

HOT SPRING

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**Now Those Who Sowed The Wind
Are Reaping The Whirlwind**

*"There is no halting place at this point.
We have now reached a point in the
journey where there can be no pause. We must
go on."*

Extract from Sir Winston Churchill's
Speech of 6th September, 1943

RACIALISM TO THE FORE AGAIN

Reports received from Colombo state that the Lalith-Gamini group is desperately involved in whipping up anti-Tamil racial hatred amongst the Sinhalese in their attempt to oust President Premadasa from power. Reports also state that a section of the so-called national press is fanning racial hatred against the Tamils.

It is learnt that already a Colombo-based paper has come out heavily against the reported initiatives of Minister Thondaman to negotiate with the LTTE in his capacity as President of the Ceylon Workers' Congress. An organization calling itself the Sinhala People's Front headed by Buddhist clergyman is reported to have warned against the consequence of any attempts to work out any agreement with the LTTE and has called upon the Sinhalese people to stop the activities of Mr. Thondaman.

The hectic activity of the dissident group to whip up racialism has been noted by even foreign correspondents in Colombo. The BBC correspondent, Mr. Christopher Morris, who has evidently noted this trend, has posed the direct question to Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali whether their propaganda would not spark off another racial riot. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali has dismissed the question by merely posing a counter-question whether the other Tamil groups in Colombo would be supporting him, if he was whipping up racial hatred. Of course, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali has not stated what Tamils groups were supporting him.

It is learnt that the naked anti-Tamil propaganda let loose in Colombo, is causing grave concern amongst Tamil residents in Colombo.

A person who returned from Colombo recently said that the situation in Colombo was very much like the situation during any pre-election periods, when the Sinhalese parties vied with one another to show themselves as Sinhalese nationalists fighting a desperate battle against the Tamils

to safeguard the Sinhala race. This all started in 1956, when Mr. Bandaranayake came out saying that if Tamil were accorded parity of status with Sinhala as the official language, Sinhala would cease to exist as a language within a period of 25 years.

In order not lag behind in Sinhala chauvinism, the UNP decided for Sinhala only, dissolved Parliament and sought the Peoples' vote and to forestall the UNP Mr. Bandaranayake said that if he were chosen, Sinhala would be made the official language within 24 hours of his installation in power.

When the 1960 elections followed in March 1960 and neither the UNP nor the SLFP nor any other party could muster sufficient support in Parliament to form a government. However, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, the Leader of the UNP was called upon by the then Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonatileke to form the government as the leader of the largest single party in parliament. Mr. Dudley Senanayake made overtures to the Federal Party but the latter did not offer its co-operation to Mr. Dudley Senanayake and when the Dudley Government faced defeat in Parliament on the Vote of Thanks to the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Dudley Senanayake resigned.

The Governor-General dissolved parliament and fresh elections were ordered to be held in July, 1960. The UNP carried out a venomous anti-Tamil propaganda saying that the SLFP would hand over large parts of the Island to the Tamils. In fact the UNP prepared maps showing areas which would be handed over to the Tamils, should the SLFP come back to power. The UNP did all this because the SLFP and Federal Party came to some understanding after the defeat of Mr. Dudley Senanayake's government.

Mrs. Bandaranayake who came to power in July, 1960, found herself in a comfortable majority in parliament. She soon ignored her Party's understanding with the Fed-

eral Party and for the next five years carried on a government which implemented completely racial policies which caused the Federal Party to call out the Satyagraha campaign in 1961.

Everytime the Sinhala politicians had need to go before the Sinhala masses, they carried out anti-Tamil propaganda to win the votes

of the Sinhalese. The Lalith-Gamini group which is now fighting it out with President Premadasa, seems to think that they could force some change which would result in the politicians having to go before the people for votes. Therefore, they have started this anti-Tamil racial propaganda. In order not to be overtaken by his opponents, President Premad-

asa is carrying on the war in the Northeast.

The anti-Tamil propaganda so readily indulged in by the Sinhala parties, clearly indicates that the Sinhalese people do not treat the Tamils as equal partners. At no time, therefore, can the Sinhalese and Tamils live in one state structure as a united and integrated people.

Theeruvil Meeting:

DEATH OF LTTE LEADERS REMEMBERED

A mass meeting was held at Theeruvil in Valvettiturai on Saturday, October 5 to mark the fourth anniversary of the death of 12 top LTTE leaders who ended their lives



Kumarappah

by taking the cyanide capsules when the Government of Sri Lanka decided to take them to Colombo for interrogation with the Indian Government supporting the move.

After the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord was signed and the LTTE was handing over its weapons on the promise made by India

that she would be responsible for the security of the Tamil people, the Sri Lankan Army arrested 17 LTTE leaders including two of its top leaders, Pulendiran and Kumarappah, Commanders of the LTTE cadres in Trincomalee and Jaffna respectively.

Under the Accord the Indian government even agreed to the LTTE leaders carrying weapons for their personal safety. As the LTTE cadres were immune from arrest the 17 men did not carry arms or fight back when taken by the Sri Lankan forces. The LTTE believed that the Indian government would not allow the Sri Lankan government to take its leaders to Colombo. But contrary to expectations the Indian government connived with the Sri Lankan Government of J. R. Jayewardene and agreed to the Sri Lankan Government taking the LTTE leaders to Colombo.

Placed in a desperate position due to Indian treachery

the LTTE leaders took the cyanide capsules and ended their lives, when the Sri Lankan Army tried to take the unarmed LTTE leaders to Colombo. The death of the



Pulendiran

LTTE leaders finally led to the war between the LTTE and the Indian Army.

A very large gathering was present at the Theeruvil grounds to which the crowds surged in procession from the Udupiddu junction.

Pandals exhibiting garlanded photographs of the LTTE's dead leaders were put up all over Jaffna.

LTTE hands over Indian Fishermen to ICRC

The LTTE handed over 21 Indian fishermen to the ICRC team at Jaffna on Thursday 3rd. October. These fishermen were put on board the 'Kumana' by the ICRC to be taken to Trincomalee and from there to be taken by road transport to Colombo where they will be handed over to the Indian High

Commission authorities to be sent to India.

These Indian Fishermen drifted to the shores off Jaffna after they were attacked by the Sri Lankan navy when they had gone out fishing. These fishermen were rescued by the LTTE and looked after by them until they were handed over to the ICRC.

Sri Lankan Army kills 14 civilians

News has been received that the Sri Lankan Army killed 14 Tamil civilians in the Amparai District during the recent operations there.

The news further adds that of the fourteen Tamils killed by the Sri Lankan Army, six are members of the same family which include both parents and four children

OUR READERS SAY

Appreciation and Suggestion

The Editor,
'Hot Spring'

Dear Sir,

While appreciating your efforts to cater to the needs of the English educated in the North-East, through the columns of your weekly, I strongly feel that it fulfills a much felt need, soon after the suspension of the publication of its sister paper, the Saturday Review, edited by a Sinhala journalist Mr Navaratne and before him by Mr. Sivanayagam of the Tamil Nation, India. During its existence it was very popular with the readers due to variegated articles, on various subjects, providing top fare for the money paid and its appearance weekly every Saturday on the news counters was eagerly awaited. It is a pity that it was compelled to stop publication by the nefarious activities of the Indian Peace Keeping Force. During its short span of life, it thrashed out the problems of the Sri Lankan Tamils in all its facets, giving publicity to them, by reaching a wider public, both Sinhala and Tamils throughout the length and breadth of Sri Lanka and Tamils living abroad and in Tamil Nadu too. It was so popular, rather unpopular with the Sinhalese down South that its editor was called Navaratnam by the Sri Lankan Army.

As an independent weekly with no political strings attached except that of the well being of Ezhama Tamils or whatever name one may call it, I have a few suggestions for maintaining its standard like its predecessor and improving its tone. Apart from reproducing learned articles from the Tamil Nation and Front Line, more and more of its kind should be reproduced from internationally known journals like the Time, the News Week, the Asia Week, the Hindu etc. Right at the moment, there is a crying need for such reproduction, because as purveyors of knowledge these magazines are hard to come by in Jaffna, consequent to the starting of hostilities between the Tigers and the Sri Lankan Govt. in June last year.

There is no dearth of talented national minded writers in English amongst Tamils. Only a search will reveal their talent. Quite a number of them come to my mind, Messrs. N. Sabaratnam, the former editor of Eelam-Nadu, Mr. K. Shivapathasundaram, Mr. K. Poorambpillai and a few others, all distinguished principals of yesteryear; except for the

last mentioned, they were all at the vanguard of the Jaffna Youth Congress movement, imbued with Gandhian ideals like Thilepan and Annai Poopathy of revered memory, who carved out a niche in the hearts of the young robust freedom fighters of both sexes by sacrificing their lives at the altar of freedom of Tamil Ezhama by fasting unto death. Only disqualification is their age, their hairs having turned grey in the service of the community. What if, Old is gold, they say and they are all 21 carat gold which should be tapped to bring out the best in them for the betterment of society at large till they breathe their last. None should feel sorry that their talent was not exploited, when they were alive and kicking. Let us not make the mistake of throwing them into the dump heap belonging as to the Home for the Aged. The Posterity will not condone our acts of commissions and omissions. They are all distinguished senior citizens of the North. Surely there ought to be men of such ilk in the East too as well as many in the South. Let all of them be invited to contribute their note in the form of learned articles by keeping all the windows wide open for the winds of change to blow in and disallow it to sweep us off our feet, as the Mahatma would say. Extend the same

to varsity dons like Prof. K. Sivathamby, Prof. 'Nandhi' Sivagnanasundaram, A. J. Canagaratne and others to write on their own disciplines.

Also, set apart a Forum for a free and frank discussion of the burning topics of the day viz. (1) Why Tamil Ezhama? (2) Can a Federal set-up be a lasting solution to the sufferings of the minorities (3) A nation without a state (4) Industrialization or Agro-centred Economy for small nations (5) Woman's Lib (6) Perestroika and Glasnost (7) Why communism failed

in Soviet Russia and in East European countries (8) Casteism has been the bane of Hindu Society (9) the fall of the left in Sri Lanka etc.

A healthy discussion on these topics may ensue from different angles, promoting different views at least for four weeks sustaining the interest of the reader on the subject.

Yours in Service,

(M. S. Seenithamby)
Retired Principal
Vathiry.

Draconian Act

The Editor,
Hot Spring

The passage of that Draconian Act called the Sinhala Only Bill in 1956 authored by the late Mr. Bandaranayake drove a wedge between the two major peoples viz. The Sinhalese and Tamils.

If the late Mr. Bandaranayake was alive today, he would be the best person to unravel the mystery behind the obnoxious bill - whether it was meant to make Sinhala as the Official Language or the race as the sole and supreme nationality in this country and the rest as subject race.

The trend of events in and after 1956 amply demonstrate the latter proposition as

the most probable one. Therefore, if the Tamils in this country demand Eelam, the flutter among the doves of the Sinhalese has no justification. What is Sinhala Only Act for the Sinhalese is Eelam for the Tamils. Having contributed towards the struggle for freedom from alien domination, it would be a mockery to realize that the Tamils should be a subordinate race under the Sinhalese. By what stretch of imagination do the Sinhalese think that the Tamils should be their underlings! The fact that the Sinhalese have outnumbered the Tamils by population is not what matters, but the sovereignty vested in the various ethnic groups.

Tamils have made decent approaches in the form of Fifty-Fifty, Federalism and Regional Autonomy in resolving their problems, but political parties that were in power failed to appreciate these sober and modest approaches. Instead violence was unleashed on the innocent Tamils and their self-respect was tarnished. Negation of their basic rights in the fields of Education and Employment are attributes to their demand for a separate entity and thus emerged the demand for Eelam.

If sober approaches have failed, the youths in the North and East thought that an armed insurrection is the next alternative and thus emanated the struggle by armed insurrection.

It would be a futile exercise now for any political party to narrow the gap of prejudice between the Sinhalese and Tamils after several years of conflicts and confrontations. Any attempt would be to patch an old garment with a new piece of cloth.

In as much as the Sinhalese are not prepared to surrender their sovereignty, so are the Tamils and therefore let sanity prevail on the President and his Cabinet of Ministers to step down from their obstinacy and treat the Tamils with the equality of status the Sinhalese enjoy in the affairs of the State and not as a subject race and subjugate them.

D. Jeevanathan
Vathiry

Heli and Shell Attack at Ponnalai

News received from Ponnalai state that towards 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 1st. October a Helicopter belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force started indiscriminate firing around Ponnalai area from the air.

The helicopter attack is stated to have taken place from Ponnalai Junction to the Varaharaja Perumal Temple area.

On the same night around 11.00, the Army stationed at Marainagar launched heavy

artillery shell attack directed towards Ponnalai and Moolai areas. The shells exploded in the paddy fields in Ponnalai and near the Aiyana Temple at Moolai South and paddy fields and residential areas of Moolai South.

Batticaloa Teachers Training College Closed

The Batticaloa Teachers' Training College has been suddenly closed from 1st. October. The news in this connection state that the Training College has been

closed from 10.00 a.m. until further notice.

It is learnt that the reason made out for this is the lack of drinking water!

As the people left their houses for safe areas when the artillery shell attack started, loss of life was averted.

Two further shells were directed towards Ponnalai on 2nd October.

Curfew, Aerial Bombardment and Search in Batticaloa District

It is learnt that the villages of Eravur, Pannankudah and Illupaiadicholai in the Batticaloa District were rounded up by the Sri Lankan Army on 30th September and 1st October and extensive search was made in these areas.

So far no details of damage during this operation have been reported. It is expected that extensive damage could have been caused to the people and property because the search was preceded by aerial bombardment, after curfew was imposed.

Heavy Shell Attack at Pungudutivu

Heavy shell attack was directed towards Pungudutivu from the Nainativu Naval Camp. This took place on the night of Tuesday 2nd October. It is learnt that the shell attack continued for over three hours and about 50 shells exploded in Pungudutivu.

Most of the shells exploded in Kurrikaiduvan and Wards

4 & 5 of Pungudutivu. Some shells also exploded at Irupiddy, Veerpuliyady and the Kandasamy Temple area. As most of the shells exploded in the sea coast and a few in the residential areas, loss of life was averted. Most of the people in the area had abandoned their homes and run to other places of safety.

SPORTS

Basketball

Johnians - Winners

Johnians (under 19) beat Centralites by a solitary basket with the scores (27-25) after leading (17-14) at Lemons. The Chief scorer was Suranjit with 15 points, while N. Athmeekan got 13 points for the Centralites. Messrs. R. Vasantha Kumar and Pillai officiated.

The match was played at the Central college

- Vijakumar -

North Controls South Through Debt

Except when newspaper editors in the West discern a truly terrifying development the Third World debt problem is relegated to their financial pages. Southern payments crises erupt and subside. Northern plans for coping with them flower and wither, and with them the space and prominence allotted to debt in the mainstream press.

In the Third World itself, however, debt is front page news, because there it is destroying millions of lives and indeed entire nations. At the behest of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which now intervenes in dozens of debtor economies, health, education and transport budgets are mercilessly slashed, consumption subsidies for staple foods go by the board, prices for basic goods and services double or triple overnight at the very time thousands of wage earners are being sacked. Standards of living in Latin America have reverted to pre-1980 - and in some cases pre-1955 - levels, while indebted Africa has virtually become a continental basket-case.

The Third World now collectively owes about US 1 trillion dollars to the North. In today's world this is not very much money. On Black Monday, 19 October 1987, Wall Street lost as much, on paper, in a single day. The world's top 200 transnational corporations have a collective annual turnover of about US 3 trillion dollars. The public debt of the United States, which now tops the US 2 trillion dollars mark, makes even Brazil and Mexico look like dwarfs. If Southern debt has been allowed to fester, if the 'international community' - which is to say the rich and powerful nations that run it - has not yet devised a means to overcome the crisis, there may be good reasons.

One needn't engage in conspiracy theory to point out that debt fits rather neatly Karl von Clausewitz's definition of war. Not only does it allow 'the continuation of politics by other means' but it also conforms to his less famous axiom: 'War is an act of violence whose goal is to force the adversary to do our will.'

What are the traditional goals of war of which debt can be an instrument? Certainly not territorial expansion - a rich country with

a stable or declining population needs that? Political control exercised via occupying armies is outlawed as well. It drains the occupier's economy and attracts rotten publicity worldwide, as the US in Vietnam, the Russians in Afghanistan and the Israelis in the occupied territories have all learned to their cost.

For achieving all the other goals of classical warfare, however, and for forcing the adversary to do our will, debt may just be the perfect tool. Take, for example, the desire for unlimited access on the cheapest possible terms to other peoples' natural resources and manufacturing capacity. Here, the international community is on to a good thing. The indebted countries are all receiving exactly the same advice - or, more properly orders - from the IMF and the World Bank: export flat out. Earn the cash to pay back your debts on world markets, however dire the state of your internal economy and your people.

As luck would have it, markets for agricultural and mineral raw materials are shrinking and there are only so many people who can buy all those T-shirts, tomatoes and transistors. Northern protectionism is thrown in for good measure, and the unsurprising result is glut.

Glut means rock bottom prices, a reality captured by an Economist cover in late 1985 as 'The Poor Man's Gift'. One saw a white hand removing from a black one a bag of cash marked 'dollars 65 billion'. This cover appeared before the precipitous decline of oil prices, and represented Northern savings on raw material purchases from the Third World in a single year.

Debt is also handy for controlling the other fellow's national infrastructure, as warring powers have always tried to do. Debt-for-equity swaps are enjoying increasing attention from private bankers, who retire a small portion of debt in exchange for local currency, with which they can then buy up local companies.

One US dollars 900 million swap deal involves Grupo Alfa, Mexico's major petrochemical group. For Mexico, this draw-down represents not even 1% of its total debt, and will reduce its annual interest payments by a paltry US dollars 10 million or so; Mexico has nonehe-

less lost control of one of its chief industrial complexes.

Several other Latin American countries are desperately trying to sell off their assets, though so far less than US dollars 10 billion of their US dollars 400 billion-plus debt has been retired through swaps.

The other IMF-Bank rallying cry, 'Privatisation', also helps foreigners, occasionally rich nationals, to take control of formerly state-owned industries. Whatever looks like being profitable is fair game. Latin Americans and Africans are welcome to the rest.

In classical warfare, a smart strategist will make the adversary pay for its own oppression. Between 1982 and 1987, Latin America remitted over US dollars 140 billion to the North, net. The poor world is now financing the rich one on an unprecedented scale; real interest rates, which were low to negative during the years the developing world was racking up its debts, now hover between 8% and 9%.

Debt also prevents serious challenges to the dominant world system. For example, when Oscar Arias announced his peace plan for Central America, the United States immediately slapped unusually strict bans and restrictions on Costa Rican exports; it further refused, for the first time, to intervene with US commercial banks on Costa Rica's behalf. With US dollars 4.5 billion of debt to service - a huge sum for a small country - Costa Rica now finds itself ineligible for further bank loans and the US move has also held up agreements with public sources of credit.

Although debt sometimes leads to direct and unmistakable violence, as when people riot against sudden and unsustainable increases in the cost of survival and are summarily gunned down (Zambia, the Dominican Republic, Morocco, Egypt), its chief advantage is to provide the creditor countries with indirect though no less violent leverage for keeping the Third World in line, and forcing it to 'do their will'.

But it wouldn't do for this to become public knowledge. The United States has drawn important lessons from the Vietnam war. Pentagon theorists and practitioners now favour what they call 'Low Intensity Conflict', or

LIC. LIC is not just low-intensity; it is low cost (or even profitable) for the perpetrator. Unlike conventional warfare, LIC does not seek 'victory'. As one observer put it: 'Low-intensity strategists have discovered dialectics; they understand it as a permanent global struggle.'

In such a struggle, 'winning' is not the point - long-term control is. It's only a small step from the concept of LIC to that of FLIC - or Financial Low Intensity Conflict. With FLIC, too, total victory, or complete payback, is not desirable because it would mean bankruptcy for the debtors and an end to the game. The crisis is thus strung out, with partial rewards and graduated punishment meted out to debtor countries on a case-by-case basis.

Crucially, LIC and FLIC keep the war off the television screen. They thus offer the added advantage of near invisibility, forestalling dissent and challenges to the system in the creditor countries themselves. Most people think mega-money questions are either incomprehensible or boring or both, and show few signs of taking to the streets in protest.

Yet FLIC is not just destroying countless livelihoods and lives in the South; it is also a war against the citizens of the North. When remittances to banks exhaust all available financial reserves

in the debtor countries nothing is left to purchase farm products, manufacturers or services from other sectors of Northern economies. US experts have calculated that every billion dollars in lost exports destroys 24,000 jobs.

According to those figures, the drop in US exports to Mexico alone since 1982 has wiped out at least a quarter of a million jobs. Latin America used to buy in an average year over three times as many farm products from the United States as did the Soviet Union. Its drastically reduced debt-inhibited food purchases have contributed in no small measure to the American farm crisis.

Elites in the South have largely managed to insulate themselves from the worst effects of the debt crisis. When public hospitals, schools and transportation systems deteriorate or disappear, they can afford private ones. They go on eating, however huge the increases in malnutrition among their poorer compatriots. Borrowed funds have often enriched them immeasurably, as the scale of capital flight attests. Thus the only force that might oblige them, and the governments that largely represent them, to unify and fight against FLIC is increased popular violence making their own lives impossible.

Courtesy:

Third World Network
Features/New Statesman.

Cat Out of the Bag

Miss Jayalitha the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has said in one of her recent statements that the Indian Central government which had instigated the expulsion from United Kingdom of Sathasivam Kitru, the foreign Political Head of the LTTE was not cooperating with her Tamil Nadu government in expelling the LTTE from Tamil Nadu State.

When Sathasivam Kitru of the LTTE was suddenly asked by the British Government to show cause why he should not be deported from U.K., Resident Diplomatic sources in London expressed the view that it was due to the pressure exerted by the Indian Government that Kitru was asked to leave Britain but the Indian Government had denied the charge as untrue.

But now Miss Jayalitha the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has let the cat out of the bag.

GOVERNMENT SAYS :**Tamil is also an official Language but in practice everything is Sinhala only****Lamentation of an Eastern Province Muslim**

At a time when it is widely propagated that the Tamil language is accorded equal status with the Sinhala language and is made one of the Official Languages, there is a continuous inflow of allegations and complaints as regards implementing Tamil as an official language. I am, therefore, compelled to conclude that the disregard shown to the Tamil language and it being not implemented as an official language are the results of wanton malice.

Not only has the Tamil language not been accorded its rightful place in the Bus Notice Boards, Entrances to Estates, Government notifications, Government Departments, Grama Sevakas' offices, seminars held under governments aegis, correspondence and innumerable activities and transactions of government but the lack of confidence amongst minorities is continuing to grow.

In the hill country large number of persons including

plantation workers of Indian origin and others who do not know Sinhala are unable to transact their day to day business with various government institutions and are facing difficulties and hardships because Tamil language is discarded in government institutions.

Television has been introduced in Sri Lanka for over

this disregard is to be found in the television services.

In Parliament it was assumed that Tamil language had been made an official language and its implementation as such would be ensured by the appointment of a Commission which would monitor and ensure the implementation of the official languages.

By :

Eastern Ibrahim

Secretary of the Eastern Maritime Region Farmers' Federation of the Amparai District.

12 years now. Tamil has not been accorded its rightful place in 'Rupavahini' - the national television. Sinhalese language alone is dominating 'Rupavahini'. Though Tamil language is believed to have been given official status, in the matter of implementing Tamil as an official language, many authorities daily show complete disregard in implementing Tamil as an official language. The best example for

Due to various pressures, a legislation was passed in parliament in February this year, providing for the appointment of a Commission to ensure the implementation of the Official Languages in Departments of Government. Though many months have gone by, the Commission has not been appointed. There is not even mention of the appointment of this Commission in government circles.

In these circumstances and on scrutiny of the various actions of government, the claim made by government that the language problem has been solved, really means that a law according the Tamil language official status only has been merely passed but all other turore is mere propaganda. The Tamil-speaking people are unable to reap the benefits of the legislation making Tamil also an official language.

If, in a free country, the minorities are not able to transact their business in their own language, then the claim that Tamil is enjoying parity of status and is recognized as an official language, is doubtlessly nothing more than verbose magic.

Tamil-speaking people feel that because the implementation of Tamil as an official language is continuing to be one found only on the Statute Book and on public platforms the situation that was prevailing for decades,

is continuing without change. Our experience in this country had been the perpetuation of the problems of the minorities. They are never solved but are allowed to fester by procrastination.

There are 6000 Tamil-speaking persons who have opened up bank accounts in the National Saving Bank at Badulla. But not a single officer with a knowledge of Tamil has been appointed to this Bank. Tamil plantation workers who have no knowledge of Sinhala are experiencing great difficulties in the transaction of their business at this Bank because of this.

Tamil language has not been afforded its status in any manner in any of the Districts of Kandy, Matale and Nuwara Eliya. Right from the offices of the Provincial Councils to those of the Gramodaya offices there is not even a trace of the Tamils language.

Tamil-speaking people are not able to transact any business in Tamil in any of the Post Offices in such important places as Bandara-wela, Badulla, Haputala and Welinada.

(Continued on Page 5)

**CMU for abolition of Executive Presidency
Communique of the Executive Committee**

A major constitutional crisis has arisen in the country as a result of the resolution for the impeachment of President Premadasa, that was handed over to the Speaker in Parliament on or about 27th August 1971, and the President's prorogation of Parliament till 24th September next.

A political crisis has also arisen within the Government Party, as a result of the fact that a so far unknown number of UNP members of Parliament, in addition to all the members of the Opposition except one, are said to have signed the resolution for the impeachment of the President, while two Cabinet Ministers and two State Ministers have resigned from the Government in avowed or implied support of the resolution.

The Executive Committee of the CMU considers that the most important issue for the people of this country is the abolition of the Ex-

ecutive Presidency itself, whether or not Mr. Premadasa succeeds in his efforts to defeat the move for his removal from the office of President. We are glad to note that this issue has been brought to the forefront of the controversy over the move to impeach him.

Our Union took the view, at the very outset, that the change brought about by Mr. J.R. Jayewardene in the Constitution, in September 1977, just two months after he had become Prime Minister, whereby an Executive Presidency was created and he was made President, was completely undemocratic, for the reason that the President was thereby vested with the full Executive Power of the State. This gave power to the President, at will, to dissolve Parliament, or to prorogue it arbitrarily, as President Premadasa has just done besides giving him control over the Police and the Armed Forces of the State, and to act without consult-

ing the Cabinet of Ministers, whom he could appoint and dismiss, and without being answerable for any of his acts directly to Parliament. Far more dangerous to the democratic and human rights of the people was the power vested in the President to declare a State of Emergency, whenever he pleased, and thereby to invest himself with arbitrary powers to make Emergency regulations to suspend or amend any law and to suppress democratic and civil liberties, while also giving the Police and the Armed Forces or his special appointees similar powers affecting human and democratic rights.

At the time that Mr. J. R. Jayewardene brought about the constitutional shift of Executive Power from a Cabinet Government in Parliament to an Executive President outside it, he stated that he wanted the change to establish a "stable" Executive, not subject to the whims and fancies of the

National State Assembly". The UNP then had more than the necessary two-thirds majority in that Assembly to change the Constitution to suit their Leader's purposes, and they complied with his wishes.

When Mr. Jayewardene announced that a Presidential Election was to be held on 20th October 1982, for the first time, the General Council of our Union adopted a resolution on 30th September 1982, calling for a **BOYCOTT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**, "as neither J.R. Jayewardene nor any other candidate (could) be relied on to utilise the dictatorial powers of the President for truly democratic purposes, that is, in the interests of the working class and the masses of the people."

In October 1988, when President Jayewardene was being urged by a major group of Opposition parties to dissolve the completely out-dated and no longer representative Parliament elected in July 1977, and to hold a Presidential Election as well as a General Election, the 20th Delegates' Conference of our Union adopted a resolution calling for the ending of the State of Emergency, the dissolution of Par-

liament and the holding of a General Elections but not a Presidential Election, "to elect a new Parliament that should change the present reactionary Constitution immediately... to get rid of the provisions for a President vested with the entire Executive Power of the State". This resolution was endorsed by our membership in a token General Strike of our Union on 27th October 1988.

In the constitutional crisis that has arisen today, we call upon the Parliament that was elected after Mr. Premadasa was elected to succeed Mr. J.R. Jayewardene as President, to adopt a resolution to change the Constitution even now, to get rid of its most undemocratic feature, the Executive Presidency. At the same time, we also call for the immediate revocation of all the Emergency regulations affecting democratic and human rights, including the Essential Services regulation under which President Premadasa has grossly abused his Emergency powers to abolish the right to strike of the vast majority of the workers of this country.

On behalf of the
Executive Committee
of the CMU,
Bala Ganoo
General Secretary

PANORAMA

POLAND

Poland is a country well known in history, though for a time it was erased from the map of Europe due to the territorial ambitions of her neighbours - Russia, Prussia and Austria. However, Poland was able to regain herself until it became a satellite state of the Soviet Union. Gomulka tried to win back Polish independence but was contained and it continued to be a State under the control of the Soviets. In recent times, the Solidarity Trade Union movement spearheaded the freedom movement in that country and Poland became free in all respects. Pope John Paul II is also a Pole. A country which always had been in the limelight of European Affairs, has again hit the headlines of the

press. This time the story of Poland is that it is selling tanks to the Sri Lankan Government. While the world look with great expectations to see Poland free and independent contributing its own share to freedom and democracy all over the world, it is saddening to note that Poland has entered the club of countries which export military wares to other countries, especially to a decadent and ruthlessly imperialist and small State of Sri Lanka.

INDIA

As I concern myself about the sale of military wares by Poland, I am remembered of another matter which should be known to the world. India of Ahimsa fame is the largest buyer of weapons amongst the Third

World countries! India ranks number one with a 17 billion dollar worth purchases from weapons manufacturers. May Mahatma Gandhi's soul rest in peace.

ARMENIA

Armenia is the latest of the Soviet Republics to have opted for complete freedom from the Soviet Union. No cry has been heard from the Soviet Union bemoaning loss of territorial integrity thanks to an enlightened leadership.

SAARC

The latest report is that India is trying to disturb the SAARC Conference scheduled to be held in Colombo later this year. The reason is that India believes that its delegates may not be safe in Colombo because according to President Premadasa's opponents, President Premadasa had given arm to the LTTE in the forests of Mullarivu to fight the Indian Army. President Premadasa has denied this allegation.

THE SRI LANKA OPPOSITION

The leader of the Opposition in the Sri Lankan Parliament Mrs. Sirima Bandanayake and the Lalith-Gami group have voiced their opposition to the Independent Group of members from Tamil Eelam who vacated their seats last year, getting

back to Parliament. So the Sinhala chauvinists will want to rule Tamil Eelam without even Tamil representatives in Parliament. A very good case for the world community to support the restoration and reconstitution of Tamil Eelam.

- Spectator -

Tamil Patients Uncared For

Tamil patients sent to Colombo for treatment of cancer at the Cancer Hospital, Maharagama, are not cared for.

A relative of a person who had been sent from Jaffna for treatment at the Cancer Hospital, Maharagama, told Hot Spring that he had received a letter dated 27.9.91 from the person who accompanied the patient saying that though the patient was admitted to the Hospital, no

medical attention was given to him. The patient was not given even a bed and had been asked to sleep on the ground. No doctor had seen him. One had to pay bribes even to get a wound dressed.

The Tamil patients are totally uncared for by the Hospital Staff. This is contained in a letter written by a relation to the wife of the cancer patient sent from Jaffna to Maharagama, Colombo.

Tamil is also an official Language...

(Continuation from Page 4)

Allegations have been received that in the plantation areas - the name boards appearing in Tamil in the estates have been removed and only name boards in Sinhala and English are exhibited.

The Social Services Department sent some forms pertaining to the compilation of information in respect of physically disabled persons to the Jaffna Secretariat. The forms were in Sinhala only.

In the Kegalle District, letters are being sent to Tamil schools by the Education Department in Sinhala and Tamil letters are being replied to in Sinhala.

The Tamil members of the Central Provincial Council have expressed their regret that the Tamil language is being continued to be ignored in the affairs of the Central Provincial Council.

The invitation card sent in connection with the ceremony connected with the initiation of electricity supply to Kahgella Estate in Haputale was in Sinhala only, while the population there is Tamil.

In Badulla, the posters of the mobile office of the Ministry of Labour is entirely in Sinhala only.

In the Western province, the circulars sent by the Education Department to Tamil schools were in Sinhala only.

At Nawala, the Postal authorities have refused to make payment on a Money

Order sent from the Trincomalee Post Office in Tamil.

The Social Services Department sent some forms to the Kachcheris in the Eastern Province to collect particulars of damages sustained by flood to houses and paddy fields. These forms were entirely in Sinhala only.

The Minister for Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Home Affairs has appointed a Committee of five members to prepare forms required for public use in all three languages. But this committee does not have one single member who knows Tamil.

Under the scheme to provide houses for those who have lost their houses, forms have been issued in Akkaraipattu and Alayadi Vembu. The forms are in Sinhala only whereas the people in these areas are Tamil-speaking.

Under the law, Tamil has to be compulsorily enforced as the language of administration in the Amparai Kachcheri. But even cheques written out by this Kachcheri are written out only in the Sinhala language. But in these cheques written out in Sinhala, the names of Tamil-speaking persons are corruptly written.

The Ceylon Transport Board Depots brought under the popularization Scheme of government, Tamil has been completely done away with. Even the name 'Popularized Trans-

port Services' is written out only in Sinhala.

The Ceylon Insurance Corporation sent out certain forms to all schools including Tamil schools in connection with an Insurance Scheme for School Students. They were in Sinhala only.

We can go on citing the shortcomings and deliberate

acts of discrimination like this. The Government for its part keeps on giving promises, assurances and even signing agreements but does not implement any. Under such circumstances, the affected Tamil people are bound to lose faith and get exasperated with the whole exercise.

The Government announced the payment of an incentive to government servants who

could work in an additional language other than Sinhala but nothing seems to have been done in practice. All these show that all talks of equal rights to Tamil Language as an official one, is all talk and not of any consequence.

Translated from

Virakesari Colombo, or September 4, 1991

SHELL ATTACK ON HOSPITAL PREMISES

in the adjoining compound was damaged.

Within two minutes of the first shell attack, a

second shell was also launched but this shell too hit a pond and exploded.

No one was hurt.

Air Force attack in Mannar

Reports from Mannar state that the Sri Lankan Air Force bombers carried out aerial bombardment in the villages of Vidaththivu Iluppaikadavai and Pandivirichan in the Mannar District.

Preliminary reports indicate that a civilian was injured seriously and two houses were completely damaged.

Further details are awaited.

Saravanai subjected to heavy shell attack

The Sri Lanka Army stationed at Kayts, started heavy artillery shell attack directed towards the village of Saravanai on the night of Mon-

day, September 30. After the shells were launched the Army commenced firing from the camp. Gunshot sounds continued to be heard for a long time.

Over 40,000 rendered refugees in Manal Aru - Mullaitivu areas

Consequent to the war in Manal Aru area over 40,000 civilians have been rendered refugees and have sought refuge in other areas.

Most of these persons were fishermen and farmers

who had left their homes and jobs and are living in refugee camps.

It is further learnt that over 15 civilians died and many others seriously injured by military action,

Jaffna Open University Closed

All academic activities in the Open University at Jaffna have been closed for three weeks now.

It is understood that the students who went for lectures have been told that all lectures had been suspended on instructions from Colombo.

HOT SPRING

VOL: 1 SUNDAY 06th. October 1991 ISSUE 52

Rabid Racialism Rides Again

We had occasion to remark in our editorial of September 15, that the Tamils would be the scapegoats in any power struggle amongst the Sinhalese.

The speeches made by the warring factions in Colombo during the last three weeks amply justify our editorial comments.

The Lalith - Gamini group started with an allegation that President Premadasa gave arms to the Tigers implying that with those arms the Tigers are fighting the Sri Lankan forces. President Premadasa not only denied this allegation but also started military offensive with his Air Force bombing Tamil Eelam territories such as Batticaloa, Amparai and Mannar. We have yet to receive the detailed reports of damages from these areas consequent to these operations.

Not to be out done, the political gamblers in Colombo have closed ranks. We find that the entire opposition have now let loose the Tiger scare amongst the Sinhalese.

Mrs. Sirima Bandaranayake, the Lalith - Gamini group and an assortment of Sinhala chauvinists have got together to express their opposition to the Independent Group from Tamil Eelam seeking re-entry to Parliament. Pathetically the Tamil quislings in Colombo also have joined hands with the opposition and are feigning to ask for protection, as if the Independent Group of MPs are going to march into Parliament or Sravasti with guns in their hands to exterminate the hiding quislings.

These Sinhala racialists who oppose the re-entry of the Independent group to Parliament, fail to realize one thing and that is that it was this Independent Group that won the General Elections held in 1989 whilst the Indian Army was still occupying Tamil Eelam and propping up its quisling groups. The quislings now in parliament are largely there because of the fraudulent proportional representation system introduced by former President J. R. Jayewardene to perpetuate his own wily schemes even after him. Therefore these opposition leaders who talk glibly of democracy cannot be heard to object to the Independent Group taking its seats in parliament. But they are doing it. They want to rule the Tamils even without the Tamils having representation in parliament. This is naked imperialism and we hope the enlightened International community will understand the Sinhala psyche and desist from extolling the virtues of a unitary form of government for this Island.

Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali has taken the anti Tamil campaign further by warning that the entry of the Independent Tamil Group would cause the outbreak of violence in Colombo and his chief Lieutenant, former Minister Premachandra has said that the employment of 'minorities' in key positions in Government service is inimical to the interests of the Government and the war in Tamil Eelam.

But what is most interesting about these 'Sinhala nationalists' is that now they have turned out to be the defenders of the policy which brought the Indian Army into the Island. Earlier they did not support this move of President Jayewardene but remained servile merely to retain their portfolios. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali in particular was known to have been in open opposition to the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayewardene Accord. The reasons for the present turn in tone are obvious.

We would re-iterate that the Tamil people have lost their faith in Parliament as being an instrument which could ensure their rights. But what we ask the present protagonists of the supremacy of Parliament is, why they did not open their mouths when in 1983 the Tamils in the Northeast lost their representations in Parliament for years together.

Sinhala Only Act.

Purported Relief to Public Officers after 35 years

Govt. Circular in its entirety

The Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Home Affairs has issued a circular dated 23rd August, 1991 under title "Implementation of provisions of the 13th and 16th amendments to the constitution with retrospective effect to provide relief to those public Officers who have been affected by the Treasury Circulars and public Administration Circulars issued to implement the Act. No. 33 of 1956."

Act. No 33 of 1956 is the notorious Sinhala Only Act steered through Parliament by the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake, as Prime Minister.

After 35 years government accepts that public officers have been affected by this Act and purports to grant redress, which however is an eye - wash.

In any event there are large numbers of Tamils who

were affected by this Sinhala Only Act. Some are dead and gone and many have left Government service under compulsion or disgust.

As Circulars of this nature are not easily available to the people in Tamil Eelam, we reproduce this Circular in its entirety for the benefit of our readers of this category. On reading this Circular, they will find that it is after all aloud sounding nothing.

My No. 2 / 9 / 156 / 6 / 44 / H

Public Administration Circular No. 37/91

Ministry of Public Administration,
Provincial Councils & Home Affairs,
Independence Square,
Colombo - 7.

23rd August, 1991.

To: All Secretaries to Ministries,
Secretaries to Governors of Provinces,
Chief Secretaries of Provincial Councils,
Heads of Departments,
Government Agents,
Secretaries to Provincial Public Service Commission and
Chairmen of Corporations and Statutory Bodies.

Implementation of provisions of 13th & 16th amendments to the constitution with retrospective effect to provide relief to those Public Officers who have been affected by the Treasury Circulars and Public Administration Circulars issued to implement the Act No. 33 of 1956

The Government has decided to provide relief to those Public Officers who have been affected by the Treasury Circulars and Public Administration Circulars issued to implement the Act No. 33 of 1956.

02 Serving Officers:

All the obstacles for promotions imposed on above mentioned circulars will be removed with effect from 05th June 1991. Therefore promotions should be granted to those officers if they are not otherwise ineligible. However such promotions should be given to be effective on a date on or after 5th June 1991,

03. Those who are Prematurely retired or whose services were terminated:

- i. They will be eligible for re-employment on the following conditions from 05th June 1991 in Public Institutions depending on their discipline, age, experience, qualifications and efficiency.
- ii. Such re-employment has to be on the recommendations of the relevant Ministry subject to the prior approval of the sub-committee of Secretaries appointed by the Cabinet for re-employment of retired state officers. However these re-employments could be done even outside the cadrc. But the seniority of these re-employed officers should not be higher than that of the officers who are in employment a present in equivalent grades.
- iii. Pension rights should be granted to those who held pensionable posts and who have put in at least 10 years of continuous service even though they were not confirmed in their services not ineligible otherwise but due to their non proficiency in official language.
- iv. A gratuity should be granted to those officers not pensionable under normal rules irrespective of the length of their service.
- v. The relevant benefits should be granted to the dependants of dead officials who are legally entitled, with effect from either 05th June 1991 or the date of the death of the officer whichever occurs later.

04 Officers who have been found to be engaged in anti-governmental activities are not eligible for any of these benefits.

05. The Pension Minute will be amended accordingly.

Sgd: R. Abeyratne
Secretary
Ministry of Public Administration,
Provincial Councils & Home Affairs.