

HOT SPRING

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"GIVE IT - THEM BACK"

"It is the practice and in some cases the duty of many of my colleagues and many Members of the House to visit the scenes of destructions as promptly as possible, and I go myself from time to time. In all my life I have never been treated with so much kindness as by the people who have suffered most. One would think one had brought some great benefit to them, instead of the blood and tears, the toil and sweat which is all I have promised. On every side, there is the cry 'We can take it' but with it, there is also the cry 'Give it 'em back.' (Sir W. Churchill)

Resolving Conflict in Sri Lanka

Commonwealth Ready to Contribute

Secretariat writes to Valvettiturai Citizens

"We are deeply mindful of the unhappy conflict in Sri Lanka and have taken careful note of your letter. The Secretariat for its part closely follows developments in Sri Lanka and stands ready to make whatever practicable contribution it can to the resolution of this vexed problem". So States Mr. M. J. Gaylard, Director of the International Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat in a letter addressed to the citizens of Valvettiturai.

Mr. Gaylard's letter is in response to a petition sent by the senior Citizens of Valvettiturai portraying the destruction caused to Valvettiturai and its people by the Sinhala Air Force, when it carried out aerial bombing for four consecutive days between 20th January and 23rd January of this year.

Almost ninety percent of civilian dwellings were damaged during the four days of aerial bombardment which was described as "carpet bombing". Temples, Churches and other public buildings were also destroyed apart from injury to persons and even deaths.

Some of the Senior Citizens of Valvettiturai signed a petition addressed to the UN. Secretary - General, the Commonwealth Secretary - General, Heads of Commonwealth Countries and Non - Aligned States

portraying the damage caused to the town and its inhabitants.

Various Head of States have acknowledged receipt of this petition and expressed their concern at the happenings. The Director of International Affairs, Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Mr. M. J. Gaylard replying on behalf of the Commonwealth Secretary-General has expressed the readiness of the Com-

monwealth to make whatever practicable contribution it can to the resolution of the vexed problem.

Mr. Gaylard's letter reads as follows:-

"On behalf of the Commonwealth Secretary - General, I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 20th February, 1991 and the enclosed copy of the representations made to the President of Sri Lanka.

Eye-Wash Invitation to A. I. Debarred from Visiting North-East

The Sri Lankan Government made an announcement recently that it would permit the Amnesty International delegation to visit Sri Lanka. This announcement was given world publicity. The world was made to believe that the Sri Lankan Government had nothing to hide.

A delegation of the Amnesty International arrived last week in Sri Lanka and its first application was to allow its delegation to visit the war torn Northeast areas. The Government of Sri Lanka has refused permission for the Amnesty International delegation to visit the North east.

It is to be noted that all persons reported dead or disappeared are all civilians. And so are the persons who have been injured. This is how the Baudha Sinhala government kills Tamils and says that it does not fight the Tamils but only the LTTE.

War broke out in June 1990 between the Sri Lankan Government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The war has been raging on for one year now but only in the Northeast. After 1989 there is comparative peace in the South though isolated incidents of murder do take place there also even now.

But so far as the North-east is concerned a war is raging right now on a major scale. Though the Government has no control in most of the areas in the North, the Government forces have stationed themselves in many positions in the East.

There have been mass scale murders of non Combatant Tamil civilians undertaken both by the Armed Forces of Government, vigilante groups backed by Government and also gangs called Home Guards drawn from the Muslims and Sinhalese

communities. Also by certain Tamil gangs also working with Government forces in apprehending and killing Tamil civilians

Already many reports have been published about army personnel making arrests within refugee camps. The fate of most of the arrested persons is not known. They are reported to fill the list of "disappeared" persons.

The violations committed against human rights in the Northeast cannot be verified by the Amnesty International unless its team is granted permission to visit the northeast.

The restriction placed on the A.I. delegation preventing them from going to the war stricken Northeast where the Government indulges in large scale violations of human rights can never be brought to public attention by an independent group such as the A. I. if it is

construed as interference in the internal affairs of a member state.

"I can assure you that we are mindful of the unhappy conflict in Sri Lanka and have taken careful note of your letter. The Secretariat for its part closely follows developments in Sri Lanka and stands ready to make whatever practicable contribution it can to the resolution of the vexed problem."

TAMIL FESTIVAL

Jaffna has gone gay with the celebrations of the Tamil Festival which began on Thursday 6th June 1991 at Manipay.

The Arts and Cultural Section of the People's Front of Liberation Tigers organised a cultural festival beginning

on 6th June 1991 and styled 'Muththamil Vila' - Tamil Festival.

The Festival is scheduled to be held at different places at Manipay, Vadammarachy, Thenmarachy and the Island Division. The first day of the festival began at Manipay on Thursday 6th June 1991 at 5.30 p. m.

The streets of Manipay and the venue of the festival meet was gaily decorated. Mr. Karuna, the leader of the Batticaloa - Amparal District LTTE hoisted the Tiger Flag and the traditional oil lamp was lighted by Mr. Yoharatnam Yogi, the General Secretary of the People's Front of Liberation Tigers and Mr. Castro, the Deputy Leader of the Jaffna District LTTE.

Mr. Puthuvai Ratnathurai presided at the function where various music and dramatic performances were held.

Prof. K. Sivathamby, the Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Jaffna University was the guest speaker on the first day.

prevented from visiting these areas.

The restriction placed on the A. I. delegation preventing it from visiting war stricken areas makes the Government offer to allow the A. I. to visit the island a mere eye wash.

Chundikuli Girls' College - WED

World Environment Day was celebrated at Chundikuli Girls' College, Jaffna on Saturday, 8th June, 1991.

The celebration was jointly conducted by the United Nations Association, Jaffna Unit and the Chundikuli Girls' College to observe World Environment Day which fell on the 5th of June, 1991. The celebration was held at the premises of the Chundikuli Girls' College, Jaffna.

A. I. Italia 74 - to Start Press Campaign

Brianti Silvia of A.I. Italia 74 - an Italian section of Amnesty International - has called for information about "disappearances" in Sri Lanka to enable the group to start a press campaign in Italy.

In a circular letter addressed to the Press in Sri Lanka, Brianti Silvia states the "Italia 74" is a group of the Italian Section of Amnesty International that the group is opposed to all violations of human rights.

The letter further states that the group is at present really concerned about reports of "disappearances" documented by Amnesty International occurring in parts of Sri Lanka. The group has reports of "disappearances" of Tamil people in the North and East of Sri Lanka and also reports of Sinhalese people in the South who are suspected of belonging to or having links with JVP or groups closely to it.

The information in their hand, Italia 74 states, reveals that many relatives of "disappeared" persons in Sri Lanka still remain uncertain about the fate or whereabouts of persons they say were arrested by the Sri Lankan forces. "We do not know of impartial investigation aiming to arrest the persons guilty of violence", the letter adds.

Italia 74 proposes to start a press campaign about Sri Lanka "disappearances" on Italian local and may be national review and would appreciate anyone sending to them any information they may have about the present situation. Articles of news paper regarding some relevant cases which might better explain the situation from

different points of view, are welcomed so that the Italian Press and Italia 74 may use them as examples.

Italia 74 states in its letter that it has been informed by Amnesty International that the Sri Lanka government was considering to give access to the International Committee of Red Cross and allow it to carry out its work of providing assistance and protection to victims of conflict as stipulated in the United Nations resolution adopted

on 12th March, 1987 but adds that the government should have sent an invitation to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to visit Sri Lanka.

The letter ends by calling for any relevant information to be addressed to:-

Brianti Silvia
Via Risorgimento, 29
22054 Mandella del Lario(CO)
Italy.

A Sri-Lankan Tamils' Appeal to the Queen of England

Thy military might enslaved many a land;
Thy order then worked like a magic wand.
The Empire did last for over a century and a half;
The conquests all were on thy behalf.

The toll of deaths in such missions of yore,
In the lands which you lawlessly tore,
Number millions:- All innocent souls of foreign climes!
Wouldn't God have marked thee for such crimes?

As time went by, you became more sane;
And wisely thought thy grip should wane:
For men of these lands to have their own rule,
Rather than make them ever your tool.

From thence the ruling power did step by step,
Descend to the majority hands:
And they did weave, like the spider's web,
A trap for the minorities of these lands.

Had we been left as we were taken,-
We would then have our own kingdom had!
By the course of events we weren't mistaken;
Ah! soon, amongst their politicians saw we many a cad!

Majority rule in a multi-racial land,
There, minority crushed with a high hand.
Tyranny of the unenlightened number,-
For very long:- They know not we never slumber.

Narrow perception of the hallowed system,-
Such traits in politics are ever with them,-
Drowns our land in deep wail and sorrow.
Gives no hope for a better tomorrow.

In mitigation of thy share of guilt,
Why not stand out Her Majesty, and tilt
The balance of power in our favour;
We beseech for this with much fervour.

-Ram-

Army shoots - Seven persons killed Three injured

Seven Tamils were shot dead and three were injured, when the Army opened fire at Kalaipottamadu in Batticaloa District.

It is learnt that a group of Sinhala Army personnel went to the village of Kalaipottamadu in the Varunathivu AGA's Division in the Batticaloa District, on 18th May, 1991. There the Army shot at several persons killing seven civilians on the

spot and injuring another three.

The dead persons have been identified as-

1. Maheswaran Rathikaran (13) of Ilupadichehal
- (2) Kumarasamy Perinipam (24) of Kannankudah
- (3) Perampalam Thirmanjanam (18) of Muthalaikudah
- (4) Elayathamby Subramaniam (45) of Muthalaikud-

ah (5) Elayathamby Santhirapillai (30) of Munaikadu

(6) Ketharapillai Sivakolunthu (12) of Munaikadu

(7) Thevanayakam Thillaiampalam of Muthalaikudah

The injured persons are-

(1) Seenithamby Sellathurai (45) of Muthalaikudah

(2) Ketharapillai Thevaram (18) of Muthalaikudah

(3) Vethanayakam Kannammah (21) of Munaikadu.

THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

It is unbelievable but true

When an indigenous african flippantly called a black is shot dead in Africa it makes the headlines in the World's news media. When an unarmed Palestinian is shot dead by the evil jews in the occupied territories, it makes the headlines in the World's news media. When a kasmiri crossing into India from Pakistan is shot dead, it makes the headlines in the world's news media. Yet when innocent Tamils are shot dead, or burnt alive or tortured to death by the scores in this island, we hear not a murmur about same, not even in the neighbouring Indian news media.

Why should this be so? Is the whole wretched world against us Tamils? The answer is simple. It is a case of our interests against yours. As for the western news media, Sri Lanka is strategically situated and ideal for refuelling. Refuelling for what, to smash the arabs like the Iraqis. So it is prudent not to give publicity to the savage misdeeds of the savage sinhalese. Not only should we ignore the savagery of the sinhalese but grant them unlimited financial aid to make them happy and give us strategic assistance such as refuelling facilities and the like.

But what about India- why is she also like the rapacious West keeping her trap shut. Well to serve her own limited imperial interests. So that the sikhs, kashmiris and the assamese will not get their tails up, seeing and knowing the chivalrous performance of the Tamils in EELAM. So we have to go it alone, looking to those little nation in Scandinavia, who have no axe whatsoever to grind.

Sinhala R. C. Hierarchy

A reader quit justifiably expresses his utter disgust at the shameful and unchristian attitude of the Sinhala R. C. Hierarchy in the ongoing genocide of the Tamils by the savage sinhalese.

It would therefore be appropriate to go back in time and compare the disgusting and unchristian performance of the Roman Catholic church over similar incidents, such as the

present in this island. When Adolf Hitler and his savage Nazi gangs roasted the pathetic jews in the gas chambers in the thirties, the Roman Catholic church remained deaf dumb and blind whilst six million jews were roasted alive in the gas chambers, whilst other christian denominations did attempt to even make a meek demur. When requested by the world community to atleast condemn the nazi atrocities belatedly, the Pope of the time, steadfastly refused to do anything of that kind.

The Roman Catholic church adopted a similar attitude in apartheid South Africa, dictatorial South America, Racist North America and in every other part of the globe where man's inhumanity to man was rife. So it should be no surprise that it is happening here too. I believe the Bishops like Marcus Fernando and the like should seriously consider swapping their white robes for saffron, then no one will fault them for their studied silence. As for Bishop Vianey Fernando of Kandy donating lavishly to the National Defence Fund, one is reminded of another infamous Tamil Bishop Edmund Peries, who endeavoured to outdo the sinhalese by masquerading as a great sinhala scholar when Tamils were greatly humiliated and disabled by the racist sinhala only policy of the government of that time.

The only true sinhala christian of our times could well be the Very Reverend Dr. Soma Perera of the Methodist Church, who in 1983 was attending a foreign conference as head of the local Methodist Church, when the sinhala Buddhist carried out the mass murder of innocent Tamils in July of that year. On hearing of the racial slaughter, the Reverend Dr. Soma Perera rushed back to this country to do whatever little he could for the Tamils and in the process told a leading newspaper "THAT THE SINHALESE SHOULD GO DOWN ON THEIR KNEES AND BEG THE TAMILS TO FORGIVE THEM" that was a truly christian gesture.

TRINCOMALEE

TIM MCGIRK OF THE INDEPENDENT LONDON, REPORTS:

The Sri Lanka soldiers were in the back of a lorry pushing around a suspected Tamil terrorist, a barefoot, middle-aged man too dazed and hurt to fend off their punches. The soldiers heaved the man against a crate of empty soft drink bottles and then stood back to appreciate the glassy music of their savagery.

"Jolly nice afternoon, isn't it?" said a risk officer with a pock-marked face as I watched his platoon shove their victim over the side of the lorry. He slammed on to the asphalt road face down and was then dragged inside the gate of the 22 army brigade headquarters at Plantain Point, which has become notorious in north-eastern Sri Lanka as a detention camp, where men who enter either vanish or are found dead in nearby jungle with their throats cut.

Several prominent citizens in Trincomalee, who prefer not to be indentified for fear of reprisals, claim that death squads also operate from this base, although they are not directly under the commanding officer's control. They call themselves the "Black Cats" or the "Green Tigers," and cruise around the town and the outlying villages in unmarked vans.

The death squads are hunting for known sympathisers of the Tamil Tigers, separatist guerrillas who control the northern tip of this island nation and are now stepping up their offensive in the eastern region.

The army holds the main towns, roads and little else; the terrain of coconut groves and hilly jungle suits the Tigers perfectly. Since the civil war erupted between the Tamils and the Sinhalese Buddhist majority in 1983, it has claimed more than 20,000 lives.

Along the eastern coast, it is not a tidy war of insurgents versus army. The

are beginning to starve," said one camp worker.

Usually, innocent Tamil villagers suffer the brunt of the security forces' frustration the most. After Tiger guerrillas murdered a policeman at the village of Iruthayapuram on March 30, his fellow officers went on a rampage, burning shops and hacking 11 Tamil farmers to death.

Many Detainees Vanish or are Found Dead in Nearby Jungle with their Throats Cut

conflict is also devastating the Tamil, Sinhalese and Muslim communities, each a third of Trincomalee's population.

The hardest hit are probably the Tamils. Trincomalee citizens informed that every day, several Tamils are grabbed off the streets or rounded up outside refugee camps. Most of the 33,000 refugees in the Trincomalee district are Tamils fleeing from harsh army reprisals against the Tiger guerrillas, who attack them and then disappear into jungle dense enough to hide wild elephant herds.

Although relief agencies provide money to the government for food, no provisions have reached the camps for almost six weeks. "Peop-

In a raid on one camp several months ago, 43 Tamils were taken for interrogation inside the Plantain Point base, and so far, only six have been released.

"I was kept blindfolded for two days and beaten with iron bars," said one former detainee who has since fled from Trincomalee. "I saw some of my friends being beaten to death. Then their corpses were heaped together with tyres and burnt inside the camp."

The Tamil Tigers have been no less brutal. They drag teenagers into the guerrilla force, arming them with semi-automatic weapons, a cyanide capsule to bite if captured and Marxist dogma against the evils of drinking the capitalist Coca-Cola.

In the Jaffna area, under the Tiger control, they demand a revolutionary tax and set exorbitant fares for Tamil refugees trying to escape by boat to India. The Tigers have also silenced some Tamil critics in Jaffna.

At dawn on Wednesday, a fleet of Sinhalese fishermen in dugout catamarans were just spreading their nets at the opening of Trincomalee's huge bay when a speedboat with five uniformed men raced out, spraying the fishermen with machine gun fire. Nine fishermen were killed and another 16 are still missing. Police blamed the Tigers, but other Trincomalee sources said it could as easily have been a Sri Lankan navy boat, whose crew mistook the fishermen for a guerrilla landing force.

The next day, 2,000 Sinhalese with axes and knives mobbed into the Tamil section of Trincomalee seeking revenge. "A massacre was ave-

months, looting and killing by the Tigers have driven the Muslims into refugee camps around Muttur, a mainly Muslim town secured by the army.

A young Muslim widow told how her husband was murdered by Tamils during a village bicycle race. Now the Muslims have formed their own rustic militia, with army permission, to guard their villages.

In Colombo, diplomats say that the poor and ill-equipped Sri Lankan army can never blast the Tigers out of their jungle strongholds. Some say that President Ranasinghe Premadasa has given the army time until June to recapture territory lost to the Tigers before resuming talks with the rebels.

Few are optimistic about the outcome, so far, the

Death Squads Hunt for LTTE Sympathisers. Army Holds Main Towns Roads and Little Else

rted because the police stopped the Sinhalese. In the past, the police have usually joined in against Tamils" said one citizen.

The Muslim community is also being attacked by the guerrillas. Over the past six

Tigers have refused any offer that does not give them the eastern coast, even though Tamils here are not a majority. As one Muslim refugee lamented, "This island used to be paradise. Now it is hell."



Deliberate disruption of the G. C. E. A/L Exam

An indefinite curfew was clamped down from the 25th April 1991, while hectic and frantic arrangements were made to hold the G.C.E. (A/L) exam. The fact that the exam is being held in the North and East is a clear testimony to the fact that the government machinery is still functioning in the North. Imposition of the curfew would be tantamount to a complete and deliberate disruption of governmental activity in the North by the Ministry of Defence.

During the days before the commencement of the exam, there was a strange calm and serene atmosphere. There was no military operation in the North. Every-

body felt that the then prevailing situation was a climate conducive and congenial to the smooth running of the exam. Everyone thought that the exam would go on uninterrupted and undisturbed. It is understood that both Ministries of Defence and Education were in consultation and a smooth running of the exam was assured. We presumed it was a gentlemen's agreement and understanding between both the Ministries.

Contrary to all these pious agreements what happened was that the Ministry of Defence had miserably failed to keep up to its pious promises. The combined forces started their military

manoeuvres and offensive simultaneously at Karainagar, Kayts, Palaly, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu camps on the 25th April. An indefinite curfew was imposed all of a sudden on the 3rd day of the exam, most probably to disrupt the exam. Of course there was no provocation or instigation on the part of the LTTE. The military offensive was started in complete contravention of the compromise reached between the Department of Exams and the Ministry of Defence.

We doubt the bona fides of the Ministry of Defence. Is it a pre-meditated attempt by the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Exams in collaboration and connivance to disrupt the Exam? Are all these 'pious' acts, machinations, manoeuvres and manipulations of both the Ministries? A seemingly holy agreement was violated.

We presume the imposition of the curfew was a planned attempt to disrupt the exam. Otherwise, what was the prime purpose in starting the military offensive all of a sudden on the morning of 25th April after days of perfect silence during the weeks prior to the exam. There was not even the slightest provocation by the LTTE. If it was so, this would tantamount to a flagrant denial of right and opportunity to the Tamil students, and this is a notorious example of such series of denials of rights hitherto perpetrated, and the impact of which has magnified in to mountainous proportions, as we see it now.

This situation purposely created for the candidates was harmful and detrimental. There was deafening and frightening sounds all over. There was fierce firing of shells from Palaly, K.K.S., Kayts and Karainagar camps

to disturb and scare the candidates. The candidates were not in a peaceful mood to answer the papers. Was the disruption of the exam, a pre-meditated affair?

If His Excellency, the President is really sincere in his intentions to start negotiations, he would have definitely declared a ceasefire at least during the period of the exam in tacit manifestation of his good intentions, goodwill, his sincerity of purpose and magnanimity of his heart. There were two occasions at the disposal of His Excellency the President to express the goodness of his heart. He has pitifully missed. The first one was that during the period of the exam, he could have declared a ceasefire. The other was the declaration of a ceasefire during the Sinhala-Hindu New Year - an element of

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IN SRI LANKA

MILITARY GETTING POLITICISED—CIVILIANS GETTING MILITARISED

Tamils in Defensive Battle.

Tamils' Right of Self - Determination Only Solution. Expat. Tamil Writes to Lord Reay

Lt. Col. A. J. Nevins Selvadurai, Chairman of the Shropshire / Staffordshire Tamil Association, United Kingdom has sent a communication to Lord Reay, House of Lords, London which we publish by Courtesy of Tamil Nation, London.

Dear Lord Reay,

We are so glad that the House of Lords was kind enough to debate about our stricken land. We are grateful to you, my Lord, for promising to do your best in persuading Her Majesty's Government to assist in whatever way possible.

In answer to Baroness Ewart - Biggs you stated, "We support the government of President Premadasa in its efforts to defeat terrorist threats from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the North and East of the country." While it is generally accepted that the J.V.P. Marxist terrorism was a senseless one, we wish to point out that in the case of the Tamils it is a completely different thing altogether. They are essentially freedom fighters who are being erroneously labelled as "terrorists".

As pointed out by the Lord Bishop of Ripon, "For 35 years, Tamils in Sri Lanka have been pressing their demands for the integrity of a Tamil homeland, substantial autonomy

for the Tamil region, equal rights for the Tamil language and rights of citizenship. Successive Sinhala governments had agreed to some or all of these principles, but of whatever political complexion they consist, they have not implemented them. They will to do so is lacking." He goes on to say: "I have deplored the steady growth of violence by the Tamils, but I have to say I understand the reasons which have driven members of the Tamil community to take that course."

He further said: "Although it was the LTTE who commenced hostilities in June, it seemed until recently the Sri Lanka government was intent on a military solution of the conflict. Having succeeded in the South against the J.V.P. they believed they could do so in the North."

The LTTE have offered a cease-fire but the Government have refused to accept it and are still intent on a Military Solution. We wish to point out that the reason for the LTTE resuming hostilities in June was Purely for defensive reasons in order to pre-empt the Government

which was massing forces with the clear intention of killing Tamils, in the same ruthless way they killed over 40,000 Sinhalese civilians in the South.

I would be easier to appreciate the problem of the Tamils if the British Government would not let itself be inhibited by the Irish problem nearer home. We Tamils appreciate that the Irish problem was not really created by you, but by your fore-fathers in a different bygone age. It has been thrust upon you. We Tamils having seen you suffer are only trying to avoid such a problem, a problem the Sri Lankan Government is determined to create by changing the demography of the Northeast, acting on the advice of Israelis who have now succeeded in creating the Palestine problem.

Ironically, we Tamils felt more and more happy under British colonial rule because there was justice and peace and no racial discrimination between Sinhalese and Tamils and other minorities. The Sinhala colonialism of the Sri Lankan Government is racist, with fundamentalist Buddhism dictating to the Government. It is the politicising of the Buddhist clergy that is causing all the problems in Sri Lanka. Now we also see that military getting politicised and the

civilians getting with untrained trigger happy paramilitia of the Government wielding guns even in remote jungle villages.

The Tamils have been in the island long before the arrival of the Sinhalese, and there is evidence of the megalithic civilization common with South India which is about 10,000 years old. The traditional homelands of the Tamils before European occupation have been the North and East of the island and so it was, when Sri Lanka received independence.

We are happy to note that Her Majesty's Government have been the first to send humanitarian help for the Kurds and look forward hopefully that you will put pressure on the Sri Lankan Government to save our soul and give us freedom which is our inalienable right.

What seems to require immediate attention is the incessant bombing of civilians by the Sri Lankan Air Force and the embargo on food, medicine, fuel and essentials which make life intolerable to the starving Tamils of the North and East. This certainly seems to have genocidal intention.

So it seems logical that the only way to solve this problem in a pragmatic way and bring peace and stability to the island is by giving the Tamils their legitimate and inalienable rights of freedom and self-determination. May I therefore request you to please make every effort to convince Her Majesty's Government to intercede in this matter and help prevent another Northern Ireland type of problem in Sri Lanka.

We wish to thank you noble lords and ladies for your interest in this matter and for the assistance you are rendering and pray that the genocide of the Tamils will soon stop.

Yours sincerely,
Lt. Col. A. J. Nevins Selvadurai

Sinhala Army makes a bonfire

The Sinhala Army stationed at Kommanthurai made a bonfire of the trading stock in a Tamil shop at Koduvamadu junction.

The reports from Batticaloa in this connection state that the Sinhala Army stationed at Kommanthurai went out on a spree on the morning of

15th May, 1991. At Koduvamadu Junction, they entered a shop owned by a Tamil, ransacked all the goods therein and made a heap of these goods at the Koduvamadu junction. Thereafter they set fire to the heap of goods and made a jolly re'turn to their camp.

Deliberate...

(Continuation of Page 3)

cultural link between the two communities.

Three day cessation of hostilities was declared at the time of the Year 5 Scholarship exam. But the Ministry of Defence did not think of a ceasefire for a more important exam - one of the bones of contention for the present ethnic conflict. The Defence Ministry

has thought of disrupting it by the intensification of the military offensive especially at the time of the exam.

Viewed in this light, we can just feel the pulse of His Excellency. Disruption of the exam was the main motive. What the army personnel did was the right reflection of the President's heart.

S. S. Subraminiyam
Mullaitivu.

Unite to Achieve the Goal

Editor,

Dear Sir,

Mr. Premadasa and his band are under a mistaken notion that by the imposition of stringent economic measures he has virtually succeeded in souring the minds of the people in the

North and East against the LTTE. In contrast these measures have boosted the minds and spirits of the people to lend their support towards this movement. From the time of independence the Tamils in this country have been subjected to untold hardships by the

negation of their basic rights from education to employment through policy measures such as Sinhala Only, Standardization and District quota basis. They were also exposed to criminal elements by way of communal riots.

Politicians in the North and East registered their protests by peaceful means such as Satyagraha, but of no avail. The Sinhala hoodlums did not understand what this satyagraha was and attacked the satyagrahis. It became evident that the major political parties that ruled this country were unanimous on one principle which was that they were averse to granting the basic rights of the Tamils and that they considered that the Tamils should be treated as a subject race. Democracy has been misinterpreted as government of the Sinhalese by the Sinhalese and for the Sinhalese. The transit-

ion of the political trend of this island from democracy to a Republican State ruled out even the remote chance of the Tamils' identity as a race in this island. If democratic approaches have failed to resolve the inherent problems of the Tamils, an armed insurrection became inevitable and thus triggered off the Tiger Movement. Mr. Premadasa's political wisdom has failed to see through such a situation - may be he did not have the back-bone to resolve the problems of the Tamils in the manner conducive to the Tamils or the fear of consequences that if he acceded to the rights of the Tamils, what befell the late Mr. Bandaranayake may befall him.

United we stand, divided we fall runs a rendering. It is better late than never is yet another rendering. An

earnest appeal is being made to all through this esteemed journal to merge with the LTTE, and pursue the struggle in achieving the goal. Surely this suggestion if given thought to would advance the cause of the LTTE in achieving their mission faster and with moral courage. The petty differences should not be a cause for exploitation by the government in treating the issue with contempt. The lackadaisical manner in which the State approaches our problems clearly indicate the mind of the State that the struggle of the LTTE towards the cause of the Tamils is not genuine, but that they are gun trotting youths with no policy behind them. This must be proved wrong.

D. Jeevananthan.

Vathiri.

Labour Department flouts Labour Laws— Staff and trainees not paid wages

House owners not paid rents. One year old agony

The Labour Department has 13 vocational training centres in the Jaffna District. After June, 1990 the Department of Labour has not paid the salaries of the staff of these centres. Nor has the Department carried out its contractual obligations by paying the rent of the premises where these centres are housed to the owners thereof.

It is learnt that there are 13 vocational training centres in the Jaffna District run by the Department of Labour.

These vocational training centres are spread out in the various electorates in the Jaffna District. They are housed in private buildings rented out by the Department of Labour.

Each of these Training Centres is equipped with an instructor, a watcher and a labourer and about 25 trainees undergo training in each centre in various skills. Each trainee is entitled to a stipend of Rs 15/- per day of attendance.

It is understood that the Commissioner of Labour at

Colombo provides a monthly imprest to the Assistant Commissioner of Labour at Jaffna to enable him to make payment of salaries to the staff and also the trainees and rents to the owners of premises where these centres are accommodated. Since the outbreak of the war in June, 1990, the Commissioner of Labour at Colombo, has not sent to the Assistant Commissioner at Jaffna the monthly cash imprest and the Assistant Commissioner at Jaffna has not been able to meet any of the said obligations.

It is further understood that the persons affected by the non-payment of their dues have made repeated representations to the Asst. Commissioner who, however, has not made the payments on the plea that he has not received the cash imprest from Colombo.

The Department of Labour is, amongst other things, charged with the duty of enforcing labour laws including payment to workers

However, in so far as these vocational training centres in Jaffna are concerned, the Department of Labour has not paid its own staff like instructors, watchers and labourers. Usually workers complain to the Commissioner of Labour when their wages are not paid by their employers. But when the Commissioner of Labour himself does not pay some of his staff, to whom can such affected men apply? Also the stipend payable to the trainees is a contractual obligation, and such stipend is interpreted for certain purposes as 'wage'. The Commissioner of Labour has not carried out this obligation also.

Thirdly, the owners of houses who rented out premises to house the training centres have also not been paid the rent. This payment a contractual obligation cast on the Commissioner of Labour. The Labour Department is expected to function as a 'model' employer but it does not seem to do so in Jaffna.

Bank customer wins battle

Mr. S. Kumarasamy of Valvettiturai who asked the Bank of Ceylon Jaffna Branch to pay him interest on his current account, if the Bank was not able to encash his cheque, has won his encounter with the Bank.

Mr. Kumarasamy told our correspondent that after he demanded in writing the payment of interest on the monies to his credit in his current account at the Bank of Ceylon, if the Bank was not able to encash his cheque, he received a letter from the Bank asking to call over at the Bank with his own cheque leaf.

When he went there he was told that he could encash his cheque for the desired amount and that the Bank would pay him cash and debit his current account.

Accordingly Mr. Kumarasamy drew a cheque for Rs. 10,000/- payable to himself and the Bank paid him the money promptly. "Everything ended well", said Kumarasamy.

Explaining further, Mr. Kumarasamy said that the Bank had entered into legally binding contractual relation-

ship with each one of its customers, when the Bank agreed to open a current account for him or her. One of the conditions of the contract was that the Bank would honour every properly drawn out cheque or indorsee thereof the amount mentioned in the cheque provided, of course, there were sufficient funds to the credit of the drawer of the cheque in his or her current account. In his case, Mr. Kumarasamy said, he had sufficient funds to his credit and he drew out a cash cheque and presented it to the Bank to receive payment himself. The Bank declined to pay cash on the ground that the Bank did not have sufficient liquid cash. The non-availability of liquid cash at a Bank is Bank's problem—not that of the account holder. The Bank would be committing a breach of contract, if it refuses to pay money on a properly drawn out cheque. "The local Bank officials must bring this problem to the knowledge of their superiors in Colombo and must always retain with themselves sufficient liquid cash to meet their contractual obligations", Mr. Kumarasamy concluded.

Agriculture

SOME VARIETIES OF CREEPERS

The Ranica Farm based at Inner Square, Atchunagar I of Atchuvely is considering the cultivation and production of seeds of creepers under its pilot Nursery Section. The varieties selected are pumpkins, string beans, Water melon, Rock melon, Bottle gourd, Snake gourd, Bitter gourd, Green Pumpkin, Cucumber etc. Two

more varieties Fluted pumpkin and Calabash are to be brought from Nigeria.

The I. I. T. A. (The International Institute for Tropical Agriculture) based at Ibadan, Nigeria undertook a research in the cultivation of string beans. They found that if the creeper is allowed to go high using long poles, the yield is more.

The water melon has an international farm. In Pandicheri, India, its production is very large. Water melons are sold in cities like London, Paris and Rome. In Nigeria, an American owned farm is cultivating and selling Water melons. It has a great demand in Saudi Arabia. There are two varieties in water melons. The Red-seeded ones and Black-seeded ones. The Black-seeded ones are tastier than the other variety.

The Calabash is a creeper found in Nigeria and not yet introduced here. It yields large spherical-shape fruits. It is not edible. When it is fully ripe, the shell becomes more hardened like that of bottle gourd. It can be sawn into two halves. Each half can be used for carrying stones or sand, or to carry vegetables to market.

The fluted pumpkin is also not yet introduced here. This also bears very large egg-shaped fruit with longitudinal wedges. Its seeds are edible but not the fruit. The shape of a seed is like a palmyrah seed but the size is a bit small.

The Ranica Farm considers that the production and selling of seeds is a service to the society.

S.C. Emmanuel, Proprietor, Ranica Farm Atchuvely.

Tamil Intellectuals - One With Tamil Masses

Distress has bound the people of Tamil Eelam together and thus united they have found their strength. Tamil Eelam is a deep and horizontal comradeship which exists amongst hundreds of thousands of the Tamil people - and that includes Tamil Intellectuals as well. It is a comradeship which has prevailed despite the differences and inequalities amongst the people of Tamil Eelam and it is this comradeship which has made possible the colossal sacrifices of the past several years.

Tamil people, including Tamil intellectuals, not only overtly and openly promote human rights but also, equally overtly and equally openly promote the cause of Tamil Eelam as well. There is nothing covert in their support for the struggle of the people of Tamil Eelam for national self determination.

N. Satyendra - quoted in TAMIL NATION (London) April 15, 1991

Man of the Decade

*You stand like a mountain
with people's support.*

You are pinnacle of power.

You are a diplomat

with skilful management of any affair.

You are protector of Tamil people.

Your mind as deep as the sea,

Your purpose is a holy matter,

Your war is to be a case study—

In the Indian Defence institutes.

Each time people think of you,

Oh! you are the 'supremo'.

— Vijitha Shanmugam

Basket Ball

Greenfield became champions beating Jaffna Campus (A) by (36 - 26) in the final of the tournament organised recently by the University of Jaffna.

The matches were played at the Campus Courts with six teams in the fray. Vasanthakumar and Wimalarajah officiated.

Professor Maheswaran was the Chief Guest at the final

match. R. Wijakumar Thampoe played well for the winners and Jesuthasan for the losers.

Cricket

Cricket Tournament organised by Jolly Stars, saw Shabra Sports Club, emerging winners in the Final beating Johnnians S.C. by 2 wickets in the Limited Over-Gricket Finals played at the Jaffna Hindu College grounds.

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HOT SPRING

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The Tamils Cannot be Ruled

After a three day self-imposed cease fire - or more exactly "cessation of operations" in the language of the Sinhala Armed Forces - observed in the breach in certain places - the Sinhala Armed Forces have re-started their savage campaign of destruction and genocide with increased vigour.

When the three-day ceasefire was announced, we opined that it was not the genuine desire on the part of the Sinhala government to restore peace to the Island but it was the outcome of a perverse mind demonstrating in its own way the satisfaction of Baudha - Sinhala imperialism over the extension of its sway over Tamil Eelam.

Now that the Baudha - Sinhala peace is over after the celebrations of Vesak, the Sinhala armed forces have renewed the war for the extension and consolidation of Baudha : Sinhala imperialism.

The Mannar District is under an indefinite curfew as well as the Batticaloa District. We know by experience that once a curfew is announced, the Sinhala Air Force plays merry hell. Buildings are damaged - no matter they be private dwellings or public institutions like schools, temples, churches etc. Non-combatants are killed or maimed and government claims such destruction as successful operations against the LTTE.

Immediately after the announcement of the curfew, we received news of the Sinhala Air Force bombing at Killinochchi, a place where no curfew was imposed. Nevertheless, the Sinhala Air Force targetted a school. A schoolboy was killed as also a mother and her infant child who was in her lap.

Aerial bombing also took place at Tellippalai and Mallakam and deafening sounds of artillery shells fired from Karainagar and other camps are heard.

For one full year now the battle has been raging. The government at times speaks of 'political solution' and sometimes reduces its military activities only to begin again with greater atrocity and savagery. We are now very much used to it.

We have also to tell the government that whatever it does, it cannot hope to rule the Tamils. All these years since Independence the Sinhalese government has been ruling the Tamils by deceit. Not that the Tamils did not understand. They understood it very well and refused to co-operate with the government.

As each year passed, the Sinhala government's imperialist control over Tamil Eelam tightened and with the tightening of the Baudha - Sinhala grip over the Tamils, the determination of the Tamils to resist Baudha-Sinhala imperialism also hardened. When the government and the Sinhala politicians having terrorized the Tamils in the Sinhalese areas, began to extend their reign of terror to Tamil Eelam also, the Tamil youths decided to defend their motherland and people. Thus today we witness in our homeland a defensive war undertaken by the youths against a marauding alien rule.

Political observers say that this war can be never ending. Others may feel that the war may have an end some where. Whatever course the war may take is not something that we venture to predict. But we can say in the most emphatic terms that whatever the Sinhala government may do, whatever money and energy they may spend in prosecuting the war, they cannot hereafter rule the Tamils by the might of their military power.

Amnesty International Italy Takes Interest

Mrs Gabriella Irace, member of Chapter 15 of Amnesty International, Italy, has shown great concern for the numerous people reported missing from the Sinhalese and Tamil populations of Sri Lanka.

In a circular letter sent to the local press, she has stated that Amnesty Inter-

national deplores all forms of detentions without trial, extra-judicial executions and arbitrary arrests. She further states that through exhaustive correspondence with the authorities of Sri Lanka, the Chapter have sought recognition of Human Rights and Civil Rights of all Tamil citizens. "Unfortunately,

despite our efforts, these rights are still violated extensively", she adds. She has also referred to unjust persecution of Sinhalese citizens and has called upon local newspapers to publicly appeal to the authorities of Sri Lanka to respect human rights of all citizens.

11 Persons Arrested at Koraikallimadu

Six men and five women were arrested by the Sinhala Army at Koraikallimadu in the Batticaloa District on the 14th May, 1991. Their fates are not known.

Reports from Batticaloa state that Sinhala Army encamped at Kumburumunai proceeded to the village of Koraikallimadu on the 14th May, 1991. They fired several shot in the village and also arrested eleven persons - six of them males and five of them females. All but three of the arrested persons have been identified but nothing is known as to what happened to those persons

who were arrested. Their families are in the dark.

The arrested persons who have been identified are Velupillai Jeevaratanam, Vel-

upillai Annalingam, Kandiah Poopalapillai, Thambirajah Nadarajah, Rasalingam Indrani (female), Govindhas Thangeswari (female) and Krishnan Kanagammah (female). The names of one male and two females who were arrested on the same day, have not been verified.

CAMPS FOR SINHALESE: TAMIL HOUSES PULLED DOWN

Houses belonging to Tamils in certain villages of the Amparai District are being pulled down and door frames, rafters, tiles and the like are being taken away to put up refugee camps for Sinhalese.

Reports from Batticaloa state that the Sinhala Army is pulling down houses belonging to Tamils in the 34th, 35th, 37th, 38th, colonies and at Sinnawattai and removing timber, rafters, tiles and such other

building materials to put up camps for Sinhalese. These houses were originally constructed by the Gal Oya Development Board as colonists' cottages. The army has also cut down several coconut trees to construct sentry points for themselves.

Tamil houses are thus being devastated after the occupants thereof have been terrorized to leave their homes. The Tamil owners of the houses are living as refugees elsewhere.

Arrested Students Shot Dead

Reports received from Batticaloa state that three of the five students arrested by the Sinhala Army at Valaichenai, have been shot dead and nothing is known of the other two.

It is learnt that on 18th May, 1991 five students all from the village of Vakara in the Batticaloa District, left for the Government hospital at Valaichenai.

At about 9.00 a.m. on the same day these students were arrested at Valaichenai. Of the five arrested, three have been shot dead after being blindfolded. The dead students have been identified as Ramesh (22) Nemathan (19) and Navaneethan (17). Nothing is known of the other two whose identities also have not been established.

Cricket...

(Continuation of Page 5)

13 teams took part in the contest and this is the first time Shabra became winners in the Tournament. Shabra beat Jolly Stars and the Johnians edged Centralites by just 4 runs in the Semi-finals.

— R. Vijayakumar

International Community must not impose on a people a forced marriage

"The Sri Lanka situation has shown that for the past forty years, the Sinhala controlled government has been unwilling and unable to promote and protect the human rights of the Tamil population, and the Tamil population has accordingly lost all confidence in any present or future willingness or ability of the Sinhala majority to do so. Are people in this situation required to settle for less than their full rights? Can the international community impose on a people a forced marriage they no longer want and in which they can clearly demonstrate they have been abused? We conclude that in order for the human rights of the Tamil people and others in a similar situation to be realised, the international community must invoke the principle of self determination as it arises from persistent non fulfilment of the rights of minorities who have been subsumed into large states."

Human Rights Lawyer Karen Parker at 42nd Sessions of the UN Sub Commission on Protection of Minorities, August, 1990 - Quoted by Courtesy TAMIL NATION, LONDON.

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