

HOT SPRING

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".....the population are made up of diverse elements, often with fundamental racial and religious differences..... resulting in a lack of homogeneity and of corporate consciousness which make it difficult to achieve any national unity of purpose".

Extracted from the Report of the
Donoughmore Commission

SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT'S

Military Attacks for Political Aims

War is raging on in Manal Aru area for a full week now between the combined forces of the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Manal Aru area is strategically important as the geographical link area between the North and East. Last week's "Hot Spring" reported the contents of an interview given by Major-General Denzil Kobbekaduwa of the Sri Lankan Army to "Asia Week" wherein he had said that the Sri Lankan Army's next operational task was to cut off the North and East. The aim of such an operation is more political than military.

Politically, the Sinhala Imperialists have always consistently worked to cut off the geographical contiguity of the Tamil homeland. All Sinhala governments have taken great pains to achieve this end imperceptibly by settling Sinhala colonists in Tamil areas under pretext of "agricultural development". This genocidal move was conceived by the first Prime Minister, the late D. S. Senanayake and systematically carried on by everyone of his successors. The military operations to achieve the same end is the result of the failure of completely political actions carried through with the help of the administrative

machinery of government under the control of the Sinhala Imperialists.

Strangely some news reports say that the Government has ordered the army not to give press reports about the war except those approved by Government. So we do not have much news reports.

Though the war is on for one full week now, reports from Government state that 14 soldiers of the Sinhala Army died and some 40 were injured. Of course, the tall claim has been made that the Government forces have killed over 200 LTTE fighters. The LTTE has said that 21 of its cadres died and fighting is going on.

The Government has further said that its Air Force is bombing the area all the 24 hours of the day. In addition, large number of troops have been landed by sea and the infantry is trying to fight its way towards LTTE positions. At the same time the Sri Lankan Navy is firing cannon shells from the sea directed towards the coast.

Already the people in the villages of Chemmalai, Kokkuthoduwai, Alampil, Nayaru, Kumulamunai and other places have left their houses and run as refugees.

Reports from Manal Aru area state that the cannon fire from naval ships reach

a distance of over 5 miles from the coast and that smoke could be seen from areas subjected to heavy air bombardment.

The most important aspect of the war at Manal Aru is that it is undertaken to achieve the political objective of dividing the geographical contiguity

of the Tamil homeland. In this context Britain and other countries must ask themselves the question whether they should permit the Sinhala imperialists to use violence as a weapon to achieve political objectives before asking the same question and pointing an accusing finger at the LTTE.

Baltic States to find place in United Nations

The Baltic Republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia who have declared their independence from the Soviet Union, will soon be admitted to full membership in the world Body - the UN.

The green signal for entry of these three "new" countries to the UN, came as Mr. Gorbachev announced Soviet Union support for the move. Earlier the United States, Britain and France which had recognized the new states, stated that they would support the entry of these three states into the World Body. Already some countries have established diplomatic relations with these states.

Iceland was the first country to recognize the

"new" countries with Denmark following as second.

Maps showing the political divisions of Europe or historical maps as they are known - drawn hereafter will depict the three new countries in place of the Baltic region of the Soviet State.

Of course, Soviet Union does not shed tears on its shrinking boundaries and cry in desperation of the loss of its "territorial integrity". Such changes in boundaries caused by the obliteration and creation of states, had been a common feature throughout history the world over.

Will the new colonialists and imperialists of this part of the globe begin to learn the inevitability of history?

Swami Vipulananda Centenary Year

Arrangements are being made at Jaffna to celebrate Swami Vipulananda's Centenary which falls this year.

Swami Vipulananda was a great Tamil scholar who did yeoman service to Tamil art and literary life.

Born at Karaitivu in the Amparai District, Mylvaganan (as he was known before his initiation to the Order of the Ramakrishna Mission Monks) was a brilliant scholar. He graduated in Science but ended up a prolific research writer and poet in Tamil.

The greatest contribution made by Swami Vipulananda was his researches in music. There was in the ancient Tamil country a musical instrument called "Yarp". There were several forms of this instrument which were played by the musicians of yore. None of them is extant today.

Swami Vipulananda made extensive research studies in relation to this instrument and wrote his book "Yarp Nool" which was acclaimed

by Tamils throughout the world. This is the only work of its kind. Swami Vipulananda chaired the Tamil Department of the University of Ceylon also.

What helped Alliance Victory - Charisma or Blood?

The members of the AIADMK - Congress (I) Alliance in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly found themselves at logger-heads when in the course of the debate on the budget a AIADMK member remarked that the electoral victory was due to the charisma of AIADMK leader and Chief Minister, Miss Jayalalitha.

The State Finance Minister had earlier presented the budget and members were speaking on the budget proposals. At one stage an AIADMK member who was on his feet remarked that the electoral victory was due to

the charisma of his party leader, Miss Jayalalitha.

This remark provoked strong opposition from a Congress (I) member who stated that the Alliance victory was due to the blood shed by the late Mr. Rajiv Gandhi - an obvious reference to the tragic murder of Mr. Gandhi, while electioneering in Tamil Nadu.

Soon many members of both the AIADMK and Congress (I) stood up from their seats and were involved in cross-talks. A menacing

situation was averted when Finance Minister Mr. Nedunchezhian intervened and requested the members to confine themselves solely to the budget proposals.

LALITH GROUP LOSES FIRST ROUND

An application for an injunction restraining the UNP from taking disciplinary action to deal with Mr. Athulathmudali and his group at the party level was refused by the District Judge of Colombo.

Earlier, the UNP Working Committee was scheduled to meet and it was expected that the Committee would decide to expel Mr. Lalith Athulath Mudali and his group of dissidents. In an attempt to forestall any such

disciplinary action which could ultimately cost Mr. Lalith and his group their parliamentary seats as well, they filed an application for an injunction seeking to restrain the UNP Working Committee from proceeding with such action.

The District Judge of Colombo after hearing the application has refused to grant the injunction sought for on the ground that he had no jurisdiction to decide the issue.

OUR READERS SAY

PREVARICATORS

The Editor,
Hot Spring

Sir,

Prevaricating from what they have promised during pre-busting campaigns is a thing of the past. Those were the days when politicians promised many things from public platforms and canvassed the voters as votaries of truth. Mob oration induced the voters to cast their votes to that particular candidate no matter how he would translate his promises to reality. Those were the days when the popularity of a candidate was fathomed by the crowd that attended the meeting. For every word of promise made, thunderous applause rent the air with the shouts of "jayawewa" "jayawewa". And at the end of the meeting as the crowds walked out of the venue, remarks of the member having spoke well, filled the lips of the crowds. And those were the days when the voters approached their candidates, they went on bended knees, cringing and cowering, addressing them as "hamaduruwo".

By passage of time, these voters have learnt the contradictions of their candidates and their confidence in them too began to wane off. Voters vetoed them and started acting independently no matter what the consequences were. Only the henchmen of the candidates hang around them for their personal ends.

The definition of democracy has been misinterpreted as government of the selected sections of people, but not in its true sense and thus emerged a state of anarchy amongst the discarded and neglected community of people. Fish of one and flesh of another mentality has festered the minds of the disgruntled lot who have today opted for violence as a solution to their problem.

The burning question of the day is equality of opportunities in the affairs of the State among the Tamil community, on equal footing with the Sinhalese and not as subject race.

If this was appreciated earlier, the present predicament could have been avoided.

Tamils have played key roles in acquiring independence to Sri Lanka against alien rule and contributed immensely towards the island's development and advancement in various fields and therefore there is every justification in their demand for equal treatment and identity in the affairs of the State. Their approaches in the past were sober - fifty fifty and federalism. Sinhalese politicians could not understand them. The present Eelam demand is inevitable.

Heavy toll of human lives, damage to properties and millions of rupees drained off as defence allocations should have rallied the President and his cabinet of ministers to rationality in them to realize even at this hour of turmoil to save the Tamils as a community of self respect.

Youths in the North and East opted to violence when they realized that democracy has been misinterpreted, as government of the Sinhalese, by the Sinhalese and for the Sinhalese. Sinhala Only Act shut the Tamils

aspiration for employment, whilst Standardization shut the Tamil youths from the halls of learning, and thus triggered off the Tiger Movement. These are the main attributes to the present predicament. The Sinhalese politicians know them very well but malingering something else.

Enough of your prevarications now, set down to the earnest task of translating some of the acceptable proposals over which you have dilly dallied in the past, into reality and cry halt to thirst for human blood.

D. Jeevananthan
Vathiry.

The Editor,
Hot Spring

Dear Sir,

We have suffered untold hardships for many years. This Government is on the verge of collapse. This is not a happy event to us any way because the rulers' attitude towards the Tamil, community must change in toto. How we, the common people have been suffering

any decent community in the world will sympathise. How long can anyone fool the world community that Tamils have been given all due rights? Electricity has been denied to us for more than a year, lack of medical treatment, simple hygienic product - soap, is very expensive to all of us.

Swami Vivekananda always stressed us not to preach religion to a man who is hungry. All basic amenities have been denied to us and how many thousands are living as refugees. The simple solution is to settle this problem immediately. As a monk I feel how miserable, when many come to us for relief and we find extremely difficult to help all of them.

We feel the more the solution for the ethnic conflict is delayed by the rulers and the members of the Opposition parties, the more Sri Lanka will have to face a bleak future and chaos.

Yours in the Lord,
Swami Chidrupananda
Sri Ramakrishna Sarada
Sevashrama,
Point Pedro.

Desultory Rambling by Vadali Velan

There was this forlorn mongrel being bothered by a set of flies, plaguing him and sucking his life - blood ever since he was born. Deciding to put an end to this nuisance, he cried out (or rather barked out) to the Almighty Jupiter to relieve him of these abominable parasites. With an enigmatic smile, Jupiter obliged promptly, freeing the mongrel of these pests. By and by another set of flies, very lean and famished, took the place of the departing ones. Being more hungry and voracious, the newcomers fell to with great zest on the poor beast in a merry spree of feasting and engorgement, rendering the plight of the dog more pitiable than it had been ever before. Consequently, in a torment of grief and despair, the hapless animal again cried out to Jupiter, "Please give me back my former tormentors and drive away their successors".

The foregoing narration by our village raconteur was brought home to us most forcefully on our waking up the other day to the tidings of the latest political upheaval and bickerings in the ranks of the present Sri Lankan Government's ruling Sinhala-Buddhist clique. Who among them, we wondered, would have had the temerity

to cast the 'first stone' speaking Biblically. Our village itself and, most probably, the whole Island would now be agog with excitement and the expectation that an arch criminal is at last to be laid by the heels. But then, what next?

The affairs of the Sri Lankan Government have been, for quite sometime, managed by a political gang of desperadoes with the aid of special emergency powers - in fact, by an undeclared military junta and not by a democratic body as much of the world has been fondly imagining or wishing to believe! Who amongst them will succeed Mr. Premadasa and prove to be a meritorious and humane leader of his people? Aren't they all tainted with the same criminal insensitiveness to human values, moral accountability, honour and fair-play? Why has it taken all this while for these supposedly gallant do-gooders to declare that their Lord and Master has all along had feet of clay? Why have they supported; nay, even hailed and rejoiced with Mr. Premadasa in everything he did or utter publicly up to the time they decided to ditch him and bid him good-bye? Did Mr.

Premadasa turn over into a "bad egg" just recently; or have his present detractors only now, like the Lord Buddha, attained enlightenment on Premadasa's doings, of a sudden? No cogent responses are possible for queries such as these for the same reason that no rationale could be found for all that which transpires in Bedlam. These happenings, however, do not signify much to us of Tamil Eelam. These are internal Sinhala Sri Lankan affairs and is really an instance of "thieves falling out amongst themselves".

Our village elders, at the same time, aver that, though present developments may lead to a putsch or even a coup d'etat, with the army throwing in its hand, the situation will never become worse for the common man, as it had remained bad enough for a long time with the country having lost sight of true democracy for decades on end.

Howbeit Sinhala politics may take a spectacular and even a bizarre turn in the next few weeks. If Mr. Premadasa is convinced by his personal astrologer that

the present debacle is but a contretemps to be overcome or ignored, since his star is yet on its ascendancy, he may throw caution to the winds and attempt to rough it out with the aid of his long-time personal gangs of mobsters, having neutralised the conventional army by throwing a few crumbs of office and privilege to a few select bone-headed officers. Not a few heads will roll thereby! There is also the chance that Mr. Premadasa, thinking the better of it, may flee the country to enjoy his ill-gotten gains in some foreign climes, with his wily predecessor waiting in the wings to take over with seeming reluctance and after "persuasion".

In all this melee those dabbling in world affairs will undoubtedly be watching macro-level interactions and the stance that would be assumed by the international community. In the not-so-distant past, whilst the situation was yet murky and personally stacked heavily against him, Gamini, the son of Andrew, returned to the Island with seeming non-chalance. He certainly wouldn't have arrived with nothing in his pocket.

Is the Sinhala country now getting ready to accommodate a new set of parasites to be fleeced in a more thorough manner?

Sinhala Roman Catholics' Gift to the Sinhala Army in Tamil Eelam

The Catholic Union of the Oils and Fats Co. Ltd. gifted a consignment of Glucolin, Tooth Paste, Soap etc. for the use of the armed forces in the North East.

Col. Sarath Munasinghe of the Lankan Army received the consignment from Robert Michael of the Union.

The Island Photo News of 28-5-91 - p. 3

One of the many encouragements on the part of Sinhala hierarchy of the R. C. to the Lankan Forces to kill the Tamils.

P. Jeyakumar, Colombo 13.

The Semantics of Terrorism

Rajiv Gandhi's assassination burst upon the world like the bomb blast that it was - not only the end of a dynasty that had ruled over the world's largest democracy like a hereditary monarchy, but also a danger to the future political stability of the sub-continent. Laboriously built up to ensure continuity by some of the most knowledgeable constitutional pandits in India, the constitution itself has come under stress. There are so many disparate and fissiparous national and social interests in the country. Only federal in name, but in fact unitary, can India survive without the all-India glamour of the Nehru family? A terrorist bomb has set off this question of vital importance to India. Is this the beginning of the end of India as a united single nation?

Not the first time it happened

This is not the first time in India's post-independence history that one of her leaders has met with a violent death. Even the great Mahatma was shot by a Hindu fanatic. Indira was killed by her own Sikh bodyguards; and now her son, Rajiv. Three dynamic and popular leaders in the forty odd years of India's Independence. Is this the saintly India of our dreams?

Roman terrorism

What is the place of terrorism in the story of nations; The assassination of Julius Caesar, immortalized by Shakespeare, in his play of the same name is the most notorious of the time, and comes into the mind as an example of terrorism in the Roman world. The assassin came of Patrician families, the bluest blood of Rome. Not one assassin, but a group; and their leader, Brutus was no common assassin. He was an idealist, the noblest Roman of them all, and yet with his dagger he stabbed Caesar, his friend and patron of many years, to save Rome, as he believed, from a tyrant and to preserve the republic; and what was the outcome of that murder? Exactly the opposite of what Brutus wanted - an emperor Augustus Caesar, succeeded to the control of the state and that was the end of the Roman republic.

Reign of terror in France 1789

Terrorism under different names has contributed its share to the movement of

history, not always evil. The ten months of violence that burst over France in 1789, known as the Reign of Terror, actually heralded a new era of hope and democracy which has come to be known as the French Revolution. It freed Europe, not France only, from the thralldom of feudalism. The Reign of Terror, that brief period of lawless savagery, was terminated by another act of violence. The last of the leaders of the Terror, Robespierre was stabbed to death by a young woman, Charlotte Corday. Her only claim to be remembered in history is that killing.

She did not kill him because of her political convictions. It was an act of personal revenge. Robespierre had condemned her lover to the guillotine. Oddly enough it was that girl's angry response that freed France from the Reign of Terror. A terrorist act puts an end to

establish White supremacy by methods of terror. They abducted, whipped or even hanged Blacks and coloureds to force them to their former submissiveness to the white race. Over the years the KKK has been guilty of very cruel crimes against the Blacks and of general hostility to Roman Catholics, Jews, foreigners and even organized labour. Today this lunatic fringe of white chauvinism has lost its old time popularity. In 1965 four Klansmen were arrested for the slaying of a white civil rights worker in Alabama and President Lyndon Johnson denounced the Klan violence in a nation-wide television address. Fortunately for human rights, this group of terrorists on the extreme right is on their way out and will be only an unpleasant memory in the years to come.

By:

Cynthia Kariyawasam

a period of terror. History is not without such examples of the assassination of a single, hated tyrant opening the floodgates of freedom to millions of oppressed people. A recent example is the liberation of Pakistan from the 11-year dictatorship of Zia by a terrorist bomb planted in his plane.

Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln, one of the noblest statesmen of all time, was assassinated in a theatre as he was watching a play. Even to this day it is not known for certain who the killers were. Security was so lax that anyone could have done it, and escaped detection. There were interested groups who had planned it all. The Security men could have been aware of it, but may have been bought over and collaborated in the murder by keeping their eyes shut. Can those security men be called "terrorists" because of their negligence or secret collaboration in the murder of the President they were paid to protect?

The Kuklux Klan is a secret terrorist organization of some of the southern states in the U. S. A. It was first formed after the Civil War in opposition to sharing power with the Blacks. The Klansmen wanted to re-

The killing of Lord Mountbatten

Ireland is well-known in the history of terrorism. She was imperialistic Britain's first colony, and the Irish had to put up a long struggle for their independence. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) was their underground organization that by its extra-parliamentary struggle finally compelled Britain to move out. But Northern Ireland is still part of the United Kingdom. Today the IRA has a special status as an unofficial semi-military organization dedicated to the freedom of North Ireland. Many Irish within Ireland and abroad support the IRA in their struggle to free N. Ireland. The IRA has been involved in many acts of terrorism including the assassination of the Earl Mountbatten. As long as there is a divided Ireland they will continue to kill and destroy. Where is one to draw the line?

Once Britain terrorized Ireland a time reminiscent of the 'pacification' of India during the 'Quit India' days. Britain's coercive measures were conducted by an army of roughs known as the Black and Tans, set up by Britain to terrorize the Irish into submission. Those were the dark days of British imperialism and the Irish

nationalists felt the iron heel of the conqueror as much as India did during her fight for freedom.

The Mahatma tried the passive resistance way to fight for the freedom of India. People believe that it was his ahimsa struggle, the soul force generated by some mystical power that won India her independence. It is ironical that this saintly land, Holy Mother India, today ranks as number one among the purchasers of arms. She might as well manufacture them herself and save foreign exchange and reduce unemployment. But her image as a moral force must not be blurred.

It is true that the Gandhian method did generate a lot of sentiment in favour of a united, independent India. But there were additional factors too, terroristic urges among the youth that persuaded the British Raj that they could no longer sit on an erupting volcano. Political murders and assassinations were increasing. A young girl had flung a bomb at a British governor who was presiding at her university graduation function. These and other terrorist incidents forced the Raj to think seriously about whether they could hold India by force, while rival nations would always offer arms to fuel her freedom struggle. It wasn't all terrorism. But terrorism did play a sizeable role in persuading the British to abandon their empire.

Jomo Kenyatta, a terrorist?

Hitler in his day terrorized Europe and accounted for six million Jews and twenty million Russians dead, all civilians. Yet no one ever referred to him as a terrorist. Only Churchill once called him a guttersnipe - which he never was. J.R.'s government in '83 was responsible for the pogroms that killed thousands of Tamils, his own subjects in Sri Lanka. Yet no one has ever called J. R. a terrorist. Strange that much better men than these two have been called by worse names. The Mahatma himself was once called an anarchist. Jomo Kenyatta, the father of Kenya's independence, was jailed by Britain for seven years for managing the Mau Mau terrorist organization. Nelson Mandela spent half his days in prison charged on the Suppression of Terrorism Act of South Africa, the blackest repressive legislation in the world.

The caste system in Jaffna particularly untouchability, had been sitting over the lives of the depressed classes for centuries, like an immovable incubus. The Jaffna Youth Congress had tried to break it without much success. It was only when the untouchables themselves took to unconventional methods of coercion, and threatened to assault high caste resisters that the tea shops, eating houses and even the Hindu temples opened their doors to untouchable Tamils. Years of privilege tumbled in days. Is it correct to call that social breakthrough, terrorism? Do all social changes have an element of terrorism?

The denial of equal seating in schools to children of the untouchable castes, is another story. It was the Sinhalese government in Colombo that decreed that all children be seated on equal terms in all schools. Resistance came from the high-caste Hindus in Jaffna. There was a spree of school buildings going up in flames by high caste terrorism? Respectable men torching the cadjan roofs of school buildings in the country side to protest the government order. A respectable form of terrorism?

Killed by [a Buddhist priest's bullet

When the Tamils performed Sathyagraha in front of Parliament for their language rights in 1956, a gang of government sponsored roughs attacked them, threatened them and even urinated on them. Sinhala thugs seem to have a flair for that kind of exhibitionist spraying. That gang was hired by the S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike Government to humiliate and intimidate peaceful Tamil protesters. Government terrorism? Later government too organized anti-Tamil pogroms periodically. This kind of organized terror, master-minded by successive Sri Lankan governments, has done no good to anybody, not even to the Sinhalese. It has only widened the cleavage between the two races.

As a footnote to this story of Banda's terrorism, it may be added here that the same Bandaranaike who terrorized the Tamil Sathyagrahis on that historic occasion, was himself killed by a terrorist bullet from the hands of a Buddhist priest.

Police terror at Tamil Conference

The police can also be guilty of terrorism. In January '74 the World Tamil Research Conference met in Jaffna.

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MUSINGS BY NESTOR

During the days of the British Government there was in the old Chief Secretary's Office a series of files known as War Graves Files. There was a file for each soldier. The graves were at Diyatalawa, commencing from the Boer War days. Each file contained full particulars of the individual soldier, his rank where and how he was killed, particulars of the next of kin, the date of death etc. Wreaths were laid on the anniversary every year. Relatives would correspond about the wreath laid. In some instances whenever any relative came to Ceylon a special officer would accompany them to Diyatalawa, enabling to pay his respects at the grave of the dead soldier. Well-to-do relatives might remove the coffin and remains to their homeland to be buried in the family grave-yard. The Chief Secretary's Office

attended to all correspondence and wreath laying with utmost promptness and much solemnity.

Human creatures, unlike other species of the animal kingdom had certain traits unique to human nature. Man is individualistic; he is acquisitive; and has a strong urge to leave a progeny behind him and provide adequate for the progeny. The individualistic nature of man is reflected in his having a name of his own. Such a name is a proper noun. The word proper is derived from the latin word proprius meaning 'one's own'. This individualistic trait has resulted in friend and relatives holding with certain regards a dead person. In fact, there is a tradition that no one should speak ill of the dead person unless of course he was a politician. All these lead to the concept

of the dignity of human personality. A gazette of the 19th century (particulars of the gazette are given in James T. Ratnam's works), in which Thamby Muhandiram Jayewardene is gazetted as a cast guard who performed meritorious service to the British Imperial masters.

Today there is no public record of the individual soldiers of the Sri Lankan Army who laid their lives in the cause of Sinhala imperialism over Tamils. No body knows how many soldiers were killed and what their names are. Golda Meir, The Israeli Prime Minister religiously paid a visit to the house of every soldier who was killed. The standards of Sri Lanka are of course quite different. The names of the dead soldiers are not made known. In fact the Government is now

refusing to accept their remains from the L. T. T. E. On the other hand the LTTE publishes periodically in the news papers the names of every soldier dead, their date of death and the circumstances under which they died. Special days of remembrance are held with great solemnity. The Government of Sinhala Sri Lanka has no regard for the individual soldier who forms the rank and file. Of course much publicity is given for the funerals of the Officer Grades and Commanding Officers.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Miss Jaya Lalitha is in a piquant position. Not many moons ago she was exhibiting hysterical support for the Indra Congress and allotted a large number of seats for the congress. In reality the Congress by itself has no support in Tamil Nadu. It is only in alliance with some regional party that Congress can hope to win a few seats. The Congress of Tamil Nadu has no support over

the issue of Kaveri water supply and the Kachchativu issue which has rendered the lives of Tamil Nadu fishermen unsafe. Kachchativu belonged to the Rajah of Ramnad: Tamil Nadu as a successor State of the Rajah of Ramnad has an unimpeachable right to Kachchativu. New Delhi has no legal right to hand over Kachchativu to Sri Lanka. New Delhi was fully aware that the Sinhala Naval gunboats would play havoc with Tamil Nadu fishermen and their catch.

M. S. Jaya Lalitha has a unique opportunity to build up her image and popularity in Tamil Nadu by taking up a principled position instead of toying with a marriage of convenience.

River waters are a scarce commodity in India. Scarce commodities have to be economized. In other words a scale of priorities has to be established. Obviously requirements of drinking

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The Semantics of Terrorism

(Continued from page 3)

The last day's sessions were open to the public. Thousands attended, all of them Tamils. A Tamil people in a Tamil country, gathered to listen to the great literature of the Tamil language. Without warning or provocation the Jaffna Police tear-gassed and baton-charged the audience. Shots were fired to break up even the electrical circuits and plunge the place in darkness. They were all Sinhalese policemen under a Sinhalese police officer. Nine Tamils were killed. A demand for an official inquiry by the Tamil M. P.'s was dismissed by the Sinhalese Prime Minister. The offending police officer was promoted. That opened the eyes of the Tamils. Support for the armed struggle of the Tamils swelled. Just because a disgruntled police officer couldn't stomach the Tamils meeting to discuss the glories of their ancient literature, the two nations have gradually drifted into war. A case of police terror - stupid.

The JVP rebellion of 1971

The JVP rebellion or revolution, or insurgency as it may be termed according to the sympathies of the writer, has ripped through the Sinhalese country since it first blew up in 1971. Prime Minister Sirima had to receive military assistance from more than one foreign source to stem that explosion. When Junius Richard came to power, he pardoned the JVP on condition that they would abide by the democratic process. But when J. R. himself broke the democratic process by extending the life

of his stooge parliament by six years, the JVP broke faith with him and returned to a systematic orgy of killings. The government retaliated. Thousands perished in the terrorist killings on both sides.

Here is an extract from the Lanka Guardian of 1, June, 1990, by Eduardo Marino who quotes from the Guardian, London, of 26th Sept. 89 "... driving from the airport in Colombo we found the road was blocked over the Kelani river. People had stopped their vehicles and a small crowd was gazing at the muddy monsoon waters twisting below. What are they looking at? Bodies. They came here to see the corpses floating down the river. Everyday the bodies float past, and one day this week fifty were seen drifting together. They were always youths. Bodies are found everywhere in Sri Lanka - on the beaches, along the roadsides, in the jungles and in the towns. It is now customary to prevent recognition by burning the bodies with tyres, but others are thrown in the river as a warning to the living."

Whose terrorism was this?

Whose terrorism is this? This was the gruesome fare dished out by the 'dharma' government of J. R. for all the world to see. It was the old tyrant's way of wiping out what he called 'subversion', carefully avoiding the term 'terrorism', which description he reserved for the Tamil Tigers only. It was an old

man's fancy, perhaps. His semantics?

The Sri Lankan government's war on the JVP is a war by a Sinhalese government on their own Sinhalese subjects. But the same government's war on the Tamil Tigers is a war by a Sinhalese government to crush another nation, the Tamils, who are fighting for their freedom from an alien Sinhalese government.

One of Sri Lanka's best-known journalists, Richard de Zoysa, was kidnapped from his home last year, and the next day his body was recovered from the sea with two gun-shot wounds in the head. Suspicion rested on the security forces; apparently a case of government sponsored terrorism. A fearless journalist, he raised his voice in defense of democracy. Who but the Government would have wanted to silence him?

Ranjan's definition

The late Ranjan Wijeratne once said in Parliament that the Amnesty International was a terrorist organization. Funny that a man so knowledgeable on terrorism should have himself succumbed to a terrorist bomb. Speaking in parliament on the subject of Tamil rights in Sri Lanka this gung-ho guy also said that he would like to see all the Tamils driven into the sea. Could that have been a terrorist wish or urge the minister could not conceal? Or is it a Sri Lankan Minister's privilege to curse his own subjects?

Secret Services

How much terrorism is involved in the under-cover activities of the great powers

of the modern world? The CIA, the KGB, the RAW and their like? They have unlimited secret funds to spend, or for the smarter guys to steal. It is impossible to check them by public audit. How many murders have been crushed, so many countries destabilized and so many other dastardly deeds that cannot face the light of day. That is their record. Can the term "terrorism" fully describe the incredibly disgraceful work of these shadowy men of the secret service?

Terrorism against Tamils

The Buddhists hate killing; it is against the teachings of the Buddha. So the government of Sri Lanka have had to adopt other methods of coercion to bring the Tamil rebels to heel. The shit bomb is their answer. Quite an innovation. Never before in history has human excrement been used as a weapon of war. The Chinese have used the stuff to fertilize their rice fields, but not to attack their enemies. President Premadasa and his military advisors deserve to be decorated for having thought out such a bloodless method of warfare. How simple no killing at all, conformity with their Buddhist religious tradition. Only the trouble of collecting the stuff, storing it in big barrels, loading them into the planes transporting them into the Tamil country and just dumping them overboard. A neat kind of bloodless offensive. President Premadasa has always shown much originality and resourcefulness. It is the Sinhalese Air Force men that

have to bear the stench. That may be the reason why the commander in chief has now suspended his shit operations. Since there has been no shedding of blood, this skunk-type warfare may not be characterized as terrorism. The president may even claim that it is a humanitarian form of attack. It is not poison gas, though some gas has to be generated because of the raw material used.

Terrorism has two faces: one the heroic face which the men and women who back the terrorist associate with the noble objectives for which he kills and destroys. The other face of terrorism is what the power establishment see - the danger to the system that keeps them at the top of the social pyramid. Every person who hurls a bomb, or kills or abducts, may not be termed a terrorist. The aim is all important. The aim of one is personal gain, loot, revenge, ransom or blackmail. The aim of the other is the liberation of his people from foreign rule or tyranny. Both cannot be measured by the same yardstick.

President Premadasa is continuing to carpet bomb the Jaffna peninsula; an unarmed civilian population have been exposed to this kind of terrorist warfare, since the Eelam War II started in June last year. A year of these attacks from above doesn't seem to have broken the spirit of the Tigers, nor of the people behind them. The Tamil people can survive the Premadasa terror.

Courtesy :Tamil Nation, London

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES SHOOT TO KILL IN PALESTINE

Visiting the Israeli-occupied territories reveals the inappropriateness of words used to describe the occupation. Phrases such as 'rubber bullets', 'tear gas' and 'beatings' are innocuous euphemisms for deadly practices.

In fact, 'non-lethal' bullets have killed hundreds of people during the *intifada*. Tear gas was responsible for the death of 66 Palestinians in 1988. And beatings often result in broken bones and death.

At the beginning of the *intifada* soldiers fired live ammunition indiscriminately at demonstrators. Since then, international outcry has induced the army to change its means of repression. First the army changed to sniper

fire, then to shooting at the legs of protesters, then to plastic bullets, and finally to rubber bullets.

Today Israeli authorities seem to think that public relations are under control - as a consequence soldiers have reverted to indiscriminate use of high velocity bullets. The means of repression have come full circle.

In reality, all ammunition used to repress the *intifada* has been deadly. The distinction the Israeli government makes between lethal and non-lethal is overstated. As one Makassed hospital nurse commented, "All the bullets used during the *intifada* kill".

There are four types of 'non-lethal' bullets used by the Israeli military - the

plastic bullet, two types of rubber bullets, and the 'tourist bullet'. Only the last may be called non-lethal - they are seldom used against Palestinians.

Plastic and rubber bullets were introduced in August and November 1988 after an international outcry over civilians killed by live ammunition. These new bullets were supposed to be non-lethal and their main purpose was to defuse international criticism.

By

Paulo de Rooij

However, armed with these bullets soldiers resorted to gunfire more readily and aimed primarily at the upper body and head. The bullets are used frequently; children in refugee camps collect buckets of them. As a consequence, casualties rose markedly and in the month following the introduction of rubber bullets the casualty rate was one of the highest since the *intifada* began.

Despite their innocuous sounding names - plastic, rubber, marble - these bullets, when shot at close range, penetrate the body, break

bones and kill. Plastic bullets are especially pernicious because they shatter upon hitting a bone, and many of the fragments do not appear on an X-ray. "When you look at an X-ray of a plastic bullet injury you see only the metal fragments," a Makassed hospital doctor explained.

'Marbles' easily penetrate the skull, and once inside, they move through the brain owing to their weight. The coating of the cylindrical rubber bullets breaks on impact, and its steel core easily penetrates the body or skull.

Since plastic and rubber bullets were first introduced they have been 'improved'. Bullets used today are more dangerous than earlier versions. The plastic and rubber coating of these bullets has steadily become thinner, to the point that the 'plastic' or 'rubber' names are incongruous.

Recently, soldiers have given up the pretence of shooting only non-lethal bullets, and there has been increased use of high velocity and dum-dum bullets. According to Makassed hospital staff, in the past few months these bullets top the list of

causes of injury and death. The second cause of death or major injury is plastic bullets, followed by 'marbles', cylindrical rubber bullets, and tear gas.

From the time the *intifada* started until December 1990, 895 Palestinians were killed. For every fatality, there are some 90 severe injuries requiring hospitalisation. This is part of Defence Minister Rabin's policy 'to increase the number of wounded among those taking part in violent demonstrations, but not to kill them.'

In 1988, Physicians for Human Rights reported that there was an epidemic of violence in the occupied territories. Although the *intifada* has faded from the US media the epidemic shows no signs of abating. Only the nature of the violence seems to have changed.

More Palestinians are now killed or maimed with 'non-lethal' bullets instead of the lethal variety. The legacy of the repression mounts every day with hundreds killed, thousands maimed, and the prospects for peace ever more distant.

By Courtesy of
Third World Network.
Features.

Oh India! You India!

Living Gods, still held in high esteem,
Lord Buddha, Great Gandhi, Great Ramakrishna,
Great Vivekananda, Guru Nanak's - Birth Land.
Great philosophers, Radhakrishnan,

Rabindranath Tagore,

Sathya Sai Baba's - Birth Place.
Wonderland ... Holy Land
Once upon a time that India was.

Now,
The world is laughing
Lord Buddha is crying,
Great Gandhi is weeping,
Great Lovers of India mourning.
At the current activities in Tamil Eelam.

In India,
Killing cow legally banned, Sathy frowned.
In Sri Lanka,
Indian forces butchering Tamils.

In 1987,
Operation Liberation Vadamardchy,
Volcanic India condemned.

Then,
Operation Pawan, Trisul, Virat, Tornado
Shell drops from sky,
Tamils killed like flies.

In 1989
Operation Liberation Vadamardchy,
Indian occupation forces massacre,
Women, children, elders, disabled,
Vain show of military might,
They yet know not why they were slain.

In Heaven,
Weeping dead Tamils meet Mahathma Gandhi,
Sobbing they say killed by forces of Rajiv Gandhi,
Beg not to protest lest Rajiv's agni goes to Heaven
Mahthma Gandhi faxed thro' Insat 1 B,
"Why killing game in Tamil. Sri Lanka?
Beg Interview". Unnamed Foreign Office
Man speaks, accuses Mahathma, unpatriotic
Agent of Heaven trying destabilize India
Pressmen confront Rajiv at airport,
Mahathma's message They ask, what import?
India marching towards 20th century
Shall consider only after elections".

Accord, Accord, Accord, Accord,
Shepherd I'am Tamils of Sri Lanka,
Record, Record, Record, Record,
Death trap is the Accord oh Tamils
Dead end is your liberty,
Whispers Rajiv.

"Anon"

TRO Provides relief to 3000 refugees

The Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) branches at Point Pedro and Maruthankerni made relief supplies to 3000 displaced families in Vadamardchy East.

The relief supplies consisted of dry rations, kerosene oil and soap. These relief supplies were provided to displaced persons from Vetrilaikerni and Elephant Pass areas who are now resident in various parts of Vadamardchy East as displaced persons.

The TRO also supplied kerosene and soap to refug-

ees from outside who are resident in refugee camps in Vadamardchy East since the

outbreak of the current war. The supplies were made in mid August this year.

Self Employment Scheme for Refugees

The Maruthankerni Branch of the TRO has so far provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 156,000/- under its self-Employment Scheme to 94 families now resident in Vadamardchy East from outside consequent to Army operations last year.

The recipients of this financial assistance have embarked on petty trade,

small-scale home industries and fishing. The TRO proposes to extend this Scheme to provide self-employment assistance to the other refugees also in stages.

SPORTS NEWS

CRICKET

Manipay Parish beat Centralites (Chocs.) by 37 runs to become champions in the 50 over Cricket Tournament organised by the Centralites.

It was fine team-work by the Manipay Parish with Bon Filius and Nithiyarajah at the helm. Centralites were all at sea against good bowling by Nithiyarajah. It was the first ever 50 Over Competition to be organised by any Club in Jaffna.

SOCCER

St. Mary's Navanthurai beat St. Anthony's Passaiyoor by one goal in the match played at the latter's grounds with the goal coming in the second half.

Vijaya Kumar

Musings...

(Continued from Page 4)

water and irrigation purposes will be at the top of scale of priorities. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu should demand an amendment of the Constitution to lay down where river waters are scarce, particularly in respect of the rivers flowing through different States that only surplus water could be used for purposes other than drinking water requirements and irrigation purposes. Similarly she should demand the restoration of Kachchativu

and proceed to construct a well equipped fisheries harbour at Kachchativu.

In respect of these demands she would get the fuller support of every citizen of Tamil Nadu. No political party of Tamil Nadu would dare oppose these demands. In fact she should demand that Congress members do resign their seats unless they support these demands and contest afresh their seats. This is a unique opportunity because the demands are based on first principles.

HOT SPRING

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THE KITTU AFFAIR

Reports from London state that Mr. Kittu (Sathasivam Krishnakumar), one of the top leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has left the United Kingdom. There is no information about his present whereabouts.

The Kittu affair arose as a result of the British government declining to extend the validity of his stay-visa in that country.

The British government's decision not to extend Mr. Kittu's visa raises some important questions.

It is stressed that Mr. Kittu obtained his visa to UK for medical treatment. What is not even mentioned is the fact that Mr. Kittu obtained his visa before the war between the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka broke out. The two parties were negotiating at that time.

Admittedly, Mr. Kittu is a senior leader of the LTTE. The UK Government's refusal to extend Mr. Kittu's visa has to be regarded as an attempt to hand over a warring party to his enemy. The need for Mr. Kittu not to be caught in the hands of the murderous Sinhala Government should be explicit to all. It is beyond comprehension how the UK government could not understand this.

It is not a case of legal quibbling or discussing legal niceties and subtleties. It is a case of making a political decision.

During the time of the war between the LTTE and the Indian Army, the Indian government arranged to release Mr. Kittu and some others of the LTTE, who were in Tamil Nadu in India, at Jaffna without reference to the government of Sri Lanka. Britain has not chosen to take similar action either.

The plight of Tamil Eelam and its people is solely due to British bungling. No less a person than Lord Soulbury himself, who recommended a constitutional set-up for Ceylon on which basis Dominion Status was later granted, had stated that had he had the knowledge and experience which he later gained, he would have made "other recommendations."

In 1972 the Sinhala government made a unilateral decision to overthrow the British-made constitution despite the opposition of Tamil Eelam. Ceylon became Sri Lanka but with the Tamils opposing the Sinhala coup. Britain did not come forward to discharge its responsibilities towards its Eelam Tamil subjects.

The first Colonial Secretary to Ceylon, Sir. Hugh Cleghorn, explicitly told his Home Government in 1799 that the possession of the Island was divided between two peoples differing from other in language, religion, culture and customs and occupying divided territories.

The Treaty of Amiens by which the Island of Ceylon was ceded as a British Crown Colony, had attached to it the Arrow Smith map which clearly defined Tamil Eelam, Sinhala Rata and the Kandyan Kingdom. The British, when they decided to quit the Island, should have restored to the different peoples their different territories. Instead they left the Eelam Tamils to the tender mercies of the Sinhalese because of their own lack of "knowledge and experience."

Not only Mr. Kittu, there are thousands of other Eelam Tamils in the U.K. - most of them seeking refugee status there. The problem would not have arisen at all, had Britain acted with foresight in the forties and restored the different states in the Island as it found to have existed in the Island before the advent of Western Imperialism.

It is unfortunate that the Government of the UK instead of making amends for its earlier faults, should continue to commit further mistakes - which are foul deeds, as far as Eelam Tamils are concerned,

The decision of the UK government to ask Mr. Kittu to leave Britain invites condemnation by Eelam Tamils. Eelam Tamils have no reason to run to UK, if the lost Eelam Tamil state, is restored. Till then the Tamils have right to expect protection from Britain.

It is hoped that Britain would at least now - having witnessed the death and destruction which inevitably have resulted from its rule over the Island - realize her responsibility and take suitable steps to support the Eelam Tamil Cause.

Aerial Bombardment—Relief Organization Office and Stores Completely Damaged

Refugees problem mounting in Vadamradchy East

The Vadamradchy East Branch office of the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) and its Stores both situated at Thalady were completely damaged as a result of home-made barrel bombs being thrown on them on the 19th of July at the time of the peak military operations in the area undertaken to relieve the Sinhala Army at Elephant Pass. The TRO has sustained severe loss of property.

The office of the TRO is now functioning from Nagarcoil because relief and rehabilitation in the area have become further accentuated by the recent war there.

It is reported that the entirety of the population from Chundikulam to Maruthankerni covering a distance of 30 km in length - have been displaced from their homes after the recent military operations undertaken by the Government in this area.

Seventy percent of the displaced persons are living as refugees in the villages between Chempanpattu and Manalkadu. There are no big common buildings to enable these families to be accommodated. Already there are refugees from Vetrilaikerni and Elephant Pass areas also in these villages. In addition there are other refugees from outside who

came into the area after the war broke out last year.

The refugee problem has become acute. Refugees are just living under tree shades. Food and sanitary problems have arisen.

The Maruthankerni Hospital and Mullian Dispensaries have ceased to function after the recent military operations. There is only one dispensary at Ampan.

This is grossly inadequate to give medical attention to the refugees living half-fed and under insanitary conditions. The problem is likely to be aggravated with the monsoonal rains expected shortly.

Premadasa's Predicament

President Premadasa virtually received a bolt from the blues when Speaker, Mr. M. H. Mohamed broke the news of an impeachment motion presented to him by a majority of Opposition MPS and a substantial number of UNP MPs against the President.

Since then, hectic activity has begun on both sides of the divide. Some MPs seem to be on the fence or more correctly giving a long rope to both sides. This is clearly visible by the claims made by both sides that each will become the ultimate victor.

In this process, interesting allegations are being made. Lalith Athulathmudali is reported to have blamed President Premadasa for allegedly giving arms to the LTTE to fight the Indian Army. This is a clever counter propaganda by the Lalith group to meet the allegation that India is behind the destabilization efforts in Colombo. Lalith group hopes to achieve two things from this line of propaganda - alienate mass Sinhala support for President Premadasa and also acquire support and sympathy for their group from India.

The old fox, J. R. Jayewardene, appears to play his cards well - this time too. Both groups seem to leave him alone. But the eulogies heaped on him by the Lalith group - despite their vow to knock the Executive Presidential System out - and Premadasa group saying nothing about him but praising the Presidential Form of government must be keeping the old fox quite at ease. - one side

praising him personally but condemning his system - the other group praising his system of government but saying nothing personally about him - a funny situation indeed!

Premadasa has said that if necessary, a referendum could be had on the question of the office of Executive President. Does it exhibit a weakness or cunningness?

Lalith has called for a secret ballot. Why? Weakness combined with cunningness?

In the meantime, President Premadasa has said that the move against him has been engineered by the "elite upper class" which apparently appears to carry conviction with the people because the Lalith group formed part and parcel of the subservient parliamentary pro-Jayewardene group who ushered in

the Executive Presidential System of Government and as Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe has said Lalith did not so much as even open his mouth until now against the Executive Presidential form of Government. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali's call for secret ballot has been rejected by Premadasa's side. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali's statement that his group would win in the event of a secret ballot, seems to be more an acknowledgment of ultimate defeat for his side.

In the meantime, President Premadasa appears to have won for him the support of the Buddhist clergy - a formidable power bastion in Sinhala Rata. He seems to rely on them heavily, refusing to learn from the history of the late Mr. Bandaranaike's position in the fifties.

- ANANDAN -

Month of September

The month of September is a highly celebrated month amongst Tamils. It was during the month of September that great thinkers and renaissance leaders like Periyar E. V. Ramasamy and C. N. Annadurai were born.

Similarly great sons of Tamil Nadu, Poet Subramania Bharathiyar and Thiru. V. Kalyanasunthara Mudaliyar departed from this world in the month of September, having imprinted their great influence in Tamilian society.

For its part Tamil Eelam also regards the month of

September with great veneration. It was during the month of September that Dileepan laid his life by taking a fast unto death in the cause of Tamil Eelam and one of the pioneers of the Tamil Liberation movement, the late Mr. C. Vanniasingam also died in September.

Finally it was in September that Jaffna Fort built originally by the Portuguese and remained a foreign bastion for four centuries fell at the onslaught of Tamil Liberation fighters.