

HOT SPRING

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ELEPHANT PASS AND VADAMARADCHY EAST

WAR CONTINUES - HEAVY CASUALTIES

The battle at Elephant Pass and Vadamaradchy East is going on for the third week in succession with the LTTE having foiled an initial attempt by the Sri Lankan Army to go to the aid of the besieged Sinhala soldiers at Elephant Pass early in the week and the Sri Lankan Army making fresh attempts to send a new expedition to relieve the Elephant Pass Sri Lankan Army Camp.

It is learnt that the Army landed in Vadamaradchy East by Naval boats started moving towards Elephant Pass on last Sunday and were met by LTTE forces at Mulliyian and Pullaveli in Vadamaradchy East. A fierce battle ensued. Reports from the battle front indicated that over 100 Sri Lankan soldiers died and over 300 were injured in both places. The Army could not move further and had to retreat to their original positions at Vetrilaikerni and Kaddaikadu.

Following the failure of the Sri Lankan Army's move to march to Elephant Pass from Vadamaradchy East, the battle between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Army subsided a little at Vadamaradchy East but the Sri Lankan Air Force continued its aerial bombardment at Vadamaradchy East and

villages adjoining Elephant Pass.

Schools, churches and many houses have been damaged in the Vadamaradchy East area. Extensive damage has been caused to coconut and palmyrah plan-

tations in the area. The Sri Lankan Air Force also dropped some napalm type incendiary bombs which caused fire in the villages close to Elephant Pass. The Iyakachchi market caught fire as a result of the bombing. Many

LTTE Hands Over Dead Bodies to ICRC

The LTTE handed over 29 bodies of dead Sinhala soldiers to the ICRC team at Jaffna on July 23, 1991.

These dead bodies of the Sinhala soldiers who died in battle with the LTTE at Vadamaradchy East were recovered by the LTTE.

It is further learnt that the Government of Sri Lanka declined to accept these bodies in the first instance but later changed its mind and agreed to accept the bodies.

The bodies were handed over to the ICRC Team by

coconut trees in the area were also burnt down. Also some further sentry points of the Sri Lankan Army near the Elephant Pass Camp were damaged, when the LTTE launched attacks on these sentry points on Thursday the 25 July. The full extent of the damage is not known.

In the meantime the Government announced on July 25th, the relaxation of the

curfew imposed all over the Northern Province from July 11th but with the proviso that the curfew would continue in Puthukudiyiruppu (Mullaitivu), the entirety of the Kilinochchi District and Vadamaradchy East and Chavakachcheri, thus in effect continuing the curfew even in the relaxed areas because the curfew in Kilinochchi District prevents transport between the Jaffna Peninsula and mainland south.

Journalist Arrested in Madras

News received from India state that Mr. S. Sivanayagam, Editor of Tamil Nation, London, was arrested in his home at Madras by the Tamil Nadu Police. Another Eelam Tamil, Mr. Kugathanan was also arrested with Mr. Sivanayagam.

It is further learnt that the Tamil Nadu Police arres-

ted Mr. Sivanayagam on the ground that he was in India without proper travel documents.

Mr. Sivanayagam, a well-known Tamil Eelam journalist was editor of the "Saturday Review" published from Jaffna. Consequent to

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CRUELTY

Four Children Shot and Killed in front of Mother Rescue Army's Military Prowess

Sinhala soldiers who landed in the Vetrilaikerni area of Vadamaradchy East Division in a bid to join forces with the besieged Sinhala Army at Elephant Pass shot and killed four children in front of their own mother. The unfortunate mother who witnessed the murder of her children before her own eyes, is Maheswary, wife of Rajendram (38) of Vetrilaikerni. She herself has sustained gunshot injuries.

Maheswary is now warded in the Jaffna Hospital for treatment of gun-shot injuries. Her story is as follows:-

On Sunday, July 14, 1991, Sinhala soldiers suddenly marched towards her house at Vetrilaikerni firing gunshots all the while. The woman along with her six children ran out of the house and hid under a tractor which was stationed in the adjoining house.

Maheswary, her six children and two other women - all numbering nine - thus hid themselves behind and underneath a tractor to escape themselves from the Army. The soldiers continued to fire and four of her children and other two women of whom one happened to be Maheswary's sister died on the spot and Maheswary, awe-stricken, watched her four children and sister falling dead to the army bullet. The dead are P. Sinnapillai (46) sister of Maheswary, Malinee (12), Jayanthini (10), Janakan (8) Divakaran (5) and Nagamm, ah (70).

Maheswary left the dead there and tried to escape with her other two children. She herself had been injured. She was, however, seen by the soldiers who took her long with the two other children alive and detained them. In desperation, she

pleaded with the soldiers to shoot her and the other two children also.

On the fifth day she was sent along with the two children by the Army to Karainagar Navy Camp by naval boats. The following day, the Karainagar Navy sent her to the Palaly Army Camp where her wounds were attended to and she was sent back to Karainagar Navy Camp. The Navy personnel, after listening to her story, took her to Nainativu where she was admitted to the Government Hospital. From Nainativu, she was sent to the Jaffna Hospital on Thursday 25th July for treatment - thanks to the efforts of the residents of Nainativu. She is now admitted to the Jaffna Hospital for treatment. She has said that nothing is known of her husband who went out for fishing on the fateful Sunday, when the tragedy occurred to her family.

Tigers Saved Tamil Country

J.R.'s huddle with young Rajiv is of particular interest in this story. No statesman ever willingly opens his country or even a part of it to a foreign army of occupation, no matter under whatever excuse they are invited. But that is what J. R. did when he invited the Indian peace-keepers to take over Jaffna. Even his political chum, the present president criticized the move in Parliament. J. R. imagined he was using a young inexperienced Rajiv as a catspaw to fight his war against the Tamil Tigers. But Rajiv's advisers thought they were outwitting a senile old President J. R. to move into a new territory they could annex in due course. But it was the heroism and sacrifice of the Tigers that saved the Tamil country from Rajiv's - the RAW's - hegemonistic ambitions. The mighty Indian peace-keepers found that had been lured into another Vietnam. The invaders didn't stay too long.

Cynthia Kariyawasam

Quoted from Tamil Nation, London.

Desultory Ramblings of VADALI VELAN

OUR READERS SAY

New Approach Necessary

We village yokels in our humble village have often wondered about that what has been happening to the majority of our youngsters who had entered the portals of the country's premier educational establishment for higher studies and have been rarely heard of thereafter. The investment in terms of money and human resources - the cleverer youngsters in the community - in the cause of education by any country has always been a very sizeable part of its wealth. Cost-free housing, food, tuition and the use of colossal buildings are by no means a heavy dent in the exchequer. As yours truly, I rarely have had the pleasure of being acquainted with a graduate - "the finished product" - even from the Jaffna Campus. I am made to believe that many of them have left our country for good, probably because they have become over-educated and are needed for the development of other countries which are already fully developed, anyway. As for us village folk, our elders were always able to distinguish between intelligence and wisdom and would certainly refused to be over-awed or blindly led by individuals just because of their academic distinctions. Their bona fides have to be established and tendencies proved non-matroidal. Those who seem to take an interest in the well-being of our people have to have qualities other than just educational attainments.

In any country it is usually the elite and the erudite who lead in human affairs and it is their opinion and advice which guide the nation to a great extent. But in our country, the university intellectuals had not developed any capacity for leadership of, or empathy with the masses: much less had they mingled with the common man and had a pulse on national trends. They were solely engaged in feathering their own nests. Of a sudden, they realised that the mantle of leadership had fallen on the shoulders of our youngsters, a much more capable and dedicated section of our community, who make light of even laying down their lives, with a smile, for the cause. This turn of events caused a veritable flutter in the dove cots of the campus and instead of analysing objectively why they had lost to these youngsters and reforming themselves, a part of this intelligentsia tried, all along, to thwart the efforts of our youngsters in our nation's life-struggle. No recompense for foul deeds already wrought, only continued casting aspersions and mouthing of inanities. Physician, heal thyself! Would these learned nincompoops have our youngsters lay down arms? In such an event will they who talk so much of human rights and ethical behaviour, obtain for as our freedom and rights which we are inalienably heir to? Will they submit impressive

olumes of thesis or will they go down on their knees to the Sri Lankan government for the purpose?

We now find a part of, this coterie, the UTHR, performing the role of a Salman Rushdi and publishing its "Satanic Verses" in Colombo. These outpourings are in the form of an intense verbal diarrhoea of frustration. There is nothing new in it and it encompasses nothing more than what the three monkeys have been depicting from ages ago: "See, hear or speak no evil". Whatever has been written is based on abstract objectives (Utopian) familiar the world over. What a waste of education on such authors who are capable of only holding forth at length and ad nauseam, making recommendations which they themselves know are illusory and impractical, when there can be no reciprocity between a flagrantly criminal government and a people who want to lead their own and ordinary lives.

Would you pat a purposeful murderer on his back and explain to him in sweet terms that his sticking a knife in his victim is definitely bad for the latter's health and hence the former must repress this mode of dealing with other human beings? The better method would be to administer a few kicks on him or knock the daylight out of him, the remembrance of which would help him tread the straight and narrow path. The Sri Lankan government offered us a modicum of language rights, though so late in the day, after receiving a few retaliatory blows from us in some other context. It continued its colonisation of Tamilian homelands even whilst engaging in talks with the LTTE. Why? Because it needed further blows to convince it of its own criminality. Meanwhile the UTHR of Colombo can amuse itself by writing another "diarrhoeal" article on why the bald-pated, yellow-robed gentry should release its stranglehold on whoever is at the helm of Sri Lankan affairs and to learn all about human rights; and also that the freedom of an individual to think is a right every human being is born with - free to think that Buddhism is not the be-all and end-all of life. Of course, thereafter the UTHR can swiftly implant itself in the Nauritius Island in imitation of Rushdi all over again.

It is a pity that Mr. Premadasa has to bear the slings and arrows of the past leaders who have ruled roost since independence, ruining the country to this present frightful state. With the advent of the late Mr. Bandaranayake into politics, advocating Sinhala Only, the two major communities splintered into two different entities the Sinhalese and the Tamils. Ceylon, which was proudly known as the pearl of the Indian Ocean started cracking and got reduced as a priceless pearl.

If the noble thoughts of the late Mr. Che Ivanayakam, the father of federalism was translated into reality then, even the Sinhalese would have accepted it without much ado and by now this island would have progressed immensely. Mr. J.R. Jayawardena staged a protest march to Kandy and thus the proposal preliminary to setting up a Federal state failed. The leader who opposed a solution of the establishment of a federal state in resolving the Tamil conflict himself had to bear the brunt of Sinhala-Tamil conflict.

Politicians from the south have missed the bus for any kind of political solution in the north and east. Youths from these two provinces have discovered that the sound of talks

sounded by the State is a dilatory tactics adopted by the State to revamp the State machinery of violence against the Tamil people.

This is a ploy to catch the youths napping. But they are not brandishing the arsenals for a fancy. They have launched on this struggle to liberate the Tamil community from Sinhala chauvinism and therefore their goal is to achieve self determination and entity as a Tamil race. To achieve these objectives it is Eelam that can guarantee these rights.

Whatever campaigns the State may carry against the L.T.T.E., to tarnish its image would be futile. The L.T.T.E., during their struggle have convinced and canvassed world opinion that their mission is not an aggression against a State but to redeem their rights as a race which once stood as a corner stone in wresting power from foreign invasion.

It is therefore prudent for Mr. Premadasa to advice his cabinet of Ministers how they should approach this burning question of the day and not to animate the entire Tamil population by resorting to inhuman measures.

D. Jeevananthan.

Vathiry.

MUSINGS OF NESTOR

There is an urgent necessity to proclaim the Sovereign State of Eeylom at the earliest.

Sociologist is convinced that the foremost need of a human being is to ensure his security: attaining freedom from fear, seeking an assurance that his life will not be suddenly snuffed out. His other pursuits, like seeking his physical needs, freedom to associate with others, seek honours and finding ways for his self-actualization activities, all pale into insignificance beside this important and basic need for security. We the people of Tamil Eelam are at the stage where we have to ensure our security before attaining all our other needs. We have not the patience and the time to listen to detractors. Erudition cannot be allowed to gain a headway in a clash with clarity of goals, sincerity of purpose and a love of the the motherland and its people, reposing in the hearts of our Freedom fighters.

We are collecting gold and transmitting this abroad as bullion gold to be converted into dollar or other convertible currency. In transit several parties seek to confiscate this as undeclared asset. If we mint this gold into coins it becomes Eeylom currency and open an account with one of the big London banks in the name of the Government of Eeylom, the gold coins of Eeylom could be declared as such and tacked for deposit in the London bank. No one dares confiscate the gold currency of a State when it is formally transmitted to be deposited in a London bank. Today, no country in the world issues gold currency. The so called English gold sovereign commonly called Kuthirai Poun has long ceased to be issued by the British Mint. The so called gold sovereign purchased and sold in the market are really coins made by goldsmiths in Colombo and Jaffna.

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I Like the Tiger!

Among all the animals I like tiger the best

She is ferocious

She is pretty

She is kind

In the forest the Tiger is not the first in command

But she moves very swiftly

And perhaps she is the only animal

That can neither be tamed nor domesticated

Among all the animals I like tiger the best

She has the strength

She has the stripes

She has the will

In the forest the tiger is the most feared animal

For she pounces from afar

But never misses the target

For she has known that art from her childhood days

Among all the animals I like tiger the best

She is a symbol of self determination

She is a symbol of resistance

She is a symbol of freedom

Amos Rajaratnam

OUR FORMER RULERS NOW KEEN

Dear Mr. Paul,

Thank you for your letter of February 25 commenting on the recent debate in the House of Lords on Sri Lanka.

Obviously there is a difference between the North and East Provinces on the one hand, and the rest of Sri Lanka on the other. There is also a difference between the North and the East, which are not at all the same. The East has substantial Sinhalese minority, particularly in the Amparai District, and of course the Muslims, whose interests and view points are by no means identical with those of the Tamils.

One can go back to the colonial era and point to errors, but this is not a productive exercise. May be if the British had given Ceylon a federal constitution, the relations between the two largest communities would have been more harmonious - who can possibly say what would have happened - but we have to face the situation as it is and not as we would like it to be. Governments of independent Ceylon and later Sri Lanka have had opportunities which they missed and have made serious mistakes, which you have no difficulty in identifying. But you say nothing about the responsibility of the Tamil community, thus giving a distorted picture. The Tigers could have negotiated a peaceful transition to autonomy for the north and east if they had accepted a peaceful transition to autonomy for the north and east, if they had accepted Premadasa's olive branch, but they have become so dedicated to the military option that they had to start again the endless cycle of massacre and counter massacre. The atrocities committed by the Tigers against Muslims have created yet another set of problems in designing a political solution. Would the Muslims want to be part of a separate Tamil state in north and east, and if not, what arrangements could there be for resettling them in the remainder of the Island? Read the Tamil Times editorial of November 15, 1990 and ask yourself whether the penultimate paragraph of your letter to me does not contain a very serious error of omission.

You mention the plantation workers in passing, but in common with every other activist who writes about Sri Lanka, you don't say what would happen to them if the country is divided along ethnic fault lines. Are they to suffer another uphe-

aval, or are they to be abandoned to their fate in an otherwise homogenous Sinhalese state? I would not feel happy about either of these alternatives if I were a plantation worker.

The tragedy of Sri Lanka is that everybody believes he has the monopoly of wisdom and rectitude. Each believes the others are short-sighted and wicked, so there is no dialogue. My personal belief is that you will get your Eelam, and that the people

think that it was the LTTE that unilaterally broke off negotiations on June 11th last year. A brief re-iteration of the facts surrounding the events of that day may help you and others to re-evaluate your position.

The LTTE, had against all odds, successfully administered the NORTHEAST from MARCH (when the IPKF departed) to JUNE. No untoward violence marred the period. The Tamils and Muslims lived in harmony. The negotiations,

think the LTTE would have deliberately broken the truce while one of the leaders of their negotiating team was yet in Colombo?

Furthermore, Mr. Hameed was back in Jaffna on the 15th to negotiate, a ceasefire, which he succeeded in doing the next day. Each side specified conditions which were mutually agreed to. Would he have risked going there, and would the LTTE have agreed to another ceasefire, if they for some inexplicable reason had become ruthless and decided that a violent solution had suddenly become inevitable?

Muslims will cease. They did live amicably under LTTE rule. It is strange, is it not, that the Muslim massacres in the mosques in the east only took place when the government re-acquired control of this region? It is equally strange. Is it not, that with a powerful army and police presence in the vicinity of those mosques, not one LTTE intruder was captured to prove that they had anything to do with it? It is equally strange that no perpetrator has been caught or, identified to date. Who

LORD AVEBURY DEBATES WITH EXPATRIATE

of the north and east will regret the day after a few months rule by the Tigers. The military solution is one of bloodshed and bitterness. It will be like Cyprus where there is no communication between the two halves of the island, to the lasting detriment of both communities. In ten or twenty years, the Indian federation will have disintegrated and the emergence of states on the mainland with greater linguistic ethnic and religious homogeneity (eg. Kashmir, Assam and Tamil Nadu) will lead naturally the formation of a Greater Eelam. If only the peoples of Sri Lanka could peacefully negotiate a federal solution on the lines of Canadian constitution, with a right of secession and no power to impose presidential rule, they could set an example to their larger neighbour.

Yours sincerely,
Lord Avebury

Dear Lord Avebury

Thank you for your reply to my letter of February 25th. I do not intend to engage in an interminable debate but feel a response is called for.

First, the only reason I think the BRITISH should acknowledge their mistake in not having given us a FEDERAL CONSTITUTION at the outset, is that it will cause the rest of the world to sit up and take note. This in turn could result in more international pressure being brought to induce the Sri Lankan government to fashion a Federal Constitution on the lines suggested by you. This, I believe, was the foundation on which the LTTE surrendered their right to a separate state when they began their negotiations with the government last year.

Secondly, I think it is unfortunate that your Lordship, like many others,

even according to the government were moving favourably for the LTTE. An imminent PROVINCIAL COUNCIL election was expected to end in a run away victory for them.

The government on the other hand was being politically pressured to re-assert its rule over this region, and pressured by the army to be allowed to prove their superiority over the legendary Tigers.

Tamil Nation published from London reproduced a letter written by Lord Avebury to Mr. Wakeley Paul, now resident in the States, and Mr. Paul's reply to it.

We reproduce the correspondence by courtesy of Tamil Nation.

On June 7th and June 8th there were two attempts by the army to break camp in Vavuniya and Elephant Pass. Both were successfully contained by the LTTE. The government apologised for the first of these infractions, stating that they were accidental.

On June 11th, a Muslim youth had gone to the Sinhala manned police station in Amparai to file a complaint against a Sinhala youth. He was detained and subjected to some unfavourable treatment, which caused other Muslims to rush to the LTTE for help. The LTTE surrounded the police station and demanded an explanation. The police attacked them. The LTTE retaliated. The army broke camp and attacked. The LTTE then surrounded and attacked all the neighbouring police stations. Events then went out of hand.

While these events flared up, YOGI One of the LTTE's high command was yet in Colombo. He was seen leaving the next day by a reporter from the ISLAND NEWSPAPER. That newspaper asked why he was permitted to leave. Do you

Unfortunately, the government troops who had been unleashed from their confinement in barracks were not ready to give up and crawl back into them. The government, who had exclusive contact with the press, blamed the LTTE for the impasse. All the denials and proofs to the contrary went unheeded. The LTTE had everything to lose from leaving the negotiations at that critical juncture. The government,

fearing an LTTE victory at the elections, and subject to the pressures mentioned earlier, was in a more compromised position. They did little or nothing to set up mechanisms to monitor the ceasefire, and let things get out of hand.

Your concern for the plantation workers is well taken. They will no doubt remain in Sinhala territory if the Sinhalese treat them well. If they are brutalised as they were in 1977, they will be welcome to join us as some did that year. We will at all times exert pressure even from outside to ensure that they be treated as equals, an exercise the Sinhala rulers have never been good at. Their economic situation leaves much room for improvement. Their plight is not an enviable one. We shall continue to look out for their well being as fellow ethnics.

The Sinhalese who were forcefully planted in our midst against our wishes in Amparai will have to settle for Tamil/Muslim rule. With independence, the efforts of the Government to divide the Tamils and

had everything to gain or lose by such a venture? The Tamils need Muslim support in their fight against the Sinhalese. They need their support to sustain a single Northeast Province. The government needs to divide them. You can be best judge of who was responsible for these massacres that have temporarily divided the minorities.

You confidently predict that the people will rue the day they allowed the LTTE to rule them. They have so far been far better off under their rule than that of the SRI LANKAN government. They are the only group who have stood steadfastly by their people. One should not allow government propaganda to pre-judge them. If they fail their people, they could be ousted. If they do not, they deserve the right to rule. That is more than one can say for SINHALA hegemony over this region.

Finally, I allude to your rather patronizing reference to us as people who believe we have a monopoly of wisdom and rectitude who can therefore not engage in dialogue. This statement was both supercilious and uncalled for. I might remind you that our leaders beginning with Mr. Ponnambalam, through Mr. Chelvanayakam to Mr. Amirthalingam, engaged in over 40 years of fruitless dialogue with our Sinhala imperialist rulers. We have now chosen a new high-way to success. We hope our goals will be reached shortly. You might on reflection find us to be more sophisticated and determined than you had originally cared to imagine.

Yours sincerely,
Wakeley Paul

No Democracy in Sri Lanka

Tamil Eelam only Salvation for Tamils

No Democracy for Tamils

We like to invite your attention to the following facts. There were nine parliamentary general elections held between 1947 to date. The last election held in 1989 was under J.R. Jayawardene's fraudulent proportional representation system and at a time when an alien-Indian Army was occupying the Tamil country and large numbers of our own Tamil people were still out of our country living as refugees elsewhere. We don't also have the results of the 1989 election in detail for an analytical study.

We give below the polling figures in the North East for 8 parliamentary general elections from 1947 to 1977.

Year of elections	Total Registered voters	Total votes Polled by UNP & SLFP	% of UNP votes on registered	Total seats won by UNP & SLFP
1947	430,224	49,829	11.36%	16 03
1952	409,023	57,084	13.90%	16 02
1956	459,305	Nil	Nil	16 Nil
1960	578,812	22,287	3.90%	24 02
1960	578,812	66,522	11.40%	24 03
1965	649,753	99,841	15.00%	24 05
1970	835,678	194,600	23.80%	24 07
1977	1,061,665	288,703	27.10%	26 08

By 1960 the Sinhalese have carved out the Amparai Sinhalese constituency out of the Batticaloa District and also colonized large numbers of Sinhalese in the Trincomalee and Vavuniya Districts. Sinhala colonization was later extended to the Mannar and Mullaitivu Districts as well.

In spite of the Sinhala colonization neither the UNP nor the SLFP - or for that matter no Sinhala party had been able to win the support of the Tamils even in a small way. It would therefore be apparent that the Tamils by the exercise of their votes have always rejected Sinhala rule.

In the above pages we have endeavoured to show that the will of the Tamil people had not gone to make or unmake governments in Sri Lanka. The reason is obvious. A permanent racial majority will always be able to have its own way. To illustrate by one example, in 1956 - when the Sinhala Only Official language Act came to be debated all the elected representatives of Tamil Eelam (N&E) voted against it. In fact even some Sinhalese M. Ps belonging to the LSSP

and CP voted against the bill but still the bill was enshrined in the Statute Book. Over 30 years of participation in the Parliamentary system failed to solve the ethnic problem: and due to the Intervention of India the Sinhalese agreed to make Tamil also an Official language.

The fate of the B. C. and D. C. Pacts

We would also like to take this opportunity to bring to your knowledge how both the SLFP and UNP betrayed the Tamils when both parties decided to abrogate the pacts they entered into - viz- the B. C. pact of 1958 and the D. C. pact of 1965 with Mr. S.J.V. Chelvanayagam leader of the Tamils.

We would also wish to point out that both these parties admitted that the North East was Tamil homeland both under the pacts referred to above and also under Rajiv Gandhi - Jayawardene Accord of 1987 - though none of the Tamil parties expressed their satisfaction with the Accord. But having accepted what is the government trying to do? They are systematically carrying on a programme of Sinhalaizing Tamil areas by means of state aided land colonization, settlement of Sinhalese fishermen along sea coasts and providing employment in large numbers to outside Sinhalese.

Sinhala Colonization of Tamil Eelam

We have to specifically point out how Sinhalese from outside were brought to be employed as watchers at the Illmenite Factory Pulmoddai in the Trincomalee district in the sixties against the opposition of the local workers.

The subtle conversion of Tamil areas by state aided colonization is perhaps too well known to be repeated here. But we will just give

another example of how state machinery is fraudulently made use of by Sinhalese imperialism to annihilate the Tamils in the Island.

Tamil Heads counted to give representation to Sinhalese

By the Ceylon Citizenship Act of 1949 plantation Tamils

This is the third annexure to the letter the sent to Mr. John Major, Prime Minister of UK. The first two annexures have already been published in previous issues of "Hot Spring."

brought into the Island were deprived of Citizenship rights. By an Amendment to the Ceylon Parliamentary Elections Order - in - Council, nearly 8 lakhs of Tamils lost their votes and eight Tamil members who represented the hill country constituencies could not get elected to the parliament because the plantation Tamil labour lost their votes. But the voteless Tamil plantation labour heads were counted in carving out constituencies in 1960 which enabled more Sinhalese to get elected to parliament than the Sinhalese numbers warranted. Tamil heads were counted to give representation to Sinhalese in Parliament.

In the name of democracy, it is the Sinhalese who are abusing their ethnic majority to oppress the Tamils and keep them in subjugation denying them even their fundamental rights. The Tamils have been left with no option but to resort to armed action as a last resort to establish their separate state to ensure their national survival.

The Indian Government tried its best to work out a devolution package similar to the one prevailing in India and failed totally due to the intransigence of the Sinhalese. A number of matters agreed to between India and Sri Lanka in the discussions were not incorporated in the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Again those matters incorporated in the 13th Amendment themselves are remaining unfulfilled.

Premadasa continues old policy

President Premadasa only made use of his talks with the LTTE to dissolve the namesake Tamil Provincial Council of the North East. This again confirms the ex-

perience of the Tamils that the Sinhalese will not concede the legitimate demands of the Tamils through parliamentary or peaceful means. In fact the Sinhalese made a mockery of democracy by using their ethnic majority to outvote the Tamils depriving them of their inalienable fundamental rights. Also the hold of the Sinhalese on

the State machinery is being abused to change the demography of the Tamil homeland through State aided colonisation and to keep the Tamils in subjugation through armed repression.

We, as people of Tamil Eelam, do accept the word, "Democracy" as one much to be conjured with, especially in terms of the people's collective aspirations brotherhood of man and common endeavour with equity and justice for all. It is for astute world opinion to recognize or turn a blind eye to a particular Government behind which lurks morbid adventure with evil in its heart. We, as Tamils, fully comprehend what democracy is; and therein lies the rub. Just paying lip-service to democracy does not make a state democratic: nor foisting a make-shift constitution on a helpless and disillusioned people. Hasn't a democratic state duty to maintain its democratic credibility in her intent, purpose and actions? If not, how could it be recognized as a democracy just because it calls itself so? Such considerations are vital and very real to us for we are the ones who are being decimated. Sir, we are also firm in our belief that we shall not burden you for long with our woes for we shall be totally wiped off from the face of the earth in a few year's time with the complements of the British Colonial Empire to Sinhala Buddhist race.

Buddhist Supremacy

On gaining 'Independence' in 1948 we were made to understand that all would enjoy equal rights and that the Governments to be would be, mainly, secular in outlook. As soon as Britain's back was turned on Ceylon, Buddhist Priests approached

the first Ceylonese Prime Minister with request to make Buddhism the state religion of Ceylon. Though they were sent packing we, the minorities, realised what the future portended. The erosion of governmental resistance to Buddhist demands continued and gathered momentum when deliberately coupled with Sinhala Nationalism. Priests of all other denominations those dignitaries of the land, were led to cower before the Buddhist clergy. The nursing nuns who performed yeomen service to the sick were summarily sacked enmasse from government hospitals on the capricious complaint of a Buddhist monk. Schools of various denominations were nationalised as Buddhist schools could not match the performance of the former. Though there is no provision in the constitution, for such a step, the government has to obtain the concurrence of the clergy before enacting important laws or even to act administratively.

Britain should not divest herself of responsibility

Political repressions are too many to relate. Suffice to state that many lawless and criminal acts are perpetrated against the Tamil Race. If a so-called democracy gets de-linked from obligations towards human rights and people's rights can it continue to be called a democracy? At this stage, for HMG to maintain that Ceylon is a democracy can only perpetuate an injustice meted out, at 'independence', to the Tamil people who had an inherent reliance on a sense of justice and fair play and the Etonian public school spirit reputedly adhered to by Great Britain with bull dog tenacity.

Would history consider it noble and honourable if Great Britain divests itself of the responsibility for what has happened, ever since Independence to a trusting Tamil people and take cover behind the mere word "democracy".

In actual fact the ominous threat is to the very existence of Tamils in this Island and not to the democratic system as such.

Saivism Through Libraries

The Young Men's Saiva Association of Jaffna has decided to open a library at its Reading Centre at 67, Station Road, Jaffna to help in the propagation of Saivism.

The Association has called upon well-wishers to donate or sell to the Association at reduced prices books and periodicals which would service the cause of propagating Saiva learning.

The Episode of Indian Intervention

— An Appaling Disaster —

All along their political struggles, the Tamils who shared a common identity in language, religion and culture with neighbouring India derived solace in the belief that India is a champion of Virtue who espouses the cause of the down-trodden and oppressed people the world over and expected her moral support for their just cause. Ironically the Tamils suffered severely due to this factor, as the Sinhalese had developed a minority complex identifying Eelam Tamils with the large population of Tamils in India.

When India suddenly entered the scene with the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of 1987, the Tamils who were suffering under the intense military operations of the Sinhalese, looked forward to a durable peace with a sense of relief. The expectation was particularly high, as the Sinhalese political leaders had time and again gone back on their agreements with the Tamil leaders and the guarantee of a neutral country was expected to ensure compliance by the Sinhalese. The Tamils initially did not suspect the bona fides of the Indians. Although the LTTE saw through the ulterior intentions of the Indians with their characteristic aplomb, it was only in hind sight that the Tamils realised the full magnitude of the calamity that had befallen them in the form of Indian intervention. Although words are inadequate to describe the

cruel injustice and the appaling atrocities committed by the Indians on the long-suffering Eelam Tamils, the following are indicative of their behaviour.

- The Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of 29th July, 1987 was itself signed between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka, without the concurrence of the LTTE which has by now emerged as the sole representatives of the Tamils.

- The Provincial Council Structure envisaged under the agreement fell far short of the expectations of the Tamils and in the words of the Supreme Court which met to consider the 13th amendment to the Sri Lanka Constitution "both in respect of the exercise of its legislative powers and in respect of executive powers no exclusive and independent power is vested in the Provincial Councils. The Parliament and President have ultimate control over them and remain Supreme".

- On a number of matters of importance, agreement was not reached and were left as residual matters to be settled in future.

- A number of matters on which agreement was reached between India and Sri Lanka during their various discussions, were not incorporated in the 13th amendment to the Constitution much to the detriment of the Tamils.

- A number of Subjects devolved on the Provincial

Councils are subject to restrictions under laws, as may be made by Parliament.

- In a number of important aspects the agreement contained much less than what was envisaged under the Bandaranayake-Chelvanayakam Pact and the Dudley-Chelvanayakam Pact.

- Even as an agreement was reached between the Indian High Commissioner and the LTTE after much endeavour and attempts were being made to form an interim administration, the Indian Army was busy inducting a number of rival groups in various parts of the Tamil homeland under their protection. Some of these groups were unheard of earlier and were the creation of the Indians. Members of these groups started creating trouble and killing of LTTE members. They eventually showed their true colours as quislings of the Indians, indulging in terrorising the Tamil populace to scare them from showing independent views or dissent from the Indian view.

- The Indian government connived with the Sri Lanka Government to send the leading LTTE members, including Kumarappa and Pulendran who were in their custody to Colombo against the spirit and terms of the Agreement, thereby precipitating a crisis.

- The Indian Army started a war against the LTTE which was in effect a war against the Tamils. Like an invading army they fired artillery shells and used

various other bombs and used helicopter gunships and bomber planes against heavily populated and built-up civilian areas. In the process they killed thousands of defenceless civilians in a cruel and senseless manner. Indefinite and continuous curfews were imposed for months at a stretch without any regard for the basic needs of the civilian population. Dead bodies were strewn over many places with crows and dogs preying on them for days together.

- In a number of instances cruel army excesses were reported, while the Indian Army was advancing. The Indian army that entered the Jaffna General Hospital murdered in cold blood hundreds of inmates of the hospital including patients, doctors on duty and a number of hospital staff.

- After gaining control of the territory, the Indian Army unleashed a reign of terror during their period of occupation of the Tamil homeland. They were saturated all over the Tamil homeland in unduly large numbers and some of their activities included.

- Frequent cordon and search operations. People were taken into custody en masse at such operations and many of them were subject to degrading treatment and torture;

- People were taken into custody at random and tortured to extract information about the whereabouts of LTTE members and their supporters.

- Houses were raided at night and people were blindfolded and made to walk to the IPKF camps where they were tortured and supporters of LTTE revealed during such tortures were again taken into custody and subjected to such cruel treatment. People were made to fear to stay in their own houses.

- A number of LTTE members were fired upon and killed by the IPKF. A large number taken into custody were treated cruelly and kept in detention camps under appaling conditions.

- Repeated attempts were made by the IPKF to murder the top leaders of the LTTE.

- Cruel methods of torture were used by the Indians. A number of such people had to be hospitalised and suffered permanent injuries. In one instance a soda bottle was forced through the anus of a person and later it had to be removed by operating on the person.

- A number of persons taken into custody by the Indian soldiers later disappeared, as they were apparently tortured and killed in custody.

- IPKF soldiers went on rampage in a number of instances indulging in murder, arson and rape.

- Large scale retaliatory attacks on civilians of the locality, when the IPKF came under attack was a common behaviour of the Indian soldiers.

- A number of leading Tamil civilians were murdered by the Tamil quislings with the active support of the IPKF.

(Continued on Page 6)

Musings of Nester

(Continuation of Page 2)

Eeylom can make an impression in the world at large by issuing a gold coin. Obviously we cannot issue a gold coin to be the unit of accounting circulation. Why should we follow the beaten track of having a single unit of account? There is no theoretical or practical difficulties if Eeylom is to maintain a currency law in which there are two different units of account. It is something novel but there can be no practical difficulties or complications. It is a perfectly straight-forward scheme. We can issue a unit of account called Eeylom pound - the people are well accustomed to the word 'paw' as the value of jewellery is expressed in paw - and this unit of account can be the unit of account for purposes of savings. We can issue

another unit of account called the Eeylom rupee in base metal or paper and this can be the unit of account for purposes of circulation and current transactions. The Eeylom pound will be the unit of account and medium of savings. It will be a gold coin with proper designs and having the value as four pounds being equivalent to one ounce of gold.

A tremendous advantage of a unit of account in gold for purposes of savings will induce savings. Accounts can be opened in the banks in terms of Eeylom pound and depositors will always receive back Eeylom pounds. This provision of an Eeylom pound issued in gold will be a tremendous inducement for people in Eeylom as well as expatriates

to maintain their savings in Eeylom pounds. A considerable amount of saving deposited and denominated in Eeylom pounds can be secured from Eeylom expatriates. They will pay in dollars or pound sterling or any convertible currency and these would be converted into gold at the current market value and converted into Eeylom pounds. Eeylom pound will be held in deposit in some foreign bank and would form in our balance sheet assets against which rupee currency would be issued. The rupee currency cannot be converted into Eeylom pounds at any specified rate. It would be only converted into Eeylom pounds only at the current market value of gold. Thus there is no risk of the Eeylom pound deposits getting frittered away. It would always remain an undimishing asset. The value of gold is continuously on the increase and the intrinsic value of the

Eeylom pound will always be on the increase.

Inflation of the rupee will not affect the Eeylom pound deposits and hence depositors will be quite anxious to deposit in Eeylom pound. Thus we will be able to attract the savings of Eeylom repatriates and even others in many countries. Their ties with Eeylom will continue as at present. A number of persons would like to hold Eeylom pound as a memento.

Today inspite of preachings to encourage savings people hardly save because savings in money become worthless after a few years. The only form of savings which retain its value is landed property and there is an extraordinary demand for the purchase of lands even though it has no economic use or current income. Well! we can pay a small interest on the savings deposits of Eeylom

pounds although the Eeylom pound is not to be lent for productive purposes. The capital value of the Eeylom pound will always increase and of course we can pay some interest on deposits of Eeylom pound.

The issue of a gold currency by a new country like Eeylom will raise its stature and will make recognition of Eeylom by the Comity of Nations a simple affair.

The Eeylom rupee will be equivalent to an Eeylom pound at the rate of five thousand rupees to an Eeylom pound. This equivation will also fit the value of 1 oz. of gold at four Eeylom pounds. The issue of the Eeylom pound will not only raise our stature but also will strengthen the ties of the people of Eeylom now living abroad. This will also be in harmony with our tradition of holding savings in the form of gold jewellery.

HOT SPRING

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ACCORD

Four years ago on the 29th July, 1987 - a former Prime Minister of India, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and the former President of Sri Lanka, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene entered into an infamous agreement known as the ACCORD - ostensibly for the purpose of ending the Sinhala - Tamil War in the Island.

Tomorrow will be the fourth anniversary of the signing of the ACCORD but the war, it said it was meant to stop, has not stopped. It is still raging with greater ferocity. In fact the war did not end at anytime within the last four years. The Eelam Tamils have paid dearly in blood and sweat and are continuing to do so.

One of the parties to the ACCORD is Mr. J. R. Jayewardene. His anti-Tamil phobia is so inveterate that he would invite a foreign army - and that too an army which belongs to a country regarded by the Sinhalese as their traditional enemy - to occupy certain parts of the country he claimed as his, compromising the sovereignty of the Sinhala government claimed over these parts. He did all these just to deny the indigenous Tamils their basic rights.

We would wish to refrain from making any comments about the other party to the ACCORD, the late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, out of deference to the etiquette that one should not be criticised when one is dead.

It is not the purpose of the editorial to analyse the provisions of the ACCORD or even to say what happened after the ACCORD.

These are matters well known all over. In fact we ourselves published views expressed by Mr. A. P. Venkateshwaran, the former Foreign Secretary of the Government of India and also an article by Lt. Gen. Sardesh Pande who was for a time General Officer Commanding the IPKF in Jaffna on the ACCORD and its aftermath.

Nevertheless we are compelled to write this editorial on this occasion, as we have to remind everyone the ill-effects of this ACCORD which are still being felt and perhaps will be felt for a long time hereafter too.

In the first instance the ACCORD was a total failure because it did not satisfy either the Eelam Tamils or the Sinhalese who are the parties directly concerned in the conflict. The draft ACCORD was prepared by bureaucrats who did not understand or appreciate the view points of either the Sinhalese or Tamils and approved by two politicians who merely desired different results to flow from it for their own different reasons. The signatories themselves were not honest in regard to the intent and purpose of the ACCORD.

Not a single group or party - even the TULF - was satisfied with the agreement. The people of Tamil Nadu who were initially told that the Eelam Tamils would enjoy the same rights under the ACCORD as the Tamil Nadu people did in India, were utterly disillusioned so much so that they even refused to participate in a welcome-back - home reception to the Indian Army at Madras.

Mr. Jayewardene may have relied on the might of the Indian Army to cow down the Eelam Tamils. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi may have relied on the inert Eelam Tamil loyalty and friendship to India. But both erred in under-estimating the spirit of liberty and freedom of the Eelam Tamils who seek nothing more than independence for themselves too.

With all the friendship the Eelam Tamils have for India ingrained in their blood by strong ties of kinship, it would be far too much for India to expect the Eelam Tamils to give up their right to freedom and self-determination merely to serve the supposed geopolitical interests of India. Tamil Eelam shall never be a threat to the geo-political interests of the Indian sub-continent and this has been amply proved even when the Indian Army battled in Tamil Eelam.

In this context we hear again two vicious voices.

USAID - Pt. Pedro Jetty Construction

Sinhala Forces Refuse Permission

The work in connection with the construction of the jetty at the Port of Point Pedro in Jaffna with USAID has come to a standstill because the Joint Operations Command of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces has refused approval for further work in the construction of the jetty.

Consequent to the ongoing war, the Ports of Trincomalee and Kankasanturai in Tamil Eelam are within the

Sinhala Army occupied territories of Tamil Eelam. Food and other items have, therefore, to be brought through other ports. For this purpose alternate arrangements were made with ICRC participation to use the port of Point Pedro for shipping traffic.

The Point Pedro port is not developed well. Only sailing boats and barges could be berthed but during monsoon periods this is also not safe. About 40 feet extension of the jetty has

still to be completed but no work is being done. It is further learnt that the JOC has to approve the work.

The JOC has not approved the work and therefore the work in connection with the extension of the jetty has been stopped.

It is to be noted that the USAID agreed to fund this project but the Ministry of Defence has not approved the work. So the work has been suspended.

26. 6. 91

At Erlalai - Shell attack from Palaly Army Camp. Three including an old woman were severely injured, when one of the shells exploded in the compound of a house at Erlalai. The injured are Thamar Sellam (70), S. Sureshkumar (18) and P. Kesavan (20). The injured were admitted to the Jaffna Hospital.

27. 6. 91

Surroundings of Karainagar and Kayts were subject to heavy gunfire from the Armies stationed at the two places.

28. 6. 91

Shell attack from Elephant Pass Army Camp directed towards adjoining villages. Cannon fire from naval boats in the seas off Kayts directed towards coastal areas. Artillery shell by Army stationed at Karainagar. Two shells exploded within the Ponnalai Varatharaja Perumal Temple. The Priest's house, chariot house and Vairavar temple were damaged. Some houses in Ponnalai were also damaged.

29. 6. 91

Artillery shell attack from Elephant Pass Army Camp directed towards Killinochchi. Damages not verified. Artillery shell attack from Kayts directed towards Puli-yankoodal.

30. 6. 91

A number of houses in the Y. M. C. A Housing Scheme at Yakkachchi were damaged as a result of artillery shell attack from the Elephant Pass Army Camp.

1. 7. 91

Bombers and Helicopters attacked the surrounding areas of the Elephant Pass Army Camp. This was followed by artillery shell attacks from the camp. Damages have not been verified.

NEWS ROUND UP

At Alaveddy, a young man who was working in his garden sustained injuries when an artillery shell launched from the Palaly Army camp fell and exploded in his garden.

2. 7. 91

At Elephant Pass and adjoining areas, attack by bombers and helicopters for almost the whole day with intermittent artillery shell attacks also launched from the Camp Paranthan Chemicals Factory was damaged as a result of the bombing. The workers had run away for safety and thus escaped injury and death.

Mr. J. R. Jayewardene is reported to have said that the Sri Lankan government must implement the ACCORD, IF IT DID NOT WISH TO GIVE IN MORE FOR THE TAMILS. He may be calculating to give a blow to Mr. Premadasa. That is not our concern but he will be cheating himself only if he thinks that nobody knows how earnestly he himself tried to defeat the provisions of the ACCORD both in spirit and letter.

Also some bureaucrat of the Indian government is reported to have said that the ACCORD provides a basis for the settlement of the on-going war. Has this bureaucrat learnt nothing and forgotten nothing? Any agreement to succeed must be made between the parties to the dispute with outsiders functioning as mediators and guarantors of agreement without themselves turning out to be grabbers of spoils.

We take this opportunity to remind one and all that the Eelam Tamils are dedicated to their goal of independence without reservation.

Gunfire attack from Kayts Army Camp aimed at surrounding villages. Damages not been verified.

Journalist....

(Continuation of Page 1)

July 1983 holocaust, Mr. Sivanayagam slipped out of Jaffna and has been residing at Madras for the last 8 years. He was also running the Tamil Information Centre in Madras.

Though there are large numbers of Eelam Tamil refugees resident in India without travel documents, the Tamil Nadu Police had suddenly found Mr. Sivanayagam an illicit immigrant to Tamil Nadu, forgetting the fact that more than one hundred Eelam Tamils are living in India without any documents whatsoever.

The Episode....

(Continuation of Page 5)

Instead of urging the Sri Lankan Government to concede the legitimate demands of the Tamils, the Indians were using various unfair methods to force their agreement on the unwilling Tamil population. The Indians were hell bent on installing their puppet group in power through a fake and manipulated elections.

They indulged in a number of oppressive measures including the active participation in the forcible recruitment of Tamil youths by their quislings to form a Tamil National Army to carry out their bidding.

It has been a relief to see the Indians leaving our shores. The Tamils who were for generations emotionally one with India, are now sadder but wiser and do not any longer entertain any illusions about any outside help in our time of distress. The resolve to fight for our freedom ourselves has increased tremendously.

S. SELVARAJAH