepts of human excellence except the pursuit of the three P's, namely the pursuit of pleasure, of profit and of power. Why is that we are lacking in the heroic spirit of adventure to develop excellence of character, of efficiency and of

social concern? Why we have like fresh blotting papers been trying to absorb as much of the ink of power, the ink of pleasure and the ink of profit as possible, after independence? This is the main theme of this article.

Our education has failed to produce in us the virtues and graces of a citizen. We have become highly individualistic and ultimately self seeking, placing ‘I and mine’ in the forefront and letting the devil take the hindmost. The spread of communalism and attempts to eat the entire cake by the Sinhalese is the gist of all the present day problems. This is the bone of contention now. The Sinhalese can do whatever they like. That became the ruling motto of day-to-day action. The sad incapacity of the Sinhalese

to concede to others is the outcome of this. ‘My views must prevail’ I have no need to respond to the other man. These became the ruling sentiments. As a Turkish proverb says, ‘The devil tempts the good man, but the bad man tempts the devil. ‘We tempted the devil to come and destroy us. And he all but destroyed us. The real understanding of human growth, a new understanding of basic human excellence the importance of sincere work done in a team spirit are needs of the hour.

The tyranny of excess politics in our country is the cause of the present mis-rule, chaos and degradation. Too much of politics destroys the quality of politics and the sheer pursuit of political power and the gains from that power by a section of the people will definitely result in tragedy. Under such setup peace and tranquility
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APPRECIATION

Father Rayappu bows out of the field

He played centre-half. He was neither the centre forward claiming the honour of netting goals nor the full back or goalie applauded by the crowds for timely defense. As a true centre-half he was the unseen pivot and motive force behind the whole team. This was in the late 40s when he made the football team of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna an invincible eleven of the North. But this spirit of sportsmanship and readiness to shoulder responsibilities without seeking honour were characteristic of the whole

life of Father Bastiampillai Rayappu.

Born at Passayoor, Jaffna in a simple but staunchly Catholic family of five children, he hurdled past many of his contemporary youngsters of the parish and finished with an excellent performance at the London Matriculation of that time. It was very understandable that his parents had dreamt of educating this intelligent son to be a doctor and establishing a nursing home in Passayoor—a long standing

and 100% Catholic community but lacking in many basic facilities. But the young and energetic Rayappu thought in ways entirely new to his villagers and chose courage-



he was sui generis. His clarity in exposing complex moral questions, his courage in standing up for the truth and his compassion for the weak and the oppressed were well known. In short he played again his characteristic “centre-half” role here in the formation of many generations of priests who are now working in all the dioceses of Sri Lanka.

He resumed his teaching again after obtaining his doctorate in moral theology at the St. Thomas Aquinas University (former Angelicum) in Rome. The vision and mission of Vatican II urged him to go beyond institutions to do pastoral work for a few years in various parts of Sri Lanka and the USA.

In spite of poor health he responded readily to the call of the Universal Church. The Roman Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples (Propaganda Fide) directing the Pontifical Missionary Union of Clergy and Religions of the world, needed for the English publication of Omnis Terra of their Union, an energetic missionary fluent in English and in French. Father Rayappu played here too his “centre-half” role, this time for the Universal Church, without any distraction for power or privilege. During this period of service in Rome, he won the hearts of many—all his co-workers in the congregation, all his brother oblates in the Generalate and the young Tamil asylum-seekers in Rome. To many of the non-Sri Lankans he was the amiable Peter (Rayappu).

ously a new path to serve God and his people. The late Father J. Nicholas encouraged the young man in his efforts and soon young Rayappu made his profession as a religious of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and was sent to Rome. He completed his philosophical and theological studies-Angelicum of the Dominicans. He was ordained on the 10th, of July 1955.

The Oblates who took charge of the National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka in 1956 recognised the rare combination of high spiritual disciplinary and academic qualities in this young priest and incorporated him into the tutorial Staff. As professor of moral theology, canon law, metaphysics, epistemology, as Prefect of Philosophers, as moderator of the Gnana-prakasara Tamil Academy, as Prefect of games—and above all as a good friend to both students and staff members,

With concern for his health he decided to return home and this became a blessing to the then young and growing Major Seminary in Jaffna. He dedicated himself totally to all the assignments given by the Seminary. He was a pillar of strength to both students and staff. His fidelity to the Church and its teaching his loyalty to his religious life his dedication to work and above all his amiability to those who sought his counsel make him unforgettable in our history. May God grant him Eternal Life.

Fr. S. J. Emmanuel

Words..

(Continuation of Page 4)

not grant the legitimate rights of the Tamils because Baudha Sinhala chauvinism is the plank on which they all come to power and continue to protect interest of the class which they represent. Sooner or later, the Sinhala masses will realise how these forces have continued to exploit them by using the Tamil issue to distract their attention from real economic and social problems of the country. This realisation will result in the revolutionary overthrow of these forces and the establishment of a truly democratic and socialist government which has to accede to the legitimate aspirations of the Tamils including their right to self determination which means nothing other than the right to separate. The sooner this is achieved the better it is for all—Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Burghers and all others. Until then the war is bound to continue.

—SABA

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HOT SPRING

VOL: 1 SUNDAY 12th. MAY 1991 ISSUE 31

A Warning to International Community

"If you don't want to do a thing, appoint a Commission to inquire and report", remarked some witty soul.

As we read the news of the appointment of a Presidential Commission to inquire and report on the aerial attack on the 3rd of this month at Vavuniya on a vehicle carrying a team of volunteers attached to the Medecine Sans Frontiere who were travelling to Colombo with Special Curfew pass and under the ICRC flag, the remark quoted above, struck us as strikingly appropriate.

The MSF has reported that when a team of its officials were proceeding to Colombo from Mannar in a vehicle, the vehicle was subjected to aerial attack from the Sri Lankan Air Force on the 3rd of this month near Vavuniya. Four of the members of the team were injured. Reports have it that one was seriously injured and an operation was performed on him. The reports also say that some of the injured have been flown to France.

A few days before this incident, another vehicle in charge of another international organisation, the UNHCR was subjected to a attack near Vavuniya.

True to the character of the Sinhala Governments and the so-called 'national media' as far as Tamils are concerned, a Colombo based newspaper is reported to have carried a news item that the Sri Lankan Planes were fired at somewhere near where they had the audacity to bomb the MSF vehicle. The MSF denied this story as untrue and insisted that the attack carried out on its vehicle by Sri Lanka planes and helicopter was unwarranted. The utter lie of the Sri Lankan 'national press' was exposed.

Because the incident happened to be one against an international organisation in spite of the falsehood of the Press mentioned the MSF was able to convince the world that the aerial attack carried out against its vehicle was unwarranted. And so President Premadasa has done that which will ensure that nothing is done to stop the criminal activities of his armed forces. He has appointed a Commission, as if a Commission is very necessary to find out whether the act complained of did take place at all, whether his Air Force heroes did any unwanted or unwarranted bombing and what reparations, if any, should be given. It would be apparent from the nature and circumstances of the attack that the attack was quite unwarranted.

The vehicle was going with a Curfew Pass and also had a Red Cross Flag prominently displayed so that no difficulty could have arisen as to the identity of the vehicle, unless the Air Force officers who carried out the attack believed that the ICRC and all other organisations flying Red Cross Flags were themselves terrorists.

In any event the importance is this. The Government of Sri Lanka is capable of committing atrocities against even international organisations. Even if something untoward has happened accidentally - not in this case definitely as the MSF has pointed out - the Sri Lankan Government will not express remorse and repair the damage but will always find ways and means of overlooking the crimes committed by its agents and servants.

It is in this context that the world has to evaluate the false claims of the Government of Sri Lanka when it says that its targets are the LTTE camps in the North-East war. If anything is further from the truth this claim is that Daily aerial attacks are carried out against civilian targets resulting in so much of destruction to life and property.

When the Government of Sri Lanka carries out false propaganda against the Tamils in Eelam, we are unfortunately so placed, as not to be able to give the lie to the Government's false propaganda. The Tamils are dubbed as terrorists and 'separatists', as if the Island had ever been one except under imperialism. So let us hope that this incident will open the eyes of the international community to the sad plight and sufferings of the Tamil Nation under Baudha Sinhala imperialism.

Also, we would take this opportunity to warn the International Community that the whole incident is part of a grand master plan to get the international community out of the North-East because the presence of international organisations in the North-East sometimes lets the cat out of the bag.

Jaffna Diocesan Council of Laity Appeals to UN

A letter has been sent on behalf of all the Catholics in the Administrative Districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu to the UN Secretary-General through the High Commissioner for the UNO in Sri Lanka. Copies of the letter have been sent to the Heads of all Diplomatic Missions in Sri Lanka as well as to all International Organizations. The letter briefly sets out the Tamil problem in the Island and solicites the assistance of the UN to help resolve the problem. The text of the letter is given in full below:-

We the representatives of all the Catholics in the 3 administrative districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu in North Sri Lanka wish to make the following submissions:

We are sure that you are aware of the background to the longstanding ethnic problem in our country called by all 'The National Question'. It started during the 1920's and gradually became aggravated due to the increasing denials of the just ethnic rights of the Tamils, fanned by extreme Sinhala Nationalism. All the democratic and peaceful approaches

both in Parliament and outside and even non violent resistance could not yield fruits. All the agreements arrived at between the minority Tamil leaders and the predominantly Sinhala Sri Lankan Governments were abandoned ex parte by the various Governments due to pressure from extremists and political opponents among the Sinhalese themselves. Finally the Tamil youth, unable to bear the injustices and seeing only a blank future adopted the violent path from the 1970's, as a result of which, we have gone through 3 prolonged wars, one of which was against the Indian Peace Keeping Force.

The current war from June, 1990 has been the worst, inflicting incalculable loss of life limbs and property to the Tamils besides other ethnical and cultural losses. Irreparable damage is continuing to be caused to land, economy and the future of the Tamil people. Untold misery, anxiety and financial burden have been foisted on people of both sides.

The saddest outcome is that the two communities have become more and more alienated. Deep mutual distrust prevails and all reliable

means of communication are lost. The problem itself has become more complicated with time and further undesirable development!

However a deep and genuine thirst springs at the heart of most on both sides for a just solution.

The experience of the last few years has nevertheless convinced us that neither war and violence nor even a dialog just between those within our Nation can bring about a solution or peace. Though it is best that our problem are solved by ourselves, yet we feel that it is now not possible without a genuine mediation or facilitation by parties acceptable to both sides and who will be not preoccupied with their own interests in the process.

We therefore appeal to you specially and to all men and international institutions or goodwill to get the UN or similar agency involved as a mediator in our case to help alleviate the sufferings of the masses here.

Please enable us to arrive at a just peace early and to orient ourselves towards the resultant fraternity, joy and prosperity.

Blessed are the Peace makers!

Devil...

(Continuation of Page 5)

is not at all possible to be arrived at. The political situation can be summed up in two lines of an English verse:

"A merciful Providence made us hollow that we our principles might swallow!

Life's primary motivation cannot be selfishness, be it worldly, be it other worldly.

Even salvation is a selfish pursuit. When millions are in distress, how can I enjoy pleasure? True happiness is the totality of the happiness of the entire people, irrespective of caste creed or linguistic differences. When Buddha saw a monk in meditation, oblivious of the suffering of another monk in the next room, a brother monk suffering from dysentery, he went and severed the monk, and when the first monk came up after his meditation, Buddha said to him: "Go away you have not understood my teaching. You should have given up your meditation when you knew that another man was in distress." Here is a new concern. If even a man like Buddha, whose central message was an exclusive life of meditation, could express such a profound, human

concern, how much more should we, social individuals? In this island the lofty ideals of Lord Buddha are preached by the clergy and proclaimed by many from public platforms and not at all practised.

Swami Vivekananda a great patriot saint of this age has lived a full life and had put into practice what he has laid for us. We may ponder a moment his thoughts of Power. "My heart is too full to express my feeling; you knew it you can imagine it. So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them. I call those men - who strut about having got all their money by grinding the poor - wretches, so long as they do not do anything for many millions who are no better than hungry savages. We are poor, my brothers, we are nobodies; but such have been always the instruments of the Most High."

According to Swami Vivekananda "Religions of the world have become lifeless mockeries. What the world wants is character. The world is in need of those

whose life is one burning love and selflessness. That love will make every word tell like thunderbolt. All expansion is life, all contraction is death. All love is expansion, all selfishness is contraction. Love is therefore the only law of life. Therefore love for love's sake because it is the only law of life, just as you breathe to live. This is the secret of selfless love, selfless action and the rest.

To bring about unity amongst the different races religious and linguistic communities in this Island is to realise that each group must be free to act and pursue its path according to its wishes but not at the expense of the other. The present Sinhala leadership has been a failure. This leadership cannot wipe away all suspicion created so far. If at all the rulers make a very sincere and ardent move and put them in clear terms, their approach may be crowned with success. The leader should possess sterling qualities and must have the courage to tell all without fear or favour what is good for this island rather than play to the gallery. This is the urgent need of the hour to ward off all past ill feelings.