

HOT SPRING

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SIX NEW TAMIL MP's

The Independent Group which won the General Elections held in 1989 and whose members resigned after the outbreak of the war in June, 1990, has nominated six persons to fill the vacancies in Parliament. Further six persons are expected to be nominated shortly.

LTTE READY FOR MEANINGFUL TALKS

"We have always stated that we will consider any peaceful solution which will ensure our identity as a separate nation with a distinct territorial habitat and self-government", said Dr. Anton Balasingam of the LTTE addressing a mammoth meeting at Nallur on Thursday, September 26th 1991 to commemorate the 4th anniversary of the passing away of Thileepan, the former LTTE Political Head of Jaffna, after a fast unto death which he undertook in 1987, when the Indian Forces were in Tamil Eelam territory under the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord.

A two week commemoration celebration came to an end on the 26th evening with a mass meeting preceded by a token fast by the public for three days.

Continuing Dr. Balasingam said that the LTTE has never been opposed to talks to resolve the conflict between the Sinhalese and Tamils. However, he said that fundamentally the LTTE and the Sinhalese government held different views on the question. All Sinhala governments desire to perpetuate a unitary system of government which would inevitably make the Sinhalese the permanent rulers of the whole Island and Tamils the permanently ruled people even in their traditional homeland.

"Mr. Thondaman has again written to us giving certain proposals to end the war and reach a solution. We have informed Mr. Thondaman that meaningful negotiations cannot be

conducted by correspondence but that it can only be done by personal talks. We have invited him to come to Jaffna to discuss matters."

Dr. Balasingam continuing said: "Right at the moment

- Dr. Anton Balasingam

there is a conflict in Colombo. The principal actors involved in the drama are President Premadasa who has caused severe damage to Tamil Eelam and is even at the moment continuing a war; Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali who had been State Defence Minister for a long number of years and caused the death of 25,000 Tamils. He

had also been responsible for the death of Kumarappah, Pulenthiran and other ten leaders of the LTTE. The third actor in the drama is Mr. Gamini Dissanayake who was responsible for the burning of the Jaffna Public Library and town. India is behind the political crisis in Colombo."

Analaitivu Rounded - Property looted

Over thousand soldiers of the Sri Lankan Army rounded up the small Island of Analaitivu off Jaffna on Monday the 23rd, September, 1991. It is learnt that the soldiers ordered all inmates of the Island out of their houses and marched them to the jetty at Analaitivu. There the people were detained for hours.

While the people were detained near the jetty, the

soldiers went round inside the houses for search. Several hours later people were allowed to return to their homes.

It is learnt that several people who went back to their houses, found lots of their belongings looted. It is also learnt that arrangements are being made to make complaints to the Army through the Citizens' committee about the theft and loot.

Tamil youth Shot Dead by Sri - Lankan Army

A Tamil youth named Ratnam Arasaratnam aged 21 years, was shot dead by the Sri Lankan Army on Wednesday, September 25, 1991.

This happened in between the villages of Kaluwanchikudy and Kaluthawalai in the Batticaloa District,

while the Army was proceeding from Kaluwanchikudy to Kaluthawalai.

It is also learnt that the Sri Lankan Army also arrested two other persons the same day. They are Kannadasan Thiagarajah and Kanthiah Uthayakumar. Their fates are not known.

Damages to Eastern university- Rs. 290,000/-

The Eastern University at Vantharamoolai in Batticaloa district has sustained damages to the tune of Rs. 290,000/- after the current war broke out in June last year. The damages sustained by the University had been a direct consequence of the war.

It is further learnt that the Ministry of Higher Education is not willing to repair the damages.

Students who got admission to this University, it is learnt, are having themselves enrolled in other Universities in view of the situation in Batticaloa and the lack of facilities in the Eastern University.

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A I refused entry to India

AN AI delegation, scheduled to leave for India on 3 July, was not granted entry visas by the Indian Government. The Government informed AI on 3 July that the request for visas was still under consideration and that a decision would be reached by 15 July. As of 22 July, there was still no response from the Indian Government.

In a letter of 23 April to the Foreign Secretary, Muchkund Dubey, AI had proposed that a delegation visit three southern states: Maharashtra, TAMIL NADU and Andhra Pradesh. On 11 June AI further specified that a three member delegation proposed to visit southern India from 3 to 23 July. A Japanese member of the AI delegation was initially granted a visa on 20 June but his visa was withdrawn a few days later.

From AI - News Letter - September 1991

Trend of Education at Schools

OUR READERS SAY

Education means the unfolding and development of the powers in man. It is divided into three fields. They are Intellectual, Moral and Physical. The above three fields of education should be taught not only in schools, colleges and universities but at homes also. This is what the people expect. In the early part of the twentieth century, we had such educational trend at schools but nowadays it seems impossible to see such a situation at schools.

The present trend of education is studying and passing examinations only. It is imperfect. It is true that time, place and circumstances change the trend of education at schools, but we, the school going children must change ourselves considerably to reach

the aim and standard of education.

Everyone of us should know the value of education. This means that education widens the mind, develops the intellectual faculties and builds the character. Moreover, if we want to achieve success in life, we should acquire traits of honesty, truthfulness, patience and perseverance. We have no such type of educational system at schools nowadays. The mind of children, youths & adults seeks nothing at present, and we see confusion and chaos everywhere. Why? Because of the improper and imperfect educational system which we have at schools now.

I hope that the present trend of educational system will be changed soon and we will gain knowledge and progress in future.

K. Jeyaraj

Year 9

Jaffna Hindu College,
Jaffna

Note :-

Contributions from students on the problems confronting them are welcome.

Editor.

LIQUID CASH

I write this letter through your journal to catch the eye of the Bank officials.

In these difficult days when people are suffering under an economic blockade and the bare necessities are extremely costly and earnings are reduced or are completely at nought, it is very necessary that Banks should have sufficient liquid cash to pay their customers. The Bank require liquid cash to make payment of salaries, pensions etc. as well as to honour their contractual obligations with their customers. The non-availability of liquid cash in Banks has brought banking institutions in the North to a pitiable situation.

The Bank officials are unable to meet the demands of the Banks' customers. It is the duty of the Banks' officials to press their principals in Colombo to provide

them sufficient liquid cash and it is equally the responsibility of the Head offices of the Banks in Colombo to send to their sub-offices the necessary liquid cash to enable these offices to carry out their functions effectively.

S. Jayaratnam

Chavakachcheri

India Does Not Respect Federalism

A five-column (half page) article in 'The Island' of 27.8.91 carried an interview with Mr. N. Ram, Editor of Hindu and Frontline, Madras. Mr. K. S. Sivakumaran had interviewed Mr. Ram. The title of the article was: "Federalism is unacceptable in India, says 'The Hindu' Editor".

I read with interest what Mr. Ram had said especially in relation to the unacceptability in India of Federalism and found in the whole five columns only the following statements in relation to the subject:-

"Federalism is not respected in India

The Congress (I) has violated the constitutional rights of federal states 96 times. The dismissal of Karunanidhi government was a political fraud"

I cannot understand how 'not respecting' and 'unacceptability' can be synonyms. Perhaps I am not an editor licensed to give mischievous twists to equate the two terms: 'not respecting' and 'unacceptable' and understand the two words as carrying the same meaning.

- Anandan -

No Motive for LTTE Killing Rajiv

— Several credible Sources in India Insist

Rajiv Gandhi persuaded the Care-taker Prime Minister of India, Mr Chandrasekhar to let the LTTE resume sending wounded guerillas to Tamil Nadu for medical treatment.

LTTE's political office in London, all along, issued repeated denials of any responsibility in the assassination of the Ex-Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, adding a cryptic promise that proof of the group's innocence would soon appear.

In India too several credible sources insisted that LTTE had every reason not to kill Rajiv Gandhi.

According to those sources, Gandhi met secretly with a Tigers' representative in early March and offered a concession to the Tigers. The same sources stated that after the meeting,

Gandhi persuaded Chandrasekhar to let the LTTE resume sending its wounded guerillas to Tamil Nadu for medical treatment. The Tigers, according to one source close to the Group "were happy with the meeting".

News Week
June 3rd, 1991

Sri Lankan Army releases 10 Tamils to ICRC Team

Ten Tamils of Thaiyiddy, Kankesanthurai, an area under the Sri Lankan Army occupation, were handed over by the Sri Lankan Army to the ICRC Team at Jaffna on Thursday, September 19th.

It is to be noted that the people of the villages in the North where the Army entered during the current war, abandoned their villages and ran to other areas. Some of these village areas are in Valkamam North, Kayts, Karainagar and certain areas in Vadamarad-

chy. East. But all could not run away - especially those who were old and feeble or sick. Earlier, too, some people were released by the Sri Lankan Army to the ICRC team. It is learnt that the ten people released on September 19 from Thaiyiddy, are sick persons.

The Sri Lankan Government boasts that its security forces are occupying certain areas and providing security. The question arises as to whom the Sri Lankan Army is providing security. The fact is that people run away from their homes, when the Army is sighted. Those who cannot run are held by the Army incommunicado from their kith and kin and after negotiations the Army releases sick persons to get back to their kith and kin.

In fact the presence of the Sri Lankan Army in Tamil Eelam territory is not to provide security for the people. The people never wanted any security from the Sri Lankan Army. In fact the Sri Lankan Army is occupying pockets in Tamil Eelam for its own security, if any. The Sinhala Army can as well return to Sinhala Rata and allow the people to live in their own villages.

Father of Five Tortured and Killed

A refugee from Aliyawalai in the Vadamaradchy East Division now resident at Nagarkovil, has been tortured and killed by the Sri Lanka Army stationed at Vetrilaikerny in the Vadamaradchy East area.

The news received in this connection state that Subramaniam Nageswaran, aged 40, who is a resident of Aliyawalai, left his village with his family and was living at Nagarkovil, after the Sri Lankan Army encamped at Vetrilaikerny in the Army bid to relieve the Elephant Pass Sri Lankan Army Camp. Aliyawalai is a village close to the Vetrilaikerny and the residents of this village left their homes and lived as refugees elsewhere.

On Friday the 20th September, 1991, Subramaniam Nageswaran left with his wife and father-in-law to

his native village of Aliyawalai to see what has happened to his house. He and his wife and father-in-law were caught by the soldiers of the Sri Lankan Army who had come to Aliyawalai.

The Sri Lankan soldiers had later released Nageswaran's wife and father-in-law and chased them away.

Some people who went to Aliyawalai after the Sri Lankan soldiers had gone back to their camp at Vetrilaikerny, found the dead body of Nageswaran with gun-shot injury on the head and stab injuries on the body. They carried the body to Nagarkovil.

It is understood that Nageswaran is the father of five children.

The persons who brought Nageswaran's body from Aliyawalai also said that a number of houses at Aliyawalai were found broken into and robbed of all belongings.

Rank Communalism still continues in the Colombo Press

"P. S. I almost forgot to inform you: Since we all believe in consultation etc. etc., I just heard that Mr. Tea Man from the estates may go up North to try and talk to the striped ones. That way, there won't be a huge bill from the five stars this time around.

Anyway, we natives have a saying for such things, David, and that is "Nariyata Kukkullu Biaradunna Wag-i" (Like handing over the fowl-pen to the fox for safe-keeping)

Ryp Van Winkle in Sunday Times of 1.9.91

SPORTS - Crickets Centralites (Choes) Champions

Centralites covered themselves with glory, when they ousted the Shabra Sports Club by 5 wickets in the limited 40 over cricket match final played at Nokuvil Hindu College grounds.

The Scores

Shabra 190 for 9 in 40 overs.

Centralites 191 for 5 in 38.2 overs.

It was a good start by R. jeevan and Mathivathanan that paved the way for that great victory. Good contrib-

utions also came from B. Ramees and Ganeshnathan who scored 34 and 28 runs not out respectively.

For Shabra, Bonfilius scored 63 not out and Elango 58 runs - and Shanthikaran's ground fielding was good with Vaithianathan giving a good account behind the stumps.

Centralites won the 40 over cricket final on a good note, maintaining 5 runs per over.

Vijayakuma

PANORAMA

THE SOVIET REVOLUTION

The revolutionary changes that have taken place in the Soviet Union are bound to have repercussions all over the globe. The American Revolution inspired the French Revolutionaries. The French Revolution inspired the whole of Europe and the Russian Revolution of 1917 made its influence felt all over the globe. Similarly the Russian Revolution of 1991 will also influence thinking all over the world.

Far-reaching changes in any country, virtually amounting to a topsy-turvy situation, wherein the old order is completely changed yielding place to a new situation and values, are the result of change in the minds of the people based on experience and philosophy which have found the old order unsuitable. Willy-nilly it therefore, leaves its imprint on the minds of the peoples.

What message does the recent Russian Revolution carry to the world? Western democracies say that it marks the failure of socialism. I am inclined not to agree. Aren't there socialists in the Western democracies? Does not Britain have her own socialists? Isn't Socialism the creed of

the Labour Party? Who is the Head of the French State? Isn't the French President a convinced socialist? And what about America itself? Do not the democrats differ from their Republican opponents in regard to social thinking? America is rich in her resources and therefore austerity is not something that they very much need to give each and every one a decent living. Socialism, perhaps, is necessary to bring in equal distribution of wealth so that exploitation of man by man is thwarted and everyone is given his due for labour. Even in Western democracies we have social welfare legislation prohibiting exploitation. It is not that democracy means that everyone has democratic rights to exploit the poor or the weaker sections of the people.

The Soviet Union despite its adherence to Marxism was not really going the way in which Marx thought that socialism would ultimately end. Marx thought that socialism would triumph in the industrialized countries. On this thinking Marxist socialism should have first blossomed in Britain which was then the most industrialized country; but it didn't. And contrary to Marx's thinking, his socialism

found place in Russia which was relatively poor, backward and largely agrarian.

Marx thought that socialism would lead to the ultimate withering away of the State. But in fact after the Marxist-Socialist Revolution in 1917 in Russia, we found that instead of the State withering away, the Russian State was booming into an Empire. Even as late as 1942, the Soviet Union annexed Baltic States and made part of the Soviet Union. It was, therefore, not a case of withering away of the State and people remaining free and independent. On the other hand, it was a case of consolidating State power.

Perhaps it may be deduced that the Russian upheaval tells the peoples all over the world that humanity believes in being free and independent as much as being economically and socially content. It is this human trait that has helped to turn topsy-turvy the communist Rule in the Soviet Union.

It is a great achievement of Mr. Gorbachev that he appreciated the human surge for freedom in the Soviet Union. This is well illustrated by the recognition of the independence of the

Baltic States by the Soviet Union. The three Baltic States of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia which were until recently part of the Soviet Union - which formed part of the territory of the Soviet Union - have now become independent states and very soon they will find their seats in the United Nations as well.

But this is not all. Even Russia - the Russian Republic within the Union - opted to be independent despite the fact that it was the leading Republic within the Union. Stalin's Georgia, Byelorussia and a number of other Republics wanted to be totally independent and Mr. Gorbachev, realizing the trend, agreed that all may be independent and proposed a new union where anyone of the Soviet Republics may choose to join, if they so wished. What was once the mighty Russian Empire would hereafter be a very loose Union of fully independent states which have wished to join Union. It may be like the European Economic Community.

So the Soviet Revolution of 1991 does not in my view represent a failure of socialism or the triumph of capitalism. It is a case of humanity asserting its freedom and independence both at the national and economic level.

The success of the Soviet peoples will have tremendous impact all over the world.

It is already beginning to be seen.

YUGO - SLAVIA

In Yugo-Slavia battle is raging. Right at the moment the battle is between Croatia and the Federal Republic with Slovenes and other ethnic groups too, wanting freedom. If the Yugoslav Federal leaders failed to learn from Mr. Gorbachev, they would only be destroying the several peoples there temporarily but not retain a conglomerate State for a long time. This is the message of the times enunciated by the most powerful country in the world - which was only second to the USA in terms of might and power.

INDIA

The Russian Revolution of 1991 has sent a shiver through the bones of many new empires and India stands foremost amongst these trembling states. India is a sub-continent welding together many peoples and cultures. An Indian consciousness was built up by Mahatma Gandhi and other great sons of the Indian Independence Movement. But the successors to these great men who were able to win the reins of power in the name and fame of the great freedom fighters forgot the great ideals of their forebears. India unfortunately entered the race to be a big

(Continued on Page 5)

The respected journalist, William Safire writing in the International Herald Tribune of July 9 comments:

A Zeal for self determination has replaced the drive for empire as the spirit of the age

Mikhail Gorbachev has it almost right: The breakup of Yugoslavia is a portent of the dissolution now inexorably under way in the Soviet Union. But his warning should not be directed at patriots who want to break free; it should be sent to tyrants who would enforce with guns the crumbling pretensions of imperialism.

The conglomeration of distinctly different peoples called Yugoslavia will break up peaceably or bloodily, next week or next year. Serbia is no longer in charge; time is on the side of unimpeded nationalism.

The glue of Communist dictatorship has hardened and cracked, and no outside threat forces the parts together. A zeal for self-deter-

mination has replaced the drive for empire as the spirit of the age.

Mr. Gorbachev, whose symbol is a weather vane, surely sees this march towards disunion. The assertion of national identity of the long-suppressed Slovenians was accompanied by two other signs of the times:

Last week, the Warsaw Pact-Moscow's grand alliance of puppet regimes and satellites formally dissolved itself.

And last week the Kremlin learned of the end of its own enforced political unity, as Alexander Yakovlev and Eduard Shevardnadze, architects of perestroika, joined with the reformist mayors of Moscow and Leningrad to let it be known that a fresh political party will soon com-

pete with the sclerotic Communists.

Think of that: Yugoslavia breaks apart, the Warsaw Pact dissolves and the Soviet one-party system gets a competitor - all around America's Independence Day. Great days for believers in one people, one country.

But an opposing thought intrudes. Don't Americans, of all peoples, illustrate the ability of peoples in different cultures to build a nation? Didn't Americans fight a civil war to prevent their own disunion?

Yes, but. We Americans were unified by a common language and a revolutionary heritage; we were geographically isolated; and we annealed our unity by adopting a

majority rule for human freedom and against slavery.

Majority rule with individual rights protected is the essence of democracy; the notion of a minority losing and separating to set up shop for itself would make democracy, in Lincoln's word, "absurd."

But that absurdity ends when individual or minority rights are trampled by the majority, or by a tyrannical clique. Then it becomes absurd to stay together. That is when empires, especially of different cultures, split.

So it is necessary to react with moral and diplomatic consistency to the realignment of parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The dissolution of Yugoslavia is the dissolution of the Soviet empire in microcosm.

The United States must not stand for stability and

the status quo against new births of freedom. On the contrary, where individual and ethnic rights are not respected, America must stand for self determination against the power of empire.

It is fine to urge Serbs and Slovenians to resolve their differences peacefully; it is proper for international institutions to offer good offices in mediation. But America's diplomats must not intervene economically on a central power's behalf, or threaten to not recognise withdrawing nations, in the sterile name of stability and order.

President George Bush started to make that mistake in recent weeks, but then wisely drew back; a don't you-dare message to Slovenia would be read a support of the Kremlin's dominance in Georgia, Byelorussia, Moldavia, even the Baltic states. If the extension of freedom with the avoidance of bloodshed is Washington's aim, it should be creative; American diplomats should stop mumbling vaguely about "loose confederation" and

(Continued on Page 4)

Demilitarisation the Key to Development

Panama is currently debating the constitutional future of the republic, and this represents an historical opportunity that many of the country's citizens believe should not be missed: the disbanding of the armed forces.

As a citizen of Costa Rica, which disbanded its army in 1948, I can offer tangible proof of the benefits and dividends offered by the peace that our country has enjoyed in the decades since that decision was taken.

I believe that the vast majority of Panamanians are now about to approve a constitutional ruling prohibiting the existence of an army and amending existing rules that in one way or another confer political agenda-making power on the military.

This would mean the birth of a demilitarised zone in the extreme south of Central America and would reflect the interests of the inhabitants of the region.

We know from personal experience the danger that democracy, peace and justice face in a country surrounded by neighbours in which dictatorship, violence and injustice are the rule.

It is clear that elimination of the army alone is not sufficient to solve all the problems related to the institutionalisation of democracy and the construction of a more just society. But, in many Third World countries a similar decision would remove one of the biggest obstacles to democratisation, and would allow the people to enjoy their sovereignty in a climate of responsibility and security.

Putting an end to the interference of the armed forces in civilian life is sufficient reason for a nation to resort to the guarantees provided by international law and eliminate the institution of the army.

Another, no less important, reason is that this would do away with the costly spending involved in maintaining military contingents and arsenals that stunts a nation's development potential. The countries of Latin America and the whole of the Third World possess an unexplored

There is no getting away from the fact that, despite their poverty, the amount of money most Third World countries spend on their military budgets represents an act of aggression against the well-being of their peoples. United Nations studies show that numerous Latin American, African and Asian governments invest more in the military sector than in the education and health sectors together.

In recent years, many of these countries have embarked on structural adjustment

Rica, and even of the whole of Central America would have a completely insignificant impact. But its value as an example is immeasurable.

On a global scale, the problems of misery, ignorance, illness and environmental decay are piling up at the same time as humanity continues squandering astronomical sums of money in building up another equally monstrous accumulation of arsenals of conventional, chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Most of the responsibility for this inhuman waste lies with the industrialised nations and, above all, with the major powers.

It might be argued that only the industrialised nations, those most actively involved in the arms race, can take decisive steps towards demilitarisation, that only they can generate a considerable saving of resources through the dismantling of the military that they have the possibility of accumulating abundant, peace dividends.

Those of us who have sounded the warning over armaments know one thing for sure. Most of the wealth that would be sufficient for doing away with misery, restoring the environment and developing nature for the benefit of humanity is concentrated in the most militarised societies of the world.

The ideal would be a concerted, simultaneous process of disarmament in all nations. Within this process, the heaviest responsibility would fall on the big, rich, super-militarised nations that have the duty of redistributing their wealth to close the misery gap that separates them from the poorest countries.

This said, however, if the small countries of Central America can give an example, we should rush to help them.

Courtesy : Third World Network Features.

By
Oscar Arias Sanchez
ex-President of Costa Rica

source of wealth: demilitarisation.

An immediate result of the unilateral disarmament proclaimed by Costa Rica in 1948 has been an annual peace dividend that, in 1987, stood at over US dollars 100 million.

In the same year, the government bodies that control the various police bodies (government ministries and public security) cost each Costa Rican eight dollars and a handful of cents. For the rest of Central America, Panama included, the cost per inhabitant of military institutions was almost US dollars 50.

To understand the relative value of these figures, it is worth pointing out that Costa Rica's exports rose in 1990 to US dollars 1.65 billion while per person income stood at US dollars 1,900.

programmes that involve huge social sacrifices, most visibly demonstrated by a deterioration in the attention paid to health and education. Only rarely do military institutions accept comparable restrictions.

What has taken place in Costa Rica has a material, countable value which helps explain a number of the outstanding achievements of the country in the fields of health, education electricity supply, supply of drinking water and construction of public housing.

At the same time, one has to recognise the other incalculable value represented by a political structure that incorporates institutional stability and a respect for human rights that underpins democratic progress.

It could be argued that, at the global level, the disarmament of Panama, Costa

A Zeal...

(Continuation from Page 3)

propose serious global talks on semi-sovereignty.

The idea could be a transition to separate nationhood, or to free association in a commonwealth, or to confederation that might lead to eventual, uncoerced reunion.

We can enforce semi-sovereignty in Iraqi Kurdistan; we can suggest it from Quebec to Northern Ireland, Tibet

to Puerto Rico; we can urge it in Israel's West Bank, where it goes by the name of autonomy.

Not the Baltics; they are independent, though captive. But throughout the disintegrating Soviet empire, America should support semi-sovereignty as a form of trial separation - thus breaking up the dangerous monolith without breaking out the nukes.

Courtesy:

The New York Times.

All are in the Fray

*Mother O dear, Mother O dear,
Shed no tear, Shed no tear,
Why all this tear and fear?
When your children dear are here.
For your own sake,
They are wide awake
With arms in hands,
And red in eyes
Prowling down the lanes and streets,
Looking out for the sly beasts.
We are all now in the fray,
To drive these beasts of prey
That plague you to this day,
And to make you happy and gay,
See the dark clouds melting away,
Thus paving the way
For the sun hitherto hidden,
To come out and brighten
This traditional homeland of ours,
Darkened by savages for years.*

- Crito

Federation of Pensioners Meet Govt. Agent and Bank Officials

The Government Agent Jaffna District Mr. K. Minakavasagar met the Representatives of the Federation of Northern Pensioners Associations and the Bankers of the Bank of Ceylon, Peoples Bank and the Hatton National Bank Jaffna on 13.9.91 at his conference room to discuss the problems of payment of pensions, in view of the recent instructions given to the Bankers in the North from their Head Quarters in the South.

Mr. Manikavasagar, G. A. JD. while expressing his deep concern over this matter, assured the Federation of Pensioners, that under any circumstance the pensions for the months of August and

September would be paid as in the past.

Mr. C. V. K. Sivagnanam, President of the Federation, pointed out not only the need to make payment of pensions on due dates as payable to officers in service but also at their respective banks as most of the pensioners are old and infirm and that they cannot be asked to go from pillar to post to draw their monthly pensions.

The Area Managers and the Managers of the Bank of Ceylon, Peoples Bank and the Hatton National Bank Jaffna and Mr. S. Sivapalan Chief Accountant and his staff expressed their ready co-operation in this matter.

The General Secretary of the Federation of Pensioners

Mr. P. S. Thiruchelvam thanked the G.A. and the Bankers for their prompt action taken and requested that the pension department work be decentralised early in Jaffna as has already been done in other districts of Sri Lanka to avoid undue delays in pension matters.

Mr. Thiruchelvam further stated that the Ex-Co meeting of the said Federation will be held at the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. hall shortly and requested the representatives of over ten affiliated Pensioners Associations to attend as there will be very important matters concerning the pensioners discussed in view of the recent political developments in the country.

- P. S. THIRUCHELVAM

Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord would lead to Sinhalization of North-East - Letter to Mr. Thondaman

Mr. S. Alagaratnam of Urumpirai has sent a letter to Mr. S. Thondaman saying that if it was his view that Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord had given everything short of Eelam to the Tamils, then it is best he kept away from the role of mediator, he has announced for himself. Mr. Alagaratnam has pointed out in his letter that the Accord would have achieved the change of demographic pattern of the Northeast in 25 years time making this area a Sinhala majority area by a process of state-aided colonization which had been strenuously opposed by the Tamils.

Mr. Alagaratnam has released his letter to 'Hot Spring'. The letter reads as follows:-

Sir,

Enclosed please find a press cutting from the 19th issue of Eelanatham, a Tamil daily published in Jaffna.

In your press interview to the Indian Express, you are reported as saying "short of Eelam, the Tamils, have got everything under the Rajiv - J. R. Accord".

If this is your assessment of this accord, then it is best you keep away from this subject, unless of course you still feel pleased to see your name appearing in the papers.

In any case for your enlightenment I am forwarding also a copy of a small book-

let issued by the Eelam Peoples' Forum.

I also wish you to read through the 13th amendment to the constitution. Among several other disabilities heaped on the Eelam Tamils this paves the way for the whole of the Northern Eastern Provinces, barring the

Jaffna Peninsula becoming Sinhalese majority areas within the next 25 years or so with the land settlement permitted on a NATIONAL ETHNIC RATIO under the accord. What was going on in the Eastern Province all these years in the FACE OF TAMIL OPPOSITION, under the accord Sinhalese colonization will go ahead legally smoothly not only in the East but in the North as

well. And after finishing with us they will turn to you; but then by that time you will be dead and gone. This you will not mind but it is not the case with the LTTE. They are not just looking at the present, they are looking for the welfare of their progeny as well.

I beg to remain,

Yours most truly,
S. Alagaratnam

OUR RECOLLECTIONS

been used for the welfare of our own brothers. Each family is a separate unit and the maximum wealth and status earned is the main criterion.

The ethnic conflict in this Island started in 1956 at

Gal - Oya and the years 1958, 1971, 1977, 1983 various events took place. These events slowly and steadily brought a division between the two major groups in Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese and

(Continued on Page 6)

Over 10,000 Fishermen rendered jobless

Reports from Manal Aru and Mullaitivu areas state that over 10,000 fishermen in the area are at present deprived of their occupation and are languishing in areas away from their homes.

Fishermen from the villages of Nayar, Alambil, Chemmalai, Kokkuthoduvai, Silavathai, Vadduvagal, Mullai-

tivu and Kumulamunai are reported to have left their homes and occupations and are undergoing great hardships in other areas as refugees.

It is further learnt that the fishing implements of these people have been totally destroyed by the Sri Lankan armed forces and the loss caused is estimated at several lakhs of rupees.

Sometimes with the passage of time many apt to forget the past. Past is always essential and it helps us to fix our future. No matter what the politicians decry, they are all self-seekers. They want to acquire fame and name at any cost. Under any rule, the poor and low-income groups suffer in silence. The rich of the upper strata and some among the middle class are not the least affected by these setbacks. Why our Tamils place more importance to education is that the want to earn more money by these paper qualifications. No doubt our Tamil brothers are very intelligent and clever but some are very cunning and deceitful. These qualities possessed by them have not

Some Data

The Council of Non government Organizations, Jaffna has issued the following data:

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------|
| I | Number of displaced families | 49,205 |
| II | Number of Refugee Camps | 209 |
| III | Families housed in refugee Camp... | 12,000 |
| IV | Number of families that have lost their livelihood | 144,456 |

These figures are in respect of the Jaffna District Only.

PANORAMA....

(Continuation from Page 2)

power and despite all talks of socialism and democracy is bent on Empire-building. This tendency has brought India into difficulties and we see India grappling with a host of problems in Kashmir, Punjab and Assam.

Nor is the Indian establishment's fear confined to these States. They suspect similar freedom movements in other parts of India. Initially, this fear was only 'pretended' at one time. It was pretended to thwart those who would not be willing to obey the dictates of the establishment in New Delhi. Now what was actually pretended, seems to be developing into a real crisis.

Diplomat Dixit of the Indian establishment made a big pronouncement that India would not support Tamil Eelam because it could lead to a similar demand in Tamil Nadu. Neither he nor anybody else in India answered the question how India came out with its military strength to create Bangla Desh out of East Bengal. If India fears nationalism, it could not have helped the birth of an independent Bangla Desh because the same spirit of nationalism-

Bengali nationalism - could one day lead West Bengal to break away from India and West Bengal and East Bengal may form one country - Bengal. Except for the fact that the majority West Bengalis are Hindus and the majority of East Bengalis are Muslims, there are no other differences between the peoples of these two States. They speak the same language and racially they are Bengalis. And each country has a substantial religious minority of Muslims or Hindus respectively. Historically, West Bengal and East Bengal had been one territorial unit. If the growth of nationalism was bad for India, then India could not have supported the birth of Bangla Desh.

India wanted to control the entirety of the Island of Sri Lanka - through and with the help of the Tamils but soon made a somersault and gleefully mouthed her concerns for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

Because India's hopes of imperial domination in her Southern flank were exposed, she has now turned out to be the bitterest enemy of the

Eelam Tamils and has started the Tiger hunt.

From reports appearing in papers, it looks as if India's false cry of the wolf or Tiger has apparently turned out to be real and Tamil Nadu as well as other States seem to oppose the Indian establishment in New Delhi.

A. I. Delegation And India

The Amnesty International News Letter for September, 1991 states that the Indian Government has refused visa to an Amnesty International Delegation to visit India. Even the specific request by A. I. delegation to visit South Indian States of TAMIL NADU, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have been refused. Earlier, India was forbidding foreigners going to Punjab and Kashmir. Why does India now refuse permission even to an A. I. delegation to visit the South Indian States? Reports have been received that A. I. groups in Madras have urged people to fight to stop human rights necessarily, it follows that there are allegations of human rights violations. The refusal of the Government of India to grant Visas to A. I. delegation confirms the truth of the allegations. We in Tamil Eelam know fully well what

the Indian establishment did here during the brief occupation by the Indian Army. So no wonder, India hesitates to allow A. I. delegation.

Whatever said and done, it would not be possible for any State - even for a superpower at that - now to change the course of history let loose by the Soviet Revolution of 1991.

Mr. Thondaman at it again

Mr. Thondaman is a very versatile person. He has a unique ability to say different things at different times at different places on the same thing. He broke his silence in India where he had gone for a "private" visit and met Mr. Narasima Rao and Mr. Sonagi, the Indian Foreign Minister. From Madras he gave an interview to an Indian paper, wherein he made it appear that everything was good with the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord and that it was only the LTTE that spoilt everything by shooting at the Indians.

On his return to Sri Lanka, he has stated to the Colombo Press that he was giving a last chance to the LTTE to enter into negotiations. Bravo! Mr. Thondaman. And a Tamil paper from the North

says that Mr. Thondaman's schemes do not envisage a provincial council but a provincial government with greater powers.

Reading the text from this Tamil daily, one is inclined to think that Mr. Thondaman's efforts are again an 'exercise' in deceit as Prof. A. J. Wilson has chosen to describe the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord.

Anyway let Mr. Thondaman continue. He can also continue to remain in the limelight.

Poster Campaign

Reports from Colombo refer to the poster campaign wherein the warring factions within the UNP are bringing the LTTE into their dispute. Mr. Lalith Athulath Mudali seems to be the most vociferous in this regard. He is the latest recruit to the ranks of the Opposition - including Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara - do not seem to have condemned or even dissociated themselves from this campaign involving the Tamil question in the political turmoil. Why?

- Spectator-

HOT SPRING

VOL: 1 SUNDAY 29th. September 1991 ISSUE 51

Mr. Thondaman's Peace Efforts

It is clear from reports that Mr. S. Thondaman who is also a Minister in President Premadasa's Government, is taking steps to mediate peace between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and arrive at some solution which will end the ethnic conflict.

Mr. Thondaman for his part is an experienced politician. He is astute also. More than all these, he is a representative of a people most and first affected by the Sinhala chauvinistic wave, viz. the Tamils of the hill-country.

However, it must also be noted that Mr. Thondaman himself did not strain himself to fight for the vindication of the up-country Tamils but preferred to follow a policy by which he co-operated to a certain extent with the Eelam Tamils who took up the cause of the up-country Tamils also. Before Eelam Tamil youths began to shed their own blood in the cause of Tamil rights, almost a half of the up-country Tamils were treated as chattels and thrown away from the country of their birth by the Sirima-Shastri Pact. We stress here the fact that the Ceylon Workers' Congress of which Mr. Thondaman is President, also opposed the Sirima-Shastri Pact.

After the Eelam Tamils raised the standard of revolt against Sinhala imperialism, the Sinhalese—especially the United National Party—which originally de-citizenised and dis-enfranchised the up-country Tamils, were compelled to grant Citizenship Rights to the hill-country Tamils. We note with satisfaction the role played by the Eelam Tamils in the cause of the vindication of the rights of their brethren in the up-country.

Mr. Thondaman was one of the three co-presidents of the now defunct Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF). It must be said that though Mr. Thondaman was a co-president of the TULF, he said that the Tamil Eelam demand would not apply to the up-country but supported all the other demands of the TULF, including the demand for Tamil Eelam in the Northeast.

These preliminary points must be reiterated here because Mr. Thondaman is reported to have made certain remarks to a Press, while he was in India recently. One of these remarks is that the Rajiv Gandhi-Jayewardene Accord, gave everything to the Eelam Tamils short of Eelam. We have only to mildly remind Mr. Thondaman that even the TULF which was described as a moderate group, was also not satisfied with the Accord and publicly expressed its dissatisfaction. Mr. Thondaman has also told the same Indian Press that the LTTE turned its guns against the Indian Army. This is factually incorrect, as it was the Indian Army which started the war offensive by blowing up the murasoli Press and the Eelam-murasu Press.

We state these facts, not with a view to discourage the efforts of Mr. Thondaman. On the other hand, we welcome Mr. Thondaman's initiatives. But we would like Mr. Thondaman to act as an "honest broker". He knows more than anyone else the just grievances of the Eelam Tamils and has in fact supported the Tamil demands on language, citizenship, colonization and even self-Government for the Northeast.

So let Mr. Thondaman continue his efforts forgetting the Rajiv Gandhi episode and try to mediate between the Government and the LTTE which would ultimately lead to a situation which would ensure peace between the Sinhalese and Tamils as well as guarantee the sovereignty of both peoples in their homelands.

In this connection we also note with satisfaction the LTTE's letter to Mr. Thondaman inviting him to Jaffna to talk over matters. We publish in the columns of our paper the contents of the letter which the President of the People's Front of Liberation Tigers (PFLT), Mr. K. Mahendrarajah has sent to Mr. Thondaman. It is apparent from the letter that it is unconditional and open.

Mr. Thondaman may take this invitation and start negotiations. Mr. Thondaman may be able to put the Tamil point of view to the Government better than anyone else. We do not know what the Government has to say in regard to Mr. Thondaman's efforts but President Premadasa has never failed to talk of talks as a means of finding a solution. So we firmly believe that Mr. Thondaman will get down to his job seriously by accepting the LTTE invitation with an open mind himself.

LTTE invites Mr. Thondaman to Jaffna

Direct Talks can help achieve peace

Mr. K. Mahendrarajah, the President of the People's Front of Liberation Tigers (PFLT) has in a letter addressed to Mr. Thondaman, the President of the Ceylon Workers' Congress and Minister in President Premadasa's government, invited him to come over to Jaffna to have direct talks with the LTTE.

Earlier Mr. Thondaman had said that he had written to the LTTE suggesting certain peace proposals. Mr. Thondaman had said that his efforts were being initiated in his capacity as President of the Ceylon Workers' Congress. However, Mr. Thondaman did not make the peace proposals known to the public.

Now Mr. K. Mahendrarajah, President of the PFLT has sent a reply to Mr. Thondaman suggesting direct

talks and inviting the latter to come to Jaffna for such talks. Mr. Mahendrarajah's letter reads as follows:-

Dear sir,

We are in receipt of your letter dated 27.08.91 addressed to the leader of our movement, Mr. V. Pirabakaran. We have already acknowledged receipt of this letter through the International Committee of the Red Cross. We had to delay sending you a reply forthwith because you had left for India.

We have taken into consideration the suggestions you have made on behalf of the Ceylon Workers' Congress in relation to the national problems of the people of Tamil Eelam. You have also asked for the views of our

movement in regard to a political solution.

It is difficult in practice to exchange views and clarifications towards a meaningful solution by correspondence. It is also not an appropriate method to continue peace negotiations. The best course would be to meet personally and exchange views.

Therefore, we would request you to come in person to Jaffna, accepting our earlier invitation in this regard and appraise yourself of our position in this regard. We believe that this will help to take further steps aimed at achieving peace.

Yours truly,

K. MAHENDRARAJAH
President,
People's Front of
Liberation Tigers.

NEWS ROUND UP

10-9-91

At Ponnalai, Artillery shell attack from Karainagar Navy Camp. Damages not verified.

11-9-91

At Ponnalai, Artillery shell attack from Karainagar Navy Camp. One person, Letchumanan (51) was injured. many houses were damaged.

13-9-91

At Batticaloa, Bomber attack. Damages not verified.

14-9-91

At Ponnalai and Moolai, Artillery shell attack and Cannon firing from Karainagar Navy Camp.

19-9-91

At Ponnalai and Moolai, Artillery shell attack from Karainagar Navy Camp. Two persons were injured and admitted to Jaffna hospital. They are T. Thiyagarajah (33) and S. Renuka (22)

21-9-91

At Mannar District in puthukamam village, Artillery

shell attack from Nanattan Army Camp. One boy, Anthony Peter (07) was injured.

At Ponnalai, Chulipuram Vaddukoddai and Araly, Artillery shell attack from Karainagar Navy Camp. The Varatharaja Perumal Temple of Ponnalai was damaged.

24-9-91

At Valvettiturai, Cannon firing from Sri Lanka Navy. Damages not verified,

At Ponnalai and Moolai, Artillery shell attack from Karainagar Navy Camp. Many houses were damaged.

Our Recolle...

the Tamils. The ruling Sinhalese governments have failed to solve this issue. After 1983 a round table conference was mooted and even now all such parley is a farce. In 1984, I am quite aware one worker of the Jaffna Co-operative Society who was burnt alive in the same building by the security forces. This person is from Point Pedro and I am in touch with his family members since then. Our rehabilitation work in a true sense commenced in 1984. Later in the year at Point Pedro, 3 were killed, Point Pedro town was set on fire and our Hartley College Library was burnt down.

In 1985, January, killings continued at Point Pedro and in May that year, several were put in a building at Valvettiturai where they were all killed by a bomb blast. These became a common occurrence and during the liberation operation, we had to face a pathetic ordeal.

We saw at a distance among many atrocities, petrol bombs being flung from moving planes.

The arrival of the I.P.K.F. and till its withdrawal, the same sad story continued. Then after its withdrawal in June 1990, things became bad. One by one all services were stopped to us.

Medical facilities, electricity for a healthy living, transport, education, shortage of all essential goods, employment opportunities for the day to day earning members and allied things were denied to us. Recently I was anxious to procure a cake of soap. It was sold here at Rs. 90/- (200 grammes). I did not have the money but I collected here and there this amount and when I went to buy this item, it was sold out.

Many of us are suffering because we have opted to live here. Those who can afford to go abroad have

gone and still others are on the move to go.

Now death is a very common feature to all of us. One thing is certain, all these happenings have made some of us stronger spiritually and have taken a vow to lay down our lives for the generations to come. There cannot be a policy of escapism for monks of our calibre. The lessons of the past could make many of us not to be self-seekers, selfish and conceited. we have won the day. The nature of Karma theory is to make us think better and act righteously. The moment our Karma is exhausted, we will see a rose dawn. Let us then march together with truth on our lips and sincerity in our lives.

-Swami Chidrupananda

Sri Ramakrishna Sarada Sevashrama