

HOT SPRING

Vol. 1

26th. May 1991

No. 33

The late Prime Minister gave us an assurance that he will see that the needs of the local landless people are fulfilled first and only after that, the needs of others will be considered. That promise, I regret very much to say, has not been fulfilled. ... I must express my disappointment with the way in which colonists have been settled under the two Colonisation Schemes in my Electorate.

Mohamed Ali - M.P. for Mutur.

Hansard Vol.21 C 1279 & 1280

SECRET LAND GRABBING

Moves Afoot at B'caloa

Moves are secretly taking place to grab large tracts of lands from the Batticaloa District and attach them to the Polonnaruwa District outside the Tamil Eastern Province and into the Sinhalese North Central Province. As a preliminary step to achieve this clandestine objective of the government, action is already proceeding to re define Assistant Government Agents' Divisions in the Batticaloa District reducing the strength of the Tamil Villages in those Divisions.

Oddamavadi is a predominantly Muslim village. Now it is constituted into an Assistant Government Agent's Division comprising 15 grama sevaka officers areas. This AGA's Division is proposed to be redefined with 22 Grama Sevaka Officers areas constituting the proposed Oddamavadi AGA's Division. Even plans showing the boundary divisions of the proposed redemarcated AGA's Division have been drawn up which show that the Tamil Villages of Vakanneri, Poonanai, Vadamanai, Ootruchenai, Kallichchai, Meeraththamar and Kakithanagar are proposed to be included into this reconstituted Oddamavadi AGA's Division.

The proposed re-allocation of villages would involve two

Irrigation tanks, the Vakanneri Tank and the Poonanai Tank going out of Tamil AGA's Division. Also the Paper Factory at Valaichenai, the Hospital there and the Poonanai and Valaichenai Railway Stations would go out of the Tamil AGA's Division. The purpose of the proposed changes is clear. It is to make the Tamils minorities everywhere. By this change about seven Tamil villages will be attached to an AGA's Division which will have more Muslims.

Similarly moves are afoot to bring in Muslim villages into predominantly Tamil AGA's Divisions so that there would be no absolute Tamil predominance. The new Muslim colony called Navalady is being proposed to be excised from the

Muslim Oddamavadi AGA's Division and brought under Vakara AGA's Division which is predominantly Tamil.

There are very important reasons why those moves are taking place secretly. This is the continuation of the spread of Budha Sinhala imperial tentacles in a clandestine and furtive way administratively without much furore in the form of legislation. Already a number of villages which belonged to the Batticaloa District have been re-allocated to the Amparai District after the current war broke out. The purpose is clear. The government is intent on reducing Tamil territory. The Muslims hope to benefit from the loot but will find their hopes completely shattered.

Reports from Batticaloa also state that the secret plan

is now to create Muslim majority AGA's Divisions by tagging Tamil villages into such Division and later transfer these divisions to the Polonnaruwa District by which the land area of the Eastern Province can be reduced.

Already the government has accomplished a similar land theft in the Trincomalee District successfully. The Padaviya AGA's Division was newly created out of the Trincomalee District comprising Sinhala colonized areas under the Padaviya Colonization Scheme. This AGA's Division was under the

Administrative control of the Anuradhapura Government Agent.

Later on the Tamil villages of Thennamarvady and Pulmoddai were added to this AGA's Division and the government successfully took away lands of Tamils-not only the Sinhala settled colony areas but also ancient Tamil villages into the administrative control of the Sinhala Province. The only thing for which this area comes into the Trincomalee District of the Eastern Province is for election purposes.

(Continued on Page 6)

No Villagers in these Villages

There are no villagers in the villages of Vellaveli, Palayadiveddai, 14th and 35th Colonies. All the villagers have left their villages because of the harassment and terror let loose by the Army in these villages, states a report received from Batticaloa.

These villagers have now gone to Palukamam, Mandur and Batticaloa town also and are living in public places and schools. Some are living with their friends

and relations. Similarly all inmates of the villages of Pullumalai have also been compelled to flee their homes and they are now living as refugees in schools at Batticaloa town.

The Tamil villagers of Pottuvil, Veeramunai, Malwattai and other Tamil villages adjoining Muslim villages have vacated their villages and gone over to Komari, Karaitivu, Kalmunai and Kallarua.

BARBARITY

*Library is a place of learning
Learning and research
Only lovers of learning know
The value of it*

*For others it's a place,
Keeping papers bound together,
A decade ago flames ate
The papers bound; set by
Unlearned thugs led by
So called learned men.*

*A Barbarity in the land
Of Dharmaista.
They can burn the books
But not the love for learning.*

-Jeyakumar-

The Jaffna Public Library was burnt on June, 1st, 1981 by Sinhalese Armed Thugs. This poem brings to memory the sad event.

A R O A D asks for sheltered Workshops

The Association for Rehabilitation of the Disabled (A.R.O.D.) has written to the Chief Secretary of the North-East Provincial Council in Trincomalee asking for the setting up of a sheltered workshop for the disabled and also for community based rehabilitation programmes for the disabled in the North-East. According to the association about 12% of the population in the North Eastern province is disabled either partially or totally.

The Association in its letter states that the basic concept that has to be understood when undertaking

social service work amongst the disabled population is that that population does not want to be sympathised by rest of the society. What they expect from society is help to enable them to live as self reliant independent citizens contributing their own share to the development of the generality of the community and of the country as equal participants. They are entitled to make such a demand from society as of right.

The Association has pointed out that there are sheltered workshops for disabled persons in other parts of the Island such as those at

Seeduwa, Ampitiya, Wattagama and Galle. But there are no such sheltered workshops for disabled persons anywhere in the North-East. The facilities available at the Workshops functioning in the South to provide training facilities are not available to the Tamil speaking population of the North-East at the moment. It is, therefore, very necessary that similar sheltered workshops be opened in the North-East especially because of the large percentage of disablement amongst the population. The Association

(Continued on Page 6)

The Tenth Anniversary

Destruction of the Jaffna Library

Not only the citizens and ratepayers of the Jaffna City but the entire Eelam Tamil people will observe the tenth anniversary of the wanton destruction caused to the National Library in Jaffna by the Sri Lankan Security Forces on the 1st. June, 1981.

On hearing the news, a man of letters and a linguist, Rev. Fr. David died of shock. Hence it will also be the 10th anniversary of the Reverend Father who can be considered to be a mobile library.

The wanton destruction caused to the Jaffna public Library and its collection of 97,000 books was raised in Parliament by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Mr. A. Amirthalingam on June, 9th, 1981 and as regards the culprits who perpetrated that dastardly act, the cat was out of the bag, when the Minister of Lands and Land Development and Mahaweli

Development, Mr. Gamini Disanayake spoke in reply on the floor of the House.

The crime committed was admitted and the culprits were known to have been the security arm of the very State supposed to rule the North as well.

But, what followed? The Government appointed a One man Commission headed by the former G. A. Jaffna, Mr. Lionel Fernando to estimate and assess the damages caused by violence to properties within the Jaffna Municipal area during specific dates and recommend the compensation to be paid to the victims of the violence.

The Lionel Fernando Commission recommended the payment of Rs. 10.2 million as compensation to the Jaffna public Library. Was the money paid in full or part? No - not at all. The paltry sum of Rs. 20 lakhs paid

from the President's Relief Fund as well as from public contributions made to the President's Jaffna Library Reconstruction Fund is not compensation in the sense of reparation by the offender to the victim.

The Jaffna RatePayers' Association itself should have raised the issue and sought full payment of the said compensation. The so-called accredited leaders and representatives of the Tamils at that time failed to raise the non-payment of compensation in Parliament.

However the compensation recommended by the Lionel Fernando Commission must be paid in full and must come from Central Funds, not by diverting funds from any relief funds or public collections as a substitute for compensation, even if that be from His Excellency himself.

S. Nadarajah.

BEFORE AND AFTER FREEDOM

Struggles before freedom-
In other Countries!
Struggles after freedom-
In our Country!!

Requested for unity-
Before the freedom!
Regretting for unity-
After the freedom!!

Communal harmony-
Before the freedom!
Communal harmings-
After the freedom!!

Tamils were also Lankans-
Before the freedom!
Tamils are "Kallathonys"-
After the freedom!!

Tamils were respected-
Before the freedom!
Tamils are suspected-
After the freedom!!

Lanka for Lankans-
Before the freedom!
Lanka for Sinhalese-
After the freedom!!

"Tamils our 'MITHURO'-
Before the freedom!
"Tamils our 'SATHURO'-
After the freedom!!

"All will be kings"-
Before the freedom!
"We will be Kings"-
After the freedom!!

Meant for All Lanka-
Before the freedom!
Sent to South Lanka-
After the freedom!!

Tamils were Heroes-
Before the freedom!
Tamils are Zeroes-
After the freedom!!

Kindness on Tamils-
Before the freedom!
Hindrances on Tamils-
After the freedom!!

Promised milk and honey-
Before the freedom!
Presenting blood and tears-
After the freedom!!

Promised equal treatment-
Before the freedom!
Proceeding with ill-treatment-
After the freedom!!

All facilities for all Lanka-
Before the freedom!
All facilities for South Lanka-
After the freedom!!

Assurances for rights-
Before the freedom!
Assurances of riots-
After the freedom!!

Freedom from Foreigners-
To Lanka in 1948!
Freedom from Lanka-
To EELAM on.....?

(MITHURO - Friends)
(SATHURO - Enemies)

"SARAVANAS"

Academy Day of C. N. E. A. Celebrated

"The acquisition of the knowledge of English can be only through reading, speaking and writing English. So put aside the shyness and devote your time to master this foreign but world language". Doctor Sam Anton Sebastampillai, DMO Kopay, advised the students in the course of his address as the chief guest at the annual Academy Day, conducted by The Cardinal Newman English Academy of St. Francis Xavier's Seminary, Colombuthurai on Wednesday the 15th of May.

The Well-attended celebration was presided by the

president of the Academy, Bro K. Singarayer.

While congratulating the achievements of the Academy, the chief guest paid tribute to Cardinal Newman. He explained at length two concepts of Newman - 'Idea of a University' and 'True salient traits of a gentleman'. Students from the faculties of philosophy and Theology staged two plays 'St. Maximilian Kolbe' and 'Dust of the interest of the audience' and were the highlights of the evening. Dr. Mrs. Martha Sebastampillai gave away the prizes for the winners of the various competitions conducted by the Academy.

THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

Enquiry Enquiry Enquiry???

So this disgraceful government which has been caught with its soiled pants down on several occasions earlier, has decided yet once again to wriggle out of a difficult situation by appointing a commission of enquiry into the shameless aerial attack upon that fine band of people namely the MEDICINES SANS FRONTIERES near the Madhu Refugee camp.

We know that when caught red handed the Sinhalese politicians never admit to their sins but heap lie upon lie, in the hope the stench will not stick, as in this instance, when the Sinhala psychopaths of the Sinhala airforce tried to make out that a vehicle close to that of the MSF Pick-up had shot at them and when this bloody lie would not hold, they thought up a commission of enquiry and we know that its findings will never ever see the light of day, as was the case on so many previous occasions, especially in the case of the murder of Reverend Father Mary Bastian of the Roman Catholic Church in Mannar a few years back.

I suppose these disease brained psychopaths believe that it is such voluntary organisations such as the MSF that are a stumbling block to their achieving victory over the Tigers and the Tamils; so the best way is to frighten all such organisations into quitting this country, so that the Sinhala psychopaths will have the field all to themselves to annihilate the Tamils but the only snag is the bloody Tiger which can never be frightened.

In a previous column titled MORE CRIMINAL THAN RACIAL I put forward the point that this government is more criminal than racial and its bloody racialism is a by-product of its criminality. Well the present case involving the MSF does prove my point. Also in my column titled AID CONSORTIUM OR CONSPIRATORS I posed the query as to whether all those donor countries, each with a proud record on human rights, was for some ulterior motive turning a blind eye to what was happening in this land and went on to query as to whether they were not

'deadly conspirators whose target is India' but as we now know their target was Iraq and not India. But now that Iraq has been silenced and there is no immediate need for refuelling facilities, will these honourable bunch of so called civilised nations, be now prepared to give a kick up the Sinhala arse - I wonder.

Another Colombo Rag

Once again due to the generosity of my Grocer, a further copy of a Colombo based rag dated 31 March 1991 has come my way and as usual there is nothing about the North/East in this rag. Though a corresponding Tamil paper published on the same day (31.3.91) gives the following information SERIOUS CLASH BETWEEN SINHALA ARMY AND TAMIL TIGERS IN VEMBANKULAM IN WHICH THE TIGERS RECOVERED THE BODIES 24 SINHALA SOLDIERS AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION ON THE 30 MARCH THE DAY PREVIOUS.

But I did come across three separate references to the LTTE in this Colombo rag all contradictory of one another. The first was an article titled LTTE A MINORITY WITHIN A MINORITY which tried to make out that this group was not truly representative of the Tamils. The next was a readers letter which went on to argue that the LTTE leader was long dead during an IPKF operation in Mullaitivu.

Finally there was a reference to an astrologer predicting that the Tiger leader will be captured alive in August and the the civil war would be brought to an end. So this is the classic case of people in desperate circumstances indulging in absurd hopes and it is truly sad, when a leading English weekly (though yet a rag) can indulge in such fantasy. Would it not have been more positive if this paper had argued the case of the Tamils and then gone to suggest that this government, should gracefully yield, that which it cannot retain and grant the Tamils, that which is theirs but then that would be expecting too much from Sinhala chauvinists washed with legends.

WE MUST FORTIFY EVERY FRONT

Mr. S. Sathiyamoorthy was a great Indian patriot who as Deputy Leader of the Central Legislature dominated the Indian political scene in his days. He once spear-headed the move for the Congress to accept office under the Government of India Act, 1935. He then said, "We are engaged in an all-out National Struggle to win Poorna Swaraj. Hence we fortify all fronts, we cannot afford to allow some fronts to remain unguarded."

Applying Sathiyamoorthy's doctrine that Eelam Tamils must fortify ALL FRONTS, what are the different FRONTS and what have not been fortified? Obviously there are three Fronts in Eelam struggle.

GUN FRONT

All important is the 'GUN FRONT'. The use of the gun is not a matter of choice. Its use became inevitable when the ballot was frustrated and the Sinhalese with the control of the governmental machinery imposed the contraption called the Republic of Sri Lanka. Nobody seeks to justify the use of gun but everyone must understand why the gun has been resorted to.

CONSTITUTIONAL FRONT

The other FRONT is the Constitutional Front. What is this Constitutional Front? There is a thing called Establishment Mentality. Most persons, particularly at the top of the Establishments such as the Governments of Countries, various International Organisations including Churches, do not like to see any development that could upset the existing organisational set-up. This is the result of a sub-conscious fear that any development that could upset the existing organisational set-up elsewhere could also upset their own establishment. This is the result of a sub-conscious fear the break-up of the established existing organisation elsewhere might send wave-effect to their own country and result in themselves facing similar problems.

Pakistan and India are afflicted by a mutual war psyche against each other. Recently after India's debacle in the Sri Lankan Eelam tangle, Pakistan made a statement demanding the revival of the old demand for a plebiscite in Kashmir. India pointed out that a call for plebiscite in Kashmir would result in a demand

for a plebiscite in Baluchistan. As a result Pakistan cooled down in its demand for a plebiscite in Kashmir.

Governments, per se, can never be expected to support the cause of a subjugated people on their own. But the public in countries where a strong public opinion could be whipped can raise its voice in support of subjugated people elsewhere and ultimately the Governments of such countries can be made to act.

This is of course an uphill task. Amirthalingam in a little book he issued had stated at an interview he had with Indra Ghandhi (through the good offices of MGR), the latter told

Somasundaram Vanniyasingam

him that they should not confine themselves to India but to get about the Western World and state the cause of Eelam Tamils to the world at large. Undoubtedly she had the aid-giving countries in mind. Of course, the Prime Minister Rajiv Ghandhi has been mesmerised with the manthiram that an independent state of two million Tamils would mean a FORTIORI another independent state of sixty million Tamils. New Delhi has swallowed this manthiram and India has become the enemy for the independence of Tamil Eelam. Of course, there is no public opinion in India. If there was anything called public opinion, India would have liberated itself from the Imperial Dynastic Prime Ministership of the Nehru family.

But the main burden of placing the case of Tamil Eelam before the world at large is to state precisely and succinctly the constitutional position legally acceptable and convincing terms. Then elaborate why the Sinhalese and the Tamils could not live as fellow citizens in the same polity, falls squarely on the part of those who play the role of the leadership of the Eelam Tamils.

ESTABLISHMENT MENTALITY

The most importance of this function stems from the fact that the world over, the Establishment Mentality is a dominating factor and public opinion in different countries has got to be whipped up in order to secure international support for the cause of Tamil Eelam.

Today's problems are complex and every one has enough problems of his own. Hence, hardly any one will want to study the case for Swaraj of Eelam and create public opinion on their own.

The Eelam Tamils will have to create public opinion in every one of the aid-giving countries in support of Tamil Eelam by presenting with logical precision and legally acceptable arguments that the Eelam Tamils have a solid case for Swaraj and that in reality, Sri Lanka has legally no validity to encompass the North and East - the homeland of the Tamils.

This is really the job which Indra Ghandhi hinted at when giving an interview to Amirthalingam. We have got to establish before the intellectual world that Sri Lanka has no legitimacy to encompass the Tamil homeland and that we have an unimpeachable case for Swaraj. This is a job which devolves on the Tamils and has not been performed satisfactorily.

PROPAGANDA FRONT

The other FRONT is what may be called - The Propaganda Front. Today this function is labelled "Information Function" and we speak of Information, Dis-information and Mis-Information. The Sinhala Sri Lankan Government is engaged in a systematic campaign of Mis-information and Dis-Information. The success of the Sinhala Sri Lankan Government in this respect is evidenced by the Western World giving progressively increasing aid to Sri Lanka.

It is necessary to draw attention to the total incongruity of the Sinhala Sri Lankan Government's position that her security forces are only engaged in law and order operations. Surely law and order operations cannot involve aerial bombing, helicopter strafing, shelling and further instigating religious groups to indulge in religious clashes. Even the Sinhala Sri Lankan Government admits that six to seven thousand Tamils mostly civilians have been killed in the military operations during the past eleven months. It is very necessary to give detail particulars of these killings for the information

of the world at large in order to evoke public opinion in support of the Eelam Tamils.

Surely, it is not beyond the capacity of the Eelam Tamils to compile a schedule giving the names and other particulars of those wantonly killed by the armed forces. A specimen sample of such scheduling is given below:-

23rd July, 1983-

Sinnathamby Saravanamuttu, male, aged 85 graduate teacher retired from Parameshwara College, Trinelvally, was shot dead on his bed at 4.30 p.m. when he was convalescing after an eye surgery.

23rd, July, 1983-

Kala Parameshwaran, male aged 35, a graduate, an executive in the Family Planning Secretariat who was on leave in Jaffna was shot dead as he opened the door of his house to find out what the commotion was when his father-in-law Sinnathamby Saravanamuttu was shot dead.

NOTE: The house of these people happened to be about 100 yards away from the spot at which the thirteen Sinhala Soldiers were ambushed and killed the night before.

Surely it is not outside the capacity of the Eelam Tamils to compile such a schedule of the wanton killings of the civilians by the Sri Lankan Sinhala Armed Forces.

DOOMSDAY BOOK

William, the Conqueror of Normandy compiled an exhaustive Doomsday survey of all the people in England their lineage, assets etc. The Dutch who held sway in the littoral areas of this Island for about a century compiled elaborate Thombus or Land Schedules for the Tamil areas as well as the Low Country Sinhala areas and these Thombus formed

the bed-rock of land registration in the Island.

Surely the civilian population of the Tamils who go through this Sri Lankan Eelam war with stoic calmness and fortitude deserve to be remembered. Certainly the remembrance of the civilian killings will go a long way in achieving Tamil Eelam.

DISAPPEARANCES

Another feature of the operations of the Sinhala Sri Lankan Armed Forces is a phenomenon called Dis-appearances. Tens of thousands of civilians have disappeared and the civil right committee of the Sinhala areas has compiled a comprehensive survey of such dis-appearances and has won plaudits in the international fora for such careful compilation. But there is no such schedule for those dis-appearances in the Tamil areas.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

Still, another feature is the infinite sufferings, the Eelam Tamils experience consequent on the imposition of economic sanctions which is not known to the world at large.

In a Court of Law, the onus is on the plaintiff to plead his case, mention the cause of action and specify the prayer flowing from such pleadings. The plaintiff also will have to adduce evidence to establish his case.

RECOGNITION BY THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD IS A SIN-QUANON FOR TAMIL EELAM EMERGING INTO REALITY.

The onus devolves on the leaders of Tamil Eelam to establish the case for Tamil Eelam in the world at large with convincing legal bases and historical facts and shape world opinion in favour of Tamil Eelam.

Irrigation Water Forbidden by Army

The Army Unit encamped at Vahaneri in the Batticaloa District has forbidden the distribution of water for irrigable paddy lands under the Vahaneri tank. In order to ensure that the Irrigation Department officers abide by the Vahaneri Army order, the Army men have removed the keys of the sluice gate so that no officer of the Irrigation Department - however big he may be - can supply water to the fields. As a result there is

imminent danger of thousands of acres of cultivated paddy crops being damaged for want of water supply.

The same Army Unit has ordered the fishermen who do fresh water fishing in the Vahaneri Tank, not to do fishing anymore. About 50 fishermen were eking out a living by fishing in this tank. They are now without any income as a result of the Army order not to fish in the Vahaneri Tank.

JAFFNA — As ASIA WEEK'S JULIAN WEST SEES IT ON MARCH 8, 1991

I last visited Jaffna seventeen years ago. Then, as now, it seemed another country - separated from the rest of Sri Lanka not only by a causeway across a lagoon, but by language, culture, religion and vegetation. Jaffna is an arid, hot, sandy spit of land where brittle palmyrah trees stand sentinel against a burning sky, like huge fans. At night, in the dry atmosphere, the sky is brilliant with stars.

Jaffna people-Tamil-speaking Hindus-have been conditioned by their sparse environment. They are hardworking and thrifty, with a high percentage of doctors, lawyers and engineers. Geographically and culturally the people of Jaffna are closer to South India. Valveddithurai is only 30km from Tamil Nadu, more than half the distance to the nearest Sinhalese town. Their isolation from the mainly Buddhist south was entrenched by a Sinhala-only language policy, introduced in the 1950s, designed to favour a Sinhalese workforce. That confirmed their minority status - they comprise 18% of the island's 17-million population - and germinated the present separatist war.

As a Jaffna religious reader explains - "Under the British we were all equal. They found Tamils hard-working and dependable which is why there were so many English schools in Jaffna-for employment. After the British left, our youth found no avenue of empl-

A SEPARATE COUNTRY

Revolutionary Changes People in Distress but Defiant Tiger Influence all Pervading

oyment. The only work here is coastal fishing or farming."

Then Jaffna society seemed conservative and strict, caste-bound and enclosed. Young people were brought up to study. Girls were kept indoors, in the kitchen, until marriage.

I find Jaffna changed forever. The palmyra trees and sandy wastes are still here. But in the last seven months an estimated 20,000 buildings in the peninsula have been wholly or partly destroyed. The walls of those left standing are cracked, ceilings have collapsed, barely a window pane remains.

A shortage of petrol and its prohibitive cost 10 dollars a litre, thirteen times more than in the south - has grounded the black Austin A40s and Morris Minors that once chugged solidly down the Jaffna lanes. Now a relay of bicycles ferries kerosene and other essentials the 280-km round trip from Vavuniya. Women, dressed as if for a wedding in astonishing red and gold sarees, perch on the crossbars of bicycles, like birds of

paradise, bound for destinations kilometres away...

After sunset most houses are in darkness. Kerosene costs ten times the Colombo price and matches are unavailable. "We have been in the dark for the last ten months," says Mr. Kulasekaram. "Our children can't study anymore." There is no firewood or gas for cooking. Cash is short banks receive insufficient money for their needs. Telephone lines were cut long ago. Less than a third of the food needed by Jaffna arrives. Lorries are detained at Vavuniya for months, waiting for transport permits. An official says only 3% of food intended for the area

has been delivered in the past three months. "people are on the brink of starvation," he says. "They're dying in silence." Food sent by the Government from Colombo by ship, under the Red Cross flag, often returns unloaded because of high seas or attacks around the military camp at Palaly.

On the ship arrived packed with sanitary towels. "There were thousands of sanitary towels in Jaffna," confided a nun. "We don't need sanitary towels, we need food. People are living on one meal a day."

In the airy, rambling Jaffna General Hospital, a doctor tells me they lack essential drugs, dressings and surgical instruments, "operations are often delayed because of lack of oxygen," he says. "Also, we don't have enough oxygen for follow-ups, so some people die." Half the 1,015 beds cannot be used because of bomb damage.

The face of society, too, has changed. Most of the middle class and professionals have emigrated to Canada or Australia. Since last June 125,000 refugees have gone to Tamil Nadu - swelling the number there to 200,000. More Tamils now live in Greater London - 60,000 than in Colombo. In the peninsula 250,000 are displaced.

Most astonishing of all to some older Tamils in the emergence of a young guerilla movement - the Tigers. "No one was as shocked as we

were when our boys went to war," says a Tamil government servant. "The traditional set-up of our society has changed." Notes a Tamil lawyer in Colombo: "The under-35s now constitute the ruling class." As Mr. Anton Balasingam, the L. T. T. Es' amiable political spokesman, says: "We are running the law and order here. We are the civil administration."

At the LTTE's administrative offices, people wait to have domestic and land disputes settled and to get exit permits to leave the north. Armed cadres, stroll in and out, but the atmosphere is relaxed. Small uniformed boys run errands, though the office is also staffed by dedicated civilians. "It's very difficult for us to live now," says Sarojini, a 38-year-old woman in a blue sari, who works as a translator and whose fourteen-year-old son is a cadre. "But we don't care about the food. We want freedom."

In a real sense, the LTTE is like a large family. Many Jaffna people have relatives in the Tigers, and call them "our boys". Their monkish disciplines are admirable, if austere: no smoking, no drinking, no marriage until a certain age and number of years of service. They have revolutionised the role of women in Jaffna, giving them equality, as fighters, and striving to eliminate dowry and caste systems.

OUR READERS SAY

SRI LANKAN PUBLIC MUST BE WON OVER

The Editor,

Every Sunday morning I anxiously await the arrival of my son with the paper to glance at the head lines before I did anything else. I have bathed in the hot springs earlier but now I dive in this 'Hot Spring'. I have, however, an observation to make. when we write about our freedom struggle we should not say 'Sinhalese people' in any derogatory remarks. We can say Sinhalese Govt, Sinhalese thugs, Sinhala politician etc. When our leaders have failed to achieve anything tangible do we blame the Tamil people?

The average Sinhalese man is a kind hearted, hospitable person. As a friend he is better than some of our own people. They are, of course, quite gullible. This characteristic is exploited by scheming

politicians, especially of the yellow robed type.

In the latter part of 1956 or early 1957 I was at Nattandiya talking to a Sinhala friend of mine. A Bana preaching was going on in the Pansala. In the course of the BANA the Bhikku said 'ape Ravana wage veera purushaye hittapu Lankawo Themila minisu karathera thenawa' (In Ceylon, where people of the Calibre of over Rawana lived the Tamils are creating trouble) I turned to my friend, with whom I used to discuss politics, and asked 'new what do you say? He said there are political bhikkus who mislead the people?.'

In 1958 September I had returned to Ceylon after being out for one year. A Sinhalese gentleman, who was my neighbour for 12 years

a Rajagiriya, came to see me. In the course of the conversation he said 'Sir, do you know that your people had cut the Sinhalese people in Jaffna to pieces, packed them in fish boxes and sent them to Colombo, I told him that I had not gone home yet and that I would find out later and let him know the correct position. In about two weeks time I had to go to Colombo to collect my luggage. I went to his house to see his family. Then I told him that what he told me that day was not correct. Then he

said that they had no way of knowing the correct position. They had to depend on what the papers and their leaders said. If this is the position of a carpenter working in a colombo firm what is the plight of the villager in the remote areas? Have we done anything to create informed public opinion in the Sinhalese areas about our issue? To my knowledge, NONE AT ALL. Why not think about it even at this late stage?

S. Ponnampalam
Karaveddy.

We have our own Ben Gurion

The Editor

I read with great interest the extract from Book- 'O, Jerusalem' that you published in the Hot Spring of 19 05 91. I must congratulate you for this excellent publication which is full of relevance to the liberation struggle that is being waged by the Tamils.

Tamils are indeed waging a liberation struggle for their survival as a nation in this Island. On the success of this struggle depends the

future well-being of every Tamil whether living inside or outside Tamil Eelam. Tamils living in Tamil Eelam are making great sacrifices, in Blood, Toil, Tears and Lives and not to mention astronomically high cost of living and the bombs exploding all around them without any chance of getting proper medical facilities.

It is clear that if only our fighters in the forefront could have some heavy arms to deal with the Sinhala murd-

erers who are ravaging our homeland with their artilleries, bombers and naval gunboats it will make all the difference.

With hundreds of thousands of Tamils living in so many foreign countries who can easily muster financial resources for reconstruction of Tamil Eelam is it too much to expect a Golda Meir amongst the Tamils, when we are fortunate to have our own Ben Gurion in our leader Prabakaran to spear-head our liberation struggle to restore our independent State of Tamil Eelam?

I would like to quote a passage from the extract which has full of relevance- "We live in a very brief present, when I tell you we need this money immediately it does not mean next month or in two months. It means right now..."

Savithiri Subramaniam
Nallur

Joint hands— To keep clean

The Editor,

It is reliably learnt that a huge snake was able to

(Continued on Page 5)

Strong Motivation Exists for the Study of English

Rev. Fr. S.J. Emmanuel at Academy Day

"It is wrong and amounts to self-depreciation if we give the English language a status or importance higher than that given to our mother tongue, Tamil. That English is a world language is no valid reason to push our mother tongue to a second place in our own land. But English is indispensable for the future of our race, society and church. In fact the viability of our cherished Tamil Eelam is very much dependent on our readiness to grow in these languages." So said Rev. Fr. S.J. Emmanuel delivering a speech at the Cardinal Newman English Academy Day held at St. Francis Xavier's Seminary, Colombuthurai on Wednesday the 15th May, 1991.

Continuing further Rev. Fr. S.J. Emmanuel said:-

I am happy to join the previous speakers in expressing the gratitude of this institution for your kind presence.

An academy day to foster the use of a foreign language in this institution, and that too, under the patronage of a Cardinal, though distinguished, yet a foreigner, can appear to many as somewhat irrelevant, especially to many youngsters and at a time like this, when all of us Tamils are in the midst of a hard struggle towards establishing our own linguistic identity and status.

No doubt, English has been once for us a colonial language. But after a decade or two of the usual post-independence euphoria about our mother tongue we in Sri Lanka have come to

accept and appreciate English as a world language that is indispensable for our growth.

Within the Church too, with the disappearance of Latin in our liturgy, and in our studies, English has come to be accepted as our link-language with the world church and as a key-language to all our philosophical and theological studies.

But the important question is:- How to achieve that standard of English required for communication and study? The achievement of this goal is hindered by two types of difficulties. One relates to the methods and means adopted in imparting this language, and the other relates to the motivation

that empowers the whole process of learning.

Leaving the former class of difficulties to be tackled by experts in the field of English teaching, let us not hesitate to express our convictions about the latter namely, about the motivation required for the process.

In any human effort motivation plays a vital role. And with respect to the learning of English language we venture to ask "Have we really a motivation strong enough to achieve this high objective?" To most of us the cold truth or argument is clear-namely, that English is indispensable for the future of our race, society and the church. But unfortunately, there are among us some false tendencies, fears and even false arguments that dampen, if not kill, the motivation. They reduce the zeal and enthusiasm of our youngsters, their ship.

Becoming citizens of the world or members of the Universal Church, does not in any way reduce our genuine love for the motherland and the mother tongue. On the contrary, it can be easily argued that there cannot be a genuine growth or development of these without being open and linked to the outside world. The growth of many smaller nations of the world, especially in the far east, have amply demonstrated this truth.

Similarly with regard to the church, we are not merely members of a local or national church, but also members of a world church. And our growth and development do not consist merely in localisation or inculturation, but also in becoming more and more open to the world by

vital communication with the world church. In fact, true inculturation of our churches will demand also an openness to the world in general.

The examples of the great Gnanaprakasam, Thaninayagam and David from among our midst, go to illustrate the truth that only by means of the world languages will our Tamil language grow and get enriched. It is almost a diabolical falsehood against all human experience to presume that the use and standard of Tamil language in our midst will suffer by the learning of a second language.

In fact the viability of our cherished Tamil Eelam is very much dependent on our readiness to grow in these two languages. If we limit ourselves to Tamil only, we spell ruin for ourselves through a linguistic isolation. And this linguistic isolation has serious and adverse repercussions on many areas of our future life. The economical, social and cultural development of a Tamil Eelam can be nourished only by our readiness to exchange and communicate with others of the world.

We all agree and appreciate the efforts made at the present to give Tamil its rightful place of honour in our life. It is wrong and amounts to a self-depreciation if we give English a status or importance higher than that given to our mother tongue Tamil. That English is a world language, is no valid reason to push our mother tongue to a second place in our own land. While keeping English as a living link language, we can still have our own mother tongue in its rightful place of honour. This is already achieved in many smaller but developed nations of the world. They have developed their mother tongue as well as acquired a good standard of English for the benefit of the whole country.

Especially during these years of struggle, the Tamils

in general and the Tamil church in particular, must make extra-ordinary efforts to promote the learning of English as a link and a key language to the world. A minority community that seeks to live, or rather survive, not on the strength of neighbourly relations and help, but more on the acceptability and understanding of international communities cannot be satisfied with the present efforts to learn English.

All educational institutions, starting from our University and the schools, all political and social leaders and all those who have the future of the Tamils at heart, must resist any tendency or negligence that will lead to the disappearance of English from our society.

St. Francis Xavier's Seminary exists for the formation of future priests who will lead their faithful, and all other people of good will, to grow and develop towards the final destiny of the Kingdom. As religious leaders of a Church that has to strike deeper roots into the heritage and culture of the people, as well as spread its evangelical influence far and wide, as leaders of a people seeking new identity and status in the world of tomorrow, the students of this institution can never exaggerate the importance of English for their present formation and for the future on-going formation.

It is our wish and prayer that occasions of this nature focus the attention of a large public to this conviction and help further progress in the learning of English.

Cardinal Newman was not merely an honoured Englishman, but above all a man with a strong vision about the future of the world and of the church. He is today acclaimed as a prophet who lived before his time. May his vision inspire and guide the work of our Academy. Thank you, once again.

Joint...

(Continuation of Page 4)

cause the puncture of a bicycle tyre/tube while crossing the road at mid night across the Vempirai Hindu cemetery east of Kankanpuliyadi junction.

It is further revealed that the person who was riding the bike got upset when he saw the snake. He left the bike and ran away to avoid the angry snake. This funny news is an eye opening to those who are responsible to keep the cemeteries and crematoriums clean and tidy, fenced and locked, surveyed and gazetted; as done in other advanced countries.

Most of these places of eternal rest are not properly kept by the respective local or provincial councils or the respective religious denominations. I wish to appreciate the good will and initiative of the church of South India mission for the proper upkeep of their mission cemeteries. Their Uduvil, Manipay, Tellipalai cemeteries are some glowing examples.

Why cannot the others pay more attention in this connection. The Kompayanmanal, Manipay - Pippil, i

Kokkuvil Hindu crematoriums are also well kept and administered by good societies. It will be highly appreciated if the other areas also are induced to follow the footsteps of said cemetery caretakers and to keep all our burial cremation grounds like our homes and shrine rooms. The people will certainly give their co-operation and manual support to clean it by way of their bodily help in large numbers.

I kindly request all people of good will, particularly the relevant authorities (ACLG, R. D. H. Services, M.O.H., Municipal Commissioners, secretaries of the urban councils, the respective religious leaders, to jointly and sincerely work together to keep our holy grounds like our sweet homes.

In the western countries they respect their dead highly by visiting the cemeteries frequently to pray for the repose of the souls and to light candles or to place flowers. Most of them respect the funeral procession, remove their head dresses and stand at attention.

yours respectfully,

J. Arulanandam

Desultory Ramblings of Vadali Velan

It was just the other day that my friend, the village raconteur, related to us a story which has a poignant relevance to the state of affairs in Sri Lanka, today. As the story goes, there was this young educationist of the colonial era who found himself stationed at a remote and far-flung outpost of the then-empire. Amongst the tasks he undertook, was the moral upliftment of the 'near

savage natives' of the locality. To ensure rapid progress for his venture, he employed the strategy of 'catching them young' and devoted much of his time amongst the teenagers of the village he was residing at, narrating fables and moralistic short stories which he himself had been regaled with as a tiny tot. One day this compassionate young man was relating the story of Little Red Riding

Hood and the wicked old wolf to a group of youngsters, who, on their part, were responding with bated breath and with rapt and soundless attention. However when the narration reached the stage where the bad old wolf, with a snarl and fangs bared, pounces on the helpless child, Little Red Riding Hood, and makes a meal

(Continued on page 6)

HOT SPRING

VOL: 1 SUNDAY 26th. MAY 1991 ISSUE 33

We Wish India Well

It looks as if it is not correct to call the gimmicks of some politicians as the outbursts of psychopaths. It looks as if they suffer from some criminal propensity in them.

When the former State Defence Minister the late Mr. Ranian Wijeratne was killed there was the suggestion made in some quarters that the LTTE was behind it.

When Rajiv Gandhi was killed on last Tuesday, suggestions that the LTTE would have been behind the killing came from some quarters.

First it was Subhoth Khant Sahay who thought it could have been the work of the LTTE because of the nature of the perfect accomplishment of the job! He was immediately followed by V. Ramamoorthy, Congress I President of Tamil Nadu who said it was LTTE work and demanded that all refugees from Tamil Eelam be immediately repatriated to Sri Lanka. Mr. Ramamoorthy, however, has exposed himself by also saying that the LTTE could have been hired. We now hear Subramaniam Swamy also crying the wolf. Not to be outdone by the antics of these gentlemen, General Cyril Ranatunge, the Defence Secretary of Sri Lanka has also come out with a statement that the greater possibilities are that the LTTE could have been at the bottom of the assassination and he has volunteered to help India in the process of investigation into the killing.

Scotland Yard or even imaginary Sherlock Holmes would present a poor comparison to these galaxies of self-appointed detectives! Eelam Tamils are fighting a liberation battle against a most barbaric and cruel enemy. There is hardly any reason to poke our nose into the affairs of people, personalities and politics in other countries - least of all in India where we count the largest measure of popular support outside Eelam itself.

We really wonder where India is going. After its freedom struggle under very great men, India was looked upon by the world at large as a model country from where humanity all over could draw inspiration. But of late the happenings in India throw very great doubt whether India is entitled to all that admiration and expectation. We find from reports that during the course of polls greater enthusiasm was exhibited in electoral violence than enthusiasm to cast votes. In fact the reports suggest that in a constituency in metropolitan New Delhi less than 30% of the voters voted. It would appear from all reports that the average Indian voter is showing apathy to elections this time.

Why? Is the Indian voter getting disgusted with the antics of political leaders? Are they getting frustrated by the political manoeuvres taking place in India whereby governments elected by popular votes (as in the case of the DMK in Tamil Nadu) are toppled and governments which cannot muster a bus load of fellow-travellers are placed in power to govern an entire sub-continent (as in the case of Chandrashekar Government)?

It is a tragedy that a country which only recently produced great men like the Mahatma, Nehru, Subhas, Rajaji and Jayaprakash Narayan should now be lacking in leaders.

Obviously India has to tackle very grave problems - given the size of the country, numbers of people and their complexities. The Himalayan task cannot be fulfilled by irresponsible outbursts against very friendly neighbours like Eelam Tamils by power-hungry parvenus who have succeeded the great leaders of the past.

We wish India well. Let India do the same by her most friendly neighbour, Tamil Eelam.

Will the Western Countries offer asylum to Tamil Refugees now stranded in India?

Mr. V. Ramamoorthy, the President of the Tamil Nadu Branch of the Indira Congress has demanded that all Tamil Eelam Refugees be sent back to Sri Lanka. He is reported to have made this demand after he made wild allegations that the LTTE was behind the killing of Rajiv Gandhi.

It would be relevant to bring to memory Mr. Ramamoorthy's efforts to have the DMK government of Karunanidhi dismissed on the score that the DMK government had allowed "Law and order situation" in Tamil Nadu to deteriorate by permitting the LTTE to indulge in unlawful activities.

Just a couple of hours before the killing of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, A.I.R. broadcast a news item where the present Governor of Tamil Nadu, Bishman Singh Narayan had said that the entire law and order situation was under control after the crackdown on LTTE. Within hours Mr. Rajiv Gandhi met with his death despite the Tamil Nadu Governor's claims. Those who indulged in wild charges against the LTTE's name is mentioned by desperate politicians trying to win places in the seats of government.

However, now that Mr. Ramamoorthy has demanded repatriation of all Sri Lankan Tamils, a peculiar situation arises. Sri Lanka does not

like Tamil refugees' presence in India. So coupled with Sinhala Governments' own wish and Mr. Ramamoorthy's wish the Sri Lankan refugees in South India face a difficult situation. However it is clear that they will not wish to return to Sri Lanka where they are likely to meet with all forms of harassment, torture and even death.

Will the Western World offer these hapless victims asylum in their respective countries, as they did to the 'boat people' of Vietnam or will these countries sponsor a motion in the UN to create a UN protectorate in the Northeast Sri Lanka, as they did in the case of the Kurds in Iraq?

Desultory...

(Continuation of Page 5)

of her, the young audience burst into spontaneous and prolonged applause! The young educationist was instantly shocked and dismayed. In spite of his earnest strivings these children had applauded at the wrong moment and had shown their unmistakable appreciation of the wily wolf's aggression.

Overcome with frustration and being thrown into a depressed frame of mind, this young man packed his bags and, forthwith, returned to his homeland, and there ended a benevolent career and there ends my friend's story too.

The people of our village do undoubtedly discern the stark message conveyed in this story for the benefit of those of Tamil Eelam. The children of the said backward community had been re-acting to a situation in a manner prompted by their own way of life and in accordance with their warped sense of values. They were expressing their admiration and approval for the opportunism and resourcefulness of the wolf in obtaining its food and saw in this animal their hero who was able to take advantage of his victim, helpless and innocent though the latter had been.

Ever since the Englishman granted the so-called independence to the Island of Ceylon, successive Sinhala governments of this island have strained every nerve and sinew to suppress the Tamils to the advantage of their own Buddhist-Sinhala people. Replacing of Tamils with Sinhalese in all areas

of state employment, including that of the armed forces, has gone on unabated. High performance students from the Tamil community have been denied entry to higher seats of learning with preference for low-quality Sinhalese students. Even Tamil members of parliament have been denied the opportunity of sitting in the House through a well-deliberated and pernicious enactment. Tamil families have been uprooted to find a place for Sinhala colonization schemes, sacred cities (solely Buddhist, of course), cultural triangles, quadrangles and what not. They have, though, omitted to draw cultural circles as yet! The very homelands of the Eelam Tamils, though arid and poorly resource-endowed, are not spared but must be progressively carved out to feed the maw of

State colonization of the lotus-eating Sinhala community alone. The very soldiery who are supposedly containing the activities of Tamil Eelam freedom fighters are given the opportunity to carry away gifts for themselves and their officers in the form of TV and radio sets, furniture and other valuables, the source being the house of Tamil citizens from where the occupants have been frightened away. Such depredations and repressions are now too numerous to recount.

Secr....

(Continuation of Page 1)

poess - in other words to carve out Sinhala parliamentary constituencies out of Tamil Eelam territory. This land theft takes place on the sly as nothing is known of what is happening at the executive level and only after the theft is complete, the

How could you expect a people who are used to a life of parasitism on others to conform to an alternate civilized and human code of conduct: and how can such a people refuse to be led by a government which is, forever, acting the Santa Claus and is continuing the dangle the scalps of the helpless and harassed Tamils as bonanzas in the face of Sinhala-Buddhist chauvinism? It needs no crystal gazing to predict what we are heading irrevocably to the parting of the ways and that the call for a united country (through consultation, compromise and consensus and other such frivolous means) by the Sinhala leadership is utterly ridiculous and is akin to the butterfly on the flower preaching contentment to the hungry mouse in its flooded burrow. It is high time that everyone concerned abandon all endeavours to form a united Sri Lanka and follow the example of the young educationist who gave up his efforts to reform a set of young savages. Tamil Eelam shall row her own boat.

Arod....

(Continuation of Page 1)

has expressed its willingness to co-ordinate its work with the North-East Provincial Council administration in the implementation of programmes for the disabled in the North-East.

Tamil people find that their lands have been robbed by by Baudha Sinhala Imperialism. It is also learnt that many Tamil officials are being transferred out of Batticaloa and replaced with new persons so that clandestine and furtive attempts of government at land grabbing may not come to light until accomplished.