

HOT SPRING

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DIFFERENT PEOPLES DIFFERENT REGIONS

...The needs of the various Provinces and their heterogeneous population differ widely according to race and locality... any attempts that may be made to represent the 'people of Ceylon' as forming a single entity welded together, with common interests to an extent sufficient to nullify these differences, is to the last degree misleading and argues a radical misconception of local conditions and ignorance of the Colony as a whole"

Sir Henry McCallum, Governor - 1909

ARMY IMPUDENCE

Political Role of Army Major General

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It is learnt that Major General Denzil Kobbekaduwa of the Sri Lankan Army has told the correspondent of 'Asia Week' that the next step in the Army operations would be operations to split the North and East.

Evidently the military operation Kobbekaduwa has talked of is directed towards attaining a political objective which even the Government of Sri Lanka does not publicly advocate. On the contrary, various governments of Sri Lanka have admitted that the North - East is Tamil territory. J. R. Jayewardene even signed the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord merging the North and East

as one Province out of political compulsion but fooled Mr. Gandhi by making the merger the subject to ratification after one year, by a referendum.

The Northern and Eastern Provinces have remained the historical homeland of the Eelam Tamils throughout and since governmental power passed to the hands of the Sinhalese - all Sinhala leaders and governments have striven every nerve not only to change the demographic pattern of the two provinces but also tried covertly and overtly to drive Sinhala wedges and split the geographical contiguity of the Tamil homeland. The State - sponsored

colonization schemes had this end in view though the cover was agricultural development. This land - grabbing scheme started with the late D. S. Senanayake as Minister of Agricultural and lands and continues to this day without break. The important suppression of fact is that none of the Sinhala political leaders has been bold enough to openly admit their cunning scheme which was to divide and destroy the Tamils. Like a sanctimonious cat they always loftily spoke of agricultural and economic development.

We have now the news of an Army Major - General publicly saying that the Army intends breaking up the geographical contiguity of the two provinces though the Government itself has not said anything.

Major - General Kobbekaduwa's information to Asia Week is very important.

It shows the Sinhala Army's impatience at the Sinhala political leaders' pretended public disavowal of any anti-Tamil animus and the decision of the Army to achieve the political objective of Sinhalaization of the entire Island at the expense of the Tamil Eelam nation.

The failure of President Premadasa to check the open political activities of Army

officers indicate either his own complicity in the whole game or that the real power in the so-called Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka has slowly and steadily passed on to the Army on the might and help of which alone the fabric of the Sinhala State is being maintained ever since Mr. J. R. Jayewardene began his notorious rule with the proclamation of Emergency.

NAVAL GUN BOATS OFF JAFFNA - TENSION GROWS

Some naval gunboats were seen off the seas near Jaffna Coast and cannon firing heard early on the morning of Friday, August 30, 1991.

The presence of the naval gun boats and the sound of cannon fire has caused tension in the coastal areas

of Jaffna Town and environs. Already some people from these areas have left their homes and sought refuge at the Church of Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna.

Also refugees have started coming into Jaffna from the adjoining island of Mandaitivu.

TWO DAYS CONSECUTIVE BOMBER ATTACK AT MANALARU

Sri Lankan Air Force bombers dropped bombs for two consecutive days in

the Manaluru district villages of Kokkilai, Alampil, Chemmalai and Nayar.

The bomber attack took place on Monday, August 26th and Tuesday August 27th. The reports further state that three bombers were engaged in the attack each day and over 18 bombs had been dropped.

The extent of the damage has not been verified but reports stated that residents from the village were seen fleeing to other areas for safety.

Reports received later state that the same villages were subjected to aerial bombardment on the 28th and 29th of August. Reports also state certain areas in the Manaluru District were subjected to an all-night bombing on the 29th August.

SINHALIZATION OF TRINCOMALEE SINHALESE FISHERMEN RECEIVE FISHING BOATS FREE

It is learnt that the 100 fishing boats have been donated to Sinhala fishermen for purposes of fishing. These fishing boats have been donated by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

No Tamil fishermen have been given any such donations.

It is also further learnt that Ministries of Rehabilitation and Fisheries are working in collaboration to put up houses for Sinhalese fishermen

in Trincomalee. It is to be noted that all Sinhalese fishermen in Trincomalee are people from outside and given various facilities to encourage them to settle in

Trincomalee District by Government and other Buddhist organizations with the ulterior motive of changing the demographic pattern of the District.

COUNCIL OF NGOS FORMED

a Consortium styled "Council of NGOS - Jaffna".

These NGOS are foreign-based, and locally - based, foreign - funded organizations as well as religious organizations.

The Administrative officer of the Council explained that the purpose of the Consortium was to co-ordinate the activities of the various NGOS so that duplication and overlapping could be avoided.

He further said that the Consortium has decided to repair 600 huts put up for refugees in Tellippalai in view of the on-coming monsoonal

rains. He said that this work would be undertaken by the REDD BARNA, Church of South India, Tamil Relief Organization, The Relief and Rehabilitation Organization, HUDEC and the YMCA, Jaffna - all member organizations in the Consortium.

He further said that the Consortium would soon set up a Data Bank. The assistance of the Statistical Office and the University of Jaffna has been obtained in setting up this Bank.

The member - organizations in the Consortium are also preparing to provide farmers with assistance.

Tamil Eelam-the Guarantee for Triumph of Democracy

"My personal belief is that you will get your Eelam, and the people of the North and East will regret the day after a few months of rule by the Tigers"

Lord Avebury in a letter to Wakely Paul.

"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

If they fail their people, they could be ousted. If they do not, they deserve the right to rule. This is more than one can say for SINHALA hegemony over this region"

Wakely Paul's Reply to Lord Avebury.

OUR READERS SPEAK

CLARION CALL

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Sir,

Differences of opinions may influence our minds but let us not surrender ourselves to those petty issues and surrender our rights in the hands of Sinhala chauvinists. Our past political experience is ample lesson before us and we have learnt bitter lessons and now the Tamil youths have launched on this struggle to liberate the entire Tamil community from this never ending shackles of Sinhala domination. If this situation goes unchecked by our timely prudence, the consequences of such an apathy can prove hostile to the entire Tamil community when we may be huddled as prisoners of war.

Eelam is in the veins of every Tamil and it is through unity and solidarity that we can achieve this goal. Piece-meal solutions suggested by the Sinhala politicians are a time conservation device designed to re-vamp the machinery of machination against the Tamils with a view to totally annihilate the entire community and therefore we as Tamils should foresee from our past experience how political parties that were in power proved their intentions. Not a single political party that was in power was poised to promote the Tamil cause and the Tamil leaders who represented the Tamil community were brushed aside with contempt. Tamils gave every opportunity to the Sinhala leaders to prove their honest intentions, and passage of time has proved that the Sinhalese as a community are not prone to consider the Tamils as part and parcel of this Island.

Tamils who advocated non-violent methods to achieve their missions met with violent repercussions and thus it became inevitable for the Tamil youths to resort to armed insurrection.

An earnest appeal is, therefore made through this esteemed journal to all to address their minds to the burning question of the day and lend their unbiased support to the LTTE, in its effort to liberate the Tamil community from Sinhala oppression.

If this call goes unheeded, the consequences can be dire and dangerous, for if the enemy conquers us it is needless for us to predict the predicament-prisoners of war or slaves.

Bombing and strafings are clear examples. They have proved their intentions,

On the pretext of fighting terrorism, they have emerged to destroy the entire Tamil community. During the anti Che Guvera operation, not a single civilian life was snuffed off.

So a fervent appeal is made once again through this esteemed journal to all to consider this issue in all seriousness and in the interest of the entire Tamil community and abandon petty differences and come under the single banner of the LTTE, and fight the enemy.

J. Thevathy

Vathiry.

Editor,
Hot Spring.

Dear Sir,

I would like to bring the following to the notice of the Government Agent, the AGAs, and the Grama Sevakas of the Jaffna District.

In our Society, a section of people are white collar job people, but they are not permanently employed. These people do not have monthly income, provident fund or pension. These people make their money by doing this and that. These people are neither farmers nor labourers. For example, an electrician doing a private work, an Engineer in the piece rate system. A Proctor doing a private work. A Doctor running a private clinic. A Tutor master teaching in a Tutor etc.

To my knowledge, an Engineer, known to me, makes money in the following way: he does home gardening, gives technical advice to the technicians, training students to become technicians and working in the factories in the piece rate system.

The foreign employment veterans are also coming under this category, particularly those who have exhausted their reserves earning money through this and that. Due to the war this section of people find very difficult to earn money. So I request the Government Authorities to treat these people in a special way.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,
K.S. Paramanathan
Kopay South.

The Battle at Elephant Pass

Dear Mr. Editor,

The above battle has been portrayed as a victory to the Sri Lanka Army and defeat to the militants of the LTTE. But when one

considers the logistics and statistics of this encounter, one may come to a different conclusion. The militants had surrounded the Camp on the 10th of July and after four days of battle they had made it ready to fall. That situation was so serious for its 800 occupants that the army had no alternative but to land 8,000 sea-borne troops six miles to the East in a bid to rescue the entrapped men. It should be noted that these troops were not brought from Colombo which may have taken a week to arrive but moved from nearby Trincomalee within 24 hours of the decision.

Battle ships anchored off Vettalaikerni discharged 8,000

well armed troops on the 14th July and with the help of bombers tried to march the six miles stretch. The army had the advantage of bombers blasting a path and the militants only their courage and determination. Many a battle was fought on the way and it took 8,000 strong army backed by the Navy and Air Force 24 days to cover six miles. Such a powerful task force should have captured a camp within a few hours under normal circumstances.

The Buddhist Government gloats that it had killed over 2,100 Tamil youths, when it had saved the lives of little prawns and fingerlings by closing down all fresh water fisheries in the

South of the Island. But they also admit the death or injuries to nearly a thousand troops. The first casualty in any war is truth and I am sure the Government has minimised its casualties and maximised those of the militants just to please the Maha Sangha and the Buddhist public. But even in their own admission they had to sacrifice a thousand men to capture six miles. This, I am sure, will make the Government re-think its philosophy of a military solution to an entirely political problem.

Yours Truly,

R.L. Thevathasan

Erlalai,
Jaffna.

IN TRINCOMALEE

Sinhalization under pretext of Rehabilitation

Funds allocated for Rehabilitation work in the North East are being utilized for settling and consolidating Sinhalese colonization of the Trincomalee District.

It is learnt that a rapid programme to build 12,000 houses for Sinhalese colonists has already been launched in the Trincomalee District. The National Housing Board has already started on the construction of these houses with the assistance of the Government Agent of Trincomalee, who is a Sinhalese. This work has been undertaken at the instance of the Ministry of Rehabilitation and the Ministry of Social Services.

CRICKET

Centralites eliminated their arch rivals Johnnians in the Semi-finals and Manipay got the better of Grasshoppers in the other Semi-finals. The Centralites' win was mainly due to a fifth wicket partnership between Raguthas and Ganesanathan which really helped them to triumph. Manipay's win was due to the good account with the bat by Baskaran and fine bowling by Daniel.

It is going to be a one-sided game with Centralites as clear favourites. Only a miracle will save Manipay on the Final which will be played on 1st September.

SOCCER

St. Mary's beat their traditional rivals, the Singing Fish by one goal in the Kumariah Tournament. They are now assured of a final berth in the Tournament where they meet St. Anthony's on the latter's grounds.

—Vijakumar

It is further learnt that the housing scheme will be spread throughout the Trincomalee District to ensure the consolidation of the Sinhala colonists settlements.

Kokkaticholai Massacres London Tamils Protest

The Tamil Nation, London, in its issue July 1-15, 1991 has carried news about a mass demonstration by London Tamils sponsored by the International Federation of Tamils opposite the Sri Lanka High Commission in London.

The demonstration was organized to protest against the latest massacres carried out at Kokkaticholai in the Batticaloa District by the Sri Lanka Armed Forces.

Tamil Nation carried a picture of the protesting Tamils with placards in their hands.

'Murders of Women and Children' - 'Vacate from our Homeland' - 'Sri Lanka - with draw your sadistic soldiers from Tamil Land' - 'Stop your soldiers Raping our School Girls' were some of the slogans prominently displayed on the placards.

Ultra - Nationalists' Excitement!

"The analysis of Professor A. J. Wilson, as published on this page, shows how human rights, when projected in a racial context smacks of prejudice unworthy of an enlightened personality. This one-time highly respected civics scholar, whose text-books were not long ago translated even for Sinhala students, appears to have descended to the level of a spokesman for the LTTE.

A. J. Wilson's speech at the recent Tamil Eelam Conference in California, outlining different models for a settlement providing "Eelam" short of Eelam is in effect a blank cheque for the LTTE to run a one-party state in the island's North East sans representation from other Tamil, Muslim, Sinhala or Multi-ethnic parties.

The open call by this constitutional advisor to a former President of Sri Lanka refutes the official claim of the U. S. Government that the California Conference was not intended to be an attack on Sri Lanka Sovereignty and territorial integrity.

While our Ambassador in Washington and Hony Consul in Los Angeles slept, almost every speech or paper presented at the Conference gave a push to the LTTE and the battle for Eelam."

Extracts from Editorial: Sunday Times
25-8-1991

PANORAMA

The dissolution diarrhoea

Last week parliamentarians from the Congress (I) in Tamil Nadu are reported to have demanded in the Lok Sabha the dissolution of the Tamil Nadu government of Miss Jayalalitha of the A.I.A.D.M.K. It will be remembered that the A. I. A. D. M. K. Congress (I) Alliance fought the last general elections in Tamil Nadu and obtained a massive victory. Still the Alliance exists technically at any rate! But the Congress (I) members now want the dissolution of the A. I. A. D. M. K. government in Tamil Nadu.

Ostensibly, the rupture between the Congress (I) and A. I. A. D. M. K. started with a report of an assault by some A. I. A. D. M. K. members on Mr. P. Chidamparam of the Congress (I) who is also a State Minister. Mr. Chidamparam, unlike Congress (I) Tamil Nadu leader Vayhapadi Ramamoorthy did not resign his ministerial office on the Cavery Water issue. Of course, Miss Jayalalitha has denied the incident of assault on Mr. Chidamparam but the Congress (I) Committee presided over by Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao has passed a resolution regretting the incident. In other words, the Congress (I) has indirectly called Miss Jayalalitha's denial a lie. And this charge is augmented by a report by Aladi Aruna of the D.M.K., who has also rebutted Jayalalitha's denial.

But what is of concern is the political shallowness of the political leaders of Tamil Nadu. Everytime there is a rupture between the ruling party and the opposition in Tamil Nadu, the politicians in the Opposition there have resorted to the practice of running to the Government in New Delhi with a petition requesting the dissolution of the State Government. This petition writing mentality is not confined to any single political party. All major parties there are guilty of the same subservient mentality. They forget that it is the Tamil Nadu voter who is the master of both the Government and the Opposition. They believe there is an extraneous super-power in New Delhi - but the irony of it all is that sometimes these leaders are heard to complain of the concentration of power at the Centre! Cannot the political leaders of Tamil Nadu learn to play

the game fairly? They should learn to rely on popular support for the vindication of their views instead of running to the Centre with a dissolution petition.

The appeals to the Centre to dissolve a duly constituted government at the State, have become really contagious and before long, if the political parties in Tamil Nadu do not extricate themselves from the malady, it may well be easier for the Centre to devise means to dissolve the State Assembly permanently and impose President's Rule there. This dangerous disease of petitions for dissolutions must, therefore, stop - and with it also the complaints of "threat to law and order situations."

Rajiv Gandhi Murder

When Rajiv Gandhi met with his death in Sri Perambudur near Madras, the Congress (I) made capital of the situation to win 'sympathy votes' for itself. The Congress (I) ally, the A. I. A. D. M. K. too joined in this earnest endeavour to bag in 'sympathy votes'. Before the Investigating Officials could start the investigations, the Congress (I) President of Tamil Nadu started accusing the LTTE and the hysteria virtually took hold of all the Congress (I) and AIADMK leaders. All the investigation done by the investigation team looked more like the team having arrived at a conclusion, was finding evidence to substantiate its conclusion. It was not that they tried to come to conclusions based on evidence but they were going for evidence to support their conclusion. This is the result of politics taking the better of investigations.

In any event the malicious campaign of vilification of the LTTE and Eelam Tamils have to come to an end with the reported announcement of the Indian Police to the effect that two persons whom they wanted for questioning died along with five others in Karnataka.

The Indian Investigating Police, careerist politicians and others created fanciful stories and held them out for public consumption. In the process they created an Eelam Tamil variously referred to as One-eyed Jack, Sivarasan and a host of other names and have finally ended the story with this phantom shooting himself to death but the others allegedly resident with him in the Karnataka house taking their lives by cyanide.

The important points for consideration in the whole exercise can be summarised as follows:-

(i) The investigating team allegedly found a video film roll supposed to have been taken by a photographer named Hari Babu who had also died at the spot where Rajiv Gandhi died;

(ii) The video film was developed. A person who looked like a pressman was found standing by the side of an Indian woman, Kokila. This woman and her daughter also died in the incident;

(iii) The alleged assassin of Rajiv Gandhi - another woman - was standing between Kokila and her daughter;

(iv) The story was circulated that this woman exploded the bomb;

(v) In this context the first allegation was made by Mr. Vazhapadi Ramamoorthy, the Congress (I) President of Tamil Nadu that she carried the bomb hidden in her pavadai (skirt). Later it was stated that the bomb was fixed on to her back. The most important thing to note is that a pavadai (skirt) is not worn on the back but below the waist;

(vi) In any event the investigating team proceeded on the theory that the woman was the assassin. Her identity was not established;

(vii) The investigation team said it thought that the person who stood by Kokila could give information. They set about trying to establish the identity of the man by drawing various pictures based on video tape image found on Hari Babu's film roll;

(viii) Ultimately some hiring Tamil groups now working with the government of Sri Lanka in Colombo have

told the investigators that the photograph depicted a man called Sivarasan, allegedly an LTTE man;

(ix) Then the Indian team made efforts to apprehend this man. In the process they made life horrible for many Eelam Tamils and the reports are that as many as 22 Eelam Tamils died in India;

(x) Finally, we have now received the report that Sivarasan had shot himself to death.

Whilst the veracity of all the information let loose for circulation by the Indian investigators is open to suspicion - the latest disclosure in effect tells a candid truth to the whole world. And it is that the Rajiv Gandhi murder and the alleged involvement of the LTTE in it, is now no fact but fiction.

In this context what comes to one's mind is the criticism levelled against the investigating machinery by Mr. Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of West Bengal. He said that the whole exercise seemed to be to let the real murderers go unapprehended.

The Soviet Union

The most sensational news is the coup in the Soviet Union. At the time of writing this, the news has already come that the coup has failed and that Gorbachev has come back to power. The USSR is a world power and was the leader of one of the two camps into which the world was divided into, during the days of the "Cold War". After the October Revolution and the founding of the USSR, the Soviet Union became a world power of great dimensions. The Gorbachev stewardship of the Soviet Union did see drastic changes in Russian policy which the West welcomed.

The recent happenings in the Soviet Union has put up the prestige of Mr. Yelstin also in the eyes of the West.

The West would naturally now pay eulogies both to Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yelstin. But within the Communist world itself one is not sure what the reactions will be. Already we have it that the Communist Party of India and CPI (M) took a line favourable to those who temporarily ousted Gorbachev. The situation in the Soviet Union is not all too clear. But what has become clear is that a coup does not succeed in politically advanced countries as a means of bringing political changes. What is required primarily is popular support.

Duttugemunu

A Colombo English Language "national" weekly has referred to Army officer Kobbekaduwa saying that battle is not against the Tamils and says that this attitude is in the Duttugemunu lineage. So, if this paper wants to call Denzil Kobbekaduwa, the modern incarnation of Duttugemunu, I am compelled to wonder whether the Major General would like it.

Duttu Gemunu's name was not Duttu Gemunu - but Gemunu. The word Duttu means "bad". We have heard of historical names such as Peter the Great, Richard the Lion-hearted but now where in the world have heard of a personality with the tag "BAD" attached to his name. We Tamils did not give Gemunu the title of "Bad".

But why are our Sinhalese friends keen to revive the memory of Gemunu the Bad? Is it because the deities have told Gemunu that those who are not "Buddhists" are not even humans - as the Mahavamsa tells?

— Spectator —

ETHIOPIA

A new chance for human rights

Seventeen years of brutal repression ended in Ethiopia in May 1991 when President Mengistu Haile - Mariam fled into exile and opposition forces defeated the Ethiopian armed forces. Peace talks in London, chaired by the United States of America, confirmed the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) as the new interim government in Addis Ababa. The Eritrean People's Liberation Front, allied to the EPRDF, declared itself the provisional government in Eritrea but said that an internationally supervised referendum will be held to decide the future status of

Eritrea. It was agreed at the London talks that a broad-based transitional government will soon be formed in Addis Ababa to prepare for multi-party elections.

Hundreds of political prisoners went free, including prisoners of conscience held since 1979. Some were released under a partial amnesty after President Mengistu's departure; others walked out of prison when resistance to the opposition forces collapsed.

An AI report published on 30 May, Ethiopia; End of an era of brutal repression-

a new chance for human rights, concluded a detailed account of gross human rights violations by the Mengistu government with an appeal to the new authorities to adopt an eight-point human rights agenda:

AI is monitoring the situation of several hundred former officials now detained in Addis Ababa, Asmara and elsewhere. The authorities have said they will receive fair trials in the presence of international observers.

Courtesy:

Amnesty International Newsletter - August 1991.

Provincial Councils — An Exercise in Deceit

Mr. Gandhi was ill — Advised

Mr. Gandhi (Rajiv) had not been advised that Sri Lanka had a State of Emergency Act incorporated as part of its unitary constitution and that its provisions would make Sri Lanka not merely a highly centralized state but freeze the entire political process, while the emergency is in operation.

The major part of Mrs Bandaranayake's fatal 1970-77 misrule was under emergency government, some 2000 days. President Jayewardene improved on this record. So, while the synthetic semblance of autonomy enters through the window under the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord of July, 1987, real devolved de-

centralized power, flies through the door.

The exercise is a mockery, a sheer vandalism of the concept of federalism. Then similarly, and this is where Mr. Gandhi was ill-advised, if not misled, is that the Provincials Councils Act provides for, as in the Indian and any federal constitutions, three sets of powers, namely a State List, a list of powers assigned to the Central Government and a Concurrent List on which both the Central Government and the Provincial Council can legislate.

If, however, there is a conflict between the laws

passed by the central parliament and the provincial assembly, the laws of the centre will prevail.

Such an arrangement is provided for in any federal system. But under the Sri Lanka's scheme, there is a plot, a familiar sleight of hand, or more vividly put, what is given with the right hand, is taken away by the left hand. For this the concurrent list of powers in

the Provincial council Act must be carefully examined.

It will be readily seen that each and every power in the concurrent list is included directly or indirectly in the provincial list. So

that if the province passes legislation that the central government does not approve of, then the centre can enact laws nullifying the whole purpose of provincial legislation. In such a context, there is no provision for even village autonomy. Thus the whole thing is an exercise

in deceit. Unfortunately, Mr. Gandhi was too busy a leader to be sensitized to this fraud. But his advisors should have known better and not allowed themselves to be misdirected in this way.

A third factor in the arrangement for devolving of powers to the provinces is that the exercise is devoid of meaning in the context of Sri Lanka's Executive Presidency, unless there is a rigid demarcation of powers

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MUSINGS BY NESTOR

A youngster came into the hospital with a wound. The Doctor enquired how did you get the wound. The

explanation is illuminating. He claimed that he was 14 years old. The Doctor however felt that he was much younger although he was tall it transpired that the boy lived with his parents at Kadduvan. When the Sinhala Armed Forces spread the inhabited area the boy did not want to go with his parents because he was sure he would be arrested, taken to the camp, tortured, killed and accounted for as a case of disappearance. He therefore preferred to go into the Tiger Camp and was after some training sent to Elephant Pass. There he got the injury. The perceptions of this youngster are admirable. By entering the Tiger Camp he might run the risk of being injured or killed but he would not be harassed and tortured and accounted for as a case of disappearance. In the Eastera Province when the Armed Forces spread out into inhabited areas the males of the age group that attracts the attention of the Armed Forces did not have the same spirit and outlook. They thought that they would be safe as civilians but given the attitude of the Sinhala Armed Forces civilians of particular age groups are totally unsafe.

It would appear that Parliamentary traditions have been made to stand on their head that a Speaker considers it a virtue or a merit to fall prostrate at the feet of the Chief Minister is perversional democracy and parliamentary government to an extreme degree unparalleled elsewhere in the world. Hero - worshipping India must go a long way before it becomes the modern democratic State.

Nestor never considered Rajiv Gandhi to have been gifted with much intelligence. Any one who analyses the Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord would come to the same conclusion. Not only there are incongruities, inconsistencies and contradictions in the Accord but there is also a serious hiatus which enabled President Premadasa of petty little Sri Lanka to announce at a Temple ceremony that he would issue a quit order to the Indian Armed Forces and proceeded unilaterally to implement that proposal.

But a press cutting of the era before the Gandhi-Jayewardene Accord reveals that when he thinks on his own he could be not only very intelligent but also thoroughly logical in his approach. When asked by press persons about India recognizing Eelyom he retorted back that a State must be proclaimed in the first instance before any talk on recognition can be had. Tamils of Eelyom must take note of this.

The Germans are reported to have consulted astrology in making moves in the war front. Does Sri Lanka Government also consult astrology in making its moves in the war front? The Sinhala Armed Forces were landed at Vettalaikerni on the asterism 'Ayiliyam' which is a janmathirayam for Pirabhakaran. But in the end the Germans did not win the war because they did not fight for a cause but only to achieve Imperium over the whole world. One may win battles but lose the war if the war is not founded on a worthy cause.

FOR GOODNESS SAKE ACCEPT MY SACRIFICE

I did hurt my mother when I parted from her
She bled colourless blood

Her agony was beyond human description
But how else could I truly worship you O God
Without lifting my rifle to save her and hers?

O God
Comfort my mother and tell her not to weep
For her dearest son!

The hour of parting from my mother arrived
Even before I could open my eyes
My young blood bubbled within me
The righteous anger that you had bestowed within me
Woke me up from my slumber!

O God
Comfort my mother and tell her not to weep
For her dearest son!

It was in my mothers cry that I heard the battle cry
It was for our sake, for her sake as well
I joined the other boys who had already gone, some for ever
Many, oh many of my school mates have died with their sacrificial death
While the deacons, priests and bishops still take counsel!

O God
Comfort my mother and tell her not to weep
For her dearest son!

Our soil has become dark blackish red
All flowers from our garden are becoming wreaths
No, not a single flower is remaining
To be offered in your temple, not even for my sister's beautiful hair
This is what prompted me to offer myself to you!

O God
Comfort my mother and tell her not to weep
For her dearest son!

I have seen all that I should not see in your world
Thus far only horror and cruelty
Generated by those inhuman men blessed by the President and the Bishops
Claiming to protect the citizens of Sri Lanka
They have already murdered Buddha on the poya day of July 1983!

O God
Comfort my mother and tell her not to weep
For her dearest son!

You taught me O Lord that I should not permit anyone
To take my life without my consent
And that no children after me should see what I have seen
Wherefor I say all our hands should lift the rifle
For goodness sake accept my sacrifice, if you cannot ... !

O God
Comfort my mother and tell her not to weep
For her dearest son!

Amos Rajaratnam

Tamil Issue Figures in Australian Senate

The Tamils of Sri Lanka figured on the subject of Self-Determination for Minority Groups raised in the Australian Senate on 19 June 1991. The following is the relevant extract of proceedings during the Question and Answer session:-

Senator Valentine-I ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade whether he has read a paper by Dr. Herb Feith and Alan Smith of Monash University on the Kurds and self-determination. In the light of suggested proposals for the United Nations (UN) to develop a procedure for working out a form of self-determination for minority groups in multi-ethnic states. I ask the Minister whether the Government feels that such an approach would be viable and whether Australia, could take an initiatives at the United Nations along

the lines suggested by the authors of paper.

I also ask the Minister whether the Government has any other general policy initiatives to work out ways of resolving the issue of self-determination in areas of conflict around the world, including those in our neighbourhood such as West Papua, East Timor, the Moslems in the Philippines the hill people Myanmar, the Tamils of Sri Lanka and Bougainville.

Senator Gareth Evans - I have recently received a copy of the paper by Herb Feith and Alan Smith entitled *The Kurds and Self-determination*. It does raise some interesting ideas about the treatment of self determination. The paper is now being studied in my Department. It has also been referred to our permanent mission to the UN in New York seeking its comments

on how such a proposal might conceivably be handled in the UN.

I can say that, as a general principle, Australia does support a stronger role for the UN in strengthening collective security arrangements, but the UN does not have carte blanche to unilaterally intervene in a nation's domestic affairs. United Nations action which impinges upon the domestic jurisdiction of a member state is governed by article 2.7 of the Charter, which states!

Nothing in the Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, or shall require the members to submit such matters to resettlement under the present charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.

What all that means is that the UN, unless it,

undertakes enforcement action of the kind that we saw for example in the Gulf conflict, has to have the agreement of the respective member states to take any action in relation to question of self determination. Thus, UN involvement in the resettlement of the Kurds in northern Iraq has resulted from an agreement between the UN and the Iraqi Government to enable such a UN role to be established.

The Australian Government's general approach to the resolution of question of self determination in areas of conflict has been necessarily to address these on a case by case basis with respective governments, while indicating that we respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of those governments. As Senator Valentine will be well aware, we have also been very active in discussing human rights matters, including the problems of the various minorities mentioned by her. We do have a very

strong record in urging those countries to respect the individual and collective human rights of their peoples. But in each case, as I guess again Senator Vallentine will be aware, there are complex and individual problems which do require careful handling.

We have been particularly active in our region with the proposal to President Premadasa that Sri Lanka's government, for example, consider using the good offices of the Commonwealth in finding a solution to the problems faced by the Tamils.

I have also detailed on a number of occasions what we have been doing in Bougainville. I think our commitment to and engagement in the region is well known. It would be far too tedious for me to go through all the other specific instances that Senator Valentine mentioned, but I would of course be happy to talk to her at any stage about those specific cases.

Courtesy: Tamil Nation

Three months' extension to the Army Commander

A crisis was averted in the Army recently with the extension of the term of office of the Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe.

The Secretary to the Minister of State for Defence, Walter Fernando said on Thursday, 15th August that the Army Commander's term was extended by three months.

In the run up to the expiry of the Army Commander's term of August 15th, speculation was rife that the Chief - of - Staff, Cecil Wai-

dyaratne would be appointed the New Commander.

Major - General Cecil Waidyaratne completes three years as a Major - General on December 1st and according to a government decision, A Major - General should serve in such rank only for three years. Thus an extension for the Army Commander by the usual one year would effectively mean Major - General Waidyaratne would not be eligible for the top post.

It was in the first week of August that the Army

Commander in writing requested another one-year extension. Lt. General Wanasinghe forwarded his letter to the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for Defence, D. B. Wijetunge who in turn forwarded it to President R. Premadasa. Earlier, Defence Secretary, General Cyril Rantatunge too had supported the Army Commander's request for an year's extension.

But when it came to the crunch, President Premadasa decided to grant Lt. Gen. Wanasinghe only a three-

month extension - instead of the one year asked for and supported by the Defence Secretary General Cyril Rantatunge that is till November 15, 1991.

This, Defence Analysts say, was a clever move made by President Premadasa to avoid friction in the Army. In fact, news correspondents, have asked General Cyril Rantatunge as to why the Army Commander was given only a three - month extension, to which General Rantatunge had said that there were various reasons and the government had decided on a three-month extension but did not elaborate. Likewise, the Army Commander too, said that it was the decision of the President and declined to comment further.

Equally distressing to the Sri Lanka Security establishment, was a problem in the Sri Lanka Navy, where the Navy Commander even complained to the President over the manner in which a promotion came to be given to his deputy.

The said dispute was settled only after the President initiated a top level inquiry by a three - member committee to go into the allegation made by the Navy Commander. And now with the Navy Commander's term due to expire on October 31 st, he has taken leave prior to retirement.

General Cyril Rantatunge is reported to have told a news reporter that the new commander would take office on November 1st. Perhaps, unlike the Army Head, the Navy Commander was not prompted by anyone to seek an extension of his term even for a brief period.

Whereas Sri Lanka Security personnel serving in occupied territories of Tamil Eelam such as Karainagar, Kayts and some areas in Mannar and Batticaloa are freely permitted to loot the properties of civilians such as television sets, Radios, jewels, motor cycles, furniture and door and window frames and get them transported by government vehicles belonging to the Security Forces by claiming the stolen property and affixing their names with the aid of celotapes, Security personnel who had permitted banned items such as kerosene, soaps, dry battery cells, candles and shopping bags out of human sympathy were suspended from service and made to stand trial to answer alleged charges of bribery and corruption before the Courts.

But according to news reports due to a recent development in the Defence Ministry, those allegations could not be maintained, as most of these files concerning the charges are found to be missing!

There is for instance, a crisis with the Police Force, where three Police Officers of the BSO have

(Continued on page 6)

Provincils Councils...

(Continued from Page 4)

as in a federal constitution such as that of the United States which also has an executive president,

In Sri Lanka's unitary state system, it is the executive president who gives direction and orders to the bureaucracy and executes the laws enacted by the legislature.

In the case of Sri Lanka's parliament, if it has a majority hostile to the President, it can refuse to pass the budget and the President may have to resign, since he will have no money to run the administration. In the case of a Provincial Council the question of refusing to provide money to the local governor does not arise be-

cause the Provincial council will obtain more than ninety percent of its funds from the central government.

More difficult, however, is the question of the delegation of authority. The Executive President under Sri Lanka's constitution executes all laws including the statutes enacted by the Provincial Council. If the President cannot execute the statutes of the Provincial Council, he can delegate the power to execute only to public servants in the province. The President cannot under the constitution delegate any of his powers or authority to the elected leaders of the people in the law-making assembly such

as the Chief Minister or any other member of his cabinet.

Thus a Provincial cabinet can have any number of statutes enacted but the Chief Minister nor any other member of his cabinet has power to order or direct any official to carry out the intentions of the legislature.

Public Servants can rightly refuse to obey the Chief Minister or his Cabinet. The whole Provincial Council exercise, therefore, was from the beginning futile, leaving the council with absolutely no autonomy to speak of. We need therefore, free ourselves from this design and think in terms of meaningful formulas.

Extracts from a paper presented by Professor A-J. Wilson at the Tamil Eelam Conference, California.

HOT SPRING

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A Healthy Change in Thought

An eventful period in history is now taking place in the Soviet Union.

After the October Revolution of 1917, the Soviet Union consolidated itself and became a great world power influencing many other countries in the globe.

The present changes taking place in the Soviet Union, will no less influence the world, as did the great October Revolution of 1917.

The most important aspect of the present changes that is relevant to the Eelam Tamils, lies in the sphere of the former Soviet Socialist Republics in the Union deciding to secede from the Union and remain totally independent. The lead in this direction was given by the Baltic Republics of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

In fact theoretically at any rate, the Soviet Republics have always had the right to secede from the Soviet Union, if they so wished, according to the Constitution of the USSR. The Baltic States sought to exercise this right and now the declaration by the Baltic States to opt out of the Union and remain totally independent, has received the approval of the Soviet Union as well as that of the world.

President Gorbachev declared last week that if any of the Republics constituting the Union should opt to leave the Union, they could do so.

Other countries of the world have now one by one started recognizing the new totally independent states. Despite 74 years of communist rule and the claims made that the Soviet Union had solved for all time ethnic issues within it, it is clear from the decision of various Republics constituting the Union to opt out of the Union and remain totally independent that national sentiments amongst the various peoples are very strong and never die.

The readiness which Gorbachev showed to acknowledge the national aspirations of the Republics and the recognition which many states have already granted to the Baltic Republics, signify a great change in thinking in international politics.

Imperialism had been a great instrument in lumping together various nationalities into single state structures. These multi-national states jealously guarded their power - base under various theories as "unity", "territorial integrity" etc. Now this concept is being broken and the new message is that a world order should emerge not on the basis of strong and powerful states but on the basis of the independence of the various nationalities constituting the world.

The independent existence of independent nations with full state-hood need not be a threat to world peace. On the other hand, they would serve international peace - not by the arsenal in their possession but by better human understanding. It is most re-assuring that the developed countries are beginning to think in these lines. The appreciation of the advantages of such independent nations working for co-operation is best reflected by the European Economic Community (EEC).

It is our firm belief that healthy changes are taking place in regard to the recognition of basic human rights, as we see the recognition of the right to independent living being recognized in the case of the Baltic States. This part of the globe - dark though it may be right now - cannot long keep out the light of human understanding and thought.

Old Woman killed Five Injured Jaffna City Bombed after a spel of 5 months

Three Sri Lankan Air Force planes dropped six bombs in Jaffna town on Monday 26th August, 1991. The bombs were dropped at Chundikuli - a thickly populated area with leading schools also in the vicinity.

At about 11,00 a.m. on Monday August 26th a Sri Lankan Air Force plane dropped a bomb at Chundikuli opposite one of Jaffna's leading Girls' School - the Chundikuli Girls' College. Within a few minutes altogether six bombs were dropped by three bombers roaming the skies.

An elderly woman refugee from Kayts, Sinnathamby Marimuthu (65) died on the spot. Five others were

injured. They are Murugesu Paramalingam (48), and his two daughters Sivamangalasothy (14) and Parimalakanthy (20), an elderly person named Sebamalai

Mariam (60) and Ponniah Kathirvelayuthapillai (56). Seven houses and two shops were damaged. The Chundikuli Girls' College also sustained minor damages.

1500 Families made Refugees

It is reported that over 1500 families around the Elephant Pass area have been rendered refugees as a result of the Sinhala Army operations undertaken in this area last month.

These families are now reported to have taken shelter in the Mullaitivu District. Also around 120 families from Vettalaikerni area in

Vadamarachy East have gone into Mullaitivu District consequent to the landing of the Army in Vettalaikerni.

It is understood that the food situation in Mullaitivu which was already bad, had become further aggravated as a result of the influx of these new refugees into that District.

NEWS ROUND UP

23-8-91

At Ponnalai - Artillery shell attack. Damages not verified.

24-8-91

At Thondamanaru - Artillery shell attack from Palaly Camp.

25-8-91

At Ponnalai and Moolai - Artillery shell attack from Karainagar Army Camp. One house was damaged.

26-8-91

At Kupplan - Artillery shell attack from Palaly Camp.

At Ponnalai - Artillery shell attack from Karainagar Camp.

Artillery shell attack towards Aralithurai from Kayts Army Camp.

28-8-91

Artillery shell attack from Palaly Army Camp and cannon firing from Sri Lankan Navy in Valvettiturai sea directed towards civilian dwellings.

At Vilan, Illavalai, Ponnalai, Moolai, Artillery shell attack from Palaly and Karainagar Army Camps.

Trincomalee Town Residents' Dilemma

The Sri Lankan Army has ordered that each householder living within the Trincomalee town should display a list of the names of occupants of his or her household in front of the house.

Apart from displaying a list of the occupants the

names of all occupants have to be registered at the Police Head Quarters at Trincomalee.

The Army Order further elaborates that the list so exhibited in front of the houses should be certified by the Police.

Father of six beaten to death

News from Amparai District state that S. Arumugam (48) father of six children and a resident of the 13th Colony in the Central Camp area in the Amparai District

was beaten to death by a Tamil ganagter group working in liaison with the Sri Lankan Government.

The news further state that the gangsters beat this man

to death because he declined to offer money to the gangsters as extortion.

Three months...

(Continuation of Page 5)

filed a fundamental rights application against fellow police officers themselves following a dispute which arose after a BSO raid resulted in the arrest of the three BSO officials.

Following the said dispute, the IGP has written to the Director of BSO, citing the Establishment Code and querying as to why normal procedure was not followed in filing action by consulting the Head of Department, namely the Inspector-General of Police.

ANANDAN

Christa Seva Ashram Anniversary

Friends and well-wishers of Christa Seva Ashram, Chunnakam, commemorated the Ashram's 52nd Anniversary on 21st. August. Communion Service as usual took place in the morning, while a public meeting was held in the evening to mark the occasion. Rt. Rev. Ambalavanar, the Bishop of Jaffna and the Church of South India presided at the public meeting in which the local head of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Rev. Fr. Govindarajan delivered

the main speech. At this function, the biography of Rev. Fr. Selvaratnam, the founder of the Ashram was released. The biography was written in Tamil by Rev. Fr. Ambalavanar, the Bishop's brother. Rev. Sam Alfred proposed the vote of thanks. Rev. Fr. Selvaratnam's biography in English which was written by Bishop Kulendran was released earlier in 1952 in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Ashram.