

# HOT SPRING

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No. 8

The 43rd. Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be celebrated throughout the world on December, 10th.

Human Rights have been violated in Tamil Eelam for the last 43 years.

It is hoped that as the World celebrates the 43rd. anniversary of Human Rights Day, it will turn its attention to the violations of Human Rights in Tamil Eelam.

## Whatever the Challenges We are Ready to Face them

# LET US BE UNITED AND STEADFAST

# IN OUR RESOLVE



### Call of the LTTE Leader

*"In the critical situation confronting us, we must be ready to face the challenges thrown by the enemy. If we have faith in our noble objective and remain steadfast and united, no force on earth can detract or destroy us. Determination is the powerful weapon to a people struggling for liberation". So said Mr. Velupillai Pirabakaran in a call to the nation made by him in connection with the celebrations of National Heroes' Day.*

This is the text of his message:—

"This day is being celebrated by us as National Heroes' Day, Martyrs' Day and as the National Day of our motherland. On this day we are honouring our national heroes who had sacrificed their lives to liberate our people and our Motherland".

#### National Heroes are distinguished men

"These national heroes are distinguished men who lived and died fighting for a noble cause. The progress so far made in the history of our Liberation Struggle is the sum total of the exemplary lives led by these great men, the sacrifices they performed and the sufferings and pains they underwent and their dreams and yearning they cherished. The history of the freedom struggle has been written in the blood, toil and sweat of our national heroes."

#### Long and arduous Struggle

"Our freedom movement continues to march forward in its long arduous way, strewn with complications and crises throughout. In the course of this struggle, we have confronted challenges, tribulations and sudden turning points which no other Liberation Movement of the world has ever faced. Various inimical and treacherous forces have banded together to

oppose our struggle. Great and powerful forces have formed alliances with our traditional enemy and arraigned against us. Our movement has had to contend with insidious plots, sabotage and treachery. Single handed we have faced waves of enemy invasions on the one hand and foreign military aggression on the other. On many occasions our movement was pushed to the brink of disaster.

#### Determination - Corner stone for Liberation

Iron determination was indispensable to stand rock-like amidst the stormy seas of dangers which confronted us. I cannot erase from my memory these national heroes who stood undismayed and undaunted by me during those critical days of crises and tribulations. The real strength of our movement lay in this unswerving determination and loyalty.

I must categorically say that it was this steadfastness to our objective that made it possible for us to progressively advance in our struggle towards our goal. This is the stark fact that our long struggle has taught us.

A Liberation struggle is always fraught with dangers and turbulent situations. It is a battle field strewn with blood of our heroes. The

cost of freedom is death and hardship. The path to liberation is full of rough terrain and iron determination is the only armour.

#### A turning - point in history.

We have come today at a turning - point in our history. The Jaffna Peninsula is besieged by enemy forces. By an economic embargo, the enemy is trying to create a famine situation. It is waging a war on two fronts - on the one side, it is exerting military pressure and on the other, economic strangulation. We are not unaware that the enemy will stoop to all tactics to psychologically demoralise our people and undermine their strength but our people have been undeterred by such tactics. They have stood rock-like amidst these pressures.

Our people have tasted the oppression of the Sinhala racists and the agony of state terrorism. These bitter fruits have been their lot to bear and they have learnt to live under the shadow of death.

#### Economic strangulation - a last resort

Economic strangulation is the last resort of a weakened enemy. It is an attempt to starve the people by weakening their determination to

fight and resist. Our people have an inexhaustible thirst for liberation and will not yield even to pangs of hunger.

My dearest people, we must always be prepared to face these challenges and others which the enemy may impose. To overcome these tactics and challenges no weapon is necessary other than moral determination. The Sinhala government is on the one hand raising the battle-cry and on the other, making overtures for peace.

#### We are prepared for both war and peace

We are ready for peace and we are also ready for war. It is for the enemy to decide whether to open the doors for peace or to proceed on the path of war. We are keeping the doors of peace open. We are willing to conduct peace talks. We are always prepared to participate in peace talk without any pre-conditions on the basis of equality and justice but not under pressure exerted militarily. Talks would offer us an opportunity to explain to the Sinhalese people as well as to the whole world the basis for our national struggle, our stand and policy.

#### Self-respect and honour

We are not racists or terrorists war-mongers. We do not consider the Sinhalese people our enemies or even as our opponents. We recognise the Sinhala Rata and the Sinhala nation.

We respect Sinhala culture. We do not desire to interfere in any way in the national life of the Sinhalese people or in their freedom.

We desire to live in peace and freedom with our self-respect intact and with the status of a nation in our historical habitat. This is just the simple political aspirations of our people. This is a reasonable and civilised demand made by our people. There will be permanent peace, when the Sinhala Government recognises this simple aspiration.

#### We will not yield to Pressure

It does not appear that the Sinhalese have realised that our problem could never be solved by military oppression. It does not appear that the Sinhala Government has given up its imperial, colonial mentality of subjugating the Tamil people by acquiring military superiority and committing aggression on the Tamil homeland.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had never yielded to military Power or pressure and will never do so. As regard its objective, it has never agreed to compromise it. The largest army in the world attempted to test our resolve by military means but failed to weaken our determination. The Sinhala military is bound to experience the same fact of history.

In our long march to freedom, we may suffer exhaustion. In our life of struggle, we may be compelled to experience pecuniary pressures. Many more burdens may be in store for us. But none can move us from our resolve or defeat us, if we are true and sincere in our objective and stand together with a firm resolve. Determination is the most powerful weapon for any people fighting for liberation. This is the message that comes from the graves of our fallen heroes. We shall always respect the dead.

#### Aerial Bombing continues in Manal Aru

Aerial bombardment of the Manal Aru area continued the whole of this week.

Reports from Manal Aru state that the villages of Nayar, Alambil and Chem-malai in the Manal Aru area continued to be bombed daily during the week.

Reports of details of damages have not been received.



# Taking Oath under Amendment 6 Opportunism and Hypocrisy

The Editor,  
Hot Spring

Dear Sir,

Reference Mr. M. Thambipillai's letter on the subject "Not Opportunism" which appeared in your issue of 10-11-91 in reply to mine which appeared in your issue of 27-10-91 what really matters is 'principle' and not valour, discretion and strategy.

We have been sending M.Ps to parliament for the last 40 years and they have voiced our problems there and made them known to the world at large. But have we achieved anything so far? Absolutely nothing.

At the moment there are some Tamil M. Ps in Parliament. Most of them are traitors and quislings. They belong to the renegade groups such as PLOTE, EPRLF, ENDLF, EPDP and TELO. These groups have now allied with the Sinhalese and their cadres have joined the Sinhalese army and fighting us. Despite these groups allying with the Sinhalese have they succeeded in stopping the massacre of innocent Tamil men, women and children as happened at Kakkadicholai recently?

For the last 40 years we have voiced our problems through the Media in the form of letters to the Editor, articles, seminars etc. and made same known to the world. But have we achieved anything? Nothing at all.

The western industrialised countries and Japan and specially the member countries of the Aid Sri Lanka Consortium have been aware of our problems. But have they stopped pouring billions of rupees into Sri Lanka's coffers? No. They are aiding and abetting the Sinhalese to annihilate us.

One Mr. Krishna Vaikunthayasan addressed the U. N. General Assembly during its sessions in 1978 for a couple of minutes and voiced our problems there before he

was arrested by the U. N. Security and removed from the Hall. What better place is there to voice our Problems than the U. N. General Assembly? What did we achieve? Nothing?

Having failed in our efforts to solve our problems peacefully, we have now resorted to the only option available to us - that is to fight and win our rights. Let us all contribute our mite in whatever way possible.

There is absolutely no purpose and point in sending members to the Sinhalese Parliament by taking this oath which undoubtedly is blatant opportunism and downright hypocrisy, unless of course a person does not mind being

branded as such because he is more concerned about the cool comfort of an air - conditioned Parliament and also likes to enjoy the privileges and perquisites of being an M. P. in addition to relishing governor's meals provided at highly subsidised prices at Sravasti at a time when we in Jaffna are undergoing severe hardships without being able to purchase essentials at normal prices.

Yours faithfully,  
K. C. Adiathan

Valvettiturai.

Note: According to rules of debate Mr. Adiathan has had his say. We stop further debate on the subject.

## TAMILIZATION

The Editor,  
Hot Spring

Sir,

A large number of Tamils have opted to be outside the Northeast for personal reasons, forsaking their land of birth. A good many of them have migrated to foreign countries in quest of greener pastures. By this process the strength of the Tamils as a community stands depleted in the traditional Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka, especially in the eastern parts where most of the lands are L. D. O. allotments and the allottees having abandoned them for reasons best known to the State. Apparently the State has grabbed the opportunity for filling those vacant lands with Sinhala colonists. The State motivation of Sinhalaization of the traditional Tamil homelands is political, so that at the next election they can belch to the Sinhalese masses of their having been allotted with lands and houses. This is clear vote catching tactics common among aspiring politicians.

The Sinhalese say that in as much as the Tamils are able to buy houses and properties in the areas predominantly Sinhalese, the Sinhalese cannot buy an inch of land in the areas predominantly Tamil. But this statement has no substance for numerous reasons. Employment and education were the main concern of the Tamils that lured them into the city of Colombo and the suburbs even at the expense of high rentals and other shortcomings. For the Sinhalese way of life - style and culture, having imbibed western way

of life, they would have felt fish out of water if they were settled in the northern and eastern parts. Even public servants declined to serve in the northern and eastern parts for obvious reasons.

The ongoing war between the L. T. T. E. and the State is to save the traditional homelands of the Tamils from losing their identity as Tamil and this effort would prove abortive if the Tamils continue to abandon their lands of birth for self glory and personal reasons. The campaign canvassing international opinion against sinhalaization and atrocities against the Tamils may not merit any form of consideration, if Tamils abandon their homelands.

The struggle for Eelam should be meaningful and purposeful by the entire Tamil community boosting the cause more by deeds than by words.

It would be better late than never if the entire Tamils realize the mission of the L.T.T.E. seriously and give effect by re - settling themselves in their lands of birth, eschewing egoism. So, it is better late than never that we realize the dangers ahead of us and act with wisdom.

D. Jeevananthan.

Vathiry.

## Weekly Edition in Tamil of Hot Spring

Editor, Hot Spring

I seek and request you to publish a weekly edition in Tamil of 'Hot Spring' to inspire the minds of the citizens of Tamil Eelam.

In this connection I desire to contribute Rs. 1000/- and be a life member to the cause of Tamil Eelam, and where others should also enroll as life members. It should be possible for you to inaugurate a fund for this purpose.

W. A. Alphonsus

Uduvill,  
Chunnaakam,

Note: We are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm shown. Let us hope the ambition may be realized some day though not immediately.

## Non-Availability of Postage Stamps

The Editor, Hot Spring.

May this scarcity be spotlighted in your valuable journal.

Sometime back members of the public found that there were no postage stamps of any denominations except Rs. 1/- and 50 cts available at the local Post Office Chavakachcheri.

So too aerogrammes, post cards and stamped envelopes

were not available. The same problem seemed to exist with stamps at the General Post Office in Jaffna too.

It will be very helpful to the public, if the Postal Authorities try their best to get down from Colombo their requisitions in some quantities at intervals by the ships. Stamps of the denominations of Rs. 2/- are required for receipts of payments of Rs. 100/- and over. Stamped envelopes and post cards are useful, while aerogrammes are necessary to be in touch with our kith and kin abroad.

Though we are fully aware of the predicament of the Postal Authorities in the North, yet the public will be appreciative and thankful if these requirements are made available, so that they will not be unduly inconvenienced in regard to their requirements of stamps.

This appeal should not in any way be interpreted as a complaint but as a suggestion in the public interest.

S. Jayaratnam

Chavakachcheri.

## The Ethnic Problem in Sri Lanka

The Editor,  
Hot Spring.

The ethnic problem in this island can never be resolved under the leadership of the politicians of the calibre of Messrs. J. R. Jayewardene, R. Premadasa, Athulath Mudali, Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranayake and Mr. Anura Bandaranayake. The political records of some of these leaders have proved that they will resort to any unscrupulous tactics to achieve their political ambitions. They never made sincere efforts to grant the Tamils their legitimate political rights. Instead they persistently pursued a malicious campaign against the Tamils for no fault of theirs other than they are Tamils. They believed that the more they preached communal hatred against the Tamils, the more they oppressed them, the more they would be admired by the Sinhala masses as true patriots and there by they could win their support at the General Elections. They injected communal venom in the minds of the Sinhalese and incited their feelings against the Tamils. The Sinhalese are generally a kind and hospitable people but they are easily misled by power-hungry politicians bent on self - aggrandizement. Being incited to violence, the Sinhala masses from time to

time harassed, tortured and murdered innocent Tamils for no reason. Consequently thousands lost their lives. Similarly thousands have been robbed of their wealth and properties and driven away from their ancestral homes by the Sinhala army.

Ever since the British Government granted independence to Ceylon, politics in this Island has become a mockery. Lord Soulbury who drafted a constitution for Ceylon did not provide adequate political safeguards for the Tamils living here. Little did he realize then that Mr. D. S. Senanayake would fail to grant the minorities their rights. Lord Soulbury trusted that Mr. D. S. Senanayake would treat the minorities with justice. Some years after Lord Soulbury left this country, the late Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam, Q. C. went to London and visited him. Mr. Ponnampalam told Soulbury that the minorities were oppressed by the majority community and deprived of their political rights. Lord Soulbury expressed his deep disappointment and regretted that the trust he reposed in Mr. Senanayake had been unfortunate.

Today, the UNP and SLFP leaders are at each others throats vying with each other for political power. They are not interested in the welfare of the Sinhalese and other

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## SPORTS Volleyball

Avaranka beat Centralites in straight set in a best of three to enter the final Tournament conducted by St. Antony's S.C., Passaiyoor.

In the earlier matches Centralites beat Gandhi S.C. by two matches to one and St. Antony's beat Madduvil S.C. by a similar margin.

St. Antony's now meets Avaranka in the final. All matches were played at St. Antony's Courts. The officials at these matches were Messrs. Rajaratnam and Nagendram.

-Vijayakumar.



## AN OPEN LETTER TO:

## Mr. Stephen Solars, Chairman

U. S. Congress Committee on Asian and Pacific Affairs

Dear Sir,

You are a powerful personage in world politics by virtue of your being in a position to determine U.S. foreign policy over more than half the globe. The writer of this communication is a non-entity, a coloured old fellow to boot - and is really a nobody whose words may not appeal to you and you may not even care to read them - much less to ponder over them. But the writer is convinced that this message stemming from first principles of political science and from an honest assessment of the realities of the situation gives due regard to the basic traits of human nature which do, in the final analysis, determine the course of history and hence deserve some attention.

## Imperium

Let me begin with the concept of Imperium. Imperium signifies the exercise of power over others who have not willed or volunteered to be part of the polity which seeks to exercise authority and the subjugated people seek to resist the exercise of such authority. European imperialism began in the phase in which European nations discovered and sought to control and exploit the peoples in non-European territories. This phase of European imperium came to a halt with Hitler's end. Earlier imperium of the Roman times all disappeared. The communist imperium of Soviet Russia exploded after subjugating the world to an eclipse of some seventy years. Communism, in reality is a subtle form of imperium into which an ideological element with a seductive appeal has been built to ensure thoroughness and permanency of imperial control.

## Hindu Concept

There is a Hindu concept that the Supreme Force inflicts or deals sufferings on men solely out of love and not out of any anger or hatred, with a view to purifying them and leading them to redemption. These sufferings and ordeals to which men get subjected flow from the integrated operation of *Aanavam*, *Karmam*, and *Maya*. *Aanavam* signifies the inflated ego of man and the various aspects

of outlook and values emanating from such inflated ego. *Karmam* is the octopus of our past deeds, misdeeds etc. The concept of *Karmam* is very wide in its scope. *Maya* refers to the illusion of greatness or glory generated by the inflated sense of ego and the octopus of *Karmam*.

Men do not determine the course of history. The Supreme force, whose operations or workings are beyond human intelligence or comprehension, determines the course of history in conformity with the interplay of the three forces mentioned above (*Aanavam*, *Karmam*, *Maya*) which grips men both individually and collectively.

## European Imperialism.

The most powerful Dictator-cum Imperialist the world has seen is Stalin but he could not determine the course of history even for a few years within his own domains. Six crowned monarchs (not to mention the numerous Maharajahs within her own Imperial control) are reported to have filed behind on horse-back of the bier of Queen Victoria in the procession for final rest. That was the peak of Imperial Glory but Western Imperium disintegrated within half a century - Thanks to Hitler. The writer believes that the Supreme Force did deliberately create Hitler, the most wicked genius manifesting the thirst for Imperium; the Supreme Force wanted to give deliverance to Western Europe from the malignant thirst for Imperium which was the cause of numerous wars killings and violence in the preceding three centuries or more. Perhaps the Supreme Force wanted these people engaged in Imperial Conflicts to get enlightened and act in a different direction. Belgium, was described as a cock pit of Europe; but Brussels is today the centre of economic co-operation and co-ordination by the same people who were earlier determined belligerents in the pursuit of their thirst for Imperial glory. The Hindu concept of *Karmam* and the Islamic theory of *Kismet* have close identity although Hindus and Muslims in India did and do kill each other with an over-riding sense of dedication in the name of religion.

## The United States.

The United States of America and some other countries cherishing like ideas do appear to believe in being able to determine history in their own way through the abundance of wealth at their command. There is a widespread impression in the third world that the U. S. believes that the population of the third world is a menace and that destruction of youths, both boys and girls, is a *sine qua non* to achieve a manageable population for the implementation of pax Americana with American Dollar Largesse.

It is not that the Americans do not understand the rights and wrongs of parties to a dispute or the impor-

## Somasuntharam Vanniasingam

tance of a political solution by arbitration or other forms of mediation which take into consideration the pros and cons of the rival claims of the parties to disputes in the third world. Instead the U. S. wants to promote internecine war in the third world so that the youthful population will get reduced. That is this why the U. S. always supports tyrants and killers in positions of power. e. g. Shah of Iran, Marcos of Philippines and several other Asian Heads of States. The support which U.S. gives to various regimes in the third world can only be supported by this perverse reasoning.

## Sri Lanka - A new country in the world Map

The so-called Sri Lanka was not in the map of the world prior to 1972. During Dudley Senanayake's Prime Ministership the Government offered to review the Constitution through a select committee of the House. But the Marxist cum Bandaranaike opposition strenuously objected to the entrenched non-discrimination Clause (Article 29) of the Dominion Constitution and wanted to create a new polity called the Republic of Sri Lanka which was not to be a successor-State to the Dominion of Ceylon or have anything to do with the Dominion polity. What was sought to be achieved was a brand new polity called the Republic of Sri Lanka on the

authority of the people themselves. That is why Sri Lanka is not a successor State to the Dominion of Ceylon. This strategy was deliberately planned to defraud the Tamils of the benefits of the entrenched non-discrimination Clause, Article 29 of the Dominion Constitution. The Authority of the people was sought to be obtained by a mandate by voting for one or other of the three Sinhala political parties of the United Left Front which acted under the leadership of Srimavo Bandaranaike.

Accordingly, the voters of the seven Sinhala provinces granted the requisite Mandate by an overwhelming majority. But the voters of the Northern and Eastern Province rejected the Call for a Mandate-only 14% voting for it. Thus the Sri Lankan Republic does not have the authority of the people of the North and East and cannot encompass the two provinces which constitute the homeland of the Tamils. The voting figures are as follows:-

	Total Votes Polled	Votes granting Mandate
Northern Province (13 electorates)	334,360	16,179
Eastern Province (9 electorates, 11 seats)	342,518	79,323
Total	676,878	95,502
Percentage secured for the Mandate = 14 %		

(To be continued)

## Tamil right to Secession must be recognised

-Dr. Wickremabahu Karunaratne

"Muslims must realise all aspects of the struggle being waged by the Tamil people in the North-East and conduct their activities in a way as not to jeopardise that struggle

Any agitation of the Muslims must be towards contributing to the success of the Tamils in winning their rights", said Dr. Wickremabahu Karunaratna, General Secretary of the Nava Samaja Party at a seminar in Colombo.

Continuing, he said that his party recognised the right of the Tamil people to self-determination. "It is for the Tamil people to decide whether they should continue to live in the same polity with the Sinhalese people or not"

It will thus be seen that the Republic of Sri Lanka is built on a false bottom and lacks legal validity to encompass the North and East - the homeland of the Tamils. As the Republic of Sri Lanka was created the Tamil youths discarded their political leaders and raised the standard of revolt. It is not that the Governments of Sri Lanka, India, United States of America and Britain are unaware of the complete lack of any legal validity for Sri Lanka to exercise any form of jurisdiction over the Tamil Homeland.

In fact Sri Lankan Government lacks not only *de jure* authority over the Tamil homeland but has hardly any *de facto* Status in the North-East. Foreign policy today does not appear to be governed by considerations of legality, constitutionality, pros and cons of the disputants or merits and de merits of the claims of the parties to a dispute but by something called 'interest' which boils down to nothing but highly myopic self interest.

"The attempt by any nation to protect its interests, is not a matter that could be disregarded. The present struggle of the Tamil people is a national uprising. The reasons for this uprising are the perpetuation of discrimination and the oppression of the Tamil people in various spheres by the government.

The present struggle of the Tamil people is not against the Sinhala masses but against established authority of the Government.

In the present context there is nothing wrong, if a nation wages a liberation struggle. Tamil women have a distinguished cultural heritage and

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# THE BURNING OF THE JAFFNA PUBLIC LIBRARY— Isn't Mr. Premadasa Guilty?

President R. Premadasa has at last named the 'culprit' who was instrumental in destroying by arson the Jaffna Public Library with its collection of 97,000 books and rare manuscripts on the night of June, 1st., 1981.

The civilised world condemned this act of vandalism as cultural genocide amounting to a crime against all humanity.

Europeans refer to such destruction as 'Vandalism'—after a fierce tribe of people from North Eastern Europe who over-ran Gaul, Spain and North Africa in the 4th and 5th centuries A. D. and in 455 sacked Rome. Vandalism means hostility to arts and literature.

For the Tamils of Eelam, this was not the very first or the last such occasion, when Libraries were destroyed by arson. Earlier when Buvane kabahu, the King of Kotte invaded the Kingdom of Jaffna, the National Library of the Tamils - Saraswathy Mahal at Nayanmarkaddu was burnt

by the barbarian Sinhala Army of the King of Kotte.

In recent times even after the burning of the Jaffna Public Library, several other libraries were destroyed by arson by the Sri Lankan Baudha Sinhala Armed forces. These include the 150 year-old Wesleyan Methodist Hartley College Library at Point Pedro and still another one at Thikkam with a collection of some 2000 volumes and the Globe Library at Karainagar which was built out of Swedish funds. Many more libraries were destroyed during the present conflict.

This was also not the first time when some one pointed an accusing finger at some one, as the one who had a hand in the dastardly act

Long before President Premadasa spilt the beans, his predecessor, former President Jayewardene himself, had mentioned it at an International Press Conference held for the first time during his tenure of office sometime in July, 1985 or 1986. At that

Press Conference to which correspondents of the local press were not invited, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, while referring to the incident stated that he had sent some Police Officers to Jaffna on a special mission to maintain law and order during the course of the District Development Council Elections held in June, 1981 but that they had burnt the Town Hall in Jaffna.

Not that, that Mr. Jayewardene was not unaware of the fact that the building which was gutted by fire, was the Jaffna Public Library and not the Jaffna Municipal Council City Hall. But he deliberately mentioned the word 'Town Hall' instead. The Jaffna Town Hall did not at any time receive its baptism of fire. It was simply blasted, when the adjoining Jaffna Police Station was attacked by the militants sometime in 1985. As no local news correspondents were present at the Press Conference which was for persons from the International media, no one there could contradict the reference

wrongly alluded to the Jaffna Town Hall and that what was actually burnt down was the Jaffna Public Library.

President Jayewardene must have had an ulterior motive in misrepresenting the facts because at that time he was not prepared to commit himself in any way to accepting a dastardly act of cultural homicide or to make payment of a sum of Rs. 10.2 million recommended by the Lionel Fernando Commission which he himself had appointed to report on the incident and connected police violence in the City of Jaffna.

As for President Premadasa, he was not only holding the office of Prime Minister under Mr. J.R. Jayewardene but also was holding the portfolio of the Minister of Local Government as well and as Local Government Bodies came under his purview, he should have evinced keen interest in a matter involving his own Ministry. For, although the Jaffna Public Library was built by a Public Committee after

its construction, it was handed over to the Jaffna Municipality as a property to be held in Trust and maintained for the purposes of the trust. Mr. Premadasa thus became its Guardian and Trustee as Minister for Local Government.

On coming to know that a Cabinet colleague of his had had a hand in the crime committed, he himself should have owned moral responsibility and tendered his resignation from the Post of Minister of Local Government, as a former Railways' minister in India had done, when a railway accident took place causing loss of lives or at least demanded the payment of full compensation due to the Library as recommended by the Lionel Fernando Commission appointed by the Government of which he was Prime Minister. Didn't Mr. Premadasa fail in his duty by not doing either?

Eelam Tamils do have a grievance not only against those who committed the dastardly crime but also against those who condoned it as well. Even now it is not too late to make full payment due to the Jaffna Public Library and thus make amends for his past failing. Will he do it?

- Anandan

## ZIONISM IS MUCH MORE THAN RACISM

On 23 September U S President George Bush addressed the UN General Assembly on the challenges of building peace in the post - Cold War era. In the cause of elaborating this theme, he called on the assembly to repeal the 1975 'Zionism is racism' resolution (UNGA) Resolution 3379), adding that to keep the resolution on its statutes would be tantamount to twisting history. Should the

international community heed this call?

President Bush says Zionism is not a policy, but an idea. But an idea cannot be put to practical effect without formulating a policy for its achievement.

It cannot be denied that the Zionists who now live in Israel came from other countries. They have realised their idea of creating a homeland by pursuing a deliberate policy

of driving out the indigenous Palestinian people who had lived in that land for nearly 2,000 years.

It is equally undeniable that in 1967, the Zionists went on to occupy the remaining parts of Palestine to which the indigenous people had fled during the 1948 war and impose a brutal regime over those people.

Many countries recognise the state of Israel, but no country, not even the United States, challenges the status of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip as 'Occupied Territories'.

International law, which the Western powers themselves have developed over the years, explicitly states that in such territories the occupying power has no more than administrative duties and usufructuary rights (Vide the Hague Rules 42 - 56 and the Geneva Civilian Convention). Far from abiding by the convention, Israel has imposed a cruel, racist regime over the territories.

That Israeli rule in the Occupied Territories is akin to the apartheid practised

by the whites in South Africa is confirmed in accounts appearing in several Western publications. One of the most detailed of these is Joseph Brewda's investigative report in EIR, a Washington - based weekly (issue dated 23 August).

The following are some of the harsh realities of life in the West Bank which these reports expose.

### K. R. Panikkar

Israeli policy towards the Palestinians has several dimensions; discriminatory treatment; illegal seizure of land; population war; and terror.

Discrimination begins at that most basic and vital of human needs: water. The Palestinians are not allowed to dig new wells or deepen existing ones. The Jewish settlers are not under any such restrictions. Of the water supplied by the Zionist regime, the Palestinians are allowed only one-seventh of the per capita supply to the Jewish settlers, but they (the Palestinians) have to pay four times as much as the Jews for this meagre supply.

Land is seized in a variety of ways. Former Jordanian

government state lands have been taken over by Israel. 'Uncultivated' or 'unregistered' lands too have been taken over, ignoring the fact that the owners of the land had fled Jordan when Israel invaded the territory in 1967. (Israel does not permit these owners to return.)

Other ways of seizure include declaring that land is required for 'public use'; that an area is 'closed' for being a 'combat zone'; that land is needed for 'military use'.

After expropriation, however, Jewish settlements are constructed on the seized land. In these various ways, Israel has already acquired more than 60% of the Occupied Territories.

The policy of land seizure is accompanied by a policy of settling Jews in the Occupied Territories. Jewish settlement policy has four objectives; to transform the demographic character of the West Bank; to break up the Palestinian population into isolated pockets; to impose economic hardship on the

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### The child's name is 'Today'

*We are guilty of many errors and faults  
But our worst crime is abandoning the children,  
Neglecting the fountain of life.*

*Many of the things we need can wait,  
The child cannot.*

*Right now is the time his bones are being formed,  
His blood is being made and his senses are  
being developed.*

*To him we cannot answer, "Tomorrow",  
His name is "Today".*

Gabriela Mistral  
Nobel Prize Winning Poet  
from Chile.

Sent by: S. Seenithamby



# Desultory Ramblings of VADALI VELAN

There was this unsuspecting Brer Rabbit who suddenly found himself in a futile and vigorous struggle to gain his freedom from a trap set for him by his arch-enemy, the wily Brer Fox. At the approach of his enemy, the witty Brer Rabbit proceeded to give vent to piteous yawls of seeming dismay and helplessness; and cried out, "Brer Fox, Brer Fox, the blessings of the Triple Gem be upon you, on Mrs. Fox and on your progeny. You may draw me up and quarter me. You may boil me in your cauldron of water. But please, please, do not throw me into yon thorny briar bush". Being of an exceedingly non-obliging mien,

the cruel Brer Fox, forthwith, tossed his victim into just that patch of briar. Having been born and bred in that very briar bush and being inured, unlike the indolent Brer Fox, to a life of toil and moil, a laughing and unscathed Brer Rabbit merrily skipped away and is now believed to be a permanent resident on the moon, as a reward for his troubles; having been placed there by Sakra, a Sinhalese prototype of the Aryan God Vishnu.

Today, a similar trouncing to that of Brer Fox awaits the Sinhala Buddhist government in this fair isle of the orient "where every pros-

pect pleases and the Sinhala-Buddhist is only vile". The Sri Lankan government's economy - squeeze of, especially, Northern Tamil Eelam is decidedly not going to prove fatal to the hardy and industrious Eelam Tamil. Far less, it is neither going to deter him from pursuing his quest for total emancipation to its legitimate and logical conclusion. The government's irrational and unwarranted intervention against the normal flow of goods to the North has only served to convince a resourceful and not-unintelligent people that imperative it is for them to make a clean break with such a treacherous Colombo-based

economy and with its bureaucracy of unfettered racial and religious prejudices.

To the average resident of the North, the Government's decision to ban a commodity such as soya - meat, in a feeble-minded and inept bid to protein-starve the people, can only raise peals of derisive laughter at the government's hand at trying to hold an ancient people to ransom by such methods. From when did anyone learn to rely on the comparatively foreign (and Chinese) habit of treating soya bean as a source of protein? The traditional Tamilian diet has always been adequately rich in Protein. The Eelam Tamil invariably

partakes of a diet wherein ulundu, (black gram) a highly proteinaceous, grain - legume,

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## Tamil right..

(Continuation from Page 3)

are conservative in outlook but they have broken all bonds of conservatism and joined the Liberation struggle. Such Liberation struggles must be advanced with an eye on the progressive aspects

If the Tamils are waging a struggle alone, it is because of the failure of the Left.

This failure of the Left Movement to join this struggle, is a serious lapse", he said.

## OUR READERS SAY

### THE ETHNIC PROBLEM....

(Continuation from Page 2)

communities living in Sri Lanka. They are not worried or pained if the Island is bathed in blood from time to time due to violence. There has been bloodshed for the last forty years and it is still continuing. Some of the vociferous leaders have had academic education. It is said that Education is the manifestation of the perfection in man. One may ask what kind perfection have our Sinhala leaders attained. Is there any semblance of perfection in them? Far from it. We have heard of an ex-minister who threw acid on the face of his wife. We have heard of MPs and Ministers who accepted bribes and who robbed Government properties.

The Buddhist politicians and clergy profess to be true Buddhists and love Ahimsa. But do they practise Buddhism? They preach communal hatred and violence resulting in bloodshed. Mr. J.R. Jayewardene often said "The political ills in this country are due to people not following the precepts of the Buddha and the problems of the Tamils can be solved, if the Tamils resort to Satyagraha"! Some self-sacrificing Tamils resorted to Satyagraha during the time Mr. Jayewardene was President and even lost their lives. This is the remedy which Mr. Jayewardene prescribed to the Tamils! Dharmista!

If he was truthful, Mr. Jayewardene could have solved the problems of the Tamils, when he was President and had a two-thirds majority in Parliament. The whole Island knows that

Mr. Jayewardene from the beginning to the end of his political career, behaved as a rabid communalist who catered to the needs of the Sinhalese only. Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranayake was no better.

Although Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake was a communalist at the beginning of his political career, he became a sober and matured politician in his later years. He realized that the Tamils had genuine grievances which needed redress. He entered into a pact with the late Mr. S.J.V. Chelvanayakam, known as the B-C pact. That pact provided a sort of solution to the problems of the Tamils. But unfortunately, a deputation of Buddhist monks led by Mrs. Wimala Wijewardene opposed this pact and staged a satyagraha at Mr. Bandaranayake's residence at Rosemead Place. The deputation insisted that the B-C pact be abrogated. Mr. Bandaranayake much against his will, had to tear the pact. Mrs. Bandaranayake could have entered into a similar pact with the Tamil leaders, if she sincerely wished. But up to this day she had not done anything to solve the ethnic problem.

In conclusion way back in 1914, when Martial Law was declared during the Sinhala - Muslim riots resulting in thousands of Muslims being killed and Sinhalese leaders Messrs. D.S. Senanayake, Sir Baron Jayatileke, C.R. Batuwantudawa, E. W. Perera and others being arrested by the British army, it was late Sri Ponnampalam Ramanathan, a member of

the then State Council, who obtained their release making representations to the Secretary of State for Colonies in England. The military Governor who ruled Ceylon at that time was recalled to England as a result of Sir Ramanathan's efforts to obtain the release of the

## ZIONISM IS MUCH...

(Continuation from Page 4)

Palestinians with the view of forcing them to emigrate; and to shatter the morale of those who stay put, by the use of terror.

No Jews lived in the West Bank before 1967. After the Israeli occupation, the Labour government then in power in Israel did not encourage Jews to move into the territory, so much so that in the next eight years no more than 3,000 Jews settled there.

Israeli policy took a radical turn with the Likud party gaining power in 1977. In the next 10 years, another 57,000 Jews moved into the West Bank. Today there are 100 thousand Jew settlers in the West Bank and another 150,000 in East Jerusalem.

These settlements have been methodically planned and executed to fragment the Palestinian population into isolated 'bantustans' like the ones created for the blacks in South Africa.

The idea behind this policy is that, with their community broken up and surrounded by Jewish settlements, the Palestinians will have lost the fundamental basis of a 'state' of their own.

Sinhala leaders. Sir Ponnampalam Ramanathan and Sir Ponnampalam Arunachalam served the Island without any communal bias. They were opposed to Ceylon being a British colony and strove hard to obtain the freedom from the mother country. They fought side by side with the Sinhala leaders and obtained freedom.

May we hope that Mr. S. Thondaman's present efforts to settle the ethnic problem

by peaceful negotiations with President R. Premadasa bring peace and happiness in this war-torn Island where (as stated by a visitor) every prospect pleases but man is vile.

May the Sinhala leaders repent for their sins, reform and purify themselves and enable Tamils in this Island to live in peace and amity with the Sinhalese community.

V. Kathirithamby  
Karaveddy.

a bit at windows, warn the villagers and return to the settlement. We don't kidnap people, but it can happen that we catch a boy who had been throwing stones, take him back with us, beat him a bit and give him over to the army to finish the job'.

It is these wanton acts, which outrage the conscience of humanity and which are the manifestations of a sinister policy aimed at extinguishing the Palestinian people, which make Zionism incontrovertibly a case of bigoted racism.

In his UN address President Bush invoked the oft-repeated slogan, 'the terrible plight of the Jews in World War Two'. His words appeared to suggest that the suffering of the Jews at the hands of the Nazis is a sufficient justification for condoning Zionist actions in Palestine. This cannot be so. It is morally, legally and in every other way totally inadmissible to compensate a wrong done to one people by wronging another innocent people.

If Zionism was seen as racism in 1975, it is even more so today, not less.—

Courtesy: Third World Network Features

The brutalisation of the Palestinian population has taken a particularly vicious character since the intifada was launched in December 1987.

In the last four years the Zionists have killed nearly 1,000 Palestinians. Most of them were shot in the back while fleeing after throwing stones. A quarter of them have been children under 16 years of age. One in every 10 Palestinians has been injured as well.

Other forms of terror practised by the Zionists include detaining Palestinians for 'administrative' reasons and torturing them; banishing; uprooting trees to deprive Palestinians of their economic means of sustenance; demolishing Palestinian homes; imposing curfews for long periods.

The Jewish settlers have unabashedly declared that their aim is to impress upon the Palestinians that they (the Jews) are strong and that they want to teach the Palestinians not to 'raise their heads'. How do they do it?

In the settlers' own words: 'We enter a village, shoot



# HOT SPRING

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## TO BE OR NOT TO BE

The Prime Minister, Mr. D. B. Wijetunge is reported to be a very amiable person. He rarely speaks. He rarely gets into controversies. That does not mean that he does not work. Perhaps he works with singular ability that in President Premadasa's Government he stands foremost - not only as Prime Minister but also as the holder of important portfolios such as the Ministries of Finance and Defence and some others to boot.

Mr. Wijetunge has said in Parliament that no useful purpose would be served by talking to the LTTE and that the LTTE must be destroyed.

Someone said that the Opposition is the 'gnat that stings the noble horse into action'. True to this saying, Mr. Dinesh Gunawardene of the MEP Opposition in Parliament has said that the LTTE is weak at the moment and that the war against LTTE should be carried on vehemently. Another SLFP Opposition member wants the Buddhist Flag hoisted in Parliament. In this situation a miserable Muslim Congress M. P. has said that Muslims should be recruited to the armed forces of the Baudha Sinhala Government to fight the Tamils, Sri Lanka parliament which had been the instrument giving legal clothing to the oppressive measures against the Tamils. If indeed any such legal clothing were necessary, is once again girding up its loins, while Mr. Thondaman, another Minister in the Government of President Premadasa, is holding the olive branch in his hands.

While this is the political scene in Colombo, in Tamil Eelam the Sri Lankan armed forces are relentlessly carrying out a war of destruction on the Tamils and their properties. The Sinhala Air Force is carrying out air-bombing in various parts of Tamil Eelam, the Navy, Army, the Special Task Force and the hoodlums called 'Home guards' are equally active everywhere. Reports have come in of civilian deaths from Mannar and Jaffna, as a result of aerial bombing.

In this situation the Leader of the LTTE, who also rarely speaks, has made an important pronouncement over the LTTE radio on the midnight of November 27th on the beginning of National Heroes' Day.

Mr. Pirabakaran has outlined the broad principles under which a permanent peaceful solution can be found to end the war.

He has further said that his doors are opened for any peace efforts.

According to Mr. Pirabakaran, the simple demand of the Tamils is that they must be permitted to live as a nation in their historical homeland. This self-same demand is being made by oppressed peoples all over the world and increasingly the world community is beginning to understand and appreciate this demand.

For a long time now, Baudha Sinhala imperialism is destroying the Tamils and their homeland of Tamil Eelam by its armed might much to the disadvantage of the ordinary Sinhalese people themselves. Still the Tamils are in no mood to submit to Sinhala imperialism.

This is also reflected in Mr. Pirabakaran's speech wherein he says that the question whether it is peace or war, is one that is entirely in the hands of the Government to decide. Of course we do know that the prolongation of a war may be in the interests of those who are in power and those who aspire to acquire power in the Government of Sri Lanka. Certainly, war cannot be beneficial to the Sinhalese people themselves, as it is not beneficial to Tamils.

But the Tamils have no choice. The choice is entirely with the Government. The yearning of the Tamils is to live as a nation - and if the Government wants to deny this simple desire of theirs and carry on a war, well the Tamils have no alternative but to meet the threat.

# Social Security Benefit Bill

## CMU calls it an act of Robbery of Employees' Money

The Ceylon Mercantile, Industrial and General Workers' Union (CMU) has sent a protest to President Premadasa against the proposed Social Security Benefits Bill before Parliament now.

The CMU states in its protest letter that the present Bill seeks to convert the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) into a pension scheme. The contributions made by employees and employers together with the interest thereon now received by workers will under the

proposed Bill, be appropriated by Government which proposes a new Pensions' Fund in place of the EPF purportedly for the benefit of the workers.

Most trade unions have protested against the Government's scheme. The real purpose of the new Bill is to benefit the Government financially by depriving present and future employees of the EPF. The Government will have increasingly large resources to draw upon from the proposed Pensions Fund at rates of

interest which it will determine to help finance its schemes or pay its dues to international creditors, at the expense of the millions of employees who will be brought compulsorily under the proposed pension scheme. Under the proposed Pension Scheme the employees will not get all their contributions and employers' contributions with accumulated interest under the EPF scheme but only a fraction of it. This is tantamount to a robbery of the employees' money by the Government. The CMU has contended.

## DESULTORY RAMBLINGS...

(Continuation from Page 5)

is a main ingredient. In their perverseness the Sinhala gentry have often derided the consumption of the ulundu - rich "masala vadai", "thosa" and "papadam" in public (whilst they themselves showed an avid preference for these items, surreptitiously), with a show of snobbish preference for bread, in slavish imitation of their erstwhile white masters. Nor does the Eelam Tamil disdain the regular consumption of the proteinic "parippu" (lentils) and his "Moar" (milky - whey). It was not so long ago that we found a Sinhala big-wig slinking his way into the then-existent Hotel Anandabhavan in the Fort to enjoy his repast of ulundu delicacies.

Any person, with even a modicum of common sense, will tell you that the outcome of the present war (for war on our people it is; undeclared, of course!) does not devolve on the supply of chocolates. The people of the locality, when deprived of this item, could make do with even better substitutes such as the more nutritious sesame balls (the "thala guli" of our Sinhala brethren). Some Sinhala day dreamer must have heard the tall story of how a battle was lost for want of a mere horse-shoe nail and fondly imagined to himself how even a minor detail as the supply of a few chocolate bars could burgeon suddenly into a factor so paramount as to critically affect the course of the ongoing war. Thus are affairs of state handled with amateurish buffoonery.

Even within living memory we find the attitude of the Sinhalese towards the Tamils running a treacherous and deceitful course. Time was when even the Venerable Anagarika, in groans and

bleatings, appealed to one of the Ponnampalam brothers, stating that the latter (a Tamil!) was the only hope for rescuing the Sinhala from his sorry plight; and it was a Ponnampalam who had hastened to the succour of the Hon. D. S. Senanayake and his Sinhala colleagues and averted their being summarily despatched to "kingdom come" by the British colonial powers. It had also to take an Ananda Coomaraswamy to make the Sinhalese take due pride in their own culture and heritage through the ceaseless exhortations and the publication of his work on "Sinhala Medieval Art".

Even before the departure of Colonial Britain from our shores the same Hon. Senanayake gave firm assurance that the Tamils would be treated fairly and as equals by the Sinhala majority race; but he reneged on this solemn undertaking no sooner the Englishman's back was turned on us. The mass colonization of traditional Tamil homelands with the Sinhala majority race commenced with a gusto and is continuing apace to this day. The Sinhalese not content with the most fertile terrain of the whole Isle in their hands, hatched

ingenious plans to grab even the dry and harsh climate of the Tamils. Having for years lived off the blood, sweat and tears of the Tamil plantation workers, the Sinhalese rulers disenfranchised this hapless lot of humanity and rendered its members strangers in their own country. To crown it all, the Sinhalese are now smugly happy about their allegedly having laid siege to the Jaffna Peninsula. What an edifying and ethical thought for a nation which proclaims off and on for all the world not to forget, that Sinhala civilization (at least in imagination!) is 2500 years old and of the Buddhist variety. However, we of Tamil Eelam are determined to ensure that the Sinhala-Buddhist machinations do not prevail and we rightly believe that our firm resolve to throw off all alien yoke and an unyielding distrust in the enemy will guide us on in the path to ultimate victory.

It is an even bet that Sakra resigns his job of protecting the Vjayan clan (alias the Sinhala race of today). How can he any longer ignore the Brer Rabbit like qualities of the Tamil Eelam people who are at the receiving end of the foxy Sinhala repression? Besides, how can he find sufficient room on the moon for a horde of Tamil Eelam rabbits?

## We would like to know...

Million houses,  
Ten million trees  
Goal of Colombo Government  
But,  
We should know  
Whether it's  
Build or demolish.  
They can destroy  
Our nests  
But,  
They can't  
Stop our Birth and growth

- Aswathy