

HOT SPRING

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No. 11

The Ratio was 1:30

About 30% of the Specialists and about 10% of the total manpower of the fourth largest army in the world was in two provinces of the island of Sri Lanka. Various police forces and other paramilitary personnel were brought into the island to help in the maintenance of law and Order. At one time the ratio between uniformed Indians to the Tamil Civilians was about 1:30. So in terms of total population there

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Not a Single Grain from Kankesanturai Harbour

Food Crisis Continues

In October, the Government Agent, Jaffna said that Jaffna was facing a critical situation in regard to food and introduced a system of rationing which applied to private traders as well in regard to the sale of essential food items such as rice, flour and sugar. The Government Agent also said that he was trying to obtain as much food stuffs as possible. He hoped with the opening of the Kankesanturai Harbour, there would be more regular supply of food-stuffs.

However, towards the end of December the food position in Jaffna has not improved.

Much publicity was given by the Government to its shipping food cargo through the Kankesanturai Harbour for the people of Jaffna. But inquiries reveal that not

a single grain has reached the Government Agent, Jaffna up to date from the Kankesanturai harbour.

It is also revealed that the following supplies were received through the Point Pedro Harbour from the Government during October, November and December:-

Rice - 4340 metric tons
Flour - 6195 " "
Sugar - 940 " "

The normal requirements for the three months are -

Rice - 19,800 metric tons
Flour - 7,185 " "
Sugar - 4,392 " "

It could be noted from the above figures the none

of the requirements has been fully met. The supply of rice and sugar is grossly inadequate. Officials also confirmed that there is a serious dearth of Infants' milk foods, though every effort is being made to get down Infants milk foods.

"Sri Lankan Government in on mood for peace" Says Dr. Anton Balasingam, LTTE's Political Adviser

"Sri Lankan Government has no intention whatsoever in resolving peacefully the National Question but is resorting to solve the problem militarily. With this end in view, they are going ahead with preparations for war." So said Dr. Anton Balasingam, the political Adviser to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam at a

Press Conference held at Jaffna on 17.12.91.

"The Sri Lankan Government believes that it could engage itself in talks with the LTTE and at the same time push the Tamil People to the brink of death by starvation through imposition of an economic embargo supplemented by military action", he further said.

"Although Minister S. Thondaman has put forward a basis for resolving the National Question on behalf of the Ceylon Workers' Congress, the government is simultaneously continuing with its economic strangulation, military action and going ahead with more preparations to intensify its war efforts.

"Mr. Thondaman's proposals for Peace is being reviewed by the LTTE High Command. It will therefore be sensible to express our own views only after Mr. Thondaman has obtained the approval and consent of the Government and Opposition parties" Dr. Anton Balasingam concluded.

SAARC

Worried about Link between Aid and Human Rights

"Grant of Loans for Development should not be linked to human rights violations in Donee countries". This topic appears to engage the attention of member-countries of the SAARC.

The Sixth Conference of the SAARC which was scheduled to be held in early November at Colombo was cancelled at the last moment and President Premadasa was

greatly disappointed that a golden opportunity for international publicity for himself had been lost.

Undaunted by the failure, he made great efforts to somehow convene the Conference and at last the member-states agreed to have a one-day Conference in Colombo - presumably indicating that nothing tangible would be done at the Conference. The Conference was held yesterday - Saturday, December 21 at Colombo.

What appears to have bothered the Conference was the position taken up by some Donor-countries that Aid for Development cannot be given to countries with bad records of human rights violations. Leading member-states of the SAARC have already been accused of human rights violations even by International Organizations like Amnesty International. Of course Sri Lanka is leading the list of countries with records of human rights violations.



His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Dr. B. Deogupillai, Bishop of Jaffna, celebrates the Golden Jubilee of his priestly Ordination to-day.

We extend our heartiest felicitations on this occasion and wish him many more years of his dedicated service to humanity.

Dedicated to Memory

So the first reason why we went into Sri Lanka was the interest to preserve our own unity; to ensure the Success of a very difficult experiment that we have been carrying out ourselves ...

The second reason why we went in was to counter the Sri Lankan Government about its legitimate reactions to rising Tamil militancy ... (because the) Sinhalese Government therefore started looking for external support to counter Tamil militancy. Tamil insurgency, which had security implications for us ...

The third reason why we went into Sri Lanka was an important domestic factor ...

We had to respect the sentiments of the 50 millions Tamil Citizens of India. We felt that if we did not rise in support of the Tamil cause in Sri Lanka, we are not standing by our own Tamils ... it was a compulsion which could not be avoided by any elected Government in this country.

J.N. Dixit quoted by Rajesh Kadian in India's Sri Lanka Fiasco

Priority Changes - Peace Relegated to Second Place

President Premadasa is reported to have told a meeting of the Working Committee of the ruling U.N.P held at Colombo on Saturday, December, 14, that it would be necessary to have a peaceful solution to end the war in the Northeast.

He is further reported to have said that he will have discussions with all the politi-

cal parties in the island before he signs any agreement to solve the problem in the Northeast.

A Jaffna citizen remarked: "We can then have no peace preliminary to negotiations. We shall continue to have war. Should peace not be given priority instead of being relegated to a second place?"

OUR READERS SAY

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Sir,

Suddenly a confluence of events is holding out at least a semblance of hope that there will be a respite from uncertainties and anxieties plaguing us despite Mr. D. B. Weerasinghe's threat that no talks are possible at present. Conferences are being held in the capitals of the world with a view to end the ethnic conflict in this Island. CANADA has invited important personalities from here including Mr. Mangala Munasinghe and Mr. Thurai-rajah the V. C. of Jaffna University to attend a conference to be held in Canada. Australia and Sweden have also shown interest in our problem and have taken meaningful steps with a view to end the ethnic conflict here.

At home; grounds are being prepared for the impending visit of Mr. Thondaman. Hope he will succeed in his mission unlike Mr. A. C. S. Hameed his predecessor. Mr. Hameed's capabilities are not underestimated here. With all the goodwill in the world no progress was made possible during this period.

May I suggest the following facts for consideration at this crucial moment? Let us forget history of the dim past for a moment. Let us forget Elara and Duttage-munu. They were great men during their times; But they will not help in bringing about a solution in the present impasse. After all History books have been written by human beings. Some have even tried to rewrite history. From time immemorial this Island had been the home of the Sinhalese and the Tamils. Muslims who came as traders have also made this Island their home. The Sinhalese settled down in the South; west and upcountry and the Tamils were concentrated in the North and East. Now it is claimed by certain people that the Eastern Province is not entirely Tamil speaking. No doubt there are Buddhist temples in this area. It should not be forgotten that the Tamils were Buddhists at one time; and Tamils even now have the greatest respect for the Buddha. In the beginning of the century there were only 4 percent Sinhalese in the Eastern Province. Since then, specially after independence a concerted effort has been made by successive governments to change the demographic character of the E. P. by state aided colonisation schemes. Colonisation of the

traditional homeland of the Tamils by Sinhalese, enthroning Sinhala as the sole official language of the country, standardisation of marks, both area wise and language wise, recruitment to public service ignoring the Tamils, and killing of Tamils during communal trouble that took place from time to time in response to Sathiyagraha and peaceful persuasion by Tamils have resulted in no small measure to the present impasse. The atrocities committed and even the attitude adopted towards the Tamils is not a thing that can easily be forgotten in a day or two. However we will have to make a start somewhere, in pursuit of peace; either we will have to adopt a policy of 'live and let live' or perish.

The Soulbury Constitution gave some safeguard to the minorities under section 29 of the constitution. In practice this was found to be inadequate to meet the purpose for which it was enshrined in the constitution. The 1972 constitution has taken away even this minor safeguard. This constitution severed the last link with

the crown and broke away from the Soulbury constitution and heaped many indignities on the Tamils. Although it was drafted by the Marxist intellectual Dr. Colvin R. de Silva. In passing it may be mentioned that the Tamils had great respect for Dr. de Silva, the revolutionary in the post independence period. This one time saviour of the Tamils entrenched the ethnocentric character of the state in his constitution and established Sinhala Buddhist dominance at the expense of the Tamils. The Executive President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has driven the last nail to the aspirations of the Tamils. Ironically the very same system of Executive Presidency is now being challenged by the very people who worked with it for a considerable period. May I submit the following for consideration of the select committee headed by Mr. Mangala Moonasinghe for the settlement of the ethnic problem?

(1) Colonisation in any form should be stopped forthwith in the North / East Province.

(2) Recruitment to public services including the security

services should be done on the population basis.

(3) Any anomaly existing at present should be remedied in this regard within six months time from now.

(4) Constitutions of the U. S. A. Australia, Canada, Switzerland and the U. S. S. R. should be consulted in drafting a Constitution for Sri Lanka.

(5) Constitutions of multilingual countries like Canada and Switzerland can be a suitable guide for us.

(6) Tamil has been declared as an official language in this country. Even today letters and circulars are being sent out in Sinhala. This is a high handed act and all bureaucrats and others responsible for obstructing the implementation of Tamil as an official language should be sent out of public service immediately.

The problem which all federal states have to solve is how to secure an efficient central government, while allowing scope for the diversities and free play to the

authorities, of the units. The great advantage of the federal state is the principle of compromise between unity and diversity which it embodies. Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake advocated federalism as early as 1927 when he made a speech at the Trimer hall JAFFNA. The Bandaranayake / Chelvanayakam pact and the Dudley / Chelva pact all provided for some form of autonomy to the Tamils, but unfortunately these pacts were abrogated due to pressure brought by the extremist elements among the Sinhalese. We are today enjoying the fruits of the abrogation of the pacts. The Tamil people want only their rights in this island. They are not out to usurp anybody else's rights. Neither do they want any concession or charity from anybody. If the above suggestions are worked out dispassionately and without any communal bias, I think we can emerge victoriously with a solution acceptable to all concerned.

"Let us Give Peace A Chance"

Kokuvil. K. Poopalasingam

MORE BRAWNS THAN BRAINS

The Editor,
Hot Spring

The statement of the newly inducted Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe, spotlighted in your issue of 8.12.91 is unfortunate. Gen. Lt. Wanasinghe, a Sinhalese himself, thinks by making such statements he can convince the Sinhalese to swallow what he says and be content with it all the time. His assertion that he would disarm the LTTE in a month or two might have appeased a set of fools who are prepared to swallow the sugar-coated pills.

The gap between the khaki-ed thuggery of the armed forces and the fight of the LTTE is wide enough to explain the roles of these two - the former wants to retain the rule of the unwilling, whilst the latter are labouring to liberate the Tamil community from the shackles of Sinhala chauvinism. His statement has spoiled even the remote chance of an attempt between the State and the LTTE for a lasting political solution. His audience with the High prelates of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters, gives serious thinking as to whether he had gone to obtain Their Blessings in disguise for a victory against the LTTE.

Experience in recent past ought to convince lay minds of the dangers of frequent fathoming of these uniformed hierarchies. The coup attempts this Island witnessed in the sixties are self-explanatory. Men who were expected to defend a nation designed to destroy it by their coup attempts.

The on-going struggle between the LTTE and the State is for equality of status between the Tamils and the Sinhalese and not a war between two nations. Therefore the approach for a just and lasting solution lies and is governed by democratic principles and not by autocratic methods. The strife is more of a civil nature - a claim by one nationality against another for equality. In legal parlance - a conflict between an estranged wife and her husband, wherein the wife seeks divorce from her husband.

In the present context of conflict between the State and the Tamil community even a political solution might prove abortive by the intervention of armed forces.

His Excellency, in his political wisdom should realize the dangers of reposing confidence on armed forces,

more so with experience in Ceylon's history in the recent past. In the earlier attempts at coup, an error of judgment foiled the attempt. For the sake of a stripe they will not hesitate to implicate anyone, no matter what relationship may exist between the two. It may well be for this reason the Legislature has thought it unsafe to amend the Ordinance, permitting a policeman recording the confession of a suspect in his custody, a privilege available among uniformed men in Western countries.

There is a clear example of how a very close associate of the Amparai police - a public servant - who has been assisting the Police in giving first hand information about various crimes in the locality, one who was known as the blue-eyed boy of the police, was implicated in an illicit brew case. The trial Judge casually remarked - it is dangerous to believe a policeman.

In so far as the armed forces are concerned their only motto is destruction. No rationality can be expected of these armed, uniformed units. They have more brawns than brains.

The attention of His Excellency the President is adverted through this esteemed journal of the need to be independent in his approach to this burning question rather than salving the opinions of men who do not have the faculty of easy thought. By such exercise they tend to give rise to the view that the President of Sri Lanka, is one who could be led by the nose by others and cannot act independently on his own views.

This Island had nasty experiences where the Heads of State succumbed to pressures by cuddling them far too much.

The pre-condition that the LTTE should lay down arms and in the same breath bombing civilian habitats has no bearing. A cease fire means complete termination of hostilities by both parties.

The attention of His Excellency the President is focussed through this esteemed journal to the urgent need to cry halt to this incessant, indecent and uncultured acts and to formulate a positive and lasting cure for this illness and redeem all from a possible ruination.

D. Jeevananthan
Vathiry

Tamil People have always rejected Traitors - Glimpses from History of Constitution Making

Donoughmore Constitution

The Donoughmore Constitution which dashed away the constitutional safe-guards provided for the Tamils and paved the way for the Sinhala Imperium over the Tamils was accepted in the Legislative Council by only a slim majority of two votes. Of these two votes, one was that of a Tamil called E.R. Thambimuttu.

But the Tamil voters were denied by fate the opportunity of unseating their representative for his act of betrayal, as E. R. Thambimuttu proved to be a bribe-taker and as such was deprived of his civic rights.

Soulbury Constitution

As regards the Soulbury Constitution, although it was recommended by a Royal Commission headed by Lord Soulbury, in actual fact it contained in toto the draft submitted by the Ceylon Board of Ministers headed by Mr. D. S. Senanayake, except for the addition of an Upper House called the Senate.

The Tamil representatives demanded balanced representation. The demand was widely known as Fifty - Fifty i.e. 50% for the Sinhalese and the 50% for the rest of the minorities put together. But the Commissioners rejected the pleadings of the Tamils and recommended a Unitary form of Constitution with territorial representation of elected representatives, as requested by the Board of Ministers in a memorandum addressed to the British Colonial Secretary.

When the Soulbury Commission recommendation was put to the vote in State Council only three members voted against the motion. Those who opposed it were the member for Bibile, Mr. W. Dahanayake and the other two happened to be members of the then Ceylon Indian Congress. As for the representatives of the Ceylon Tamils, they had fought for and demanded balanced representation and when the Royal Commission rejected their demand and recommended another Constitution, they voted for its acceptance, as they at the same time expressed their inability to do anything better since their demand was rejected. Of

course, late Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam who was away in England to do battle there, did not vote.

1947 Elections

When elections were held in 1947 for the New Parliament, all Tamil representatives who had voted for the Soulbury Constitution including Messrs. Arunachalam Mahadeva and S. Natesan were defeated by the candidates fielded by the All Ceylon Tamil Congress except Mr. V. Nalliah against whom the Tamil Congress had not fielded a candidate. Mr. V. Nalliah later became the Minister of Posts and Broadcasting in Mr. Dudley Senanayake's Cabinet. But soon Mr. V. Nalliah too like Mr. E. R. Thambimuttu had to resign his portfolio in disgrace.

The Tamil Congress Party which came victoriously went to parliament after defeating all its rival candidates who had voted for the unitary Constitution, soon joined the government of Mr. D. S.

VENTHAN

Senanayake and its leader Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam became the Minister of Industries and Fisheries. This move of the Tamil Congress to join the Cabinet of Mr. D. S. Senanayake was opposed by its three Joint Secretaries Dr. E.M.V. Naganathan (then Senator), Dr. Paramanayagam and Mr. Motha.

Soon Mr. D. S. Senanayake died and his son Dudley Senanayake became Prime Minister though Sir John Kotelawala, as Leader of the House at that time should have succeeded Mr. Dudley Senanayake could not last long and he tendered his resignation after a one day Hartal organized by the Left parties in August, 1953.

Sir John Kotelawala was appointed Prime Minister. He was willing to pardon Mr. J. R. Jayewardene and Sir Oliver Gonetilake but not Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam for the support these gentlemen gave Mr. Dudley Senanayake over-looking Sir John's claims. So after appointing Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam to his cabinet, he asked for his resignation within 48 hours. Thus another Tamil Minister had to quit in disgrace.

But whatever be the circumstances, yet in his own right Mr. G. G. Ponnampalam was the Leader of the Tamil

Congress and as such all its members should have crossed over to the Opposition with their leader. But that did not happen. Mr. V. Kumarasamy who was Parliamentary Secretary continued in his post and started to organize UNP branches in his electorate of Chavakachcheri. In all, he opened 28 UNP branches before that party convened its Kelaniya Sessions to pass the Sinhala Only resolution!

Prime Minister Sir John Kotelawala paid an official visit to Jaffna after dismissing the Tamil Congress leader from his cabinet. The Federal Party led by Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam the political rival to the Tamil Congress opposed his visit by showing black flags whereas Mr. Ponnampalam's own political party men gave public receptions to Sir John. Mr. A. Arulampalam, Chairman, Village Council, Kokuvil welcomed him. The Mayor of Jaffna, Mr. Sam A. Sabapathy gave him a civic reception. To top it all, the M.P. for Kayts Mr. A. L. Thambiayah crowned him as King of Kayts and Emperor of Delft. It was during one

of these receptions held at Kokuvil presided over by the late Mr. Handy Perinpanayagam that Sir John Kotelawala promised to amend the Constitution to grant parity of status to both Sinhalese and Tamil as official languages.

1972 Constitution

When the 1972 Constitution was framed, the two Tamil Congress members, messrs A. Arulampalam and the 'instant' politician, Mr. Kumarasuriar, then Minister of Posts voted for the Constitution. Mr. Kumarasuriar, of course was not an elected M.P. They committed this betrayal in spite of the clear mandate of the Tamils to reject the attempts at Constitution making by the Sinhalese. All four of them lost deposits in the following 1977 General Elections.

1978 Constitution

The 1972 Constitution was followed by the 1978 Constitution of Mr. J. R. Jayewardene and history repeated itself for the representatives of Batticaloa and Kalkudah, Messrs C. Rajadurai and

Devanayagam were the ones who made the betrayal. Both of them are not in Parliament now. Mr. Rajadurai was sent to Malaysia as Sri Lanka's High Commissioner and Mr. Devanayagam was appointed to the Public Service Commission - Sinhala rewards for betrayal of Tamils. Now comes the greatest betrayal of all, of the Tamil United Liberation Front. After the elections held in 1972, the defeated General Secretaries of the Tamil Congress and Federal Party joined hands to form the Tamil United Front. The framers of the 1972 Constitution did not even acknowledge representations addressed to the Constituent Assembly by the newly formed party. So in 1976 the Vaddukoddai Resolution to restore and re-constitute the lost State of Tamil Eelam was passed unanimously. It was the Eelam resolution passed at Vaddukoddai that gave birth to the Tamil United Liberation Front. Late Mr. S. J. V. Selvanayakam became co-president with Messrs. G. G. Ponnampalam and S. Thondaman of the

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THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF Rt. Rev. B. Deohupillai

ON Sunday, the 22nd of December 1991, the Diocesan Catholics of Jaffna solemnly rejoice over the 50th Anniversary of the Priestly ordination of their Good Shepherd, the Bishop of Jaffna, Rt. Rev. Dr. Bastiampillai Deohupillai.

Born in Kayts on 9th, April, 1917, Rev. Deohupillai resolved to commit his life for the service of God at His Divine altar.

To respond to his desire, having been spiritually guided, he was ordained a God's Priest on the 22nd of December, 1941, fifty years ago.

Throughout his Priestly mission as a steward of the mysteries of Christ Jesus in the Parish assigned to him, Rev. Deohu was a faithful supervisor and guardian, missing not a single opportunity of preaching the Gospel and delivering sermons with his Silver tongue; as a good

Pastor he sustained the people, showing kindness and compassion; as a good father he sought out the strayed ones to gather them to the fold of the Lord.

Furthermore, he was radiating good examples of obedience to one's superiors to carry out the highest duty of priesthood so as to afford no grounds for reproof.

Rev. Deohupillai extended his services in various capacities - viz., while serving as a parish priest, he also functioned as the Principal of St. Henry's College, Ilavala, the Principal of St. Joseph's Teachers' Training College, Colombogam, and the Rector of St. Joseph's College, Anuradhapura.

Marvellous blessings were bestowed upon the faithful Servant of God. To answer the repeated submissive recommendations and of His own accord His Holiness, the late Pope Paul VI exalted the zealous priest to

the throne of the Bishopric in the year 1967.

The glooming rays of the Spiritual Sun were, in the meanwhile, darkening our dear Diocese of Jaffna by the death of the renowned Bishop Jerome Emilianuspillai, a lustrous popular dignitary of the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka.

Following his late predecessor, the newly elevated Bishop Deohupillai took charge of the diocese of Jaffna in January 1973.

On the lovely occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the priestly ordination, we the Catholics of Jaffna convey the expression of our overwhelming joy and our prayerful wishes to our Chief Pastor and wish him a very merry Golden Jubilee.

Long Live Our Bishop!

A DEVOTEE
on behalf of the
Diocesan Catholics of
Jaffna.

British Policy on Sri Lanka Misconceived

Tamils face extinction - Britain must intervene

Mr. S. Alagaratnam of Urumpirai has sent a letter to the British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major, pointing out that the British Government's Policy on the Sri Lankan problem is misconceived.

He states that the British Government has a grave duty and responsibility to intervene in the problems facing the Tamils with the object of securing justice for the Tamils.

Mr. Alagaratnam's letter is being published in full:

Dear Prime Minister,

Recently I came across a copy of your "British Policy on Sri Lanka" dated 21 March, 1991. I regret to note that your Policy is built entirely on false premises.

The Current War

Your assumption that the L.T.T.E. broke off the negotiations in June 1990 is entirely wrong. It was the Sri Lankan Government that was strengthening its Police Stations with the infamous Special Task Force and sophisticated arms while saying all the time it was additional ordinary Police men. And when they reached saturation point they created the required atmosphere by beating up a Muslim youth who went to the Batticaloa Police Station to lodge a complaint against a Sinhalese. When this Muslim youth reported to the LTTE and they went to the Police Station to inquire they were set upon by the Special Task Force personnel. You will have to take into account that at this time 'Yogi', the third in the line LTTE was in Colombo. The so called massacre of 600 Police men is as false as all the dish out by the Sri Lankan Government. The Tigers attacked the Police Stations primarily to take over the sophisticated weapons that had been heaped up in these stations. The occupants of these Police Stations ran away unable to stand the dedicated fury of the Tigers and of the few who were captured, some were released I believe, through the ICRC and about 40 to 50 are still with the Tigers as Prisoners.

Muslims

Again you speak of the massacre of Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamils. The Muslims were massacred by the Government and its allies and the Govt. passed on the blame to the Tigers and in this the Sri Lankan Government succeeded. The Muslims fell for it and started attacking innocent civilian Tamils including women and children. The terror created by these Muslims forced thousands of Tamils to flee and take refuge

in the Northern Province and in the jungles.

Again you speak of 'causing considerable displacement (under threat of violence) of the Muslim community in the north of Sri Lanka'. The flood of Tamil refugees into the north from the east contained thousands of youth who had lost their wives or parents or even children and the Tigers genuinely feared that they would not be able to control these Tamil youths from avenging their loss on the Muslims of the north. I can assure you that no force whatever was used on these Muslims and they were very clearly told of the danger they would face and were advised to leave the North.

You are using such strong language about massacres by the Tigers. Please compare the loss of civilian lives of the Tamils on the one hand and that of the Sinhalese and the Muslims on the other during the last 17 months. It is 98½ to 1½. Yes 98½ to 1½. Such is the record of the Human Rights Violations of the Sri Lankan Government and its Muslim ally.

Apathetic Attitude

You also say that your lobbying has forced the Sri Lankan Government to appoint a Special Task Force to investigate human rights violations and a commission of enquiry to examine disappearances. I believe you would have come to know by now what eye washes these are. Their working is the same as that of the Commission appointed to investigate the attack on the French Medical Team.

A few months back I wrote to the Doyen of the Foreign Diplomatic Corps in Sri Lanka for him and his colleagues to get the Sri Lankan Government to stop at least firing artillery shells from their army camps and naval boats as this was causing unimaginable psychological havoc especially among the women and children. But he and his colleagues have not been able to get this done. Nobody except the

Buddhist Clergy can get anything done by the Sri Lankan Government. I am sorry to note that the foreign Governments have still not come to know this.

Are Human Rights Cheap?

Recently during the Commonwealth Conference at Harare, you, ably supported by the Canadian Prime Minister, insisted on coupling Aid to Human Rights Observance and we were very happy about it. But the Prime Ministers of Malaysia and India and the President of Zimbabwe objected to it and you two succumbed to their pressure. Has Human Rights become so cheap? Violation of human rights record of the Indian Peace Keeping Force is so very terrible so much so, the Sri Lankan Government Ministers say 'we are doing only what the Indians did'. They do not take into account that the Indian Forces do not resort to bombing, helicopter gunning, or artillery shell attack in Punjab, Kashmir or Assam. But the Sri Lankan Government is carrying out all these dirty things on their (they say) own citizens. Unless the Western Aid giving nations and Japan take a stronger view on Human Rights violations, the people of these nations

are bound to suffer, if not tomorrow, at least sometime in the future. No one can overcome the 'cause and effect' principle, whether they be Buddhists, Muslims or Christians.

I note that your record on human rights observance in respect of White people, e.g. Russia, Yugoslavia is entirely different from that of Black people e.g. Sri Lanka, South Africa. Why is this? Are not the blacks humans? Is their blood not red like those of the whites? The Lord Bishop of Rippon and several other Members of the House of Lords wanted the United Kingdom Government to take a much stronger view on the observance of Human Rights by the Sri Lankan Government but I regret to note this appears to have had no effect on your Government Policy.

Sinhala Colonization and Tamil Homeland

The Land Policy of the Sri Lankan Government is aimed at making the entire Sri Lanka a Sinhala majority land. In spite of the Indian Government's last minute efforts at Bangalore, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution provides for colonization to be carried out on the basis of NATIONAL ETHNIC RATIO. To hood wink Rajiv Gandhi, J. R.

Jayawardene has in clause 2.7 of Appendix II of the 13th Amendment states that colonisation should be carried out as far as possible without changing the demographic pattern of the Province significantly. How can this be achieved when you allot land to 74.5% Sinhalese and 25.5% to Tamils, Muslims and Burghers and Tamils of Indian origin. The percentage of Sinhalese in the Eastern and Northern Provinces as per census is as follows:

Eastern Province:

1921 : 4.5, 1946 : 8.4,
1981 : 24.9

Northern Province:

1921 : 1.0, 1946 : 2.0
1981 : 3.0

If the demographic pattern of a Province is not to be changed, should not colonisation be carried out on the basis of the Provincial Ethnic Ratio and not the National Ethnic Ratio of the whole Island. If the Tamils accept the 13th Amendment with Appendix II (Land Policy), then it will be the DEATH KNELL to their existence as a SEPERATE ENTITY in this Island. Within the next 25 years or so the whole of the Eastern Province and the Northern, excluding perhaps the Jaffna Peninsula, will be Sinhala majority Provinces, like the other

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Tamil People have...

(Continuation from Page 3)

Ceylon Workers' Congress. Although Mr. Thondaman's party disassociated itself from the Eelam resolution, its president continued as Co-president of the TULF until he accepted a ministerial post under Mr. J. R. Jayawardene.

Referendum for Eelam

The TULF faced the 1977 July Elections as a Referendum and sought a mandate from the Eelam voters to restore and reconstitute the lost state of Tamil Eelam. The Mandate sought was granted. But the party which promised to convene the Tamil National Assembly failed to do so but continued to remain in the Sinhala parliament. After 1983 July riots, the 6th Amendment to the Constitution denied representation to the Eelam Tamils. The Tamils had no representation in J. R. Jayawardene's "Long parliament".

Their representation was snatched away by the Sixth Amendment.

A situation arose in which Mr. Jayawardene could not continue to extend his own term of office or that of his subservient parliament. He had, therefore, to quit and order elections for a new parliament.

The TULF - now under the leadership of Mr. A. Amirthalingam - enacted another betrayal. The TULF, it must be remembered, had earlier abandoned its seats in parliament consequent to the 6th Amendment to the Constitution. But now they again sought elections to the same parliament despite the fact that the 6th Amendment was very much alive. The TULF betrayal was complete. They were pressurised to commit this betrayal by India which had its Army still on Tamil Eelam soil. Believing that the presence of the Indian Army would ensure their

victory, the TULF with the quisling groups contested the General Elections. The people again showed their disapproval by defeating the TULF including its leader Mr. A. Amirthalingam who, however, found a seat later by the back-door thanks to the vicious and fraudulent proportional representation system introduced by Mr. J. R. Jayawardene to perpetuate his own fraud. An Independent Group that went to Parliament to get this 6th Amendment withdrawn, resigned from Parliament, when they failed to achieve their purpose. But in that process that Independent Group itself was betrayed by some of its members who opted not to resign their seats in the Sri Lankan Parliament, when that Group quit Parliament in disgust. A single representative is enough to cause a national betrayal, as in the case of Mr. Thambimuttu. No wonder the Eelam Tamils have bidden adieu to the Sri Lankan Parliamentary politics.

Dont Sack Jaffna CEY-NOR Employees

CMU Appeals to President Premadasa

The Ceylon Mercantile Union (CMU) has appealed to President Premadasa requesting him to cause the withdrawal of applications made by CEYNOR FOUNDATION to the Commissioner of Labour seeking the latter's authority to terminate the services of its employees at Karainagar and Gurunagar and also requesting him to make order for the payment of the wages of these employees including arrears of wages.

Mr. P. Bala Tampoe, the General Secretary of the CMU has sent a letter to President Premadasa in connection with the closure of

CEYNOR Units in Jaffna at Karainagar and Gurunagar. Mr. Tampoe has stated in his letter that 210 employees in both centres have received letters terminating their services with retrospective effect from 5th August, 1991. But consequent to the Union pointing out the illegality of the notices of termination, the management of CEYNOR FOUNDATION has sought the permission of the Commissioner of Labour to retrench these employees to abide by the provisions of the Employment of Workmen (Special Provisions) Act No: 45 of 1971. The matter is pending.

Mr. Tampoe has stated in his letter that the proposal to terminate the services of these employees is unjust and unreasonable. According to official pronouncements published in newspapers there

is a reasonable prospect of the armed conflict in the North ending in the near future. The Government should bear in mind the need for resumption of normal economic activity in the North. This should include the resumption of production by CEYNOR Foundation as well.

Mr. Tampoe has requested President Premadasa to give appropriate directions to the authorities concerned for payment of arrears of salaries to the employees, up to date, and the withdrawal of the application made to the Commissioner of Labour for the termination of their employment by the CEYNOR FOUNDATION.

Six Civilians Killed - Many More Injured

Six civilians were killed and many more injured in the villages of Valikamam East on Saturday, December 7 when Sri Lankan bombers, helicopters, attacked fleeing refugees, from these villages. Some were injured or killed

as a result of artillery shell attack.

The reports in this connection state that certain border villages in Valikamam East, such as Valalai, Kathiripai, Idaiyadu and Ottakapulam were subjected to heavy aerial attack on Saturday, December 7, as a preliminary to the Palaly Army moving further into border areas.

As the attack in these areas continued the villagers abandoned their homes and properties and began to flee to other areas.

When people were fleeing along the Atchuvelli - Thondamanaru Road, Sri Lankan Air Force bombers dropped bombs there. Three persons died as a result of aerial bombardment and another three died as a result of artillery shell attack.

The dead include Sinnavi Nagamuthu (80) of Kathiripai, Velan Markandu (53) of Thampalai, Ponnar Chelliah (80) of Thampalai and Mrs. Sellathurai (85) of Thampalai. The dead bodies of one male and a female were also found on the road near Salli, but the identity of the deceased persons were not established.

Apart from the six persons who died, many others were seriously wounded. The wounded include P. Vadivelu (54) of Thampalai, S. Nadarajah (47) of Idaiyadu, A. Sathiyabama (49), S. Saraswathy (50) N. Jeyendran (23), M. Sinnathurai (46), P. Muthulingam (15) and Mrs. Sellathamby.

The reports add that a large number of houses and other properties in the area have been heavily damaged.

Jaffna Hospital Sends SOS to NGOO

Drugs Out of Stock

The Director of the Jaffna Hospital has requested the Council of NGOO to obtain for the Hospital urgent supplies of a number of medicines totalling 49 various items - Tablets, Capsules, Injections etc.

The Director also has given a further list of essential surgical consumables urgently needed for the Hospital - These items number eleven.

According to the Director most of the items are completely out of stock at the General Hospital. All items

are urgently needed for the hospital.

It is understood the Council of NGOO is making frantic efforts to obtain these items.

Trader Pierced to Death

A trader-resident of Imanyan in Udupiddy was torn to pieces and died on the spot on Saturday, December 7, when two Sri Lankan planes bombed Udupiddy in

Vadamarachy at about 12 00 Noon. The deceased is Kanthavanam Rajathurai (68) a trader.

Sri Lankan Air Force bombers bombed Udupiddy

on the noon of December 7. Apart from K. Rajathurai who died on the spot another old man named Murugan aged 80 sustained severe injuries.

Reports further add that five houses, a Hindu temple, the Office of the Red Cross Society Branch of Udupiddy and a timber sawing Depot were also damaged as a result of the bombing at Udupiddy on December 7.

British Policy on...

(Continuation from Page 4)

seven Provinces. This will result in bloodshed, if not now, at a later date as is

happening now in Northern Ireland due to the Policy of your forefathers, planting

Protestants in the Catholic Land of North Ireland.

It is regrettable that the United Kingdom Government does not realise that they themselves are entirely responsible for all the sufferings of the Tamils in this Island by dumping together two entirely different peoples in 1833. Your own "Clegborn Minute" of 1799 reads: "Two different Nations from a very ancient period have divided between them the possession of the Island. First, the Cinghalese inhabiting the interior of the country in its Southern and Western parts from the river Wallouve to that of Chilaw, and secondly the Malabars who possess the Northern and Eastern districts. These two nations differ entirely in their religion, language and manners" (Please note TWO NATIONS not races). If your forefathers only had the wisdom to rule them as two different nations and granted them independence separately, when they left, how peacefully this Island would have prospered.

The Tamils have every right not only to expect but to demand of the United Kingdom to intervene in this matter. It is not too late for you to make amends for your earlier mistakes.

S. Alagaratnam

A Christmas Message

CHRISTMAS

*Suddenly sounds like an alien word
Yet, sounded for seven long years
We hear only the sounds of war and death,
Bombing, shelling shooting and killing
Totally alien to the spirit of Christmas.
Amidst tremendous suffering and pain
We yearn for justice, freedom and peace
We want to live, and let others live
A lesson learnt amidst war and destruction.
We live in hope inspite of threats to lives
That HOPE is our CHRISTMAS
It's this HOPE that gives MEANING
A MEANING we continue to SEARCH
Till our HOPE becomes MEANINGFUL
And in that NEW Experience of Freedom
A life will be BORN, and that's for us is*

CHRISTMAS

*We wish you the same hope,
The same freedom, justice and peace
And the experience of a meaningful life
And, let that be your CHRISTMAS.*

S. M. Selvaratnam

Bank Fellowship Award to a Tamil

Area Manager, Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna, Mr. K. Kaneshmoorthy has been awarded a Fellowship by the Chartered Institute of Bankers, London.

He is the only officer working in any outstation in Sri Lanka who has been awarded this Fellowship.

All others who obtained this Fellowship earlier are from Colombo.

In all there are about 40 Fellowship holders in the Island. The result published recently shows that out of 11 awards only one Tamil, Mr. K. Kaneshmoorthy was awarded this Fellowship.

SPORTS

Soccer

Jaffna Hindu figured in a nil all draw against Kokuvil Hindu in a 3rd. XI Soccer match played at Jaffna Hindu College grounds on 9.12.91. Mr. Atputhanathan officiated as referee.

In another match played at Kanagaratnam M. V grounds Stanley College beat Central by five goals to nil.

In the club matches played at St. Antony's Ground, St. Mary's Club beat Greenfield by one goal to nil, while Singing Fish beat St. Roche's by five goals to nil.

More Soccer News

Singing Fish beat Greenfield Sports Club by one nil, after a deadlock at normal time. They scored the decider in the extra time to book a berth in the final. The match was played on 17.12.91 at St. John's College grounds with Mr. Antonipillai controlling the game.

A 'Black Tiger' at Cricket again!

In the recent One Day International played at Australia where the traditional rivals India and Pakistan met, the commentator at this match characterised the Indian opening bowler Manoj Prabhakar as a 'Black Tiger' who frustrated Pakistan's bid for victory.

HOT SPRING

VOL: 2 SUNDAY 22nd December 1991 ISSUE 11

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Mr. Thondaman has come out with certain specific proposals for settlement of the Sinhala - Tamil conflict in the Island.

Mr. Thondaman, though a Minister in Mr. Premadasa's cabinet, insists that the proposals he has put forward are those of the Ceylon Workers' Congress (CWC) of which he is the President and not of the Government - least of all of the ruling UNP. The Government itself has repeatedly said through its ministerial spokesman, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, that it is not aware of Mr. Thondaman's proposals.

Ignorance is bliss!

The ruling UNP has not placed any proposals for consideration by the Tamils. Neither has the Opposition.

All Sinhala parties have shown great reluctance to firmly place their own proposals for settlement of the Sinhala - Tamil conflict.

The principal parties that vie for power are the UNP and the SLFP. None of the two parties has placed definite proposals which could be the basis of resolving the conflict. On the other hand, each waits with eager eyes hoping the other to say something which the latter can make use as a political weapon for a good harvest at the hustings.

In 1955 the then Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala made a promise that he would amend the Constitution of Ceylon to give parity of status to Sinhala and Tamil. The then Leader of the Opposition and the SLFP, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake, gleefully took the opportunity to go about in the Sinhala country and say that if parity of status were given to Sinhala and Tamil, Sinhala Language would die in a period of twenty five years!

The UNP did not hesitate. It decided for Sinhala Only. So both principal parties went to the polls in 1956 on the Sinhala Only cry. Both parties could not even field a single candidate in Tamil Eelam. Sinhala only was too much even for Tamil traitors.

After having successfully edged out Tamil, Mr. Bandaranayake who came to power in 1956 found the difficulties in keeping the Tamils under subjugation and sought to work out some form of interim settlement. The Bandaranayake - Chelvanayakam Pact was signed. Immediately the UNP took the opportunity to win favour with the Sinhalese and opposed the Pact. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene took out the notorious march to Kandy which came to an ignominious end at Imbulgoda before reaching its destination in Kandy. However, Mr. Bandaranayake abrogated the B-C Pact due to the Opposition of the UNP and some of his own party men and the Buddhist clergy.

In 1965 Mr. Dudley Senanayake of the UNP formed the Government. He along with his chief lieutenant, J. R. Jayewardene worked out a pact with Mr. Chelvanayakam. Immediately the SLFP Opposition reinforced by the Marxists started the "Dudlege Bade, Masala Vade" campaign and the Dudley - Chelvanayagam Pact too came to an abortive end.

The opponents of the various pacts did not place any alternative solution. And the Tamils too know that the Pacts were signed by the Sinhala leaders out of political expediency.

We have delved into this history of the recent past only because it would explain the reasons for the absolute silence maintained by the ruling party or its Opposition in regard to their own schemes or proposals for a solution of the conflict.

The genius of Mr. J. R. Jayewardene invented a ruse called an All Party Conference (APC) to see that nothing is done. Mr. Premadasa continues the APC with all sorts of Tamil groups - eulogistically referred to as political parties - but without the Chief Sinhala party, the SLFP in it.

A recent innovation is the Parliamentary Select Committee.

The real purpose behind these Committees is to buy time. If the Government is serious in settling the problem, it must come out with its proposals. But it does not. Mr. Premadasa, on the other hand, wants the consent of all parties for any settlement. Does he have the consent of the Tamils to rule the Tamils?

Off and on the Sinhala parties speak of settlement. They themselves do not come out with any concrete proposals for settlement. Even after these years of deadly war the position has not changed.

In this context would it be wrong to believe that Mr. Thondaman's efforts are engineered for purposes other than the resolving of the dispute - say to hood-wink the International Community and the Aid Consortium?

Mr. Thondaman's Proposals for Solution North-East to be one Unit Permanently

It is learnt that Mr. S. Thondaman has on behalf of the Ceylon Workers' Congress submitted proposals for solution of the ethnic problem. According to Mr. Thondaman's proposals an Institution for Autonomy merging the North - Eastern Provinces, should be set up to resolve the national question of the Tamil people. Details of these proposals were released to the Press.

The proposals envisage the regions of the North and East to come under one political unit, and the devolution of powers to include thirty six subjects such as ownership of lands, Education, Economic planning, administration of Justice and the Police Service.

The most important aspect of this draft proposal is that the Unit of Devolution will contain the Northern and Eastern Provinces as a single unit. The phrase Institution for Autonomy is only a temporary provision. The preamble to this draft proposal states that it could be given any name such as Regional Council, Provincial Council, Provincial Government or Mandal Saba.

According to Mr. Thondaman's proposals there will be a Scheme granting autonomy to the merged Northern and Eastern Provinces. A Governor will be appointed on the

recommendation made by its Chief Minister. The Governor will continue in power for five years. The functions and powers of the Governor are not prescribed.

Appointment of a Chief Minister and Cabinet.

The leader of the political party winning more than 50% of the seats will be nominated for appointment as Chief Minister. The Chief Minister will appoint a further ten ministers from elected members to the Institution for Autonomy but the number of members of the Institution for Autonomy is not specified.

A Secretary - General of the North - Eastern Province will be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Minister.

Judiciary

A High Court will be established. Judges of the other Courts will function under the Chief Justice. The Governor will appoint all the judges on the recommendation of the Chief Minister.

Another provision suggested in Mr. Thondaman's proposal is the setting up of the Judicial Service Commission. The Commission will consist of the Chief Justice and two other Judges and the President will make these appointments.

Lands

Lands in the North and East will remain in the possession of the Institution for Autonomy and its Administration will be left to the responsibility of the Institution for Autonomy.

It will be the responsibility of the Institution for Autonomy to establish a Police Force for the maintenance of law and order. Police personnel will be appointed on ethnic proportions.

The Institution for Autonomy will receive block grants from the Consolidated Fund. They will be entitled to raise and receive funds for development purposes from International Sources.

There will be a Public Service Commission nominated by the Governor which will be in charge of appointments, transfers, disciplinary control and termination of services of all personnel in employ in the Institution.

There shall be a guarantee of the Minority Rights in the North East. The Rights of Muslims and Sinhalese will be guaranteed. A Federation of Regional Councils of Muslims in NE will be set up. Administrative protection will be provided for the Muslims and Sinhalese in Education, Trade and Agriculture.

University Students Demonstrate

Jaffna University students conducted a mammoth demonstration in Jaffna Town on 18.12.91 against the aerial bombing indulged in by the Air Force on the 9th of December at the G. C. E. (Ordinary Level) examination centre - a Government Tamil Mixed School at Pandivirichan in the Mannar District, while the Examination was in progress.

The University demonstrators also handed over a memorandum addressed to the President, R. Premadasa condemning the above incident, to the Government Agent, Jaffna for transmission. Copies of the memorandum were also handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross and were also sent to all Foreign Embassies in Colombo.

The Ratio...

(Continued on Page 1)
were ten times as many Indian Soldiers in Sri Lanka as in India itself where the ratio of Servicemen to Civilians is approximately 1:290
Rajesh Kadian in his book: India's Sri Lanka Fiasco.

The memorandum demanded:

- ☐ Stopping - immediately indiscriminate bombing taking place even on public examination centres;
- ☐ Holding immediately the G. C. E. (A/L) Examination for 1991 which was indefinitely postponed in August, 1991;

- ☐ Immediate removal of the economic embargo imposed on Tamil areas.

The demonstration was preceded by a protest meeting at the Kailasapathy Hall at the Jaffna University Campus. Following the meeting hundreds of students joined the protest march carrying placards.

DUTY IS ALL

Can a drop of water survive without evaporation? Yes, when it mingles with the ocean it gets protection. When the ocean is calm, the drop is at ease. During cyclone time the drop struggles with strife.

Nation is the ocean, Individual is the drop. Without unity the individual has to flop. With self confidence, patience and perseverance, you ponder.

To conquer hypocrisy and deceit with valour.

Do your duty expecting nothing in return, To achieve the righteousness and love towards everyone. Selfless service is the source of solace, Seek for your strength, the Almighty's grace.

"ANBEZHIL"