

HOT SPRING

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British MPs Corroborate

"We can say without doubt that the government is driving the Tamils from their homes and does intend to settle Sinhalese People in these areas"

Robert Kilroy Silk, M.P. &
Roger Sims, M.P.

Members of a UK Parliamentary Human Rights Group after the Group visited Sri Lanka in 1985

MSF REJECTS

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION REPORT

"Eye-wash, unjust, unacceptable and one-sided"-
says co-ordinator.

The French NGO, MSF, which was undertaking humanitarian services in the North-East, has expressed its dissatisfaction with the findings of the one-man Commission appointed by the Government of Sri Lanka to inquire into and report on the incident that took place on May 3rd, 1991 at Vavuniya, when Sri Lankan Air Force planes attacked a MSF vehicle. Apart from the damage caused to the vehicle four of the persons who were travelling in the vehicle sustained injuries.

The incident caused a furor and the government appointed a Commission to inquire into the incident and furnish a re-

port. The One-man Commission consisted of a retired Supreme Court judge, Mr. de Alwis. The commission report has been published and according to reports the MSF is highly disappointed with the findings of the commission. It is understood that the commission has found the aerial attack undertaken by the Air Force at Vavuniya to be "a mistake committed in good faith".

The MSF, it is reported, has expressed its shock at the report. It is reported that the MSF has characterised the report as one-sided, unjust and unacceptable. The co-ordinator of the MSF at Colombo said that the services of

a judge has been obtained to do the work of eye-washing of the government and that the MSF has expressed its dissatisfaction with the report to the government.

The co-ordinator has further said that even after the MSF had adhered to the rules and regulations made by the government, the Air Force had carried out an attack on MSF. "We cannot therefore, have any faith in the armed forces of the government. About forty doctors attached to the MSF will be leaving Sri Lanka", the Co-ordinator is further reported to have said.

Who are a People? Un Defines

Certain elements have been taken into consideration by the United Nations to decide whether an entity constitutes a people fit to enjoy and exercise the right of self-determination.

1. The term "people" denotes a social entity possessing a clear identity and its own characteristics:
2. It implies a relationship with a territory, even if the people in question has been wrongfully expelled from it and replaced by another population;
3. A people should not be confused with ethnic religious or linguistic minorities.

Popular Demonstrations in various parts of Jaffna

The Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts witnessed the upsurge of popular discontent and resentment with the activities of the government, when people in these areas took out mass demonstrators. The demonstrators went out in procession through various streets and finally handed over memoranda to the relevant government authorities

in the respective areas and finally ended the proceedings with meetings at which the demonstrators denounced the government and demanded immediate relief.

The first of the popular demonstrations took place at Kilinochchi, May 17th, 1991 when students and the public went out in procession denouncing the action of the

government in bombing schools. It will be recalled that on May 3rd, 1991 a school at Kilinochchi was bombed which resulted in the death of a student and a young mother and child living in the compound adjoining the school.

At the end of the procession a memorandum was handed over to the Government Agent Kilinochchi and to the local

official of the Red Cross by the demonstrators.

As the demonstrators went through the streets, a Sri Lankan Air Force bomber was seen making surveillance flights over the heads of demonstrators.

TEACHER TRAINEES

A similar demonstration was taken out by the teacher trainees attached to the Training Colleges in Jaffna on June, 18th, 1991. A procession was taken out from the Palaly Training College at Tirunelveli. A large number of teacher trainees participated in the demonstration

which went through the principal streets before it reached the offices of the Regional Director of Education and the Government Agent, Jaffna and also the office of the ICRC team at Jaffna. The demonstrators handed over memoranda to the Regional Director of Education the Government Agent and the ICRC officials. The demonstrators demanded the release of teachers taken into custody at Karainagar and Vankalai and condemned the carnage at Kokatticholai. The demonstrators ended their demonstration

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SOME PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT THE DEMONSTRATION HELD BY THE PUBLIC AND STUDENTS OF VALIKAMAM AND ISLANDS DIVISION. THE DEMONSTRATORS ARE SEEN MARCHING THROUGH THE STREETS OF JAFFNA. Picture - courtesy - EELA NADU.

Desultory Ramblings of Vadali Velan

It was with concerned dismay that I came away from a gathering of our village elders, discussing the recent Indian hustings and their probable aftermath in the backdrop of that land's present political scenario. Among my thoughts was a consideration for the embarrassing likely to be caused to our many compatriots in their complacent sojourn in that country, which was a outcome of an exodus contrived, in the first place, for winning a respite from the inconvenience of getting involved in the freedom-struggle of their own land of Tamil Eelam. Whatever it be, we would like to have them back in the fold, promptly, before they find themselves incarcerated in the Island government's refugee camps and smothered with Buddhist "Loving kindness and Compassion" a'la Sinhala fashion, so brazenly and pathetically expounded by the pious and holy Wijetunge for the benefit of those of the Paris Aid Consortium, in recent times.

Now, what on earth is transpiring in that great land which gave birth to such apostles of peace as the Maha-

thma and the Lord Buddha, amongst others? Pondering this enigma, the aforesaid wise men of our village are yet striving to peer into what the future portends for our Tamil Eelam nation and how it would touch our separate individual lives in the village. The possible reasons why an ancient and thoroughly civilized land, the world's greatest "democracy" should behave in a capricious and ungracious manner with itself and towards other nations were discussed, mooted and conclusions drawn. It was also, overwhelmingly, opined that India, in so much as she had insinuated herself into the act of, and had become the 'chef extraordinary' in, cooking up and serving out the infamous Accord, she should have annulled this aborted agreement a long time ago in keeping with sane, honourable and humane principles: but, on the contrary, that, India was even now content to be privy to every murder and mayhem that was continuing to be perpetrated daily against the people of Tamil Eelam by her junior partner to the Accord, unabated to this day.

Toddlers' Song in the Land of Eelam

*Tiger Tiger come to me,
My friends and I will join thee.
Train us in the use of gun.
We will take it as much fun.*

*We will leave our parents dear,
We will carry the guns with cheer!
We will meet the foe in the field,
Our weapons we will deftly wield.
Tiger Tiger come to me,
My friends and I will join thee.*

*Our Land of Eelam we will have,
Language, culture all we have.
Our identity will we have,
The right to rule us no-others will have.
Tiger Tiger come to me,
My friends and I will join thee.*

*We will drive the enemy out,
We will make him cry and shout.
Let him go and rule his race,
Good, if he can save his face.
Tiger Tiger come to me,
My friends and I will join thee.*

*We shall not get cheated hence,
Nor get bought for Pounds or Pence.
Let the lessons of yester years,
Open our eyes as well as ears.
Tiger Tiger come to me,
My friends and I will join thee.*

*We do remember the painful past,
How they cut and killed us fast;
Their cruelty can never long last;
They shall know of what we are cast!
Tiger Tiger come to me,
My friends and I will join thee.*

— Ram —

In the midst of the village powwow our absent-minded philosophical wit, known for his apt and telling aphorisms and is often afflicted with bouts of deep thinking even whilst walking about in the pouring rain with a neatly rolled up umbrella under his arm, was heard to mutter, "the child is the father of man, you bet", repeatedly.

Further elucidation served only to cast aspersions on the juvenile Indian and to make pointed reference to how his childhood idiosyncrasies, more often than not, caught up with him in his manhood; also that over population resulted in intense competition amongst youngsters, bereft of adequate parental care. Hence, that they grew up into individuals of a complex and puzzling character, defying predictable norms of behaviour and that we should not be surprised at the Indian politician's predilection for 'pinching the child even whilst rocking its cradle' or for 'chasing with the hounds and fleeing with the hare.'

This insidious temperament and competitiveness creeps into his very political spirit and behaviour to the exclusion of all that is noble, honourable and just. Even when expediency prompts the forging of unity amongst the populace all efforts in this direction fare no better than the attempts of a pump chasing after its own tail. A total erosion of credibility and a sickening inability to distinguish friend from foe lead to factionalism and make even a well-placed government party suddenly falter in its tracks and collapse in an untidy heap. Carefully orchestrated emotional and sentimental factors, and not much common sense, dominate the mood at this great "democracy's" hustings and the people have second thoughts, when they turn sobre, long after. Ever since India became an independent nation successive governments [have been ostentatiously secular in outlook. However, will she persist in being an enigma in her support of the outrageously anti-secular Sinhala-Buddhist suppression of the aspirations of the Tamil Eelam people?

Another of our elders, a somewhat religious individual, who breaks into paens of praise ("thevarams") to the Lord at the slightest provocation, has it that the law of cause and effect is immutably applicable to all without exception and irrespective of one's station in life, whether it be that of an exalted personage larger than life or that of an impecunious mendicant leading a forlorn existence. Any mischief done is bound to rebound on the originator; and we are witness-

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THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

Who is the Murderer?

A few years back a local business magnate of sorts called Upali Wijewardene vanished mysteriously along with his entire entourage of eleven people, whilst on a private flight in his private plane, from Singapore to Colombo.

At that time of this mysterious incident, various theories were put forward by the rumour mongering masses and it must be stressed, that this island and its peoples have a natural flair for rumour mongering. One theory was that this business magnate of sorts was up to his neck in debt and had committed suicide unable to meet his financial commitments and made the suicide look like a genuine air crash.

Yet another theory which persists to this day, was that THE BOSS was responsible for the air crash and this charge is repeated loudly throughout the length and breadth of this island even to this day.

There was another murder and a gruesome one at that which involved a journalist.

This unfortunate but enterprising journalist was brutally hacked to death in the centre of Colombo by a gang of murderous scum and the murder remains unsolved to this day whilst the masses keep loudly proclaiming that this murder too was done by THE BOSS.

The other murder in this fashion was that of Richard De Soysa the top TV and Radio personality who was picked up in the middle of the night from his own home in full view of his mother, shot in the Head and dumped in the sea; This murder too remains unsolved to this day whilst the masses keep loudly proclaiming that this too was the work of THE BOSS.

The last in the line of such individual murders was that of the late unlamented Ranjan Wijeratne, who was blown to smithereens in a bomb explosion on the 2 March and which murder too remains unsolved, whilst the masses keep proclaiming loudly

that this too was the work of THE BOSS. Here it must be mentioned that the late unlamented Ranjan Wijeratne did refer to the murder of Richard De Soysa as an insignificant event over which the Mothers Front was making a big to do.

Is it not time for the law enforcement agencies of this country to look into these murders and more importantly to track down mysterious THE BOSS whoever it may be so that this island would be rid of all such evil murders in the future.

INTER RELIGIOUS PRAYERS

It would be interesting to know as to who was the hypocritical humbug that was responsible for organising the so called Religions Prayer on the 12 April, so that there may be peace and unity in this island. Was it the Buddhist hierarchy or Hindu or Islam or Christian that were responsible for this farce.

These religious dignitaries should be fully aware that they are making a laughing stock of themselves and their respective religions by indulging in such anti-religious bunkum. Do they not know it is the politicians who have held the reins since 1956 that are solely and entirely responsible for the murder and torture that has been taking place in this country.

Whilst I am not over concerned about the Buddhist clergy and the Islamic Mullahs who have been closely associated with the politicians since 1956 I would like to ask the Hindu Kurukals and the Christian Bishops as to whether they are not aware that a Hindu priest was roasted alive in a disused pit in Panadura in 1958 and a Catholic priest murdered in Mannar in 1986 whilst a Catholic Bishop was given a brutal thrashing recently. Do not the Hindu and Christian dignitaries know that their places of worship have been bombed out flat by the government's armed forces. Surely there must be a bloody limit even to hypocrisy.

Yugoslavia in Turmoil

The fissiparous tendencies inherent in the Yugoslav federation have surfaced openly and vehemently and have the potential of plunging the country into a civil war.

Tito's Personality

Yugoslavia was formed in 1918, incorporating Serbia with territories formerly under Austrian or Hungarian rule. The Federal Republic is a mosaic of different nationalities consisting of six republics - Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Hercegovina, Slovenia, Montenegro and Macedonia. Along with Albania, Yugoslavia was not dependent on the Soviet Union for its liberation from the Nazis after the Second world war. The anti-fascist struggle of Josip Broz Tito and the League of Yugoslav Communists gave Yugoslav independence and politics a character of its own. The split with the then monolithic socialist bloc in 1948, the close identification with the newly-emerging independent countries in the Third World and its own version of watered-down socialism were evidence of this. Tito's personality was an important factor in meeting the challenges of ethnicity and religious diversity.

Historically-rooted Conflicts.

The ideology of Titoism was geared to maintaining national unity at all costs. He encouraged decentralisation with his concept of a decentralised management system. But in the 1970s the Yugoslav road to socialism faltered, setting into play the centrifugal forces of nationalism. The mounting external debt, coupled with double digit inflation at the time of Tito's demise in 1980, did not augur well for the future. The collective leadership which exercised power at the central level has been waging an uphill struggle since then to maintain its tenuous hold on Yugoslav unity. The uneven development of the various republics has exacerbated the historically-rooted conflicts with religious and ethnic overtones.

The first serious sign of ethnic discord after Tito's departure from the scene was in Kosovo, where the predominantly Albanian majority took to the streets in 1981 and 1982 to voice their demand for greater autonomy. Kosovo, then an autonomous region, is the historical heartland of the Serb people but owing to the

long Ottoman rule had been depopulated. During the three centuries of Ottoman rule non-Islamic sections in the Balkans took refuge in the mountains and the hilly regions while the Ottoman governors exercised control over the plains. The scars left by the long Turkish rule and the two world wars did not heal even after three decades of socialism.

Federalism or still looser frame or secession

Since then other Yugoslav republics have demanded greater autonomy from Belgrade with an option to secede. The main rivalry today is between Serbia on one side and Croatia and Slovenia on the other. Serbia, under the leadership of the popular Slobodan Milosevic since 1986, wants Yugoslavia to continue as a federation but the other two which have elected anti-Communist parties to power have threatened to secede unless it becomes a looser framework which will make the central government all but redundant. The fact that four out of the six republics have opted for non-socialist governments has made co-existence even more difficult. The Croat and Slovene leaders have demanded that Yugoslavia should be organised on the lines of the European Community. Bosnia, Hercegovina and Macedonia are siding with Slovenia and Croatia. Serbia has the support of Montenegro and if the much-predicted break-up of Yugoslavia does take place, then Milosevic has the option of presiding over a truncated Yugoslavia consisting of Serbia, Montenegro and the two autonomous regions of Kosovo and Vojvodina.

In December 1990, Milosevic and his Socialist Party won an overwhelming victory in both the presidential and the parliamentary elections in Serbia. His popularity among Serbs, according to observers, is mainly due to his tough handling of the ethnic unrest in Kosovo and his image as a nationalist fighting to preserve the fragile unity of the Yugoslav nation. The reintegration of the autonomous provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina into Serbia after nationalist demonstrations spearheaded by the Serbian Socialist Party in 1988 has also added to Milosevic's appeal. But in recent months his position has been undermined by the economy's downside and growing student

unrest which manifested itself on the streets of Belgrade in the first week of March. The deployment of tanks to control the crowd was indicative of the tough initial stance of the Milosevic Government. But the widespread adverse publicity the incident triggered seems to have had an impact.

Some of the major demands of the demonstrators, including the sacking of key media personnel close to the Serbian Government, have been met. At the same time Milosevic has warned that the trouble in Belgrade was a plot to destroy Serbia and to pit Serbs against one another. He said, "The enemies of Serbia want to bring a puppet regime into power. They want to take Serbia back to the status of a vassal state." The ruling Serbian Socialist Party and the media it controls have been saying there is a conspiracy by the United States and certain western European states to destroy Serbia.

The Army

With four of the federating states firmly in the hands of pro-western parties and the main Opposition Parties in Serbia, the Serbian Renewal Party and the Democratic Party, with strong rightwing inclinations though they fared badly in the December 1990 elections the use of the army in the current unrest by the socialists has come as a shot in the arm for them.

The Opposition has asked students and workers to call off their demonstrations as the situation threatens to snowball into a major crisis. The main focus of the Opposition attack was on the Serbian Socialist party and the armed forces which is perceived by many as the guarantor of Yugoslav sovereignty and unity. The army may be the only force capable of stopping secessionist forces gathering momentum in all the six republics.

The army, the top leadership of which is still avowedly Communist and is representative of all the regions has identified itself with Milosevic in his conflict with the other four republics. It now seems to be on the verge of stepping in openly in a last-ditch effort to keep the country united politically. In the wake of the recent happenings in Belgrade and other Yugoslav cities, the army leadership has proposed to the presidency that stricter

measures be implemented to manage the political and economic crisis. The Governments in Slovenia and Croatia have been predicting an army crackdown for quite some time now and have formed their own militias as a counterweight to the federal army. President Borisav Jovic recently said federal agencies were not able to function and security was seriously hampered in many parts of the country. The fear that Yugoslavia was moving closer to a state of emergency may have prompted the Opposition to call off the demonstrations in Belgrade. The use of the army to quell the unrest on March 9 was seen as an indication of things to come.

The political gains by the Serbian Opposition were offset by quick countermoves by Milosevic. He persuaded his close ally and fellow Serbian, Jovic, to resign as Federal President. Two other supporters of Milosevic in the Federal presidency from Vojvodina and Montenegro followed suit. According to Milosevic, the Yugoslav presidency "has ceased to exist." The collective presidency of the Republic is now a shambles leaving only the army as the only truly national institution. Deepening the crisis, Knin, the Croatian town dominated by Serbs, seceded to Serbia.

Redrawing of Boundaries Could be unavoidable.

To prevent Milosevic and the army from stepping into the void created by the sudden redundancy of the Federal presidency, the Opposition in Serbia and the governments in the four republics oppo-

sed to Milosevic and the army stepped up pressure for resignation of Milosevic. Opposition leaders also warned that army intervention would lead to secession. Slovenia and Croatia started mobilising their paramilitary forces numbering about 34,000. If it comes to civil war then they will be no match for the 1,38,000-strong national army. It is reported that the overwhelming majority of the officer corps belongs to the newly formed Communist League - the movement for Yugoslavia. The army as an institution is extremely averse to seeing the break-up of Yugoslavia. More than 30 percent of the country's budget is kept aside for the army. The refusal of Slovenia and Croatia to make their contribution to the army budget in the last few months also upset the army top brass. The majority vote of the Yugoslav presidency against the army's request for the imposition of emergency after the recent unrest further alienated the army from the rebellious republics.

The votaries of Yugoslav unity now seem to exist mainly in the army and the Serbian Socialist Party. Repressive measures, many observers feel, will only postpone the inevitable. Fissiparous tendencies have enveloped the entire Balkan and Baltic region with the collapse of socialism. The breaking up of states and a redrawing of artificial borders could be the unavoidable endgame making the Balkans once again a flashpoint of international intrigue.

Courtesy - Frontline -
March April Issue

Villages robbed by administrative fiat - Villagers harassed out by Army

Certain areas in Sinnawattai 13th, 14th, colonics, Palonyadiveddai, Kaakacholiveddai and 35th colony which were with the administrative district of Batticaloa were excised from the Batticaloa District and transferred to Amparai District recently.

After the transfer of these areas to the Amparai District, the Sinhala army is engaged in a diabolical attempt to drive the villagers out of their homes. This is a calculated attempt to accomplish genocide of Tamils in two ways. One way is by reducing the land areas of Tamil Districts where the Sinhalese cannot lay any false claim as in Batticaloa and annexing such land areas to 'mixed areas', as the government

prefers to call Amparai District. The other is to drive out the Tamils from the Amparai District and ensure that an enlarged Amparai District is ultimately carved out without Tamil population.

Reports from Batticaloa indicate that these areas are often subjected to 'cordon off and search operations' meant really to harass and drive people away. Often firing is resorted to and the indigenous Tamil population is slowly moving out of these villages because of the harassment and terrorization indulged in by the Army. Some two months back in March even helicopter gunships were used to make random firing in these areas with a view to terrorize the population.

PIRABAKARAN'S HOLD ON TAMIL NADU

INDEPENDENT OF PERSONALITIES

'Captain Pirabakaran' is ready for release. It has been timed for the elections in June for the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and the Indian Parliament. Vijayakanth, an ardent fan of the Tiger leader and one of the top box office stars of Tamil filmdom's formula movies, has expressed hope that his role in Captain 'Pirabakaran' would bring him respect. Last year he named his son after his real life idol. Vijayakanth is an actor of the D. M. K. camp. A cherished goal in the life, he has said in a recent interview, is to meet Pirabakaran.

T. Rajendar, is a big time producer, actor, director, distributor script writer etc. with several box office hits to his credit and a propensity for not to pleasant alternative baranques, Rajendar also belonged to the D.M.K. once. He was sacked from the party in 1989 for publicly opposing and criticising Karunanidhi's leadership and revealing details of the corrupt practices of the D.M.K. leader's son M. K. Stalin. Later Rajendar founded a party called Thayaha Marumalarchi Kazhaham - party for renaissance of the homeland. Last year he was one of the main organizers of the meeting in Madras to mark Prabhakaran's birthday on November 26. Now he is said to have formed umbrella organization called Tamil United Front. This Organization will call upon Delhi to give assistance to the LTTE to set up Thamilcelam and to recognize them as a legitimate liberation organization like the PLO.

Dr. M. S. Uthayamoorthy is a prolific writer and one of Tamilnadu's most influential opinion makers. He wrote an article in a weekly with a very large circulation in the state that the 'soft McCarthyism' which is being practised in Tamilnadu to suppress opinion in favour of the Tiger cause should be done away with. He is one who has regularly criticised the D. M. K. government. He says "some prominent persons and papers are today reluctant to talk or write about the problem of the Sri Lankan Tamils... If there were talk of Eelam there are cries that it is a plan to separate Tamilnadu as independant country. Once there was a senator called McCarthy in America. He used this (anti communism) to brand even people whom he did not like as commu-

nists. Many reasonable and innocent government officials were removed from their jobs as a result. Those who criticised him were accused of being communists and he ruined their lives... we must not allow McCarthyism in Tamilnadu.

The intelligent Tamil people must understand the truth of the Sri Lankan problem. Who are the perpetrators of this lenient McCarthyism in Tamilnadu? They are those who wanted to remove the D. M. K. from power. I am sad that the Sri Lankan Tamil problem was made the scape goat for dismissing the D. M. K. Didn't they have the Sarkaria commission and thousand and other reasons to do so?

Did the D. M. K. give an uncorrupt, clean government? Did they work with foresight? (goes on to describe corruption and abuse of power under D. M. K. rule). In other countries they would have taken up such reasons to remove a state government. If one cannot rule with responsibility we can look to another.

But it is deplorable that rather than follow such a course of action McCarthyist methods were used and the problem of the Sri Lankan Tamils fell victim. The Sri Lankan Tamils have been fighting for their basic rights against an authoritarian regime for many years. They lost their homes, lost their kith and kin and shed blood in their struggle. We must respect their courage and determination.

Some politicians speak as though Prabhakaran should conduct himself as a blameless saint when it comes to waging war. They forget that in war even Ram had to kill Vali by perfidy... Indira Gandhi who created Bangladesh as a separate nation helped the Sri Lankan Tamils to run training camps here because she understood the validity of the reasons for the Sri Lankan Tamil problem. This is why Rajiv Gandhi took the step to send in the air force to drop food although it was a violation of a neighbouring country's sovereignty.

Can we continue to ignore everything that the Indian government has done? The Sri Lankan should be enabled to get their legitimate rights. If those are not granted, assistance should be given for setting Eelam. Some would say that if Eelam is

created then Tamilnadu would also separate, it will be a threat to India.

This is an insidious cry that seeks to cover the truth.

Dr. M. S. Uthayamoorthy is a pan-Indian nationalist who does not share the views of the Dravidian movement.

'Gnani' is a leading intellectual of Tamilnadu avant grade. He belonged to the elite circle of Tamil literary magazines which discuss matter-ranging from post-structuralism forgotten forms folk theatre spart from producing some story writers, novelists and poets. The 'Ananda Vikatan' Tamilnadu's oldest and most popular magazine invited him to comment on the political trends "Tamilnadu in the 80s" for its first week's issue for 1991. What he wrote astonished many and was promptly dismissed by some more, I suspect out of fear of the consequences of acknowledging

at least some aspects of Gnani's views.

The basic trends in the politics of Tamilnadu in the eighties, he argued, were set in motion by the direct and indirect influence of two people, M. G. R. and Prabhakaran. The duplicity of Delhi's attitudes towards the Sri Lankan problem had dissillusioned many youth in the state and coupled with the opportunism of Tamilnadu's politicians is leading them away from the traditional interests of the

term and useful ideological investment in Tamilnadu: more effective and stable than the patronage of an M.G.R. or a Rajiv. These dividends will gradually place Prabhakaran at the critical interstice where a potential tension may develop between the covert desire in the west to see fissures to the Tamil South of the Indian Union and Delhi's determination, however muddle headed or counter productive in its manifestations, to hold it to-

The Island Sunday Edition Columnist **TARAKI** Writes

established political parties, he avers. In conclusion he wrote that many leading politicians of Tamil Nadu today may fade away towards the end of this century as a result of the impact Prabhakaran and M. G. R. made on Tamilian politics.

The opinions and convictions of Vijayakanth, T. Rajendar, Dr. M. S. Uthayamoorthy and 'Gnani' are the dividends of the LTTE's long

gether. And then Colombo will lose its significance in the LTTE's scheme of things. Prabhakaran's stature, potentially real, in Tamilnadu will present Delhi with two options: Terminate him or win him over to their side. When they calculate the ideological and material cost of the former they will be impelled sooner or later to try the latter.

Island 14th April 1991.

World Environment Day - Celebration

The World Environment Day which fell on 5th June, 1991, was celebrated at Chundikuli Girls' College.

The occasion was altogether a practical demonstration on Environment Pollution, how to exploit to one's advantage and live in it.

The Pageant, Procession, Fancy Dress, the very smart turn-out of the Girls Band a bevy of Girls on the 'light fantastic toe' (oriental style) presented a spectacle of colour.

There were five Groups, each representing an aspect of pollution and the public address system introduced each group with comments which were self-explanatory to both audience and spectators alike.

The Celebration was inaugurated with the hoisting of the UN and School Flags. The procession and pageant

was followed by Tree Planting. In the School Hall which was packed to capacity, the Vice Principal gave the Welcome Address elaborating on the Aims of the Celebration and its relation to students and women alike.

The Guest speakers were-

1. Dr. K. Kanagarajah - "Advantages of Tree Planting"
2. Dr. B. Sivakadacham - "Natural Ways of protecting environment"
3. Prof. P. Balasundarampillai - "Physical Protecting environment"
4. Mrs. Sivachandran - "Role of Women in protection of environment"

Miss J. Jeyaratnam proposed the vote of thanks The Message of the Executive, Director, UNEP Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba was delivered by Dileeni Spencer.

The United Nations Jaffna Unit presented Medals of

Recognition and Merit to the following:-

1. Mr. K. Kanagarajah, J.P. the philanthropist of Milk White fame
2. 'Puthiya Uthayan' for their Propaganda on Environment Protection
3. Mr. L. Gengatharan for work in the field of Handicrafts and handwork using local materials.

Prizes were given to the Winners of the Competition organised under the auspices of the United Nations Association Jaffna Unit for Debate, Quiz, Dance, Fancy Dress, Tamil Elocution and Art. All praise must go to the organisers of this Celebration which was a great success and the live-wire of the show-piece, Dr. Nagules Kathirgamanathan. The curtain on the Celebration was rung down with an Exhibition.

Mrs. Devanayagam

Mr. BUSH DOES IT WELL - LET HIM CONTINUE

Reports have it that president Bush has informed Israel that the US would not provide aid to Israel to resettle Soviet Jews, if Israel continued with its programme of colonising Israel occupied Palestinian territories with Jewish settlements Mr. Bush has demanded that Israel should give up its colonization programme.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Shamir while expressing shock over the American President's announcement, has said that he could not even visualize denial of American aid to Israel, has exposed the Israeli weakness.

It is well that Mr. Bush has at last thought it fit to stop the annihilation of the

Palestinians at the hands of the Israelis. But will Mr. Bush and leaders of other aid-giving countries including Japan who also generally follow the American way, think of what is happening in this Island too?

State aided colonization of the Tamil territory in this

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Stop the War Against Tamil People

Jaffna Citizens' Committee Appeal to President

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee has expressed its anguish and disillusionment over the relentless destruction of the Tamil speaking people and their properties and the failure of the government to bring peace and freedom to the Tamil-speaking people in a letter to President Premadasa. The latter states as follows:

The Citizens' Committee expresses its anguish and disillusionment over the utter disregard to its 10 months' long appeals to your Excellency, to discontinue the relentless destruction of the Tamil-speaking people, their lives and property, and explore all avenues for a permanent and peaceful solution to the ethnic problem. Your Excellency had recently expressed the same sentiment on a number of occasions. But on the contrary, the military operations have been intensified and extended far and wide in the Northeast causing chaos, confusion and apprehension among the people. The war purported to be against LTTE is in reality moving towards the disintegration and ultimate annihilation of the Tamil-speaking people. It only exposes the utter irresponsibility and apathy of the Government and its disregard of all human rights.

Recently, simultaneously air-raids, long-range Artillery shelling, Helicopter Strafings were launched at Karainagar, Kayts and Vavuniya,

In Karainagar there were, in addition, continuous Shellings from Gun Boats. About 80 000 civilians fled from Karainagar, Kayts and adjoining places and sought refuge in Jaffna adding to the problems of finding accommodation, providing food and sanitary facilities. Indiscriminate air-raids had destroyed hundreds of houses and business houses, damaged public places of worship, schools, Office-buildings and public buildings in Vavuniya, Omantai and adjoining villages and also in Karainagar. Figures relating to these have not been obtained as yet owing to the curfew in force in Vavuniya.

A large number of old, disabled and sickly people in Karainagar, Kayts, Naranthana, Suruvil, Puliyanakoodal Velanai and also in Thaiyidi in the Kankesanthurai areas could not flee their homes when the army marched in. They remain cut off from all communications with the outside world and have no contacts for supply of food, medicines and other essential

requirements. Their plight and conditions of life are unknown as yet. The entire populations of Bluvaitheevu, Analaitivu, Delft and Paruthu Theevu are marooned and there are no means of sending them supplies of food and medicines.

The worst affliction since the recent intensification and escalation of the war is the collapse of even the minimum supplies of food measured out to the displaced persons and others. There are long delays in the arrival of ships bringing food supplies. Even on the arrival of ships indiscriminate impositions of curfew, hold up the unloading of food supplies. It is a matter for regret that unloading of food supplies from ships are debarred during the curfew time while examination is allowed to be held and offices to function. These unfortunate factors are exposing the displaced persons and the entire population to imminent starvation. The displaced persons get only three weeks dry ration a month, those with incomes less than Rs. 1500/- a month get two weeks rations while the remaining population do not get even one week's rations.

The Non - Governmental Humanitarian Organisations appear to be helpless in the matter. But on the contrary,

all displaced persons in Anuradhapura, Pollanaruwa and Puttalam are not only provided with regular rations every week but additional supplies are made by the Sri Lanka Red-Cross Society.

This distressing situation has been further aggravated by indefinite curfew imposed in the Vavuniya region and the holding up of a large number of lorries loaded with essential consumer goods by the Security Forces. During these hold-ups some lorries have been irreparably damaged by rocket firing from Helicopters. In some instances lorries were relieved of the goods and taken over by the Security Forces for their purposes. The disastrous consequences of these irresponsible measures have deprived the people of the North of almost every article essential for day-to-day living. Kerosene oil, Sugar, Wheat Flour, Soaps, coconut oil, infant milk food, are not available even in the black markets. It has seriously affected the thin supplies of medicines reaching the Jaffna General Teaching Hospital, R.D.H.S. Jaffna and private pharmacies. Owing to this situation a large number of urgent surgical operations are held up in the Jaffna Hospital.

The above matters depict the ever-deteriorating conditions of life imposed on

the Tamil-speaking people since the present war was launched on 11th June 1990.

The following figures are indicative of the disintegrating impact of the war:

Displaced person 1,000,000.
Destitutes 1,100,000. Refugees in other countries 150,000.
Deaths and Missing persons 8,000. Held in area under occupation by Security forces 3,000. Injured and disabled 10,000. Houses destroyed and damaged 75,000. Public places of worship damaged 450. Schools Colleges damaged 400. Shops, houses of business damaged 25,000. Some recent figures are not available.

We have as a matter of solemn duty and impelling necessity kept your Excellency informed week after week, of the havoc wrought by the present war, in order to emphasise the paramount importance of an early settlement of the issues involved in the present conflict. The present conflict and crisis are the culmination of the discriminatory policy pursued against the Tamil-speaking people since the time of independence, and it has well-nigh ruined the reputation and economic development of the country.

We would, therefore, appeal to Your Excellency as we have been doing always, to initiate immediate measures to bring peace and freedom to the Tamil speaking people and to the country as a whole in keeping with its lofty ideals.

Desultory...

(Continuation of Page 2)

ing India, today, in the throes of such a re-bound. Especially, leaders who hold the destiny of innumerable human beings in their hands have to behave with a grave sense of responsibility and circumspection. Villages have been allowed to be burnt to cinders because those inhabiting them belong to the 'wrong' caste. No adequate interim relief measures were meted out to those of the Bhopal tragedy, whilst the pertinent legal battle for compensation continued to out strip the very life durations of the lingering and needy victims, probably, because they are Muslims predominantly. There shall be a tit for tat, sometime or other.

India also seems to have an amusing way of paying lip-service to the commemoration of their own freedom struggles of yester-years,

when they resort, to dragging forth aged citizens in their dotage and said to have survived imprisonment under colonial masters and exposing them, on selected occasions, to mass media for formal adulation as ex-freedom fighters. These oldsters, would have, anyway forgotten what they had fought for, whilst the average Indian politician of today, probably, does not understand what this is all about, judging from the sour look he is wont to bestow on the freedom fighter of another land and hue, and of present times. It would be in the best interests of humanity for those in power not to err, either in commission or omission, against the aspirations of a people. The evil done is certain to come home to roost, as is evident in the world's history even today, with many a scheming political autocrat receiving his just desserts often through being hoist with his own petard.

Mr. Bush...

(Continuation of Page 4)

Island with Sinhalese people started off in a subtle way even before Independence and was continued most systematically despite opposition from the Tamils. The process of colonization has been so accelerated in the post-Independence era, that large tracts of Tamil Territory have been converted into Sinhala territory and the Tamils are being reduced to a minority in their own homelands. Like the Palestinian Arabs, Eelam Tamils are fast losing their homeland as a result of artificial settlement of alien Sinhalese people in their midst with calculated intention of converting the Eelam Tamils into a "minority" which they were never in this Island.

It is time that America which has now won the leadership of the world, addressed its mind to what is happening in this Island and inform the neo-Sinhala colonialists that

COMMUNITY CENTRE NAMED AFTER LTTE FIGHTER

The Paththamenni, Atchuvally, Community Centre was named after an LTTE fighter, Major Albert, who died in combat. Major Albert hailed from the village.

The formal ceremony connected with the naming of the Centre was held on June, 2nd, 1991 at a public meeting presided over by the president of the Centre, Mr. S. Daniel.

The plaque was unveiled by Mr. Pipe, a member of the LTTE. Several persons including Mr. Soosai, Paapa, Nagules Mama, Ravi and poet M. Vanchinathan of the LTTE, spoke. Mr. Rajan,

it cannot continue to give aid to the Sinhalese to build a new Baudha - Sinhala imperialism trampling Tamil Eelam and its people out of existence.

the Jaffna District Political Organizer of the LTTE was also present. Mr. Nirmalan Kumar, Secretary of the Centre, proposed the Vote of Thanks.

J. Kingley Romesh

Arrested in Official Quarters

Sivagnanam Satkunanathan aged 39, a married officer, was arrested from the Telecommunication Department quarters at Batticaloa on 24th April, 1991 by the Sinhala Army and a Tamil gang working with the Army.

Satkunanathan's dead body was found inside a gunny bag with his neck cut on the 27th of April near the Selvanagar Road junction at Batticaloa

There was a paper exhibited by the body claiming that the "Black Cobras" had carried out the killing.

HOT SPRING

VOL: 1 SUNDAY 23rd. JUNE 1991 ISSUE 37

NO COMMENT

Apropos the lead news in this issue, we re-publish our editorial of the 12th May, 1991 without further comment

A Warning to International Community

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Delaying Tactics of Government Cannot defeat LTTE Determination

"If Premadasa's Government continues to adopt the time-consuming - delaying tactics on the Tamil issue, then in the future the Sri Lankan government will not be able to have any more talks with the LTTE but will be compelled to conduct talks with the Tamil State". This is the remark made by the LTTE leader, Mr. V. Pirabakaran to the political advisor of the LTTE, when the latter told his leader of the delaying tactics indulged in by Premadasa on the Tamil question, according to Dr. Anton Balasingam.

Dr. Anton Balasingam, the Political Advisor to the LTTE, himself told this to his audience, when he addressed the final sessions of the Tamil Festival held at the Jaffna Esplanade on June 16th, 1991. He was explaining to the people the prevailing politico-military situation.

"Militarily, at present the LTTE has gained a strong

position. Therefore, the Sri Lanka government is making all efforts to tilt the balance to its advantage. It hopes to hold talks after extending the boundaries by conducting further attacks. But we have made the government realize one thing and that is, that we are willing to engage in talks provided the government is prepared to initiate them without laying down any pre-conditions. But this time we are not willing to hold talks in Colombo. Either the talks must be held in Jaffna or else in a foreign country. This we have made it clear to the Government.

If the government is hoping to start the talks after having achieved militarily a strong position by committing aggression of our territories and killing further innocent civilians, we have emphasized our unwillingness to participate.

The opinion in the Sinhala country appears to be divided. One section insists on conti-

nuing the on-going conflict, another section is attempting to buy time, while the third section wants to start negotiations. But we are not bothered about all that. We remain in a strong position today. We will further consolidate our strength. We will negotiate, while remaining strong. We don't have faith in the Sinhala government that it will resolve the issue through negotiations or that it will do justice to our people but acceding to the requests made by the governments of the world and to prove that we are not mere war-mongers, we are ready to enter into talks. We shall make use of such talks as a forum to put forward the claims of our people for self-determination and to seek justification for the righteousness of our struggle in the eyes of the international community and to seek recognition for our cause. We are clear as to our objectives", concluded Dr. Balasingam.

STATE TERRORISM CONTINUES

Reports received from Batticaloa reveal the continuance of a reign of terror in the Amparai and Batticaloa Districts. In the Amparai District it is the Special Task Force that is in the vanguard of the terror campaign. In Batticaloa the Army along with some Tamil gangs is on the rampage.

On 6.4.91 the villages of Vinayagapuram and Sinnahoddam in the Amparai District were rounded by the personnel of the Special Task Force and 150 were arrested. Of the 150, three have been detained in the camp.

On 7.4.91 it was the turn for the villagers of Gandhipuram, Thikkodai, Yanakattiyaveli and the 40th colony. These villages were rounded by the Army and Tamil gangsters working with the Sinhala Army. Seven persons from the 40th colony were arrested.

On 9.4.91 at Vantharoomoolai Nagamany Selvanayakm was arrested by the Army and on the same day another young boy aged 18 had been kidnapped by a gang that came in a van that night. It is believed that the kidnappers belong to Government Death Squads operating in the area.

On 21.4.91 the Sinhala Army and a Tamil gangster group working with the army arrested at Kalawanchikudi a person named Navanathapillai Ganeshamoorthy. No further news is known of him. At Kuinayadi on the same day, the Army arrested another person named Kanathipillai Arulanandam.

On 22.4.91 the Army arrested some civilians. They are Thasan of Kaluvakanni, Thurairajah of Valaichenai, Junam and Shanmuganathan of Kiran.

On 24.4.91 the Army and a Tamil gangster group rounded up the village of Kinayadi with a masked faced man. About 70 civilians were arrested and taken to the Valaichenai Army Camp. All of them were severely assaulted. Later six were detained and others were released. The released men are under treatment for injuries received at the Army Camp. The report says that the condition of one person is critical.

On the same day at Korakallimadu the Sinhala Army and the Tamil gangster group arrested fifteen civilians and severely assaulted them at the camp. Later one man was detained at the camp and others released.

MSF...

with a meeting at the Kachcheri premises after handing over the memorandum to the Government Agent.

The third public demonstration took place on June 19th, 1991, when people of Valikamam and Islands Division assembled in large numbers and marched through the streets of Jaffna protesting against army atrocities and economic embargo placed on the Tamil people. Large numbers of students, workers and members of the public and others participated in the demonstration. The demonstrators passed through various public roads shouting and waving placards and finally ended up at the Jaffna Kachcheri where they handed over a memorandum to the Government Agent, Jaffna. A similar memorandum was handed over to the ICRC Team at Jaffna. The demonstrators demanded the withdrawal of the armed forces and an end to the economic embargo.

A similar demonstration was taken out by the people of Chavakachcheri also on June, 19th, 1991. They reached the office of the Asst. Government Agent, Chavakachcheri where they handed over a memorandum to the Asst. Government Agent. Demonstrators protested against the stoppage of relief supplies, economic embargo and army atrocities.