

HOT SPRING

Vol. 2

24th November 1991

No. 7

National Heroes' Week.

The National Heroes' Week commemorating the dead freedom fighters of Tamil Eelam commenced on Thursday, November 21, with the hoisting of the Tamil National Flag in all public buildings and places at 8.00 a.m. in the morning followed by observance of 2 minutes silence.

Jaffna is decorated gaily and photographs and drawings of the dead heroes have been exhibited in many places.

Continued on Page 6

In the Amparai District : Tamil Families Displaced from 35 Villages

20,000 PEOPLE AFFECTED

Thirty five villages in the Amparai District where Tamils lived are today empty with the residents in the villages having been displaced from their homes because of the presence of the Sinhala armed forces of the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government sponsored Sinhalese and Muslim Home Guards in the district.

A total of 3665 families from these 35 villages were thus forced to vacate their dwellings.

Apart from those killed by the armed forces of the Government or the so-called 'Home Guards' others totalling nearly 20,000 left their homes and took refuge in other areas, forests or in refugee camps. Latest reports

from Amparai indicated that the armed forces of the Government of Sri Lanka chased away those living as refugees in refugee camps on the pretext that the Government had ordered the closure of refugee camps in the District. The refugees thus driven away from the refugee camps are reported to have run into the forests for safety.

The largest number of families displaced from their homes is from the 4th colony where 500 Tamil families have been displaced, with the village of Veeramunai coming second with 400 families being displaced from there. The small villages include Kanagar Kiramam,

4th mile and Rupankulam each with 30 families having been displaced from their homes.

Reports from Amparai further state that while nothing has been done to rehabilitate displaced Tamil families large numbers of

Sinhalese from outside the District are being settled in these areas. One of the greatest impediments in getting the Tamil families rehabilitated in their villages is the continued presence of the armed forces and the thugs belonging to the so-called 'Home Guards' in and around all Tamil areas in the District.

Govt. in Desperate bid to Cheat the World

As the Sinhala Government's armed forces entered the islands off Jaffna Peninsula, the residents of these islands ran away for security to mainland peninsula. Only a few persons, mostly old and sick persons, who could not flee their homes were caught in the army-occupied islands.

According to the figures compiled by the Red Cross Society only a few persons have been trapped in the islands recently occupied by the Sinhala Army.

There are about 800 persons in Pungudutivu out of a total of 24,700 persons. Velanai's population is 14,570. Out of this only 500 are still in Velanai. 50 persons out of a total of 1725 persons remain at Mankumban. There are only 20 persons out of 2,275 persons in Allaipiddy. The entirety of the population of Saravanai and Mandativu left their villages at the approach of the Sinhala Army.

Now the Government of Sri Lanka has issued circular instructions that all Government officials in the islands should report for work before November 18 or face termination from employment.

The Education Ministry has gone one step further and said that teachers' salaries had been sent to the Army and that the Divisional Director of Education should obtain these salaries from the Army. There is an Education Department at Jaffna with a number of 'Directors' and an Accountant and his staff. Why then have the salaries of teachers been sent to the Army?

It is believed that the frantic and desperate efforts the Government makes in this regard is to get back the Government officers to their places so that the Government may boast of

having restored civil administration and cheat the World community.

All people including Government Officers have fled their homes. It is learnt that the refugees from the islands have asked for the removal of the Army from the islands before they could return to their homes.

According to latest reports Government has also extended an open invitation to the people of the islands to return to their homes on the promise of an amnesty and provision of food and electricity.

Father of Three Shot Dead

Markandu Mahenthirarajah (32) a father of three children is reported to have been shot dead by the Sri Lankan Army soldiers.

This incident is reported to have taken place at

Chettiyaveli in the Trincomalee District on November 7th.

The deceased Mahenthirarajah was a resident of the village of Kattaiparichchan in the Mutur area.

Tamil territory portrayed again

"As to the question required in the knowledge of the native languages, the Portuguese and Sinhalese only being mentioned (in your despatch) excludes one which is fully as necessary in the northern districts as the Sinhalese in the South, - I mean the Tamil language commonly called the Malabar language, with the mixture of Portuguese in use through all the Provinces, is the native tongue of the inhabitants from Puttalam to Batticaloa northward inclusive of both these districts. Your Lordship will, therefore, have no objection in my putting the Tamil language on an equal footing of encouragement with the Sinhalese".

- Governor Sir Robert Brownrigg in a despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in July, 1813.

MARTYRS' DAY

27th NOVEMBER

Oh! ye Martyrs of our freedom's cause,
With thankful hearts and folded hands we pause
This day, in token of your sacrifice supreme,
Beside your graves, while our minds do scream.

Our tear filled eyes our hearts expose,
Rise, rise from thy beds of deep repose
And see, see just once how we feel for you,
And then retrace your steps to thy beds, -
the Ends' due!

Each of you did in thy martial deed excel,
Of thy super bravery, stories men do tell;
These in books shall for posterity we secure
And thy heroic acts, in full, they shall bear.

Worldly pleasures renounced by will
Is what that pains our hearts still,
You held our freedom's value high
That makes us heave a very deep sigh.

Let us sing in chorus all your praise,
In varying tunes and in all known ways;
But our steadfast will to oust the enemy now
Redoubles force, and we know it how.

- Ram -

Refugees Demonstrate

Refugees from the islands took out a mass demonstration, Monday, November 18, demanding an end to the economic and food embargo and calling upon the Government to withdraw its armed forces from the Islands.

Refugees from the islands Jaffna and reached the and other displaced persons Jaffna Secretariat.

joined in their thousands The demonstrators who the procession which passed came along Palaly Road also through the main roads in conducted a mock-funeral

procession depicting that a deceased person Marie who died of mal nutrition a few days back. The bier was lit in the Kacheri premises.

The processionists handed over letters addressed to the Government Agent and to

(Continued on Page 6)

Prevent Hoarding and Price Hikes

Editor,
Hot Spring

May this be spotlighted in your esteemed journal as appraisal and thanks.

In the present war situation in the North, the people are experiencing hardships in fetching their essential commodities. The timely action of the Government Agent, Jaffna in streamlining renewed distribution of essential food-stuffs at fixed prices on the family ration cards through the MPCS is laudable and welcome.

To avoid hoarding and to prevent the traders exploiting the masses, this is commendable.

The People's Front of the Liberation Tigers has also moved in requesting all wholesale and retail traders to furnish complete lists of their stocks of essential items and places of stocks in their respective areas. The Assistant Government Agents are also overseeing checking groups who have been appointed for the purpose. These groups will check their stocks and movement of stocks from place to place without the Groups' permits.

The PFLT has appealed to all traders as a great service to the community at this time to help the people get their requirements on the Ration Cards without difficulty at fixed prices.

The Government's economic blockade on the North hits the people. As a fair deal to the suffering people here all traders and MPCS must co-operate to save the people.

Let the people have their daily bread without difficulty. This is the prime duty of all traders to their fellow-men.

S. Jeyaratnam

Chavakachcheri.

Fuel for Cooking in Urban Areas

Editor, Hot Spring.

Apart from the usual scarcity of all essential items, since mid June 1990, the most difficult problem is to find firewood or other materials to cook their food.

This is a very serious short-coming especially in towns where firewood cannot be obtained. People, however, in rural areas are able to manage.

Some people are actively engaged in firewood business. They overload such items on their bicycles and sometimes ride 30 to 40 miles in the process. A coconut husk is sold at Rs. 2/- and the stem at Rs. 2/50. During the rainy season this situation is further aggravated. Even the bakers are unable to make standard bread due to lack of firewood.

In the past (before mid June, 1990) firewood was

brought from Kilinochchi and Vavuniya. May I suggest that the respective officials issue firewood also on rationing scheme.

This move will ease the daily chores of the housewives. Students, teachers and workers of all hues are unable to go to their respective places due to cooking being delayed and lack of public transport.

J. Arulanandam.

Vayavilan.

The Editor,
Hot Spring,

Dear Sir,

To be sincere, I am a regular reader of 'HOT SPRING' and I never miss



a single issue. It gives the news of the week in a concise form.

I whole heartedly thank the editor for allowing readers letters to be published in the paper. I have special interest in two letters published is the month of September - Paramanathan's letter appearing on 1-9-91 and Clement Stanislaus's letter appearing on 22-9-91. I find that there are good number of people in this category. These are 1977 drop outs, 1983 drop outs and 1988 drop outs. I am only a 1988 drop out, when I think of 1977 drop outs, I have a heart felt sympathy in these people. Here with I am giving a name and address of a 1977 drop out. (M. Rajakulen-diran, Masilla illam, Atchu-veli.)

My humble suggestion to 1977 drop outs is to send their particulars to one of their drop outs. First step is to form a union. Once it is formed they can approach the appropriate body for the necessary help. The NGOS must have a survey of these people.

I wish that these people will end their sufferings very soon.

Your's faithfully,
(S. Satchithananthan)
Meesalai.

Second Anniversary Maha Veera Day and Week

The Editor,
Hot Spring,

Dear Sir,

I hope you will be pleased to inaugurate a fund to commemorate the heroes who sacrificed their lives in battle for the cause of Tamil Eelam. This fund may be utilised to grant the widows of Commissioned Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and other ranks a gratuity in kind to further their economic need in accordance with their aptitude.

I desire to contribute Rs. 1000/- towards this fund for the benevolence of the widows and dependants.

Thanking you,

W.A. Alphonsus

Note:-

The suggestion is commendable but we regret that we are not in a position to start any fund.

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

This morning in the Radio programme "Excerpts from Today's Papers" I heard the following - "Tigers are taking for their own use, food items that are being sent to Jaffna".

Now and then I hear a few people too voicing the same sentiments.

I am surprised that people are such fools to think that requirements of food for about may be 35 to 40 thousand Tigers can make a dent on the quantity of food sent to Jaffna having a population of 10 lakhs (one million)

S. Alagaratnam

Urumpirai South,
Urumpirai-

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

My family members, neighbours and I read your paper regularly. We like it. Our people are unaware of the actual situation in Jaffna. Sri Lanka's Security Forces harass the Tamil population. Our State Media etc always give bogus news reports.

I think the Tamil struggle for self-determination is right. When they win, our aim should be Socialist Tamil Eelam and Socialist Sri Lanka. We must be united on this.

I think some important articles should be translated into Sinhala depicting Tamil culture and struggle. Long Live Tamil Nation!

P.P. Silva
Colombo.

Jaffna District Pensioners' Association Meeting

An Emergency General Meeting of the Jaffna District Pensioners' Association was held at St. James Parish Hall, Gurnagar, Jaffna on 17-11-91. Mr. S. R. Shanmugaratnam presided.

The main subjects decided were:-

1. Death Donation Scheme to the members which will be operative from 1-1-92. Each member to pay Rs. 100/- initially and thereafter pay Rs. 5/- p.m. without a break. If a member dies after 6 months of regular payment, his or her nominee or next-of-kin will be entitled to receive Rs. 2000/- immediately. If a member has contributed for more than five years without a break, he will be entitled to receive his contribution of Rs. 300/- and the donation of Rs 2000/-

2. Some amendments to the Constitution were unanimously adopted.

The Vice President explained in detail the steps taken by the Association.

Pension anomalies, cost of living allowance and matters relating to Pension and more particularly to up grade the ceiling of

pensions to Rs. 3,500 p.m. were discussed.

Mr. S. S. Navaratnam, Vice President, Mr. S. M. Thiagarajah the Hony. Secretary also addressed the meeting.

The President thanked all those present and the Parish

Priest of St. James Parish, Gurnagar, Rev. Fr. P. M. Emmanuel, OMI for his goodwill in giving the Parish Hall free of charge.

A two minutes' silence was observed in memory of the deceased members.

Red Cross Branch takes up health problems

A deputation led by the President and Secretary of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society of the Kayts Branch met in the office of the Director of Health Services on 11-1-91 and discussed matters relating to the Health and Sanitary conditions of the people from the Islands who have taken refuge in residences of friends and relations. It was reported that there were over six refugees camps in the Vali West and Thenmaradchy A. G. A's Divisions.

The deputation requested that the services rendered by the Kayts District Hospital and other units be utilised in the interests of these displaced persons and at least a mobile unit or an OPD Section be opened in a central place to help those in need

of both curative and preventive medical services. The spokesman assured the officials that there were many retired Medical Officers and Nurses who would be pleased to assist the health authorities in connection with these arrangements.

Arrests of Tamil Civilians in the Batticaloa District

News reaching Jaffna from Batticaloa that the soldiers of the Sri Lankan army and a Tamil gangster group working with the Sri Lankan Army surrounded the village

of Iruvil - near Kaluwanchi-kudi in the Batticaloa District and arrested nine Tamil civilians there. The news further states that the arrested persons were subjected to torture.

SPORTS Soccer

St. Henry's Triumph

St. Henry's College, Illavalai beat Jaffna Central College by three goals to nil in a soccer friendly match played at Illavalai on 18. 11. 91. It was good team work by the former and they deserved to win.

They also beat the 2nd Eleven and 3rd Eleven by five goals and Four goals to nil respectively.

More Matches

In a First Eleven match played on 20-11-91 at St. John's College grounds, St. John's College beat Jaffna Central College by three goals to two, after leading three nil at half-time. Nixon scored two goals for Central, while Arnold booted two goals for St. John's.

Central College won the 2nd Eleven match and St. John's won the 3rd. Eleven match.

- Vijayakumar -

Desultory Ramblings of Vadali Velan

This topsyturvy world! It has caught yours truly in a veritable spin, leaving me helplessly dazed and groping for a semblance of sanity. This is all because of those, who matter, applying double standards of judgment to whatever that transpires in human affairs. Traditional tales, such as of William Tell of the apple - target fame, of Robin Hood and his Merry Men. Lawrence of Arabia, of Puran Appu and even of Saradiel, have oft been re - told with much relish and the enactors, concerned, hailed and eulogised for their intrepid exploits against established authority, tyrannised as it was. They were all declared gallant heroes, vying against immense odds in the fight for the emancipation of the downtrodden from cruelty and oppression. On the other hand to suit their own purpose (even that of mere convenience), many nations of the world, insist, even at this juncture when all facts have been bared, in relegating Tamil Eelam freedom-fighters to the level of anti-national separatists, vicious terrorists, aimless revolutionaries and power-hungry opportunists. In the same vein, why aren't Washington, Kepitipola and the aforementioned heroes of yore considered, today as upstarts and irresponsible adventurers?

In present times, the miseries and tribulations of a country and its people do not merit world attention and sympathy until they are manipulated to serve the self-interests of another mightier nation. A strong nation will not hesitate to invade another, less powerful, to gain undue advantage or even for vainglorious prestige. A trivial or farcical reason, such as necessity of safeguarding the lives of a handful of compatriots, sojourning temporarily in the target-country, or to secure regional security or even to stem the influx of refugees from the target-country to one's own, has been proffered in such an instance. Many a powerful country's leader waits with his ear to the ground, studying world situations that are developing and cashes in at an opportune moment - allowing considerations of maximum advantage to his country alone to rule his heart and mind, to the exclusion of valid humanistic values and moral honesty.

It is amazing and incredible in these modern times that the affairs of State are even

coloured by the personal idiosyncracies of powerful leaders, even though they be from the "better-enlightened" or "developed" nations. It is no secret that a former President of the United States nearly pre-empted the Biblical Armageddon with a version, of his own, of this 'supreme conflict', arraigning Gorbachev and his comrades along with the satanic fraternity. How different is this erstwhile Western leader from the Ayutollah Khomeini, who seemed to decree that all the world should accept his version of God? Who are these individuals with whom God seems to be communing to the exclusion of others? Is God class-conscious and shying away from revealing himself to the ordinary man-in-the-street? As for poor me, yours truly, it is indeed a stultifying endeavour to fathom the extent to which the real God has been counterfeited by His self-proclaimed votaries? How can the very people who brought these leaders to power, and being democratic, tolerate the governments of their respective

countries be swayed by such foibles of individuals, motivated by personal (often fanatic) religious beliefs and idiosyncracies of unproven, often spurious and of dubious value.

Getting closer home, the Sinhalese leaders (of course, they will have to be Buddhists!) state the Lord Buddha chose Ceylon, of all places!, to stabilise his religion for a spate of 5,000 years. As it is about 2,500 years since the Lord Buddha was born, Buddhism is now supposed to be at its zenith in this country. These Sinhalese leaders are even now endeavouring to their utmost to establish the triple dominance of the Sinhalese race, the Sinhala land and Buddhist religion, encompassing the Island of Ceylon in its entirety; and they believe that it is destined to be so accomplished in their very lifetime. They also make no bones about proclaiming such an intention in their declarations and writings. In their fanaticism, they believe that the Lord Buddha (now in total annihi-

lation) summoned Indra, the King of Gods and had him instruct God Vishnu to protect King Vijaya, the Island of Ceylon and the Buddhist religion. As for King Vijaya, he died a Hindu and without uttering a word of the non-existent Sinhala language.

Untutored though I am, and in spite of no such event having been recorded, I am emboldened to hazard a guess that the Lord Buddha must have put in a word to the Lord Jesus Christ too about this grand Buddhistic plan for the Island of Ceylon. Else, why have even the Christian world powers aided and abetted, or turned a Nelsonian eye to, the atrocities perpetrated by the Sri Lankan government even against legitimate Christian interests. The Christian nursing nuns in hospitals were sent packing, the Christian educational system was mutilated and down - graded and Christian citizens were denied their rightful place in the State Service. Even at this very hour, military hardware, such as Siai Macheti bom-

ber, the Bell helicopter and other armaments and ammunition from Christian countries are being used to rain death and terror on the Hindu and Christian alike of Tamil Eelam (North East Ceylon) territory. Christian, including the clergy, have been murdered or maimed for life, with many others rendered homeless refugees; churches, schools and hospitals bombed out of existence - all these depredations for the greater glory of Buddhism, established specially (so it is alleged) in Ceylon by the Compassionate One!

Unlike America which postscriptes her declarations with, "So help me God"; England with her, "God Save the Queen"; India with her, "Jai Hind", Tamil Eelam can only proclaim, S. O. S.! S. O. S.!!, Save us from Buddhistic annihilation!!!

A wise and discerning Head of State would do well to follow the dictates of his conscience, guided by rational thinking, untrammelled by

(Continued on Page 4)

Expatriate Tamils and the Eelam Demand

Expatriate Tamils too have contributed much to internationalise the Eelam Liberation struggle and it is high time to get all their contributions properly documented. Otherwise in time to come one may lose touch with realities. Expatriate organisations could pool their resources to put their activities into an authentic historical record.

The first Expatriate to start the Ceylon Tamils' Association is Mr. Mahendiran Rasiah in England. As an Accountant in the London Observer group of Newspapers, he was amongst one of the first Tamils to start internationalising the Eelam Tamil Cause.

Then when Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranayake went to U.K. as Prime Minister, the Tamil demonstrators were able to lead her vehicle in an omnibus from the airport to the Sri Lankan High Commissioner's Office, while another bus load of demonstrators were following her in the rear. Although the London High Commission Office kept the visit of the Ceylon Prime Minister a top secret, the demonstrators were able to

gather that information from the airport. That demonstration was in opposition to her anti-Tamil stance.

Take for instance the demonstration that took place during the first Prudential World Cup Cricket Tournament held in U. K. The Sri Lankan Minister of Sports, Mr. K. B. Ratnayake himself

Venthan

was present at the Oval, as a Guest of Honour to witness the game played by the so-called Sri Lankan National Team. Expatriate Tamil youths entered the pitch and demonstrated to attract attention to the plight of the Tamil Estate workers and the deaths that were taking place due to starvation in the tea estates.

The match had to be stopped briefly to get the demonstrators carried off the pitch. But in the meantime the Radio and T. V. commentators had a field day by explaining to the listeners and viewers the reason for stopping the game for a while.

Krishna's unconventional entry into the United Nations' General Assembly and add-

ressing there to internationalise the Eelam Liberation struggle, is another classic example of what our Expatriate Tamils have done to promote the Tamil cause. He was able to conduct a Press Conference with the Lobby Correspondents on the Sri Lankan issue.

Then in 1982 on Pongal Day, again on the prompting of the very same Krishna, Eelam Tamils unilaterally proclaimed the State of Tamil Eelam, opposite the U. N. Headquarters in New York.

Sometime back in France, Expatriate Tamils arranged among themselves to visit the airports, whenever a Sri Lankan flight turned up so as to carry out a demonstration.

After the burning of the Jaffna Public Library in June, 1981, Expatriate Tamils in Norway, organised Jaffna Public Library Flag Day in three different cities including in its Capital, Oslo.

Now there are Eelam Tamils' Associations in most of the Capitals of the World and they annually hold Eelam Conferences. Such activities must be documented in book form for posterity.

These various organisations are contributing their mite to internationalise the Eelam

Liberation struggle. However, to get the maximum result, these organisations should act together and spotlight the Eelam struggle. Why not make use of the UN Human Rights' Day for this publicity? On the eve of the United Nations Day, a militant Kashmiri organisation, released a special statement to attract the attention and concern of the international community.

Expatriate Tamils too could follow this example by selecting the UN Human Rights' Day to attract the concern of the international community to the plight of hundreds of youths now languishing in the prisons of India and Sri Lanka without being brought to trial, on mere suspicion of being 'Tigers'. Why not they demand that these unfortunate youths be either brought to trial or be released?

They should demonstrate in all the World Capitals on December 10th - the UN Human Rights' Day, demanding immediate recognition of the Eelam Tamil Nation's Right to Self-Determination. No useful purpose will be served by speaking on individual Human Rights alone. Why not speak for Group Rights as well? In this way the Expatriate Tamils could internationalise the Eelam Tamil Cause. The On-going war in Eelam is no more a Civil War after the Indian intervention. The Expatriate Tamils should get this fact recognised by the international community and we hope they do it fast.

HOW DOES A COUNTRY GROW?

A new measure of development - 'UN Development Forum 1990'

The United Nations has devised a controversial new way of measuring development that stands traditional measures on their head. Its creators hope that Human Development Index (HDI) will serve as a supplement to existing measures, especially per capita gross national product (GNP).

The HDI combines life expectancy, literacy and purchasing power into a single measure to rank countries by the quality of life their citizens enjoy, rather than the amount of GNP their economies produce.

Traditionally, economic planners have looked to per capita GNP to determine the relative successes or failures of their economic prescriptions. But such a measure, in and of itself, is now widely acknowledged as having serious shortcomings.

It is now recognized that the well-being of a society depends upon the uses to which its income is put, not on the absolute level of that income. An oil-exporting nation, for instance, whose profits go into the bank accounts of a select few, will have a lower level of development than an agriculture-based country whose wealth is evenly distributed and whose budget priorities reflect the needs of a majority of its citizens.

The new development index is the highlight of the Human Development Report (1990) published for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by the Oxford University Press, and prepared by a team of development economists under the guidance of Dr. Mahbub ul Haq. Dr. ul Haq, a former Planning and Finance Minister of Pakistan, is currently serving as a special advisor to the Administrator of UNDP. He is widely viewed as one of the leading thinkers in development economics, with a wide range of experience in government and at the World Bank. He has been credited, among other things, for reorienting the Bank's lending practices more towards meeting basic human needs.

The Report received strong support from the UNDP Administrator and co-operation from the United Nations Agencies. The issuing of the

Report seems to reflect the thinking of mainstream policy makers in the ongoing search for more effective way to measure and implement development policies. It was commissioned, says ul Haq, because of the widespread perception that the 80s represented a lost decade for many developing countries and that without investment in human capital, this trend is bound to continue.

At this point of time, it seems unlikely that the HDI will be used as a basis for determining the amount or type of aid that multilateral and bilateral donors will direct towards a giving country. Rather, it is intended to demonstrate to policy makers and planners that wealth and social progress do not necessarily go together. It shows that some countries have successfully translated relatively low levels of economic growth into human progress while others have conspicuously failed, despite high rates of economic growth.

A comparison of HDI and GNP rankings proves this. Gabon for instance, with a GNP per capita higher than Uruguay, has a much lower HDI ranking which reflects its relative failure to translate its oil earnings into high levels of human development. The lesson to be learned according to ul Haq, is that 'high income is not a passport to essential prerequisite for development.' Aware of this shortcoming, the authors promise in future editions of the Report to devise a quantitative measure for human freedom which would include 'free elections, multiparty political systems, uncensored press, adherence to the rule of law, guarantees of free speech, and so on'. They argue however that countries with a high HDI ranking have relatively democratic political systems, 'with some notable exceptions'.

Doctors vs Soldiers.

An unusual aspect of the controversial Report is its harsh criticism of rising military expenditure in developing countries. Often considered a taboo subject by international agencies due to a perception that such criticisms were violations of national sovereignty, the

Report urges a reduction of budget expenditures away from the military towards investment in human capital. The Report notes that there are eight times soldiers than physicians in developing countries, and that military expenditures of some developing countries went up in the 1980s even as their social expenditures fell. 'Obviously, the poverty of their economies was no barrier to the affluence of their armies', says the Report,

It also points out that while the social costs of structural adjustment programmes have been unacceptably high in many developing countries in the 1980s, these costs could have been avoided had governments cut expenditures on the military,

inefficient state enterprises, unnecessary government controls and subsidies benefiting the rich.

While commending the achievements of developing countries in raising life expectancy, literacy and nutritional levels, it warns against complacency, noting that one billion people still live in absolute poverty.

The Report is also candid in its treatment of the responsibility of both developing and developed countries for the accumulating backlog of human deprivation. It points to the limited options available to developing countries in the 1980s for accelerated human development because of negative

resource transfers, falling commodity prices, mounting debt burdens and deteriorating external environment.

The Report states frankly that if international assistance continues to lag and if trade outlets continue to shrink in the industrial countries 'the compulsions to migrate in search for better economic opportunities' may become one of the major problems of the 1990s. The Report is the first in a series to be published annually on the human dimensions of development.

- from the desk of -

Dr. Nagules
Kathirgamanathan

Director General, SEACED.

Desultory Ramblings...

(Continuation from page 3)

extraneous demands on his credibility, especially of those concerning his personal beliefs or religion or of the occult. The Lord Jesus Christ, in His time, made it clear how public governance has its separate entity, apart from religious observances, stating "Give unto Caesar what is his".

The present state of affairs in Ceylon is a far cry from expectations qualifying a stable and proper government. In addition to pandering to every whim and fancy of the Buddhist clergy, the President of Sri Lanka also goes into an immediate and frantic huddle with his favourite astrologer and soothsayer every time he feels his seat of power is threatened. As may be expected, the poor man has to be eternally hatching plots and intrigues to counter the machinations, imagined or otherwise, of his suspected political adversaries (who all have their own astrologers for consultation and guidance), often making new enemies in the process. So much so, the President and other Sinhala leaders are presently mired down in a web of deceit and chaos of their own making. Murder and other Statesponsored violations of human rights are the order of the day.

There is nothing meaningful that can be contributed to the national well-being

by members of such a discredited coterie; and there can be no valid basis on which decisions of State could

be taken for the future. The only recourse now left to is decide matters of state on the toss of a coin, of course, at an auspicious time, indicated by the astrologer. Why not? Your guess is as good as mine!

Finnish Aid to N-E. Channelled Through ICRC

It is learnt that the Government of Finland has granted humanitarian aid to the war victims of the North-East of the Island.

The Finnish aid totals rupees twenty million

(Rs. 20,000,000/-). This aid is meant as humanitarian aid for the war victims of North - East.

The Finnish Government, it is further learnt, has channelled this humanitarian aid through the ICRC.

Every Nation is Unique

*Sun Shines with intense heat;
It doesn't mean Sun does hate,
Without heat there is no light
Would living beings survive because of its might.
No freedom of light without suffering and sacrifice,
To break bondage you have to fight without malice.
Every nation is unique, no imperialist can dominate
From self-confidence will power to fight emanate.*

*Body may be killed by imperialist force,
But the spirit of freedom will survive and induce
Others to follow and continue the struggle
Till they reach the goal, it will serve as bugle.*

- ANBEZHIL

THE RIGHT TO SECESSION

In International Law... For Eelam

The traditional homelands of the Tamil People are the area that forms the North and the East of Sri Lanka. Despite the "convenient falsehood" which the Government of Sri Lanka has striven to advance on the basis of "archaeological evidence" every political accord of any significance, including the Bandaranaike - Chelvanayagam Pact and the Indo-Ceylon Accord, have recognised these areas as the traditional homelands of the Tamil People.

2. The protection of the rights of the minorities demands that the right to equal treatment of the minorities is recognised by the state. The ideal of a plural state is lost where the majority community persecutes the minority and denies the minority the right to equal treatment. The right to equality or non-discrimination on the basis of race is "a basic rule of customary international law". The violation of this right to equality which is as basic as the right of the state to territorial integrity gives rise to the right to self-determination in the minority community.

On this basis the sanctioning right to self-determination had arisen in the Tamil community in Ceylon as a result of persistent discrimination practised by the majority Sinhalese community which constituted the government of "Sri Lanka".

The Mahavamsa Mind-set

This Mahavamsa mindset pervades the Sinhalese life event at the highest pinnacles of judicial office. The whole basis of the issue is that the Tamils are a different People and that they have a right to self-determination. If the relevant People are the Sinhalese or the majority in the island, then the Sinhalese have a veto on the rights of the Tamils.

3. The clearest situation in which the claim to self-determination arises is in the situation of internal colonialism. Internal colonialism occurs where the majority community subjugates the interests of the minority community in such a manner as to make the situation akin to the relationship that existed in the colonial empires between the metropolitan races and the subject races in the colonies. This requirement has been satisfied in the "Sri Lankan" situation as the Tamil interests have been treated

as subservient to the interests of the Sinhalese from the time the British left the island.

4. The right to self-determination includes the right to secession where the minority is in control of territory and such territory can be made into an entity having the indicia for statehood. It is not every minority that has the right to secession. A minority that is diffused and integrated within the majority cannot claim secession as a right. Only a minority that is in possession of territory and has credible historical claims to the territory can claim secession. On this score, the Tamils of Eelam have credible claims to self-determination.

5. The right to secession can be asserted by any means available to the minority and these means include an armed struggle. Such a struggle is protected by the modern laws of humanitarian law.

In "Sri Lanka" the only concessions that have been made so far are contained in the Thirteenth Amendment. A study of it is necessary to show that they do not adequately address the claims of the Tamils. It is also necessary to consider the effect of the judgment of the Supreme Court of "Sri Lanka" on whether any meaningful concessions can be made in the context of the judicial and political opinions that prevail in the country at present.

Thirteenth Amendment

The Thirteenth Amendment was enacted in pursuance of the Indo - Sri Lankan Accord. In accordance with that agreement, it seeks to create Provincial Councils in the nine Provinces of Sri Lanka and transfer a measure of administrative and legislative control over the Provinces to the Provincial Councils. Its major objective was the transference of limited legislative power to the Provincial Councils of the Northern and Eastern Provinces which were described in the accord as the traditional homelands of the Tamil people in the accord. The other Provinces have a Sinhalese majority. There is also provision for the merger of the North and East Provinces and in fact, the Provincial Council that was set up was for both Provinces. This was done in anticipation of the approval of the merger at a referendum.

The major areas of concern to the Tamil People are (1) colonisation, (2) education, and (3) Tamil security and self-administration. The extent to which demands in these areas are addressed in the Thirteenth Amendment are now examined.

Colonisation.

Under the regional councils which were to have been set up under the Bandaranaike - Chelvanayagam Pact (1957), the regional councils were to have the total control over selection of settlers in the colonisation scheme.

In the later Senanayake - Chelvanayagam Pact (1965) the priority of Tamils to colonisation was specifically stated. Under the scheme in this Pact, there would be little opportunity for colonisation of Tamil homelands by Sinhalese.

But, the Thirteenth Amendment contains clever devices which ensures that the question of colonisation and decisions made as to the selection of settlers will remain in the hands of the Sinhalese government. *It provides much less than the powers provided to regional councils by either the Bandaranaike - Chelvanayagam Pact or the Senanayake - Chelvanayagam Pact. After so much of struggle and bloodshed, there is little reason why the Tamil people should settle for less.*

The Appendix merely refers to a duty of consultation with the Provincial Council in matters relating to the use of state land. It vests the power of disposition of the state lands in the President with full powers to convert the traditional homelands of the Tamils into Sinhalese settlements.

They also exposed the fact that there is at present no constitutional mechanism through which any meaningful devolution of power could be given to the Tamils, leaving the Tamils no alternative but to address their claims through the right to secession.

This weakens any protection given to the Thirteenth Amendment for it can now be altered by a two third majority in Parliament. Tamils will do well to remember that this was the exact protection conferred by s. 29 (2) of the Soulbury Constitution which dealt with

minority protection. It too was protected by an entrenched provision requiring a two third majority for change but history showed that Sinhalese chauvinists have combined to secure such a majority quite easily for any anti-Tamil measure.

Education

Standardization and district quotas were used to ensure that Tamil students who were otherwise qualified to enter universities did not do so. The Sinhalese historian, C. R. de Silva, surveying statistics of admissions after the quota system was introduced points out that "ethnically there is no doubt that the major blow fell on Ceylon Tamils."

Eventual control over the teaching profession is also effectively in the hands of the Sinhalese for recruitment is through examinations conducted by the Public Service Commission and training of teachers will also be centrally handled. The appointment of Principals of schools in certain categories is to be directly made by the secretary to the Ministry of Education and other Principals are to be appointed according to criteria devised by the Sinhalese government.

Thirteenth Amendment ensures that final control over matters of importance in education will reside with the government in Colombo. Which means that admissions to the professions like the medical, legal, engineering and accountancy professions are in the sole control of the Colombo government.

As in the case of colonisation, the technique of deception that is to be found in the provisions on education is to create a superficial impression that some real powers are in fact transferred to the Provincial Councils when the nature of the powers kept in the hands of the Sinhalese government are so extensive that any initiative of the Provincial Council that does not appear to be favoured by the Sinhalese could be quickly quashed. Even minor functions like the appointment of a primary school headmaster or the transfer of a school teacher could be interfered with by the Colombo government.

A cursory analysis of just two areas in the Thirteenth Amendment will indicate that what has been offered to the Tamils consists of a series of subterfuges. That being so, the only meaningful way in which the rights of the Tamils can now be addressed is through the right to secession. It is now coming to be accepted that right can be asserted by the minority in whom it has inhered in any manner, including an armed struggle towards the vindication of the right.

Tamil nationalism is a direct response to the threat that has been posed by Sinhalese ethnocentrism to educational and other advancement of the Tamil people. The extent to which the Thirteenth Amendment gives power over to the Tamils to manage their own educational institutions is vital in assessing whether it satisfactorily meets Tamil demands in the area.

Courtesy: Tamil Update

One Country only after 1833 - An Irrefutable Fact

"After the Kandyan Convention and the suppression of the 1818 Rebellion, The Report of the 1829 - 31 Royal Commissioners, Colebrooke and Cameron, was implemented in 1833 by an Order-in-Council. Ceylon was considered as one unit, a unitary state."

J. R. Jayewardane quoted
in Ceylon Daily News
- August 24, 1991.

HOT SPRING

VOL: 2 SUNDAY 24th November 1991 ISSUE 7

A DESPERATE MANOUVRE

"Security Forces" is a terminology that is used to describe the armed forces of Government. But the armed forces of all Governments do not always provide security to the people in a State. May be, they provide security to the establishment - to the powers that be.

In Sri Lanka this is especially so. The armed forces of the Government of Sri Lanka function as death - squads of peoples. And when it comes to the case of the Tamils - the armed forces of Government are the most hated - and most feared forces. This is clearly illustrated in the Northeast.

Wherever the armed forces of the Government had gone in, in the North East, the Tamils are living there as slaves, always in constant fear and not invariably have tasted death and destruction at the hands of the so - called "security forces".

Recently the Sri Lankan Forces entered certain islands off the Jaffna Peninsula. Before the forces approached the villages, people fled their homes, leaving behind most of their belongings and properties. Only the old and sickly who could not take to their heels remained.

Why are people running away from their homes? It is because the Sinhala Army is not a security force of the people or for the people. It is an invading army seeking to establish Sinhala rule over the unwilling Tamils.

The Government of Sri Lanka pretends that its army operations are carried out to restore 'civil administration'. Civil administration is carried on by civilians and not by the army. In Jaffna, the Government's civilian officers are working - from the Chief Executive, the Government Agent to the village level Grama Sevaka or village headman.

Still the Government says that it must restore civil administration and sends its army for 'restoring civil administration'. But the irony of the whole thing is this: Not only the ordinary people - the Government's civil administrators too have run away at the approach of the armed forces of the Government.

In the islands, the Assistant Govt. Agents Grama Sevaka Officers, teachers, students and all other Government employees have run away. They have come over to the mainland Peninsula on their own free-will where, as the Government says, the "terrorists" are holding sway. Would people be willing to run into the arms of "terrorists", when the "security forces" march in to give them protection?

This is a question that needs examination by the international community.

We have reports that the Government has threatened to dismiss all government officers of the Islands Divisions who do not return to the islands. The Education Ministry has stated that Teachers' salaries for the islands school teachers have been sent to the Army and that they they should collect their pay from the army.

There is an Education Department in Jaffna. It pays the salaries of all teachers. Then why ask teachers to go to the Army for their Pay?

It is clear why the Government is adopting such tactics.

The International Community has begun to condemn the Sri Lankan Government's actions. Many countries have also suspended aid to Sri Lanka because of its war efforts and its record of human rights violations. Humanists and political thinkers all over the world have now come to voice the feeling that structural changes in Government are necessary to end the war in Sri Lanka. And for this purpose federation, confederation and the right to self-determination for Tamils are suggested as means.

Baudha Sinhala imperialism is intent on retaining the present state structure it imposed on the Tamils. To avoid international opinion to the contrary, it wants to show that everything is peaceful where its armed forces are. Hence the threat to persons who receive salaries from Government and invitation to others to return to their homes.

But the Tamils know better. They know that this call is a desperate call to impose Baudha Sinhala imperialism on them and therefore insist on the withdrawal of the Sinhala armed forces from their homeland for peace and prosperity.

FOOD CRISIS IN JAFFNA

G. A. battles to ward off famine as situation worsens

The food situation in Jaffna has come to a crisis and the Government Agent of Jaffna is battling to avert a famine situation here.

The food crisis stared in the eye, when the Government Agent, Jaffna announced in the last week of October, a scheme of rationing of food stuffs to all residents in the peninsula weekly of all essential food items such as rice, flour, sugar, dhal and milk foods.

The Government Agent in an effort to prevent hoarding and black - marketing also forbade the sale of these items of food in the open market by private traders and required the private traders to declare the stocks of these items held by them in the first instance. The Government Agent further said that the private traders would be allowed to sell these items also on a system of ration and at reasonably fixed prices after the available stock had been verified.

But the Government Agent's Scheme ran into difficulty soon. The Government Agent had not been able to supply dry rations through Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies after the second week. Thus the Co-operative Societies only issued dry rations for the last week of October and the first week of November. No dry rations could be issued for the second week of November by Co-operatives to consumers because the Government Agent had not made the necessary supplies to the Co - operatives!

Thus the Government Agent's rationing Scheme came to a halt after two weeks and now the Government Agent has fallen back on the private traders. To tide over the difficulty, he has directed the private traders to sell specified items to consumers who produce token cards issued by the Asst. Government Agents. According to this directive, the private traders will sell only specified quantities, as permitted under the ration scheme - to the holders of cards at reasonable prices.

In this connection it is pointed out that since the current war broke out in June, 1990 the Government of Sri Lanka imposed an economic blockade against the Tamils. The blockade was both overt and covert. The resulting position was that the Tamil country

suffered gross inadequacy in the matter of even essential food supplies - leave alone other consumer goods.

The Christian Laity Front pointed out that only 17% of the food requirements of an estimated 1,000,000 population was sent by the Government during a period of one year between 10 - 6 - 90 and 10-6-91. This was reported in the 'Hot Spring' of 11 - 8 - 91.

Some private traders were also bringing in food items with great difficulty but the cost spiralled very high for obvious reasons. It usually took about 3 months for a private lorry to bring food items from Colombo to Jaffna.

It is learnt that only about a third of the food requirements have been reaching Jaffna. After the occupation of the Poonakari Jetty by the Sinhala armed forces, no lorries had come into Jaffna with foodstuffs and this has aggravated the famine situation, as the Government supplies are too meagre. "In fact the Government sends even this meagre quantity only to cheat the world", said a resident of Jaffna.

In the meantime it is learnt that the Additional Commissioner of Essential Supplies, Dr. Devanesan Nesiah who was in Jaffna last week, assured angered people, who had gone in procession to the Jaffna Secretariat that he would place before the government the grossly inadequate

food supply and try to send more food stuffs to Jaffna.

One resident of Jaffna pointed out that the 'Hot Spring' of 27 - 10 - 91 carried a news item to the effect that President Premadasa had ordered the food supplies to Jaffna be doubled but added that since the news appeared even the usual shipments have not arrived leave alone the double supply.

The food situation is critical in Jaffna and already the Red Cross Society and another NGO-Save the Children's Fund - are reported to have sent memoranda on the subject to Foreign Embassies in Colombo.

National...

(Continuation from page 1)

Also photographs depicting struggles have been exhibited.

Many people thronged the centres where the national flags were hoisted.

The celebrations will continue till November 27.

Refugees...

(Continuation from page 1)

the Additional Commissioner of Essential Services, Dr. Devanesan Nesiah which were handed over to the Additional Government Agent, Mr. Shanmuganathan who agreed to transmit the letters to the addressees who were in Colombo.

It is learnt that the demonstrators demanded the withdrawal of the armed forces from the islands and the removal of the economic and food embargo.

TAMIL IN THE EARLIEST MAP OF THE ISLAND OF CEYLON

— PTOLEMY'S MAP (127 A. D. — 151 A. D.) —

"The Island of Taprobane is today called Sumatra and four crowned Kings rule over it at the same time. It exports elephants that are larger and nobler than those found elsewhere. Its yield of the long pepper is likewise richer, indeed wonderful in its abundance. In the language of the country pepper is called 'Mologa' and is much more elongated than the kind which is brought to our country: it is much whiter. But it is less heavy, indeed pepper there is sold not by weight but by the measure"

Translation of Latin Text - Varihema

Note: The above is reproduced from page 8 of the National Atlas of Sri Lanka issued by the Survey Department (1988). Readers' attention is also invited to the reference to four kingdoms and to the word 'Molagu'. Pepper in Tamil is 'Milaga' and in Sinhalese, it is 'Gammiris'.