

HOT SPRING

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No. 10

"The Constitution Led to the worsening of the relations between the two major communities of the Island. Tamil community which had all along stood for regional autonomy under a federal constitution, began to demand the establishment of a separate Tamil State."

Ravi Kant Dubey - referring to the 1972 Constitution of Sri Lanka - in his book: "INDO - SRI LANKA RELATIONS with special reference to the Tamil Problem"

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY ANNIVERSARY

LTTE'S MESSAGE TO

UN SECRETARY - GENERAL

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has congratulated Mr. Boutros Ghali, the newly-elected Secretary General of the UNO in a message sent to him to commemorate the 43rd Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which fell on December 10th.

The message which had been signed by Mr. K. Mahendrarajah calls upon the UN, on the historic occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to use its good offices to prevail on the Sri Lankan Government to uphold respect for human rights and prevent human rights abuses against the Tamil people.

Here is the full text of the LTTE message:—

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam congratulates the United Nations Organisation on the Occasion of the Celebrations of the 43rd Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day on the 10th of December, 1991.

The cherished aims of the United Nations as contained in the Preamble of the UN Charter reflects the determination of "the peoples" of the UN to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and fear, and the declaration of Human Rights serves "as a standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations".

The services rendered by the UN and its specialised Agencies are praiseworthy. In spite of these valuable achievements of the UN, racist violence, war and gross abuse of human rights continue unabated throughout the world, particularly in the Third World countries. The magnitude of the scourge of war unleashed on peoples and ethnic minorities in many parts of the world has far

exceeded the calamities suffered by humanity in the Second World War.

In this context, we wish to bring to your kind notice the grave and critical situation that has arisen in the Tamil homeland as a consequence of the brutal war unleashed against the Tamil people by the Sri Lankan state.

The armed forces of the state, acting with a total sense of impunity and callousness, have deliberately killed thousands of defenceless Tamil people (non-combatant civilians) since the outbreak of fighting on the 10th October 1990. Since the beginning of the war up to now 10,000 Tamil civilians have lost their lives in the large scale massacres, extrajudicial executions and indiscriminate aerial bombings. Violating the accepted international norms of warfare, the Sri Lankan air force has bombed hospitals, refugee camps, schools and places of worship causing colossal damage to life and property. As a consequence

of the offensive military operations by the Government forces about half-a-million people have been uprooted from their homes and live a destitute existence as refugees. To further aggravate the conditions of suffering of our people the Sri Lanka Government imposed an economic embargo banning electricity, fuel, medicines and other essential items. This has crippled the economic life of the Tamils and subjected our people to malnutrition and starvation. The war continues unabated with the grow-

ing tide of human right abuses by the security forces.

You may be aware that the people of Tamil Eelam have been subjected to a genocidal oppression by successive racist regimes of Sri Lanka ever since the Island became independent from British Colonial rule in 1948. Our legitimate struggle for self-determination was met with military repression and violence. The long history of state violence and the notorious record of human rights abuses by the Government forces have been well

documented by international human rights organisations.

On this historic occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, we call upon the UN to use its good offices to prevail on the Sri Lanka Government to uphold respect for human rights and prevent human rights abuses against the Tamil people.

We wish the UN success in its cherished and noble aim of promoting and upholding human rights.

K. Mahendrarajah

G.C.E. (O/L) Examination Centre Bombed

The G. C. E. (O/L) Examination for December, 1991 and December, 1990 Examination which was not held last year commenced simultaneously in the North on Monday, December 9.

Students who were qualified to sit the examination

in December, 1990 but could not sit because no examination was held in the North then were allowed to sit the on-going examination.

But the Government of Sri Lanka again exhibited its deep animosity against Tamil

students by carrying out air attack in several places in the north including areas where examination centres were located.

Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed the Pandivrichchan School premises in the Mannar District. The incident occurred on the morn-

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No Homeland for Tamils Say Buddhist Clergymen

It is learnt that some Sinhala - Buddhist Priests have laid five conditions to be observed in any efforts made by Government to find a solution to the ethnic problem.

The Jaffna based Tamil Daily "UTHAYAN" in its issue of December 10, carried the exclusive news that some highly placed Sinhala Buddhist clergymen who are members of the Advisory Council on Baudha Sasana and Related Affairs, have submitted five conditions which should be observed by Government in any efforts made to find a solution to the ethnic problem.

The Priests have submitted their conditions in a memorandum addressed to President Premadasa who also functions as Minister for Baudha Sasana Affairs.

According to the report the five conditions laid by the Buddhist clergymen are:-

* Any settlement of the ethnic problem should not jeopardise the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Sri Lanka.

* The North and East should not be identified or accepted as the traditional homeland of the Tamils.

* The Northern and Eastern Provinces should not be unified.

* All policies relating to land must be reserved and decided by the central government.

* Maintenance of law and order, Armed Forces, all harbours and airfields should

be under the control and responsibility of the Central Government.

President Premadasa Speaks at Vavunia

President Premadasa told a meeting held at the Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya that if the Government officials established civil administration in an area of 80 square miles in the North his Army would extend the area under its control in the North to 250 square miles.

Present along with the President were a number of Ministers, the Secretary to the Defence Ministry, General

Cyril Ranatunge, the Chief of the Joint Operation Command Lt. Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe and the Governor of the Northeast Province, Gen. Nalin Seneviratne.

Speaking further the President said that the present situation arose in the North-east as a result of the policies adopted by Governments after 1956. The Army and the police were trying to restore civil administration, he said,

Appointment of Graduate Trainees under the Provincial Council Administration NE.

Editor
Hot Spring

Dear Sir,

I think it fit and proper to appraise through your journal a glaring injustice that has been meted out to the Graduate trainees who have been served with termination notices after they had undergone special training in the field of Management Administration, taxation, industrial development projects, social service and rehabilitation and reconstruction work for the last two years. These Graduate Tra-

inees had been selected by the Provincial Council NE. Trincomalee after an interview and posted to different districts like Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Mannar, to undergo the above training Courses.

After acquiring the basic knowledge in the fields in which they were trained they have been assigned duties at the various Kacheries and AGA'S divisions, and are performing the duties to the entire satisfaction of the district authorities. They

have now been served with notices of termination of employment effective from March, 1992. They feel that they should be considered for permanent appointment in the field in which they had been trained. But to the dismay they have been asked to apply for Graduate Teacher Trainee posts which is scheduled to be held in the near future.

Isn't this an injustice to the graduates recruited by the NE Provincial Council and trained for particular vocations.

T. Ramanathan
Kondavil

ANOMALIES IN PENSION

The Editor
Hot Spring

Dear Sir,

Reference your article on page 2 of 24.11.1991 issue of Hot Spring I shall be grateful to you to publish some observations on this subject.

The scheme to pay funeral expenses to pensioners and their close relatives is commendable.

Coming to the subject of payment of allowances to pensioners I wish to state that there are two distinct categories viz those who retired prior to 1985 and

those who retired after 1985. Pensioners retired after 1985 had the benefit of an increased salary scale and also the pension was calculated at 85% of the consolidated salary. As a result this category of pensioners draw almost double the pension than those who retired prior to 1985 under the old Pension minute. Any attempt to compensate the pensioners who retired prior to 1985 will involve arithmetically the payment of double their pension to equate with those who retired after 1985. The ceiling of Rupees Two thousand Seven Hundred and

Fifty as at present is thus totally inadequate. The ceiling should be at least at the Four thousand rupees scale if not at a higher point. Payment of Rupees 300/- and the subsequent payment Rupees 100/- should be paid to all officers who draw a pension of Rupees Four thousand a month, at present. This additional allowance will only partially compensate the earlier pensioners with the present cost of living particularly in the North and East.

Thanking you.

(A. Perinpanayagam)

Puloly

Bombing by Night at Erlalai

Sri Lankan Air Force planes carried out night bombing at Erlalai on the night of Sunday December 1st.

The bombing took place twice-once at 8.00 p.m. and again at midnight. A number of bombs were dropped which resulted in damage to more than 25 houses in the area. The Village Council Office of Erlalai was also

damaged. Many garden crops were destroyed.

Two children Baskaran (10) and Ketheeswaran (9) were admitted to Hospital as a result of the injuries they sustained due to the bombing of Erlalai.

ASSOCIATION OF LECTURERS ON SECONDMENT

The inaugural meeting of the Association of Lecturers on Secondment at the Gove-

rnment Training Colleges of Kopay and Palaly was held at the G.T.C, Palaly on the 2nd of December, 1991. The following were elected office-bearers:-

President:

Mr. Francis St. Roche

Vice President:

Mr. T. Kamalanathan

Secretary:-

Mr. C. S. Arulpragasam

Treasurer:-

Mr. J. Marianayagam

Committee Members:-

Mrs. K. Mahendran

Mr. K. Vijayanathan

Mr. S. Senthilmani

Mr. S. Shanmugarajah

Handicraft Exhibition at Chankanai

The Hindu Women's Association of Chankanai held a two-day exhibition of various hand-made products on the 4th and 5th of December, 1991.

The Exhibition was declared open by Dr. (Mrs.) Sri-anandarajah, Dental Surgeon, Chankanai.

Training in plantain fibre products was provided by the Red Cross Society.

SPORTS Volleyball

St. Antony's S.C. beat Avarankal S.C. by three matches to one in a best of five matches to clinch the Volleyball final which was played at St. Antony's playground 27.11.91. It was good spiking by the Antonians which enabled them to win.

Messrs. Rajaratnam and Nagendram officiated as referees.

Football

St. Mary's S.C. beat Singing Fish by two goals to one in a football match played at Kokuvil Hindu College grounds on 1.12.91.

At lemons, St. Mary's led 2-0. Panjan played well for the winners, while Canute excelled for Singing Fish.

Augustine controlled the game.

—Vijayakumar

OUR READERS SAY

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Dear Sir,

Now that we have our own security force, may I draw the attention of the authorities concerned, through your very valuable journal, to the unbearable CYCLE MENACE on our roads. Recently I had occasion to witness two accidents:

SIX young men were cycling along a road with their Left hands on their cycle handles and their right hands on the shoulders of the adjoining cyclists. An old man moved further to his right to avoid being knocked down by the on coming cycle parade, only to be knocked down by the two abreast riders, who came behind him. Adding insult to injury, one cyclist remarked "people must be more careful when they walk along the road".

A woman in saree came through a lane and got on to the main road and tur-

ned to her right. She was knocked down by a man who came along the main road. That brute did not stop to find out if that woman rider was injured. He went away. As she got up I lifted her bicycle and adjusted the handle and gave it to her.

These are not isolated incidents. They seem to be the order of the day. The other menace is the formation of clusters, by students, on the middle of the road, almost covering three fourths of it. Seated on their bicycles, with one foot on the ground and the other on the cycle pedals they discuss for hours sweet nothings.

Cycling in the nights without lights, using cycles without brakes and bells are other forms of dangers road users are exposed to.

In conclusion, may I draw the attention of our Tamil PUNDITS to my request made to them, through this very useful paper, to compile a list of Tamil names that our young parents could give their new borns.

S. Ponnampalam
Karaveddi.

Artillery Shells Hit Chavakachcheri

Artillery shells believed to have been launched by the Army at Mandativu hit several places in Chavakachcheri on Sunday December 1st.

Four shells exploded in Madduvil. One shell hit the Madduvil Vidyalayam (High School) which resulted in heavy damage to the College Hall and the Science Laboratory. Some 200 people, who had sought refuge in the school narrowly escaped injuries. A house situated

about 100 yards from the College was hit by shell and damaged. The inmates who had run into a trench for safety escaped injuries to their persons.

The other shells exploded near Chavakachcheri town. Reports say that the Chavakachcheri Post Office building was damaged.

Altogether nine shells were reported to have hit the Chavakachcheri area on December 1st.

Martin Ennals Remembered

Commemoration celebrations of the death of the renowned Human Rights worker, late Mr. Martin Ennals, was conducted all over Europe on December 10th, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day.

Late Mr. Martin Ennals died last year. During his

years of service in the cause of Human Rights, he was President of Amnesty International and also of International Alert.

The late Mr. Martin Ennals was greatly concerned about violations of Human Rights in Sri Lanka too.

Ukraine Also Becomes Independent Three Republics Constitute a New Union

Another Soviet Republic declared itself independent of the Soviet Union. The latest Republic which opted for total independence was Ukraine. President Gorbachev recognized the new independent Republic of Ukraine.

Following on the recognition of the independence of three former Soviet Republics - Russia, Byelo - Russia

and Ukraine, the three Republics have now announced the formation of a new commonwealth of the three major Republics which formed part of the Soviet Union.

Canada has welcomed the formation of the new Commonwealth of the former three Soviet Republics.

Soviet President Gorbachev, however, has rejected the new commonwealth.

United Regimes Organisation

Euphemistically called United Nations Organisation

The U. N. O. has failed. It was in the context of the need to ensure everyone in the Allied Camp to support the total war effort that the leaders of the United States of America, particularly President Roosevelt visualized and planned the United Nations Organization which - in the hopes and view of the Founding Fathers - would usher in a brave new world for achieving peace security and betterment of mankind. The Founding Fathers of the U. N. O. never even dreamt that the U. N. O. would by-pass the large sections of the peoples and become an instrument controlled, guided and utilized by the Regimes of the member countries to the exclusion of the aspirations of the peoples.

But today the peoples stand excluded. Only a few regimes by virtue of their powerful position determine the functions and objective of the United Nations Organization. No one then visualized that the world would be segmented into numbered groups such as the First World, the Second World and the Third World.

The over-rich Western countries dominate the U. N. O. and are totally oblivious of the aspirations and interest of the people. The Third world contains a number of countries in which the State is no representative of vast sections of the people and these regimes employ large armies and kill allegedly their own people and destroy their properties. The Western world commanding the U. N. O. keeps perfectly silent watching the uncountable illegal killings, disappearances and indescribable atrocities perpetrated on the people by the regimes of the Third world.

The murder rate i. e. of the illegal killings and disappearances in what is now called Sri Lanka, is the highest in the Third world and yet, the powerful western countries pump unlimited flow of Aid (rockoned in billions of U. S. dollars) to this killer State. Most polities in the Third World were constituted by the Imperial Fiats of various Western Imperial powers. All the people of these polities never voluntarily or willingly associated themselves to constitute the polities. They were lumped together by the then powerful Imperial authorities; such polities have now become independent. These polities thus consist of multi-ethnic or multi-linguistic groups of people who do not cherish common aspirations or values. That group distinctiveness is very real and is directed against numerically smaller groups within the polity.

When the Donoughmore Constitution was inaugurated in 1931 the polity was called Ceylon and it was a secular polity without such formal pronouncement. In 1936 the Government of the polity was entrusted to a Sinhala majority to a Sinhala Only Board of Ministers. This element of Sinhala Only regime was nominally modified in 1942 by the induction of one who was only nominally a non-Sinhalese. Mahadeva who provided this modification could not speak Tamil and was not a Tamil by any tangible evidence of factors which go to make up a collective ethnic ideatity. He was fluent in Sinhalese, lived in the midst of Sinhalese, and was identified with the Sinhalese in every respect.

D. S. Senanayake, the Founding Father of the Sinhala Only Board of Ministers of 1936 mellowed in his racism when prospect of a Constitutional change which will provide full responsible Government was in sight. One does not know whether D. S. Senanayake underwent a liberalisation of outlook or was merely pretending to be a National Statesman. It was he who took Mahadeva into the Board of Ministers the nominally Tamil M. P. Perhaps D. S. Senanayake might have matured into a National Statesman; or perhaps he was only putting up a pretence when he called in the Ceylon Tamil Congress and the Ceylon Indian Congress to join his cabinet. That is however past history. The Sinhala public nursed a suspicion that D. S. Senanayake had entered into some secret agreement with the U. K. and allowed British admiralty to be in occupation of Trincomalee. For all practical purposes there was no change in the contours of national life when the Dominion Status was granted.

Interracial and religious relations proceeded as before. But 1956 witnessed a radical change. A highly clamorous General Elections took place in 1956 and the first Act of the new Parliament was to enact a one-sentence Statute called the Sinhala Only Act making Sinhala Only the only Official language. The enactment of this Act was strenuously opposed by all the elected members, irrespective, of Party Affiliations or religious differences, of the North and

East i. e. the Tamil Homeland, the territory where Tamil Language is spoken. The enactment of this Act was accompanied by considerable racial aggression against the Tamil linguistic group. The State hardly took any action to prevent the racial violence of the ethnic majority. Numerous killings occurred in many parts of the Island. No such racial violence occurred ever before during Colonial days. Of course there might have been wars between the Sinhala and Tamil polities in the Island before the advent of the Western Imperialists. Then of course there was separate State for the Tamils and they had their own Government.

The Portuguese and the Dutch who conquered the littoral of the Island maintained separate administrative organizations for the Sinhalese and the Tamils. Even the British maintained separate administrations until 1833 for the Sinhalese and the Tamils. It was only after 1833 when the Colebrooke-Cameron-Commission reported that the Administration of the Sinhala and Tamil territories ought to be unified under one control from Colombo. The Administrative unification of the Island was made by imperial fiat.

It has been reliably stated that the administrative unification of the Island was for effective Imperial Control being achieved by placing the Kandyan nobles, who were harping on the Kandyan convention, in an all Island context and cutting them down to size.

A legislative council which functioned consequent on the Colebrooke-Cameron-Commission Report gave representations to the indigenous peoples of the different communities by giving each community a specified number of seats. These members were nominated by the British Govt. from among candidates who were popularly recommended by such communities. There was a specified proportion of seats in the Legislature for the different communities. In 1917 with the Montague Chelmsford declaration of progressive realization of full responsible Govt. the Devonshire doctrine which laid down that representation for the different communities in the legislature should not allow any single community

to be able to outvote all the others combined. The element of proportional representation and Devonshire doctrine of balanced representation were then only of academic significance since at that time the Official members of the Legislature had complete control of Governmental affairs. Indeed the officials were in a majority until the Legislature of 1924-31 when an unofficial majority came into existence. The Devonshire doctrine resulted in 16 Sinhala members and 8 Tamil members being elected to the Legislative Council of 1924.

The British Imperial authorities abandoned in the 'twenties all their traditions and precedents relating to secularism proportional representation and balanced representation and imposed territorial representation as the rule after pompously declaring that territorial representation promotes thinking along national lines while communal representation promotes thinking along communal lines. It is not that the Britisher believed this pompous declaration of Lord Donoughmore but Britain employed a much more subtle strategy. The Nationalist agitation in India had assumed astronomical dimensions in the middle of the 'twenties and it would be naive to assume the British Colonial Office was oblivious to happenings in India. In arranging Constitutional Affairs in her premier Crown Colony called Ceylon situated at the Southern tip of India, no British Imperialist would have failed to take into cognizance the ethnic and religious alignment subsisting between India and the Ceylon Tamils and to take preventive action to ensure that the Ceylon Tamils did not take Ceylon into the vortex of strident Indian Nationalism. They calculated that the Ceylon Tamils would, if allowed a say in the politics of this Island drag Ceylon within the tornado of Indian Nationalistic agitation.

Even in the Kandyan Convention the British Colonial authorities made full use of the animosity and hatred of the Sinhalese to eject a Tamil King of the Nayakkar Dynasty from the Kandyan Throne. The Britisher was fully aware of the antipathy between the Sinhalese and

the Tamils, sought to marginalise the Tamils and nurse the Empire loyal Sinhalese as their favourites, in the context of nationalistic agitation everywhere.

The Soulbury Constitution followed the same pattern of marginalizing the Tamils. What began as a Sinhala Only Board of Ministers in 1936 became the Sinhala Only Official Language in 1936 and ultimately the Sinhala only polity in 1972.

There was no Sri Lanka in the map of the world prior to 1972. The Sinhala political parties called for a Mandate to create a Republic of Sri Lanka in place of the Dominion of Ceylon. The response for the call for a Mandate was magnificent but only from the seven Sinhala provinces. The Northern and Eastern province rejected the Call for a Mandate. Further the Sinhala coalition which called for a Mandate to create the Republic of Sri Lanka was not a successor State to the Dominion of Ceylon. Only 14% of the voters of the North and East supported the Call for a Mandate. It will thus be seen that Sri Lanka lacks a legal base, if it seeks to encompass the North and East, both by reason of an absence of a Mandate and by the position taken up by the Sinhalese that Sri Lanka is not a successor State to the Dominion of Ceylon and was created by the authority of the people. A far more powerful argument to deny legal validity for Sri Lanka to encompass the North and East lies in the fact that the Dominion of Ceylon was a conditional polity by virtue of Article 29 of the Constitution which denied capacity to the Parliament to enact Laws discriminatory in favour of or adverse to any one community. This non-discrimination Clause was held by the Privy Council to be an entrenched Clause which could not be repealed or amended. It will thus be seen that the Republic of Sri Lanka lacks legal validity and is at the same time the result of a Mala fide Act.

It is thus an unlawful polity-unlawful if it seeks to encompass the North and East-that perpetrates innumerable Acts of atrocities and violations of human rights when the Tamil youths proceeded to create their own State when the Sinhalese created the Sinhala only polity of

(Continued on Page 4)

A Christmas Letter from a Northerner

Greetings from Jaffna - the North of Sri Lanka

Christmas is around again; but we in this North - Eastern region of Sri Lanka are unable to get into Joyful mood of Christmas. Perhaps, the first Christmas itself was not joyful! Was it? The socio-political environment and the circumstances in which Jesus was born were sad, hurting, fearful, and there was a dreadful uncertainty about the future of the new born Babe of Bethlehem, and the child's parents.

Here, in our NorthEastern region we are facing a similar situation, or even worse. There is an indepth sadness in us, and all around us owing to thousands of deaths we have experienced (both Tamils and Sinhalese) during this prolonged brutal and bloody war (from 1983, and it's still continuing...!), and the immeasurable losses we have incurred (loss of houses, jobs, education, sources of income etc.) The economic blockade to the North by the authorities is very hurting - physically, mentally, and spiritually. We are made to live like beggars surviving on what the mighty and the powerful (who themselves are fattening on aid!) throw at us. The way we are treated in this land of ours, and the way we are checked at the sentry points in Vavuniya (the buffer zone between the South and the North) is dehumanizing. The uncertainty of the next moment brings about a hopeless sense of fear and a pathological anxiety - especially when the

bombers fly over our houses, and when the shelling is on from all sides of the peninsula.

Who is our next killer?

We live in fear not knowing - who is our next killer? Is it a Herod - the provincial King? Or, is it a Pilate from the Capital? Or, is it a Caesar - the foreign Emperor?

Our own have fled in thousands fearing the 'Herods' and the 'Pilates', and the economic strangulation of the region! We are reminded of the plight and flight of Joseph, Mary and Jesus when they had to flee the wrath of Herod.

Isolated and Lonely

No shepherds have visited us yet, no kings have brought us gifts, and no High Priests have even passed us by! A few samaritan agencies are taking care of us - we who have been beaten, robbed and thrown into the ditches - the refugee camps. Yes, we are made refugees in our own land - and often not too far from our own houses! United Nations, European Council, and the Aid Consortium are all voices that we never hear, although we like to hear. We feel isolated from the rest of the world, although we yearn with an urgent sense of belonging to be linked to the Sinhala community in the South, and to the world community at large. Unfortunately, all communication systems, including the postal system, are severed. By the way, the post offices do not have stamps, the gas stations

do not have gas (petrol), the pharmacies do not have drugs - public and private transportation is stranded, the phones don't ring (for the last five years), the lights don't burn (no electricity for the last 18 months), the news papers don't come, and we cannot even listen to our radios because batteries are not allowed to be brought in.

Our children have no toys to play with, no sweets to enjoy even during this festive season because these are contraband items. Our children are losing their childhood.

We will not have our Christmas cards, Christmas cakes, Christmas candles, Christmas trees, or Christmas gifts. It will be back to the first Christmas - in a manger - in

a refugee camp - in a war-torn area.

Will we have Christmas?

Won't Christ be born in this conflict and in this crisis? Our belief is: He will. Nay, He is already there, because God is already with us - "Emmanuel". Since we are caught up in so many pressing external and internal issues, we are unable to recognize this reality and thus we are pretty "close to Christmas!" We will discover the Messiah - our freedom and our peace - because some of us are trying to search for the meaning of this tremendous suffering. For the time being, our Hope is our Christmas.

God's Story and Our Story

This is our story in brief, I am sure you have your own story to tell. Share with us, please. When your story and our story meet, we will discover God's story of salvation, and there we will experience our own story of redemption - freedom.

Untill then, I wish you the joy and the peace of experiencing and discovering the Divine in you not only during this festive season, but right through the New Year 1992, and the years ahead.

Awaiting the Messiah - our freedoms with dignity.

Dr. S. M. Selvaratnam
OMI

Citizens' Committee Appeals to Rehabilitation Ministry - Issue Dry Ration to Refugees

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee has written to the Secretary to the Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Social Welfare that out of 60 weeks up to July, 31st 1991, from the beginning of the current war dry rations were issued only for 32 weeks in Jaffna. Thus issues for 28 weeks were not made.

After the escalation of the war to the Islands Division, larger number of refugees have come into Peninsula abandoning their properties. They have lost their employment.

The Citizens' Committee has suggested that the issues for 28 weeks not made available earlier could at least be issued to these people

from the Islands who are now in the Peninsula as refugees and having lost their means of livelihood.

Surrounding Villages of Palaly Heavily Bombed

Sri Lankan Air Force planes carried out heavy aerial bombardment of villages around the Palaly Army Camp on Saturday, November, 30th.

The reports in this connection state that between 3 p. m. and 6 p. m. on Saturday, November 30th, Sri Lankan Air Force planes engaged

themselves in extensive and heavy bombing of villages around Palaly. Bombs were dropped in the villages of Kattuvan, Kuplan and Pun-nalaikadduvan. More than ten bombs were dropped. Extensive damage to houses and property in the area has been reported.

Parwathy Achchi, You are Great!

*Parwathy achchi, you are great,
You do not want to go
Even to be with your son
In Sri Lanka capital Colombo,
If you go to Colombo,
You can enjoy the breeze and
You can walk in the Galle Face Green
With your small grand children,
You can taste the
'French corner' bread
You can taste the soup
In the hotel Mt. Lavinia
You can wash your clothes
With the Sun Light soap
Bought at the controlled price
But Parwathy achchi,
You are great, you are great
The living symbol of
National heroine of
This Tiny Tamil Eelam
Because, you love this homeland
Your sweet home land
And your people with
Whom you played, studied
And lved, cried and laughed
You do not want to enjoy*

*When the people around
You are drowning and
Crying for help.
You wanted to live with them
You wanted to suffer with them
You wanted to die and
Cremated in this tiny
Homeland Tamil Eelam.
Parwathy Achchi, You are
Great, Really great
When compared to some
Dean and Professors who
Do not love their homeland
Do not love their students
But love their 're-search'
Of plenty of Wealth and Health.
So Parwathy Achchi, you are Great,
You should be respected,
You should be kept,
In the high echelon,
Because you are the
Living symbol of
National heroine of
This tiny homeland,
Your Tamil Eelam*

Manian

United Regimes...

(Continuation from Page 3)

Sri Lanka. Aerial bombing, helicopter strafing shelling indiscriminately on civilian population is the rule of the day. A novel technique called the cordon and search operations is pursued with unimaginable cruelty. Youths in particular are arrested, taken to the Camps, tortured and then made to disappear. A most inhuman exercise of authority called economic sanctions is imposed on most parts of the Tamil homeland. It is really a pertinent question to ask whether the procedure of sanctions reserved for the United Nations Organization can be exercised by a country against its own people. Surely the United Nations Organization must lay down conventions which prescribe the norms, nature and limits of State authority which could be exercised against its own people. The Sri Lanka Government claims

that it is pursuing only Law and Order operations against the Tamil militants. Does the pursuit of Law and Order operations cover within its ambit all these activities. It is time that the United Nations organization gave consideration to all these violation of human rights by an illegal government. Violations of human rights have been adequately authenticated by organizations like the Red Cross, by Amnesty International and the International Alert. It behoves the U. N. O to act to maintain its charter. Every international convention has laid down that self-determination is a sine qua non. In that context the action of the Sri Lankan Government describing itself as the Government of the entire Island and proceeding all imaginable violations of human rights is something totally indefensible.

Nestor

Desultory Ramblings of Vadali Velan

Most of us would have heard of the fanciful exploits of Don Quixote who was wont to even tilt at windmills in a futile effort to vanquish them. Some of us would have also listened, with no less amusement, to the tale of a "Ma-thana-muththa" taking the axe to his child's neck in an attempt to kill the pestiferous wasp perched thereon. Such are not narrations merely meant to idle away our leisure hours but rather to serve as reminders of the absurd and the bizarre, the human mind could descend to; and, some such fantasy of imagination seems to be woven into the conduct of the present war on us of Tamil Eelam by our erstwhile Sinhala friends.

Perceive the way in which the Sinhala government is going about massacring as many Tamils as it can on the off-chance that the increasing death toll may include more and more of our freedom fighters - reminiscent of what the neck could suffer due to the wasp perched on it! The Sri Lankan government spares no pain to let the whole world know how it is its responsibility for the governance of the North and East of the Island and for the welfare of the people therein; but, at the same time, it is striving to annihilate the people of these regions, enmasse. Allowed to carry their outrageous objective to its logical conclusion, the Sinhalese would have ended up by murdering all the Tamils in Ceylon, so as to ensure that the dead include all the warriors of the LTTE.

The dastardly blanket-bombing, for days on end, of the town of Valvettiturai; the rolling-out of barrels of heavy explosives from 'planes,

at random, in a bid to blast ordinary citizens and their possessions off the face of the earth; the indiscriminate shelling in the dead of night, of the dwellings of citizens even whilst they are asleep and such "panicky" manoeuvres bespeak an irrational mood and mental turmoil afflicting this particular species of the genus, Homo Sapiens, which being fearful of the reprisals from those it has deceived, harmed and taken undue advantage of, is now behaving in a confused and odd manner.

The petty-minded peculiar and peevish aerial assaults on the people - such as those even now being perpetrated continuously on the town of Valvettiturai - whilst being forgotten for their misguided and cowardly communal adventurism, will be remembered for the resistance displayed by the people; and their valour, resoluteness and role in nation-building will become part of the history of Tamil Eelam, now unfolding. These are not a people whose courage has to be propped up artificially with tales akin to Mahavansan lies of Sinhala grandeur, borrowed shamelessly from the exploits of a Naga prince in the prime of his life, putting paid to the reign of a Tamil king in his late sixties and in his senile and declining years. These are a doughty people of proven mettle, who are imbued with the courage of their convictions and an unswerving faith in their ability to secure for themselves and their motherland against all national disasters; and against whom the atrocities and the subterfuges of the enemy are bound to fail.

The antics of the Sinhala soldiery, who profess to be a disciplined governmental organization have so far proved

to be treacherous, deceitful and despicable in the extreme. Looting the homes of the poor and helpless citizens of Tamil Eelam, levying ransom in lieu of military detention or torture and the maiming and ultimate killing of women and children, even in their custody, are all condoned and even considered meritorious (as those affected belong to faiths other than Buddhism) by the Sinhala Buddhist intelligentsia, as much as by the yellow-robed gentry, even in this modern and civilised world.

Even the so called elite of the government's military might, the Air Force, makes a colossal fool of itself every time it goes on its sorties. Many a time have these air-men failed to identify worthwhile targets nor do they succeed in attacking, with any accuracy, the targets even wrongly identified by them, causing havoc amongst peaceful, unwary and hapless citizens. These air-aces, in a height of fancy, even imagined lurking LTTE cadre in the vehicles of foreign and international relief missions and promptly bombed and strafed them.

The Air Force, together with the other armed forces, have been given carte blanche to carry out their murderous (genocidal) operations in Tamil Eelam territory; and they gladly fulfil governmental expectations with savage impunity - no questions asked; and even if otherwise cornered, immunity from the normal processes of law and justice will be provided by boot-licking and terror-stricken Sinhala Commissioners of Inquiry, appointed for the purpose. How can sane or civilized people in this enlightened world of ours tolerate this Sinhala Buddhism, which even the vaddah ancestors of the Sinhalese would have rejected out of hand as poisonous, repugnant and abhorrent to the human race?

We of Tamil Eelam are, at times, even offended (in fact, feel insulted) by the crude manner in which the Sinhalese are waging their war on us and often wish that we were confronted with a more worthy foe. It is amusing indeed to perceive the fanciful and elaborate manoeuvres of even their supposedly - prestigious air-force pilots. What price - morons!

The recent Polikandy incident is one such instance with its sequel yet quite vivid in our minds. From the safety of a high-flying helicopter (no spotter planes this time) a bomber pilot took a hasty look at a patch of verdant growth, a tiny palmyrah grove, at Polikandy and promptly decided that its destruction was of vital importance for the success of the war against Tamil Eelam. He next arrived over the selected target in his own bomber. Whilst a sister-bomber made attention-diverting false passes as if sighting targets elsewhere in Vadamarachy, the first bomber-pilot headed out to the sea, turned around & swiftly dive-bombed the afore-mentioned, non-offending clump of greenery. Following repeated attacks both bombers returned to home base, mission accomplished! We are now reliably informed that the target was actually a venerable old woman, who lived in that very palmyrah grove; and that the Sri Lankan Air Force considers it as creditable marksmanship on the part of these two bombers, since they wrought no casualties other than that of maiming the old lady as programmed. Being 69 years old, deaf and handicapped by a bomb-blasted leg as she is, this staunch and plucky old dame now threatens to bash in the heads of these Sinhalese pilots if they would only have the temerity to climb down from their planes and give her an even chance; and for our part, we do wonder why the Sri Lankan Air Force should fear this frail and old human being to the extent that it necessitated this murderous attack.

A worthy adversary will scarce stoop to the ridiculous act of depriving Tamil Eelam of a commodity such as chocolate bars. It is even now obscure what far-fetched theory gave birth to this decision and what nature of man he is, in whose tortuous mind the theory was conceived. We would rather expect our foe to be much more formidable in his subtlety and flood the whole of Tamil Eelam with chocolate and other such-like confectioneries, so that the entire Tamil Nation is brought to its knees with a chronic affliction of diabetes. Instead of curtailing the entry of soya beans products into the North we would, on the contrary, expect a worthy and circumspect opponent to increase supplies of these items so as to enhance the

opportunities of the Sinhala merchants to exploit the hard-earning Tamils. Besides, such a strategy could render ulundu (black gram) a non-essential in the Tamilian diet by inducing a complete change - over to a soya bean diet - a virtual death-blow to the traditional ulundu-eating habit of the Tamils. It is only thereafter that the Sinhalese can really hold the Tamils to ransom on the issue of the supply of soya-bean products. For the present the people of Tamil Eelam and our freedom fighters are growing from strength to strength, solely on diet of ulundu. The more so, as it is cheaper than soyabean products and freely available in the locality.

There should certainly be other sophisticated ways of waging war and we are sure that, by making the appropriate noise, the Sri Lankan government could summon the aid of Buddhist-lovers, such as the CIA and the MOSSAD, for the purpose. That the CIA has yet to put to the test what was originally designed to make Castro part with his beard, could be a source of hope for the Sri Lankan government, though most of our freedom fighters have only their young moustaches to lose.

Avro drops bombs at Chavakachcheri

An Avro plane belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force dropped two bombs at Vervil in the Chavakachcheri area on Sunday December 1st.

The bombing took place at midnight. Fortunately no one was reported injured or dead.

CORRECTION

Last Week's Hot Spring carried a message from Dr. Nagules Kathirgamanathan, who had been referred to as Chairman, UN - Jaffna Unit.

Dr. Kathirgamanathan is the Chairman of the United Nations Association Jaffna Unit. The omission of the word Association or the letter "A" for Association would give the impression that the Jaffna Unit is a unit of the UNO which it is not.

The error is regretted. Readers are kindly requested to note the correction which would read as Chairman, UNAJU.

INDIA - A POOR MODEL

Q: Has the LTTE said what kind of autonomy they want - such as the one obtaining in the States of India?

A: You think you Indians are an ideal example. That is the mistake you make. You can have, for example, the autonomy that obtains in Canada or Switzerland ... Don't get carried away by the fact that you have autonomy. If that is so, why should you be having trouble in Punjab?

Excerpt of an Interview given by Mr. S. Thondaman, President of the Ceylon Workers' Congress to Mr. T. S. Subramanian of the Front Line - 6th December, 1991.

HOT SPRING

VOL: 2 SUNDAY 15th December 1991 ISSUE 10

An Eventful and Ominous Week

Last week had been eventful and ominous.

In the international field the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was celebrated.

December 10th was the 43rd. Anniversary of Human Rights Day.

By a strange coincidence the people of Tamil Eelam mourned the 43rd. year of the violations of their own human rights in their own homeland.

While the Declaration of Human Rights, the two relevant Covenants and the Optional Protocol hopefully declare standards of achievements for peoples all over the world, the Tamil people of Tamil Eelam look at the future with increasing despair instead of hope.

Last week we had lot of news within the shores of this Island too.

President Premadasa had come to Vavuniya and delivered a speech. He is reported to have said that if the civilian officers would bring under their administration 80 square miles of Tamil Eelam territory, his armed forces would bring 250 square miles of Tamil Eelam territory under control. The ratio is 1:3. The inference is simple. Under President Premadasa's scheme of things, his civil and military rule over Tamil Eelam would be in the respective proportion of 1:3. In any event the rule whether civilian or military, would be Baudha - Sinhala!

Last week the Baudha - Sinhala clergy had again raised its chauvinistic battle cry.

We have news that a body of Buddhists priests laid down certain conditions which should not be transgressed in any scheme that may be evolved to settle the ethnic dispute. Their conditions have been communicated to the President.

The first condition is that the concept of a Tamil homeland should not be accepted - previous Pacts and Accords notwithstanding of course! The conditions go on increasing. The North and East must be divided. Harbours, Air Fields etc. etc. in short everything should be under Sinhala control and so forth. The implication is simple. The Baudha - Sinhalese shall be permanent rulers and the Tamils the permanent subjects.

Everyone knows the tremendous influence wielded by the Baudha - Sinhala clergy over all the Sinhala lay rulers and most of all over Mr. Premadasa.

Mr. Thondaman had been corresponding with the Tigers and proposing to come to Jaffna to talk over matters with them. Suddenly he has developed cold feet and has postponed his visit to Jaffna indefinitely.

He has said that he should not go to Jaffna with empty hands and is therefore going to get himself involved in further parleys with the President, the Leader of the Opposition and even other 'Tamil groups'. Hitherto he was saying that he was going to speak to the Tigers in his capacity as the President of the Ceylon Workers' Congress. Perhaps now - at the last moment - when his visit was just expected - he thinks he has to talk to the Tigers in a different capacity - Sinhala Tamil and perhaps Muslim (all combined) leader capacity.

In any event Mr. Thondaman has also given certain clues. He has said that the Army thinks one way, the LTTE another way and that he and the Government have to think of the country. This again raises the question whether the Army and the Government are thinking in different lines. However, it is clear that the Army influence over political questions is much greater now.

The Government arranged the G. C. E. (O/L) examinations to be held from the 9th December in the North too. But the Sri Lankan Air Force has bombed a Government School which is an examination centre at Mannar even as the examination was going on. Examination centres in some villages in the Valikamam East Division had to be abandoned and new centres found at the last minute because the Sri Lankan Army started military operations in those villages just two days before the Examination commenced.

Military operations, Presidential speech at Vavuniya, Baudha - Sinhala priestly conditions and media - tor Thondaman staggering, all seem to point to the fact that the Government of Sri Lanka is hell - bent to keep the Tamils under subjugation at the point of the gun, of course.

Appropriately the Baudha - Sinhala Government has chosen the week on which Human Rights Day fell to indicate its position because it feels confident that the pious talk about human rights will never be matched by deeds from any quarter of the globe to effectively uphold Human Rights in other places. Perhaps the Baudha - Sinhala Government of Sri Lanka demonstrates its cynicism - especially for certain organizations like Amnesty International to eschew.

SUBTLE MOVE TO CLOSE BANK OF CEYLON BRANCHES IN JAFFNA

"Is the Bank of Ceylon trying to close down its Branches in Jaffna with a view to give credence to the Government's propaganda that there is chaos and no civil administration in the North?" This is the question that is being posed among Bank customers in the North.

This is the sequel to a letter received from the Area Manager of the Bank of Ceylon addressed to the Secretary of the Pensioners' Association of Jaffna District. The Area Manager in his letter to the Secretary of the Pensioners' Association has referred to the instructions he had received from the Deputy General Manager (Operations) of the Bank of Ceylon in Colombo.

The Deputy General Manager (Operations) has stated to the Area Manager at Jaffna that the Bank notes that some of the Branches of the Bank in Jaffna have been carrying cash without security. He has directed this arrangement be stopped forthwith. He has further said

that customers not happy with the services of the Bank of Ceylon can transfer their accounts to other Banks.

A customer of the Bank said that the intention of the Deputy General Manager (Operations) of the Bank of Ceylon appears to be to close down the Banks' Branches in Jaffna because Banks cannot function without handling cash. The Banks have their own security personnel.

"If the security envisaged by the Deputy General Manager (Operations) is Sri Lankan Police or Army Security, he cannot have it in Jaffna because they don't function here. Nor are they required here for security", said a customer of the Bank.

A Bank official confirmed that they have been transporting, retaining and handling cash on their personal

responsibility after the current war broke out but nothing untoward has happened to put them in jeopardy for the personal risk they take.

Another customer said that the orders of the Deputy General Manager (Operations) have been instigated by interested persons to give credence to Government's propaganda that there is only chaos and no civil administration in the North. The facts are otherwise. It is the Government of Sri Lanka that is impeding civil administration in the North just because its military overlordship is not established in the North.

The President of the Federation of Northern Pensioners' Associations' Mr. C. V. K. Sivagnanam has sent a protest letter to the Deputy General Manager (Operations) of the Bank of Ceylon (Head Office) criticising his attitude and requesting him to allow Bank officials in Jaffna to exercise discretion and act according to circumstances to enable the Bank to function.

MR. THONDAMAN'S PEACE EFFORT

Mr. S. Thondaman, President of the Ceylon Workers' Congress and Minister in

Premadasa's Government, has said that he has yet to finalize his Peace proposals. He has to discuss his plans with the President and the Leader of the Opposition. He hoped he would be able to go to Jaffna for discussions with the L.T.T.E. after about January 15, by which time he expected to conclude his talks with the President and the Leader of the Opposition.

Answering a further question that the Government Armed Forces would not welcome his efforts. Mr. Thondaman is reported to have replied that the Armed Forces of Government are proceeding in one direction and the Tigers proceeding on their own path. He as a citizen and this Government have to proceed on the correct path for the salvation of the country.

JUBILEE SEXTET

December, 19th, 1991 will witness a memorable event in the history of the Catholic Church in the North, when six Jubilarians will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna.

These Jubilarians will be headed by none other than the Shepherd of the Flock in the North, the Rt. Rev. Dr. B. Deogupillai who will be celebrating his Golden

Jubilee of his Sacerdotal Ordination.

Under this silver - decked dome are five other members of the Clergy Rev. Fathers S. J. Emmanuel, Dr. S. M. Selvaratnam, P.M. Emmanuel, Mahendiran Rajanayagam and S. Philip. They have been Pastors par excellence in their respective fields of activity - Education, Social and Pastoral.

G. C. E. (O / L) Examination

(Continuation from Page 1)

ing of Monday, December 9th, while the G. C. E. (O/L) Examination was being held at this school by the Examinations Department of the Government of Sri Lanka.

As the bombers hovered over the school, the Candidates who were answering question papers, invigilators and Supervisors all ran out of the hall for safety elsewhere. But still the bombers bombed. The principal of a school who was supervising the examination, however, sustained injuries. The injured Principal is Mr. Bastiampillai, Principal of the Government School of Thadchana maruthamadu.

The Regional Director of Education said that prior permission was obtained for conducting the G.C.E. (O/L) examination at this school centre from the armed forces

of the Government of Sri Lanka.

Five bombs were dropped at this school premises which not only disturbed the Government conducted G. C. E. (O/L) examination but also caused extensive damage to the school buildings. There were 216 candidates answering the test papers when the Sri Lankan planes hovered over the school before dropping the bombs. Admission cards, Identity cards, test papers, a number of bicycles and other properties were damaged.

A Methodist Church in the area was also damaged when the planes made a second visit to the area after an hour and bombed the Church.

At Jaffna

The G. C. E. (O/L) examination centres at Idaikadu -

Valalai were abandoned and all candidates from these centres were asked to sit the examination at Puttur and Neervely consequent to heavy air bombing of Valalai and Idaikadu in Valikamam East on the 7th and 8th December - just prior to the commencement of the examination on December 9.

The people of these villages and other adjoining villages have abandoned their villages and sought refuge elsewhere.

A parent said that the College at Idaikadu is a fine school which has produced candidates for entry even to the most highly competitive faculties of medicine and engineering. It appeared a wanton step to disturb the education of the school children - half of whom have already lost an year by the non - holding of the examination in December, 1990.