

HOT SPRING

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No. 45

President R. Premadasa of Sri Lanka is reported to have expressed his own satisfaction at having solved the Tamil problem.

He is reported to have said at a public meeting at Badulla that language and employment problems of the Tamils have been solved!

Only the question of devolution remains to be settled. This too would be settled with the concurrence of all parties.

ECONOMIC EMBARGO

Peoples' Protest affects

Secretariat Work

The economic embargo placed on the North by the Government of Sri Lanka and the decision made by the Government to stop all dry ration relief to displaced persons living outside refugee camps in the North evoked strong popular protest from the people of the North, who assembled in thousands opposite the Jaffna Secretariat and blocked the entrance of all officers including the Government Agent of the District to their offices.

Consequent to decision of the Government of Sri Lanka to stop supply of dry rations to displaced persons from various parts of Jaffna living outside refugee camps but in houses or annexes let to them by friends and relations or living with such friends and

relations away from their homes and villages and consequent to the economic embargo placed on the North which has brought about a situation of complete non-availability of most essential consumer commodities, thousands of people from the

North assembled in front of the Jaffna Secretariat premises from the early morning of Friday, August 16th, 1991 and blocked the entrance of the Government Agent and the officers into the premises for work.

The blockade continued till 12-30 p. m.

At 12-30 p. m. the protestors handed over a Memorandum to the Government Agent, Mr. M. Manickavasagar. The memorandum sought among other things:-

- The supply of weekly dry rations relief until normalcy is restored:

- The relief should be granted to all persons living outside refugee camps:

- The economic embargo should be completely removed:

- Facilities should be made to enable the people of

Jaffna to buy their commodities at control prices as in other places.

The Government Agent who accepted the Memorandum assured the protestors that he would transmit their memorandum immediately to the President, Mr. Premadasa.

The protestors thereafter left peacefully the premises of the Jaffna Secretariat.

Army allegation utterly false

According to a news broadcast by Radio Veritas quoting a Sri Lankan Army Officer the LTTE is forcing the poor Tamil masses and even students to donate blood at gun-point to save the lives of its injured Cadres.

The claim made by the Army officer cannot be true, since the only blood bank functioning in Jaffna, remains within the premises of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital run by the ICRC which prohibits armed militants moving anywhere near the hospital premises or its environs. So

how can the LTTE force the people to donate blood at gun-point?

The actual fact is the common people of Jaffna including the student population (both boys and girls) rushed to the blood bank during crisis time in such large numbers that the Bank was unable to cope up and so had to politely request them to call again, when they run short of blood. To get the fact confirmed, one has only to contact over the phone, the Chief ICRC Co-ordinator in Colombo.

Food Embargo — Mass Demonstration in Mullaitivu

A mass demonstration was held by the people of Mullaitivu District, protesting against the food embargo placed on them by the Government of Sri Lanka. The demonstrators marched to the Office of the Government Agent and handed over a memorandum to the acting Government Agent.

only to cover a period of 60 weeks.

Only about 10 percent of the total food requirement for the District has so far been sent both by road and sea transport.

Fishing and Agriculture have been very badly affected. To add to the difficulties,

no food is allowed to be brought by private enterprise.

The memorandum, it is understood, further stated that the people will soon face death by starvation and requested the Government Agent to obtain the necessary food and other commodities immediately.

Opposition Parties Protest

It is learnt that the Opposition parties in Colombo have protested against the decision of the

Government of Sri Lanka to stop supply of dry rations to refugees who live outside refugee camps.

Separate Judiciary for Tamils and Sinhalese

After the British Conquest of the maritime belt of the Island of Ceylon, a Royal Charter of Justice was issued on the 6th of August, 1810. This Charter remained in force until repealed by the Charter of 18th February, 1833.

The Royal Charter of 1810 constituted two Divisions of the Supreme Court. The first Division was to sit at Colombo presided over by the Chief Justice. The second Division was to sit at Jaffna presided over by a Puisne Judge.

The Colombo Division was to have jurisdiction over Sinhala Rata. The Jaffna

Division was to have jurisdiction over Tamil Eelam.

The relevant provisions are as follows:-

“III - And we do further will and ordain, That Our said chief Justice shall usually sit and hold the FIRST DIVISION of the said Supreme Court at Colombo in the said Island and shall (subject to the Provisions hereafter mentioned) make Circuits throughout the Districts or Provinces of Colombo, Chilaw, Negombo, Caltura, Point de Galle, Matura, Tangalle and Hambantotte, for the Exercise of both Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction

within the said Districts or Provinces.

IV - And we do further will and ordain, That Our said Puisne Justice shall usually sit and hold the SECOND DIVISION of the said Supreme Court at Jaffna patnam in the said Island; and shall (subject to the Provisions hereinafter mentioned) make Circuits throughout the Districts and provinces of JAFFNAPATNAM, MANAR, PUTLAM, WANNY, TRINCOMALIE AND BATTICALOA for the exercise of both Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction within the said Districts or Provinces”

It is learnt that thousands of demonstrators started in processions from Puthukudiyiruppu Sivan Kovil and Kanthasamy Kovil. The procession went through various streets and finally ended at the Mullaitivu Kachcheri premises which now functions from Puthukudiyiruppu. The demonstrators handed over a memorandum to the Acting Government Agent.

The memorandum stated that there were over 100,000 people living in the Mullaitivu District including people who have come into the District as refugees from elsewhere.

Relief dry rations had been provided so far for six weeks

Large numbers of refugees from various Army occupied areas are living with friends or relations or in houses and annexes let to them by friends or relations. These people are also refugees in every sense of the word, as they cannot return to their homes and are living in outside areas.

The Government's decision to stop dry rations for all those not living in approved refugee camps will cause great hardships on these people. Most of them have abandoned their belongings and are not able to engage themselves in any employment in their new surroundings.

The Government's decision has already evoked great protests from affected people.

OUR READERS SAY

Sri Lankan Tamils ?

It is learnt that a Sinhalese lady from south has appealed to the Hon. President Premadasa of Sri Lanka and the leader of the LTTE Mr. V. Pirabakaran through The London B. B. C. requesting to release her only son Mr. M. W. Piriyantha, who seems to have surrendered to LTTE with 40 other soldiers, during the attack of Mankulam Army Camp, on 14-6-1990.

She has explained about her pathetic state and her illness. We Tamils, as human beings sympathise very much regarding her plight. If her statement is correct, surely the soldiers will be well looked after by LTTE decently as before, and will be released no sooner the Sri Lankan Govt: ends the war and remove all the Military bases from the North and East.

Further we also understand that certain members of the families of the Sri Lanka Forces have appealed by letters and in person to Hon. President, to open peace talks with LTTE, and get the Army stationed in Elephant Pass released. But we pity them for their ignorance. We will not be surprised if the Hon. Premadasa turns a deaf ear to all these pleas of the grief stricken parents and relatives. He is quite indifferent to the disastrous consequences which flow from the mad course adopted. He is like such historic demons as Atilla the Hun and the infamous Russian Ian the Terrible. He is neither Moral nor Immoral but Amoral.

It is extremely painful to realise that the Sinhalese in general do not seem to know the reign of terror that has engulfed the North East since 1983 July. From the beginning of July 1990 the intensity & frequency of bombing and shelling has increased, as never before. Non Combatants have always been the victims.

This situation is a grim illustration of the monstrously cruel behavior of the Combind forces of Sri Lanka.

We Tamils or the LTTE are not Racists ones or greedy to snatch even one foot of Sinhala land. We Tamils and Sinhalese have lived like relatives for centuries. We want peace and harmony. Separation is the only remedy. Since last 4 decades the Sinhalese politicians to come to power have created Ethnic strifes in Sri Lanka,

All Members of Parliament, Ministers, Prime Ministers and Presidents of Sri Lanka had used communalism as their trump card. By this they have deceived even the highly educated and God fearing Sinhalese.

To achieve their communalists aims and objectives of making the Tamil politically impotent, they have let loose these murderous hordes on the Tamil Community from time to time since the time of Independence from the colonialist hold.

It is utterly dismained to reflect on the fact that the

latest (only one) Bomb Blast which rocked Colombo had proved world wide sympathy for the very few victims of the incident whereas such incidents do take place a dozen times daily in the North and also in the East. No vehicles or public can travel on the Road. Even the U.N.H.C.R. Vans & French Medical Corps M.S.F. Vans are not spared from the Air Attack. It is strange that the outside world is remaining indifferent to our suffering. Because so far no effective step has been taken by any power or organization to bring sufficient pressure on the barbarious regime of Hon. Ranasinghe Premadasa to bring his atrocities to a halt.

The LTTE, to prove that they are peace lovers and democratic, declared cease fire and announced several times that they are ready for peace talks. Hon: President Premadasa, to evade POLITICAL SOLUTION, had been coming out with Cock and Bull stories that LTTE should join hands with other Militant Groups and go for talks. What madness? Will he join hands with other Political Parties like, SLFP, NLSSP, PUF, CP &c and take any joint decision?

Further he says that LTTE is not a bona fide representative of the Tamils. For him to clear his doubt, let him remove all the Army, Navy & Air Force bases from North & East and have a referendum to decide this, monitored by members of the U.N.O. or E.E.C., Etc.,

Widespread & Stringent blockade of Food, Fuel, Fertilizers, Medicines even Torch Batteries and all other essential commodities from reaching the North & East in enforced. Even the bare minimum which are being brought by Public along with all valuables-even clothes. One or two sets of Torch Batteries are being confiscated by Army at Vavuniya and then allowed to come to North empty handed.

In order to show to the out-side world, the Govt: says that Food items and Medicines are being sent by ships regularly to North. This is just an Eye Wash. Only 15% of the actual requirements are being sent but invariably the ships go away without un-loading due to intermitant curfew enforced by Army.

Are these acts in accordance with the Buddha Dharma often proclaimed by the Hon: President Ranasinghe Premadasa? As a result the prices of Commodities have shot up e. g. a few:-

One Kg. Rice.....	Rs. 35/- to Rs. 40/-
.. .. Sugar	Rs. 60/- to Rs. 65/-
.. .. Flour.....	Rs. 35/- to Rs. 38/-
.. Lit, Kerosene Oil	Rs. 215/- to Rs. 250/-
.. .. Petrol	Rs. 1000/-
.. .. Engine Oil.....	Rs. 500/-
.. Bot. Coconut Oil.....	Rs. 75/-
.. Cake Sunlight Soap.....	Rs. 27/50 to Rs. 40/-
.. Tyre & Tube for Bicycle ..	Rs. 225/- to Rs. 275/-

Camphour, Torch Batteries, Candles etc. are not available anywhere.

Panadol, Plaster Rolls, Spirits, Bandages, Lints, Penicilin, Insulin, Toxide - are some times available in the General Hospital?

Hon. President Premadasa, builds in the South houses for the needy. Whilst in the NORTH, he sees to it that as many houses are razed to the Ground by the Combind Forces. North and East must be bled white beyond resurruction;

The Govt: Agent, Jaffna complained to Sri - Lankan Govt's High Command, saying that innocent public are being killed by Bombing and by Artillary shell fired from Palaly Army Camp on Non - Combatant areas like A. G. A's Div: Chavakachcheri, Palai, Vadamaradchi, Valikamam, Jaffna Etc., In response to this complaint, Govt: assured that nothing of that type will take place in future. BUT after two days interval, from 26- 7- 91 Bombing, Firing from Bombers, [Sea planes, Helicopter and the worst of all is that ARTILARY SHELL FIRING RE-STARTED FROM MID-NIGHT from Palali to - wards Chavakachcheri. Kodikamam, Palai Area &c. From this it is evident that Hon: Premadasa, Govt: has not honoured any of the assurances. Further, the Hon. President Premadasa, like small children of 5 to 8 years, criticises the LTTE in Public Platforms and also get the Palali Army Camp to put out Broadcast humiliating the LTTE by coming out with deliberate lies. Will this in any way help to bring any Solution.

We understand that Hon: President's Officials have already started rallying round the world to obtain highly sophisticated weapons and Military advice to defeat the LTTE. i. e. in short to wipe out the Tamils.

All loans & financial aids given to Sri-Lankan Govt:

by World Bank, E. E. C. & other Foreign countries are spent for purchasing war equipments only & not on any developments.

A clear proof is that there are 16 Air Force Planes. A

number of War Ships, Cannon & Gun Boats. A plenty of Military Land cum Sea vehicles are being used at Kaddai-Kadu, Vettilai Kerni for Elephant Pass War by the Sri-Lankan Govt: The above excludes the equipments which are being put on action in other parts of North & East. Even experts can't assess the amount of Ammunitions, Bullets of Various Kinds, Nepam & Phosperous Bombs, Acids, Artillary shells, Fuels etc., are being used in the above areas and in suburbs.

The Donor countries and World Bank should send their officials to investigate all these in person, especially in North & East of Sri-Lanka. The Aid Giving Countries and Sinhalese do not know that not only the Tamils are killed but thousands of Sinhalese Youths are killed and thousands have become permanently disabled by the Mad Atrocities of the Premadasa Govt:

The Tamils in the North & East are facing the gravest peril in History. It is the duty of the entire civilized world to rally without any further delay to the support of the Tamil speaking people in Sri - Lanka to help them achieve their just and legitimate political aspirations.

Thanks,

Yours faithfully,

K. Thiruchittambalam

Plight of Railway Pensioners

Editor,
Hot Spring

Dear Sir,

It is common knowledge that payment of Pensions has been inordinately delayed either in Colombo or Jaffna. Pension Vouchers for June have only been despatched to the Kachcheri Pensioners only this week of August but the Pensioners of the Railway have been clearly

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The Latest Big Talker

Cyril Ranatunge, the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence is said to have stated that the Sri Lankan army will not stop with reaching their besieged Elephant Pass but will capture the entire Jaffna Peninsula soon.

No doubt this is his wishful thinking. He had not dared to divulge the cost of the "Balavegaya" operation in terms of the number of his men killed or wounded, number of helicopters and planes lost or the colossal cost to the debt-ridden State in the three weeks his men of over 8,000 took to cover a distance of about 10 KM.

May be, it is the massive military men and material placed at his disposal by the Sinhala chauvinistic government to keep the Tamils under subjugation and to destroy the entire Tamil homeland in the process that has prompted this military man to indulge in rabble-rousing.

Apparently it has not dawned on him that superior fire - power is no match for the will - power of the Tamil youths who are determined to fight and liberate themselves from the illegitimate Sinhalese hold on the Tamil homeland. At this rate, by the time he realizes his folly, he will find himself and his mercenaries chased away lock, stock and barrel from Tamil Eelam.

An Open Letter to Mr. N. Ram

Sir,

I had occasion to read in one of the Tamil dailies from Jaffna that you were in Colombo last week and that you met Baudha Sinhala President Ranasinghe Premadasa and his ministers A. C. S. Hameed and S. Thondaman. The paper further suggested that your visit was not for nothing but that you were actively interested in finding ways and means of arriving at some negotiated settlement to the Conflict that now rages between the Sinhala and Tamil nations in this Island. I was not surprised because I do know the active role you played in all that was connected with the Rajiv Gandhi-Jayewardene Accord of 1987. Your role in that act was so active - nay even aggressive - that someone remarked that you were behaving more like one of the signatories to the Accord.

The keenness you showed in securing the implementation of the Accord suggested the comment was apt. However, you now know very well that the Accord really served to bring discord everywhere. The Accord helped to alienate the Eelam Tamils from India. It did not bring about any greater understanding between Tamils and Sinhalese.

In writing this letter I am not unaware of the fact that you have since changed your views on the Accord. I know that you do not persist any more in believing that the Rajiv Gandhi-Jayewardene Accord is the panacea for the ills plaguing the Island of Ceylon - now unilaterally called the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Well, you are a journalist of eminence quoted in many journals apart from being editor yourself of the prestigious Frontline.

Recently, I had occasion to read an article written by you in 'The Independent' Bombay of date June 9, 1991. The Tamil Nation which reproduced this article from The Independent, gave the title as 'India's Mora and Political Responsibility'. I do not know whether the caption was yours or that of the Editor of Tamil Nation but I thought it was apt.

I say the caption was apt because the woes of the Eelam Tamils in the Island directly stems from India. I have lived with the Sinhalese more than you and I may be pardoned if I say that I know and understand the Sinhalese better than you do. And in my view the

Sinhalese are a very nice set of people. But unfortunately in the collective approach to political matters they display strong Anti - Tamil phobia. Why? The Sinhalese are anti - Tamil because of India.

As you know this Island is divided from the Indian sub - continent by the narrow Palk Straits. The Sinhalese find the presence of Tamils just across the Palk Straits. And India has not failed to show its 'big brother' attitude to its neighbours. And the other and more important point arises from religion. The Sinhalese are Buddhists. The Buddhist clergy has succeeded in instilling certain myths in the minds of the Sinhalese. One myth is that the Sinhalese are the chosen people to protect and foster the Buddhist precepts in its pristine form and glory. It was Hinduism that uprooted Buddhism from the land of its birth. The Tamils in the Island are Hindus like the Tamils in India.

Because there are large numbers of Hindu Tamils in India, by a process of psychological growth the Sinhalese have developed the anti - Tamil phobia. And because of the presence of Hindu Tamils in the Island they also remain anti-Indian! This is why I say that the

Sinhalese are what they are that is anti-Tamil and anti-Indian - at the same time, all because of India! In this context if some Indian feels that India has a moral and political responsibility in resolving the crisis in the neighbouring Island, I think it is correct thinking.

If India has a responsibility it is equally necessary that India should act more responsibly. I am saying this to impress on all Indians - well meaning or otherwise - that in regard to political questions they must not impose their views on us. Unfortunately, the late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi thought he could act on behalf of the Eelam Tamils - a preposterous claim which was not advanced by others - say his more eminent mother, Mrs. Indira Gandhi - and I am afraid you had your own share of guilt in directing Mr. Rajiv Gandhi on the wrong track. India is our firm friend and neighbour but though small as we are, we are entitled to our own independence.

I am stressing on this point because if you assume the role of a negotiator, your responsibility should be to negotiate in such a way that the parties themselves come to an agreement. You must have an open mind. You must listen to both sides

and for this you must come to Jaffna also.

I must re-iterate that if you do not get the parties to negotiate but yourself pontificate as to what is good for the Tamils and Sinhalese, you will again be making the mistake already India made in 1987 with disastrous consequences to Eelam Tamils. I am constrained to say this because in your article mentioned above, you have stated that the "one hope is to seek to narrow the gap by promoting a federal solution within the framework of Sri Lankan national sovereignty, while there is no guarantee this will work, it is clear nothing can work".

You are perfectly entitled to your views as a journalist but if you assume the role of a negotiator, you will be perfectly wrong, if you have pre-conceived notions about a political settlement which you would pontificate.

In this instance I have to remind you what Mr. A. P. Venkateshwaran, a former Foreign Secretary of the Government of India had to say. You will remember he criticised the late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi for saying he accepted the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka. Aren't you making the same mistake Rajiv Gandhi made?

Please remember that the Tamil Eelam demand is not the demand of a few young boys with guns in their hands. Remember what the old fox, J. R. Jayewardene said. He said that the Tamil Eelam demand arose in the twenties. He was obviously referring to Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam breaking away from the Ceylon National Congress and forming the Ceylon Tamil League in 1923. Later the Tamil Eelam demand was sponsored by the late Prof. C. Suntharalingam, who incidentally passed the Indian Civil Service Examination too in the days of the British Empire. Then the demand arose from Mr. V. Navaratnam, an elderly M. P. from the North. Later it was the demand put forward by the TULF. Both late Messrs. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam and G. G. Ponnampalam demanded Tamil Eelam. The people of Tamil Eelam gave their mandate at the General Elections held in 1977 for restoring and re-constituting Tamil Eelam State.

I am saying all these because as an affected party, I know wherein lies my salvation. However good may be your intentions, you cannot succeed unless you will allow us to decide what is good for us and in the event of an impasse, put your weight with the cause that is just.

Thank you,

Yours Sincerely
AN EELAM TAMIL

Rajiv — J. R. Accord

It is a pity that poor J. R. seems to be still passionately harping on his false belief that his brain-child Rajiv - J. R. Accord is acceptable to all. He is reported to have said that the accord should be implemented in toto and if not, LTTE would demand more. We pity J. R. for his false belief that his accord is perfect and proper. A spokesman of the Indian Foreign Ministry too has come out with the view that the Ceylon Tamil problem should be solved in consonance with J. R.-Rajiv Accord.

We wonder whether any of these so called 'Big People' have understood the root cause of the Tamil problem. We would like to drive home to them that no such accord should be forced on us. If the Tamils have accepted the accord, there wouldn't have been any such conflagration as taking place at present. If peace is its purpose, it should have brought about

peace. Is there peace in the country now?

The peace Accord hasn't in any way solved the Tamil problem. The Tamils have rejected it in toto. Has it attempted to solve even the basic problems facing the Tamils. J. R. and the Indian leaders must realize the fact the Tamils are not bound by the Accord. A Tamil is no signatory to it. The Tamils are not bound to abide by the terms of the Accord because no representatives of the Tamils have signed the Accord. Rajiv is no representative of the Tamils to speak on behalf of the Tamils. Of course, he should have mediated. Rajiv must have represented the Indian interests and J. R. must have represented the Sinhala interests. Both the leaders must have thought of achieving their own ends. The Tamils consider the Provincial Council a 'pot with holes'. It hasn't anyth-

ing whatsoever in it. Whatever it might contain would leak out.

The Tamils have rejected the Provincial Councils in toto. Is it even comparable to the Indian system of federalism? The Indian system itself is not a full-fledged federal form. Provincial Council is much lower and inferior to even the Indian system of State Assemblies. It's futile to fancy that the Tamils will accept the Provincial Councils after so much sacrifice especially after a tremendously colossal loss of precious lives for the sake of fundamental rights.

What are the blooming things that the Accord has brought about? Is there any substantial or satisfactory devolution of power for the Provincial Councils? After all, what are its powers? The Accord had brought down the IPKF

(the abbreviation stands for Indian Peace Killing Force). As far as the Tamils are concerned, the Accord has brought about death, destruction and damage. Many have been rendered, lifeless, homeless, limbless, orphaned, widowed and destitute.

Of course, we do agree that there should be a political solution. We do feel sorry for the colossal loss of lives from both sides - the LTTE and the Sinhala army. The former dies for the cause of fundamental right, the latter dies for the sake of denial of right to the former. It is the height of folly to consider the Accord as having solved the Tamil problem. It's high time that the leaders face the facts and think in terms of a realistic settlement of the Tamil issue. Let there be an amicable settlement; let there be mutual understanding.

S. S. B. Balasubramaniam
Alambil, Mullaitivu.

Ashwani Talwar writing in the Times of India says:

No Tourists in Eastern Sea Resorts

Arugam Bay is not the average tourist resort. The day begins with a rumour. Back from the must-take early morning stroll along the beach, you are told the "latest" by the hotel staff. The cook has just heard that the Tamil Tigers sneaked into the area last night - hiding among a herd of cattle which apparently drifted past security checkpoints - and opened fire. False alarms are common here, but he is inclined to believe this one. "If it comes first thing in the morning, it must be true."

We are tourists by accident. On reaching Pottuvil town from the site of a massacre by Tamil militants (Nivadella in Moneragala district: Sinhalese villagers shot or hacked, most of them children), we had planned to turn north and drive along the coast to Batticaloa. The security forces had however closed the road for an "operation". There was no choice but to spend the night at Arugam Bay, across the lagoon from Pottuvil.

Till a few years ago, Arugam Bay fishing village was a thriving low-budget tourist destination. The accommodation was never classy, but the Australians, Ameri-

cans and Europeans flocked here for the windsurfing which the locals claim is among the best in the world. The owner of Stardust hotel at Pottuvil claimed that his place raked in Sri Lanka Rs. 1.5 lakhs (Indian Rs. 70 000) every month until fighting between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) turned off the tourists. Stardust was virtually closed now. The hotel staff said they had the rooms, but would not guarantee a meal,

Stardust informally recommended a rival establishment 'Hideaway', the only full functioning hotel in Arugam Bay. The Hideaway staff of four greeted us like long-lost friends. They have not had many guests for the last few months - the hotel register shows about half-a-dozen since December. In fact, there was believed to be only one genuine white-skinned tourist in the entire village that day. But the surfer was staying elsewhere, probably at one of the "cabanas" or huts with not many amenities, offered cheap by the villagers. An example is the now run-down 'Starfish' on the beach which tours "luxury cabans" with a common outside toilet.

NO ELECTRICITY: Hideaway with nine rooms, including the cabanas set out in the compound is more up-market. But it has to make do like the rest of Arugam Bay without electricity. There has been no power for some time and the Arugam Bay 'hoteliers' were waiting for the 'line' with Pottuvil town to be restored. Even in Pottuvil telephones have been dead for months. The telecommunication department staff is scared to travel out of the town for repairs because of LTTE threats.

Like Arugam Bay - which might have turned into a more developed tourist resort had there been peace - the rest of the island too is yearning for tourists. Sri Lanka began taking tourism seriously in 1965 when it set up the Ceylon Tourist Board. The late seventies were the boom period when tourist arrivals grew by around 25 percent every year. The peak was reached in 1982 with over four lakh tourists.

But 1983 changed all that. Tourist arrivals dropped sharply after serious ethnic trouble. By 1988, when the Sinhala extremists "Jana'ha Vimukthi Perumuna (JVP)

insurgency started, tourist arrivals had dwindled to 1.8 lakh. The JVP was crushed by the end of 1989 and next year the tourist arrivals recorded an over 60 percent upsurge touching the three lakh mark.

UNDP Plan: The tourist board appears confident that the worst is over. A 10 year master plan, heavily aided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is being worked out. Although the tourists are still likely to visit resorts and historical sites outside the war affected north and east, developing east Sri Lanka is part of the long-term tourism master plan. The target area stretches from Arugam Bay in Amparai district to Trincomalee in the north.

So far as facilities for tourists are concerned, there is a difference between Trincomalee and the fishing village of Arugam Bay. But for the time being, the resorts in Trincomalee are quiet. A 100-bed beach hotel at Nilaweli outside the town, did not have anyone lodgers about a month ago. And the staff had other things to worry

about than the zero-occupancy rate.

A few days ago, the LTTE set off a mine killing two soldiers near the hotel. The army then took in almost the entire staff of six for questioning.

They were let off after a week with the army, and appeared thankful. "They were very nice. Of course, they had to slap us around a bit. But we can't blame the army for this", said one of the staff.

Batticaloa town, between Arugam Bay and Trincomalee on the east coast, has not been a major tourist destination even during the good times. But it is mentioned in tourist literature.

It is picturesquely set by the Lagoon. There is an old Dutch fort and the place is known for its "singing fish". But today people are allowed in by the army, only if they have serious business in the town. Some times they come back with a bad impression. On the back to Colombo, we saw two headless bodies dumped by the roadside a little before the Batticaloa hoarding by the roadside for travellers saying, "Thank you Drive carefully".

Courtesy:

Tamil Nation, London

An Open Letter to the Commander in Chief of the Army, Navy and the Air Force of Sri Lanka

Dear Sir,

I have so many reasonable doubts in my mind and I wish to get them cleared from you.

You have on several occasions mentioned through your Mass Media that when any member of your Security forces dies whilst in duty in the battle field, he should be regarded as a 'NATIONAL HERO'.

I could remember well that a few years back when T. E. L. O. (The movement with whom you are having a good relationship now specially in Batticaloa) killed and wounded several Army Soldiers in the Train near Mankulam, these wounded Army Soldiers had some Jewelleries with them. Some dead bodies of these Army Soldiers were found wearing 'THALIKODI' too. I am sure that they would not have brought these Jewelleries all the way from the south to get them pawned at Mankulam. It was therefore alleged that these Jewelleries were robbed or stolen from

our Tamil women with the idea of taking them to the south to give them as 'PRESENTS' to their kith and kins.

So, may I please know as to how you are going to categorise them. I mean the dead soldiers with 'THALIKODY' in their necks.

As National Heroes or National Rogues?

I am of the opinion that members of your Security Forces have found a Good 'Taste' in stealing or robbing from our innocent Tamil women and taking them to to adorn the necks of their wives, sisters, sweet hearts and kith and kin. Last week a Navy personnel's body was found floating in the sea at Kurikkadduvan. This was believed to be the body of one of the six Navy men who were killed at night by your own Helicopter that was on patrol duty on the coastal area.

You will not be surprised to hear that a 'Thalikody' was

said to have been found on the neck of the dead Naval rating too!

So, May I please know whether the Navy Commander is going to include the name of this Naval rating in the National Heroes' List or some other list. Please advise the Navy Commander to ring up the Police Chief and to find out from him as to what category the Navy soldier belongs to and to which list the Name of this type of 'National Hero' could be included.

There is wild talk that the Security personnel at Kayts and Karainagar are cordially welcomed at their native place by their kith and kin, as they are alleged to be taking good number of Televisions, Radios, Ceramics, Glassware and varieties of 'Kanchipurms', when they go on leave or transfer.

There is also another rumour that when a Sinhalese Lady wears a Good 'Kanchipuram' saree and some worthy Jewelleries for a wedding

ceremony, she is looked at with suspicion, as to whether those items were the 'Presents' given to them by their relatives who are serving in the Security Forces and serving in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

So, May I please know whether you have sent them over here to fight with the 'Tigers' or to take advantage of their weapons and uniforms and do stealing or robbing from the innocent Tamil public who have already lost enough in your aerial and artillery bombardments.

I have some more doubts still clinging on to my mind and you would definitely permit me to comment on them as well.

You have taken a 'pledge' to wipe out our Tamil Boys and girls (in your eyes, all our Tamil boys and girls are tigers) with your powerful gunboats, aircraft, helicopters and with your sophisticated weapons with the help of your Security Forces who have 'earned'

a world wide name for their 'Good behaviour and Discipline'.

But what do our Tamil Boys have? They do not have powerful aircraft, they do not have powerful gun boats, they do not have powerful tanks, armoured vehicles etc.

They do have as a special and sophisticated weapon in their armoury - 'the will power'. You cannot of course buy this weapon in any international open market.

You could very well remember that these boys have smashed with their 'will power' the

(1) Nellyyady Army Camp
(2) Kokkavil Army Camp
(3) Mankulam Army Camp
(4) Kajuwatte Army Camp
and so many Police stations in the North and East of Sri Lanka. Now they are in the field at 'Elephant Pass' face to face with your 'paid heroes'

Please Sir, wipe out the sweat that I could see in your face and forehead with your expensive handkerchief and raise your head up and think for a while whether you want a Political solution or a Military solution.

(Continued on Page 5)

Premadasa's Overtures to India - Temporary and Treacherous

President Ranasinghe Premadasa has recently said that his country should develop and strengthen the ties of friendship with India. A noble sentiment no doubt.

But what is intriguing is this enlightenment that Mr. Premadasa has attained at this time and juncture. Just a few years back - when Mr. Premadasa was Prime Minister under the notorious J. R. Jayewardene, he had occasion to go to India and when Indian Pressmen confronted him with an embarrassing question as to why he remained an Anti-Indian, he struggled out of the embarrassment smilingly saying "I am only pro - Sri Lankan."

This is only being quoted here to show that Mr. Premadasa's anti-Indian phobia has already earned international reputation even before he became President.

Of course Mr. Premadasa's anti-Indian phobia arises from the formative years of his political career, when he entered politics as a disciple of Mr. A.E. Goonesinghe. Mr. Goonesinghe founded the Ceylon Labour Party. He was active in the trade union field to start with but before long lost all his enthusiasm for socialism and soon turned out to be a rank Baudha Sinhala Chauvinist. He was made a Minister but without portfolio by the late Mr. D.S. Senanayake who was the first UNP Prime minister.

An incident that took place then would be instructive to show the extent and depth of the communalism exhibited by the late Mr. A.E. Goonesinghe. The so-called national flag of Ceylon was adopted by the first parliament. It was the Lion Flag with a drawn out sword in the paw of the lion.

This flag was considered to be the Sinhala Flag. In an attempt to find a place for the Tamils and Muslims in the flag - two stripes - one orange and the other green as representing the Tamils and Muslims respectively - was inserted outside the main flag along with the staff.

At a public meeting which the late Mr. Goonesinghe addressed, he told the audience to roll the flag to the extent that the two stripes - representing the Tamils and Muslims - would get covered by the flag staff and allow only the Sinhala Lion Flag to flutter;

Mr. Goonesinghe was still Minister without portfolio

in the D.S. Senanayake Cabinet which brought out that flag. But the fact of his holding a Ministerial office did not prevent him from openly giving vent to his communalism or pampering to Sinhala communalism. Of course, Mr. Goonesinghe's anti-Indian propaganda in the trade union field was well known and happily he lost his place as a trade union leader before long. Mr. Premadasa as one who received his political initiation from Goonesinghe, has never failed to himself exhibit his own anti-Indian phobia, whenever occasion demanded. In this context when Mr. Premadasa stretches out the hand of friendship to India, one can very well understand the reasons behind it. Certainly the reason is not that Mr. Premadasa has changed for the better but is calculating to strike a bargain. This conviction is further strengthened by the fact that the so-called 'national English pressmen' in Colombo are now showing great

concern for friendship between India and Sri Lanka. We do not grudge any desire on the part of our Sinhalese friends to drop their animosity towards India and develop true friendship for that country. In fact it should be so. But the timing of this pro-India speeches and preachings are very intriguing.

This seemingly change of attitude comes from the Sinhalese at a time when they think that India has now turned out to be against Eelam Tamils. Certainly some of the speeches and actions of certain politicians and bureaucrats in India have emboldened the Sinhalese to think that India would be willing to join hands with the Sinhalese in the extermination of Eelam Tamils. If the Sinhalese think they can take advantage of this situation, they are sadly mistaken.

No doubt Eelam Tamils opposed the Rajiv Gandhi-Jayewardene Accord. They

do oppose it today also. Mr. Premadasa and the Sinhalese also opposed it - but all for different reasons. That chapter is closed and no one regards the Accord as any more in force - at least in so far as the Tamil question is concerned.

But what has encouraged Mr. Premadasa and the Sinhalese pressmen is the hysterical outbursts of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Miss Jayalalitha and some other temporary actors in the political stage. The fact that Miss Jayalalitha supports the Congress (I) at the centre has given greater hopes to our Sinhala chauvinists who believe they can make hay while the sun shines.

But what Mr. Premadasa and the Sinhalese pressmen do not seem to understand is that there is the Indian public opinion. Mr. Narasimha Rao's government is obviously politically weak. It has to carefully adjust itself and at the moment the bureaucracy (RAW included)

has great say in the Indian Administration. The Political heads are still not able to take political decisions and India's relationship with Sri Lanka or Tamil Eelam will have necessarily to be a political decision.

One important factor in making any political decision by any party will heavily depend on the political necessities for India. This decision cannot be based on political rivalries to suit political prospects at elections. It has to be made on the basis of national interests of India taken as a whole which will also be acceptable to the Indian people.

It would be clear to all Indians before long that the political stability and interests of India can only be ensured by the strength of the Tamils in Tamil Eelam. Until this position is made clear by India which it has to inevitably do now or later - Mr. Premadasa and the Sinhala chauvinists will pretend great affection and friendship for India. It is not genuine but treacherous to achieve treacherous ends.

- Kumaran -

Plight....

(Continuation of Page 2)

left in the limbo of forgotten things.

The Railway Pensioners have been at the butt end of these conspicuous delays and the mystery behind these delays have not been fully explained by Kachcheri Officials to the satisfaction of the Railway Pensioners.

One has, perforce, to ask the question as to why this category of Pensioners have been treated as "Second Class Pensioners". Prolonged delays of this nature have placed these Pensioners in very embarrassing financial situations, for many of them invariably depend on this dole given by the Government.

It will go a great way to ease the hardships of these Pensioners if this discrimination between Kachcheri and Railway Pensioners is removed, for in the past Railway pensioners have always received their Pensions a week ahead of the Kachcheri Pensioners.

We hope the Officials dealing with Pensions at the Kachcheri have an iota of compassion and goodwill at heart and treat all Pensioners alike and despatch the Pensioners vouchers simultaneously to all Pensioners without disc-

rimination so that all pensioners will be happy.

Yours Sincerely

M. Thomas

A Railway Pensioner

Troubled water

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Sir,

The attention of the high command of the L. T. T. E., for the Vadamradchy area is adverted through this esteemed journal of how some big time mudalalis in these areas have discovered a business ruse to circumvent price laws on some of the popular consumer items like kerosene, diesel, petrol, toilet and washing soaps, garlic and shampo, by creating artificial shortage of these essential goods. But strangely enough these items of commodities are found aplenty under the nose of these big time mudalalis sold by their stooges for prices beyond the reach of the middle, lower and daily wage earners.

The big time mudalalis in Nelliady are operating with the connivance of their stooges, presumably on some business terms best understood between the two, and finds risk business. If one cares to watch this shady deal, one could see how the mudalalis hop in and out of their business establishments intermittently and collecting the proceeds,

whilst replenishing the stocks. Curiously whenever a consumer calls for a particular brand of item from a mudalali inside the shop a negative reply is fired back.

It has been discovered in recent times that even the co-ops., too are colluding with private dealers in these shady deals.

Consumers do not wish to make a flutter over these types of anti-national acts for fear of consequences, but get away with heavy hearts.

It is fervently hoped that the woes of these hapless consumers reach the ears of the rank and file of the L. T. T. E., who shall loose no time in getting down to serious task of cleansing the Augean's stable by smoking out these anti social elements from public life.

Frustration is a dangerous frame of mind that can prejudice the minds of an individual or a community against another be it a Minister, State or an Organization.

The most plausible measure in obviating this crisis is for the L. T. T. E. to distribute these popular commodities through their own agencies and thus redeem the poor consumers from exploitation.

D. Jeevananthan
Vathiry.

News Item

The Editor,

Sir,

Reference the news item published in your Paper of 21st. July, 1991 on the First Page under heading "University lecturer killed by shell attack", I would like to draw your kind notice that at paragraph 3, you have mentioned that "Another person named Karthigesu Sivasithamparam (40) also died the same night". He is the Chief Clerk of District Court, Chavakachcheri. I shall be grateful if this information is also added in your esteemed Journal.

Yours faithfully

S. Yogalingam

An Open...

(Continuation of Page 4)

for the ethnic problem of this tiny Island.

If you do opt for a Military solution, no wonder you are driving the entire Sinhalese Nation for a genocidal race. If you do opt for an acceptable quick political solution then you could see the rays of Good Hope for a bright future in Ceylon arising from the horizon of North and East.

Thanking you

Yours Faithfully

A PATRIOT

HOT SPRING

VOL: 1 SUNDAY 18th. AUGUST 1991 ISSUE 45

Time for International Community to decide

The Government of Sri Lanka has published a list of articles forbidden to be transported to the North. Not that the Government permitted the free flow of any items during the last one year but now the Government is making an attempt to show that all goods except prohibited items can be transported but in effect the embargo will continue to be enforced on all items.

The list includes a variety of arms and ammunition - including toy guns. One wonders why these items of arms and ammunition have been included in the list. Is it to be presumed that the people outside the North are free to carry or transport those items? As far as we are aware, the possession and transport of these deadly equipment are prohibited all over. Does the Government of Sri Lanka permit the possession and free transport of these arms and ammunitions in Sinhala Rata?

The real intent and purpose of the prohibition appears as one reads the list further. One of the prohibited items is sweets and toffees. Only children will be angered by this prohibition, unless the Sri Lankan Government explains to our children that it had in its magnanimity chosen to prohibit the transport of sweets and toffees, as they are bad for the health of the children. But we ask the Government by what perversity of mind has it chosen to deny our small children some sweets and toffees.

The list is exhaustive. Soap is a prohibited item. We should not clean our clothes and bodies.

We should be ill - nourished. Therefore the Government has chosen to prohibit all food items based on Soya beans!

Sri Lankan Government has intended that should illness afflict us, we should be allowed to die without medical care. Therefore the Government has decided that medicines of all variety should be prohibited. Even sanitary towels are prohibited.

Camphor is an item that is liberally used in Hindu temples or other religious ceremonies connected with Hinduism. Now they are forbidden. And candles too. We should have no light in our homes or temples or Churches. We should not do any printing. Newsprint has been forbidden.

If each item is analysed, we can come to the conclusion that the list of prohibited items had been prepared by perverve minds intent on committing the gradual annihilation of the people in the North. There is no need to mention petrol and diesel necessary for travel. They are forbidden. There is no electricity. The Government of Sri Lanka has given ample proof of its real intent in prohibiting various items necessary for the people of the North. Yet unashamedly the Government of Sri Lanka calls the people of the North also her citizens.

But we the people of Tamil Eelam have experienced and endured this economic embargo placed on us for more than one year, And the economic embargo placed on the Eelam Tamil people has only helped to convince them of the urgent need for political emancipation from the Baudha - Sinhala imperialism.

We have experienced imperialist rule. The Portuguese, the Dutch and the British have extended their sway over Tamil Eelam and its people continuously for a period of over four centuries, But none of these imperialists had been in anyway worse than the Baudha-Sinhala imperialist whose rule or misrule has not even reached a period of half a century,

The short period of Baudha - Sinhala imperialist rule has taken the Eelam Tamils to the uttermost depths of human degradation and misery. The longer the Baudha - Sinhala Imperialist rule persists, the worse will be the plight of Tamil Eelam and its people.

We lived here and we continue to live here on our own right. We can ill-afford to compromise our independent right to live in our country and make our living conditional on the sufferance of Baudha-Sinhala imperialism,

When in 1987 the Government of Sri Lanka imposed a fuel ban in the North, the then Government of India air - dropped food parcels to relieve the distress of the people. Now that the Government of Sri Lanka is doing worse than what it did in 1987, should India turn a blind eye to the sufferings of the people of Tamil Eelam and engage herself in negotiations for the sale of arms to Sri Lanka? The Eelam Tamils have been repeatedly complaining of genocide. In this context what does the international community expect Eelam Tamils to do - to slowly die or find their own salvation? If it is the latter, isn't it time the international community and especially India permit the Eelam Tamils to obtain their requirements from them directly?

Sri Lankan Boundaries Terminate where Eelam Boundaries Begin

"The Sinhala - Tamil conflict is a long running one. For 35 years Tamils in the Island of Ceylon have been pressing their demands for the integrity of the Tamil homeland, substantial autonomy for the Tamil territory, equal rights for the Tamil language and rights of citizenship. Successive Sinhala governments have agreed to some or all of these principles, but whatever political complexion they consist, they have not implemented them. The will to resolve the National question has been lacking", so said the Bishop of Rippon speaking in the House of Lords some months back.

A fierce military conflict is being fought in the North and East of the Island since 1972, the year in which this Dominion minus the North and East became a Republic. So still the North and East of Ceylon remains a Dominion and the Queen of England is also the Queen of the Dominion. This Dominion Status will remain as such

until the lost State of Eelam is restored and re-constituted by its people.

Hence there is some meaning in what the Sri Lankan President, Mr. R. Premadasa says that Foreign Forces will not be permitted to interfere in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka.

But what President Premadasa and everyone else who intends to help the Eelam Tamil Nation win its rights fail to grasp, is the fact that the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka ends at the boundaries of the North and East in Tamil Eelam. It is so with the question of sovereignty which is confined to that part of the Island only.

Henceforth, let anyone who wishes to speak or demand justice for the Eelam Tamil Nation, first recognise the Dominion Status of Tamil Eelam. Otherwise, as President Premadasa has said they will be interfering in the internal affairs of the

country. Once this simple fact is recognised by the international community, the rest is simple.

Her Majesty the Queen of England is the Queen of the Dominion of Tamil Eelam as well, until the subjects of the Dominion restore and re-constitute their lost State of Tamil Eelam. To help or assist in restoring the lost State of Tamil Eelam, there is no need for anyone to interfere in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. It is best to recognise the unity and territorial integrity of each other and learn to co-exist rather than continue the war of aggression in Tamil Eelam.

President Premadasa has demanded others not interfere in the internal affairs of his country. So let us all expect him as well, not to interfere in the domestic affairs of Tamil Eelam which is outside the boundaries of the State of (Sinhala) Sri Lanka.

ANANDAN

NEWS

28-7-91

At Thalayady. Some houses and shops were damaged in a bomber attack.

30-7-91

At Tellipalai. A girl, S. Jeyaranjini (24) was injured and admitted to Jaffna Hospital in a helicopter attack.

31-7-91

At Pannalai. Artillery shell attack from Palay Army Camp. Ponnuthurai Aiyankaran (21) was injured and admitted to Jaffna Hospital. Some houses were damaged.

At Vadamaradchy East. Rocket attack from bomber. One person died and six were injured.

At Ponnalai. Artillery shell attack from Karainagar Navy Camp. Some houses were damaged.

2-8-91

At Senthankulam. Bomber attack. [Damages have not been verified.

At Palai, Soranpattu and Puthukadu. Attack by bombers and Y.12 Chinese planes. Some houses were damaged.

3-8-91

At Chavakachcheri. Bomber attack. Two persons were

injured. Many houses were damaged.

At Valalai. Attack by bombers. Damages not verified.

At Vadamaradchi East. Cannon fire from Naval gun-boats. Damages not verified.

4-8-91

At Kudathanai, Kudarappu. Rocket attack from Helicopters.

At Eralalai. Gun fire from Kadduvan Army Camp. One person was injured and admitted to Jaffna Hospital.

ROUND UP

At Ponnalai. Artillery shell attack from Karainagar Army Camp. A shop and house were damaged.

At Kurrikkadduvan. Artillery shell attack from Naval Camp at Nainativu. No damages reported.

6-8-91

At Vaddukoddai East. Helicopter attack.

7-8-91

At Kuppulan. Artillery shell attack from Palay Army Camp. Many houses were damaged.

At Ponnalai, Moolai. Artillery shell attack from Karainagar Army Camp.

Damages have not been verified.

At Chavakachcheri. Bomber Attack Some houses were damaged. An old lady was injured.

At Eralalai Artillery shell attack from Palay Army Camp. One person injured and admitted to Tellipalai hospital.

At Kupulan. Gun fire from Vayavilan Army Camp One person was injured and admitted to Jaffna Hospital.

8-8-91

Naval boats opened fire on a passenger boat. The deceased have not been identified.

At Chavakachcheri. Bombs dropped from Avro plane. Houses were damaged and one person was injured.

9-8-91

Artillery shell attack from Karainagar Navy camp directed towards sea at Ponnalai.

Helicopter attack on pedestrians at Vallipuram and Nagarkovil. Many houses damaged at Ponnalai by artillery shell attack from Navy Camp at Karainagar.

10-8-91

At Kudyirrupu. Artillery shell attack from Mullaitivu Army Camp. R. Jeyakumar (13) and S. Dayani (8) were injured and admitted to Jaffna Hospital.