

HOT SPRING

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Aerial Bombardment at Poonakary

Poonakary area was subjected to heavy air bombing on Friday, December 27.

Sri Lankan Air Force bombers carried out bombing operations in the morning and towards noon. A number of houses and a Hindu temple also are reported to have been bombed.

SACK THONDAMAN

Buddhist Organisations Demand

A number of Buddhist organisations have jointly asked for the removal of Mr. S. Thondaman from the Cabinet in a public statement.

The signatories have demanded the removal of Mr. Thondaman from the Cabinet on the ground that he being a Minister of the U. N. P. Government has proposed the merger of the

Northern and Eastern Provinces though the U. N. P. had set itself against the merger of the two provinces in its manifesto.

The signatories to the statement include the Presidents of the Maha Bodhi Society, Young Men's Buddhist Association, All Ceylon Baudha Women's Association, Asian Buddhist Conference, All Ceylon Buddhist Congress,

World Buddhist Women's Congress, Buddhist Theosophical Society and Monitoring Committee of Buddhist Affairs.

The statement adds that the proposals of Mr. Thondaman will lead to the formation of an "Eelam" and the Sinhalese people should appreciate the gravity of Mr. Thondaman's proposals.

The statement states that the proposal of Mr. Thon-

daman to absorb the LTTE cadres into the regular armed forces of the Government

and the Police Force would give the LTTE legal status.

The statement also takes strong objections to Mr. Thondaman's proposals in regard to the use of harbours by the autonomous institution for the Northeast and its right to negotiate foreign aid.

At a time when thousands of soldiers and policemen have sacrificed their lives the proposals of Mr. Thondaman will worsen the situation concludes the statement.

SRI LANKA BECOMES WISER AFTER DAVID GLADSTONE AFFAIR

Answering a question posed by a foreign correspondent at the weekly Cabinet Press briefing Leader of the House Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe said that Japanese Ambassador should have known better than to give an interview to "The Island" in which the Ambassador had said that the Television should be independent and added that "The Island" seemed to think that it was the only independent News paper in the country.

The Leader of the House further said that the interview with the Japanese diplomat had been taken out of context.

Asked whether it was proper for a diplomat to comment

on an internal matter, the Minister said that it was a matter for the Foreign Ministry, but he thought that the question should be asked from the Ambassador when he returned to Sri Lanka.

The Japanese Ambassador is in Japan at present but the Japanese Embassy has not contradicted or denied the remarks published in "The Island". Perhaps Sri Lanka has become a bit wiser after the expulsion order served on the former British Ambassador in Colombo, Mr. David Gladstone due to the interest shown by him in instances of human rights violation.

(Report based on Lanka Guardian)

Over 3000 Displaced from Valikamam East 684 Families in 9 Refugee Camps

According to the Consortium of NGO in Jaffna over three thousand families have been displaced from the villages of Valikamam East consequent to the Sri Lankan Army moving into the area from the adjoining Palaly Camp.

Of the three thousand families 684 families have been accommodated at 9 schools in the Kopay AGA's Division.

The villagers of Valalai, Kathiripay and Thampalai are badly affected.

At a meeting of the Consortium held on Friday, December 27, with Mr. S. Selvin, Asst. Project Director also participating on behalf of the Government Agent, Jaffna, it was agreed that the Government Agent would provide dry rations consisting of rice, flour and sugar to the 684 displaced families in the nine camps.

The Redd Barna undertook to provide vegetables, and other provisions necessary for cooking for 200 families and the Save the Children's Fund (UK) undertook to provide similar facilities for 135 families.

Arrangements are being made by the Consortium to get other members of the Consortium to undertake similar

services in respect of the balance 299 families.

The Secretary of the Consortium said that Rs: 3000/- has to be spent per day on every 100 displaced families by the NGO to provide the services agreed to be undertaken by the NGO. He further added that the

Consortium has requested the Government Agent to extend the Milk Feeding Programme in respect of children in the 9 camps in the Kopay AGA's Division.

The rest of the displaced persons are living in houses of friends and relations.

Tens of Thousands "Disappeared" in Sri Lanka A. I. October 1991 Report Condemns Government

The Amnesty International report for October 1991 refers to tens of Thousands of reported "disappearances" in Sri Lanka and condemns the Government of Sri Lanka for its inaction in investigating such "disappearances".

The report has specifically documented 46 cases of "disappearances" from the Sevana Army Camp at Embilipitiya in the Ratnapura District.

A summary of the report reads as follows:-

Tens of thousands of people have reportedly "disappeared" in Sri Lanka after being detained by the security forces in recent years, yet the government has taken few steps to acknowledge responsibility publicly, to investigate the

fate or whereabouts of the "disappeared", or to bring those responsible for "disappearances" to justice. Amnesty International believes that the government's lack of action over the years to curb "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions committed by the security forces has contributed to a sense of impunity among security forces personnel confronting armed opposition and has given the impression that the government condones these gross violations of human rights in certain situations.

The Amnesty International contains details of 46 cases of "disappearances" from Sevana Army Camp in Embilipitiya, Ratnapura District in late 1989 and early 1990. Most of the victims were

young men between 16 and 19 years old attending local high schools. There cases exemplify aspects of the pattern of "disappearances" during the period 1987-1990 in southern Sri Lanka, and demonstrate the continuing plight of relatives of the "disappeared" who have so far had no clarification from the authorities of the fate of those arrested, and have no means of redress through official channels.

In January 1991, a Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Involuntary Removal of Persons was established for one year to investigate "disappearances" that occurred after 11 January 1991. Amnesty International has urged the Government of Sri Lanka to extend the terms of reference of the

Presidential Commission to include investigating those cases which occurred prior to January 1991 such as the ones described in Amnesty International document as well as post January 1991, as "disappearances" continue to be reported from all parts of the country.

Ten Persons Die of Rabies

It is reported that ten persons died in the Vadamarachy area of rabies in the recent weeks.

There is a dearth for all drugs in the North. Some important life-saving vaccines are also not available.

It is felt if anti-rabies vaccines were readily available the lives of the ten victims of dog bite could have been saved.

Death Donation Scheme

It is with interest I read the news item in the Hot Spring of 24-11-91 about the Death Donation Scheme reported to have been initiated by the Jaffna District Pensioners' Association. It is well and good and a long felt need, especially for the Pensioners.

The people of Jaffna have not forgotten the several Death Benefit Societies and Marriage Provident Fund Societies which spring up like mushrooms during rainy seasons and wither with the dry season.

Home Finance Company is now vested in the Central Bank and the Depositors mostly pensioners are finding a very hard time to get their capital, leave aside the interest.

Without prejudice to the above said Pensioners' Association, I wish to make it clear that all such Societies or Associations should ensure continuity and assistance in time of need, otherwise as in the past so many hundreds of persons, having paid monthly contributions, get finally disappointed when such Societies meet an untimely end with changes in management.

It is also not out-of-place to mention, just a few like

P.S.M.P.A. or some societies run by missionaries have prospered, while all other societies have come to an untimely end leaving their members in the lurch. I

hope the organizers will bear this in mind.

P.S. Thiruchelvam
Nallur Pensioners' Association.

A Glaring Anomaly

The Editor,
Hot Spring

The Central Bank Pensioners' Welfare Association has taken up the matter of a glaring anomaly to be rectified on the computation of the Pensions of those who retired prior to 1979 with the Central Bank authorities. They have submitted a comprehensive memorandum to the Secretary, Central Bank that there has been a great disparity in the quantum of pensions paid to these categories of pensioners which need early correction.

The pensions of those affected were computed on the hypothetical basic instead of their consolidated salaries' basic drawn by them till their respective retirement dates.

The Secretary, Central Bank on studying the matter is to submit a report on it to the Governor, Central Bank for his approval. It is hoped

that the report will be finalised soon for the Governor's sanction.

It is clear that the pre-1979 cases were deprived of their legitimate dues because of a glaring anomaly created then but unrectified since.

I trust that the question will be rectified and expedited. Double standards of computation are unjustifiable. Uniformity is desirable.

If I am correct, it was the L. B. de Silva Commission then that recommended consolidated salaries from October, 1969. So pensions should be so based.

I am confident that the Governor and Secretary, Central Bank will fulfil a long awaited expectation of the pensioners. If this wish is realized, the pensioners have to thank the Pensioners, Welfare Association and the Bank authorities.

Chavakachcheri
S. Jayaratnam

Some misguided members of the Mahasangha

The Editor,
Hot Spring,

Dear Sir,

It is surprising and saddening to learn that a group of some senior members of the Mahasangha have laid down some narrow-minded and foolish conditions to the government; which will still aggravate the already tense situation in the Island. The Tamils will never allow such Buddha Chauvinist Imperialism at any cost.

This island belongs to all castes and creeds, who were legitimately born and bred. It does not belong to a particular clan. These misguided monks should know the full history before uttering such communal feelings.

I am sure no sensible Buddhist will accede to their requests. Particularly the younger generations, who seldom give unwanted worship to them. It is some selfish politicians who drag these monks to gain power.

It is only in this country the Buddhist clergy interfere in politics. Even in Predominantly Buddhist countries like Burma, Thailand, Cambodia etc. they are not allowed to mingle in politics. They have been told to mind their temple affairs.

It was the late Premier SWRD Bandaranaike who

dragged these monks to politics to capture power in 1956. He betrayed his faith and embraced Buddhism much against his father's advice, and was eventually killed by his own race on 26.9.1959 at his Rosmead Place residence, Colombo 7. However he obtained his extreme unction and remorse for his misdeeds.

The late Premier Sir, John Kotelawala set an example in this connection. He had the courage to warn some monks who went on deputation to act against the Christians. He told them that they should not interfere in politics, but to spread the Buddha Dhamma to all people.

I earnestly request the government to close down all religious ministries immediately and leave them alone without political interference. The Christian missionaries are free from such activities. Besides, they have no minister for Christian affairs.

If they delay, these people will be a danger to them one day, like what had happened to Mr. Bandaranaike: whose name will go down in the bad books of this once "Resplendent Isle in the Indian ocean" before Independence in 1948.

J. Arulanandam

APPRECIATION

Rev. Brother E.A.D Callistus of the Rosarian Congregation passed away peacefully on the morning of 11. 12. 1991, at Arul Ashram, No. 5, Temple Road, Jaffna.

The Concelebrated Requiem mass was presided by the Bishop of Jaffna, Rt. Rev. Dr. B. Deogupillai. A large and distinguished gathering graced the funeral from many parts of the peninsula.

His Lordship preached in detail the exemplary life of brother Callistus, particularly his life of contemplation, prayer, penance, obedience, silence, charity, hard work and other noble qualities. He also exhorted the congregation to pray for him and to pray for more vocations to spread the kingdom of God.

The Prior of the Ashram Rev. Fr. Don Bosco C. R. enumerated the life history of the deceased missionary and his dedicated service to his congregation and the neighbouring people of Tholagatty.

Brother Callistus was born on 24.1.1918 in India in a devoted Catholic family. His forefathers were of Irish origins. His father was an officer in the Indian Railways, who

died when he was young. However his mother brought him up and gave him proper education. He spent most of his earlier days at Karnataka State. He joined the British Royal Army Medical Corps and served in many Middle East countries during the 2nd world war. He was awarded many gallantry medals for his bravery in the battle front.

He joined the Rosarian Congregation on 01-02-1953 at Fatimagiri Ashram, Vadangulam, Tirunelvely District, South India as a postulant. He came to Tholagatty on 22-08-1953 and had his spiritual formation under the saintly priest Very Rev. Fr. B. A. Thomas O.M.I. the founder of the Rosarians at Tholagatty, with the blessings of the then Bishop of Jaffna Rt. Rev. Mgr. J. A. Guyamour O.M.I.

He was in charge of the medical clinic, mechanical and electrical workshops. He was able to save a lot of money without obtaining the services of mechanics to repair the miscellaneous machines and electrical fittings of

his Ashram and four neighbouring convents.

Almost all the Rosarians, more than twenty, who died were attended by him in the medical institutions, and sanatoriums, including his (Guru) superior, - Fr. Thomas, who passed away on 26-01-1964 at the Bishop's House, Jaffna.

Very Rev. Fr. S. A. Michaelsamy O.M.I., the Vicar General, officiated the graveside ceremonies at St.

Cannon Fire from Keerimalai

Sri Lankan Naval Ships sent volleys of cannon fire from the seas off Keerimalai directed towards the villages of Kollankaladdy and Karugampanai on Sunday - December 15.

At the same time reports received from these areas state that the Army stationed at Tatchankadu near Maviddapuram has been directing Artillery shell attack towards civilian dwellings in adjoining areas for the last few days.

Mary's general Cemetery, Jaffna. It may be recalled his mortal remains could not be buried at his congregation cemetery at Tholagatty,

which is being occupied by the Army personnel, since October 1990.

J. Arulanandam
Vayavilan

A Source of Inspiration

*In the remote past
When man was almost a beast,
He lived in the raw,
Ate everything raw.
In search of food and water
To appease his thirst and hunger,
He roamed the forests thick
And scaled the mounts big,
Toiled hard from dawn to dusk,
Only to fill his empty stomach.
Plucked fruits dug out roots,
Killed birds and trapped beasts.
He suffered many privations,
And bore bravely all his tribulations.
He was almost reduced to penury
And always in want and misery.
His life was full of care,
He lived in constant fear.
In spite of all hardships he faced,
His tribe he never deserted or betrayed,
He was one with it fast,
Till he breathed his last.
His life consists many a lesson
Worthy of emulation for this generation.*

— Crito —

Intellectual Dishonesty must be replaced by honest Recognition of Rights of Peoples

An insidious attempt is being made by certain Sinhala elements to pretend to rationally argue and place some sort of formula as being a reasonable and acceptable solution to end the Tamil-Sinhala conflict, in the Island. The latest to join the group of the so-called intellectuals is Mr. H. L. de Silva, P.C. - P. C. standing for President's Council and not for Privy Councillor - another innovation made by the most hated tyrant, J. R. Jayewardene whom columnist Cynthia Kariyawasam preferred to call 'the evil genius'.

Mr. de Silva who argued that federalism was no solution - and Kumaran in his article in the Hot Spring of 20-11-91 pointed out that Federalism was nobody's case and the attempt at shadow-fight against federalism was really an insidious attempt to perpetuate the Unitary System of Government - has also said that 'the 13th Amendment, while it may have deficiencies, still represents an unprecedented advance on what has been achieved through negotiation up to that point of time.'

The 13th Amendment to which Mr. de Silva has made reference, was passed as a result of the Rajiv Gandhi-Jayewardene Accord, Mr. de Silva has not mentioned this but states that the 13th Amendment was achieved through negotiations. Mr. de Silva seems to me to have deliberately omitted reference to the Rajiv Gandhi-Jayewardene Accord because he knows very well that the bulk of the peoples of the Island - both Tamils and Sinhalese have nothing but contempt for the Accord. So he does not mention the names of the parties who 'Negotiated' and as a clever lawyer may even argue that he is not concerned about the 'politics' of the matter but that he is only presenting his study as a lawyer. But the stark fact of the matter is that there were no "negotiations" between the parties to the dispute - viz. the Sinhalese and Tamils. The negotiations were between tried veteran J. R. Jayewardene who was trying to perpetuate his name in the annals of the Sinhala nation - Jayewardenepura, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, a new national flag and of course President's Councils to boot - and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi who misled himself into believing that simply because the Eelam Tamils

were Hindus, he was also their leader by virtue of his position in India. He was rash, inexperienced and thirsting for fame which would overshadow the Bofors scandal that was plaguing him and his Government. Not only did any of the Tamil parties sign the Accord but every single political organization of the Tamils - TULF and other groups expressed their dissatisfaction with the provisions of the Accord. The LTTE leader, Mr. Velupillai Pirapakaran stated in no unmistakable terms that the Accord was not acceptable even though Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had earlier stated that the LTTE would in course of time agree to the provisions of the Accord.

It should, therefore, be made clear that the Accord is not the result of negotiations between the parties to the dispute.

Mr. de Silva has said that the 'subject of colonization loomed large', when referring to the Bandaranayake-Chelvanayakam Pact.

It was not only during the negotiations of the Bandaranayake - Chelvanayakam Pact but at all subsequent negotiations too this subject loomed large. Take the case of the Dudley - Chelvanayakam Pact of 1965. In my view so far as colonization problem was concerned, the Dudley - Chelvanayakam Pact guaranteed the Tamils their rights. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene was a co-negotiator along with Mr. Dudley Senanayake. Sinhala colonization of Tamil areas, utilizing, governmental power, is problem number one facing the Tamils. In fact it is no mere problem. It is the fundamental problem. It is the land problem that will for all times determine the fate of the Tamils of Eelam. It will decide the question whether the Tamils in the land of their forefathers will continue to live as a separate and distinct entity as they have hitherto lived throughout history or whether in course of time they will lose their separate and distinct identity and become merged in the Sinhala community - perhaps as a caste - as in the case of the Salegama caste in the Ambalangoda - Balapitiya areas.

Mr. Chelvanayakam who negotiated the earlier Pacts, knew what was necessary for Eelam Tamils. He had no extra-territorial ambitions nor did he dream of dominating the international arena.

He, therefore, stood steadfast in what was very fundamental to the existence of the Tamils as a distinct people in the Island.

Mr. Jayewardene, who was one of those who drafted the Dudley - Chelvanayakam Pact, was perhaps waiting for an opportunity to wriggle out. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi provided him this opportunity. Providentially, perhaps, the Tamils were not parties to this Accord which had been properly described by Mr. A. J. Wilson, son-in-law of the late Mr. Chelvanayakam as an "exercise in deceit".

The 13th Amendment to the Constitution following the Accord lays down: "State land will continue to vest in the Republic" and at 2:5 it says, "the distribution of all allotments of such land will be on the basis of national ratio". "Clause 2:7 most hypocritically says": "The distribution of allotments... would be done as far as

possible so as not to disturb very significantly the demographic pattern".

Admittedly the Sinhalese constitute about 70% of the whole population of the Island. Therefore in all colonization schemes in the North and East, while the Sinhalese will be allotted 70% of the land all others combined will get only 30%. If so, how can the demographic pattern of the Northern and Eastern

S. Alagaratnam

provinces be not changed in due course? If the honest intention not to change the demographic pattern was present, the provision should have been that the allotments would be on the basis of races in the provinces concerned and not in the whole Island.

Sinhala chauvinism has committed a further fraud by saying at Clause 2:7 that as far as possible colonization would be done so as not to change very significantly

the demographic pattern. The words emphasised should make it clear to any child that with the 'national ratio' basis - it would not be possible to avert a change of demography. And after all even the change must only be not very significant. There can be changes all right. Surely the Tamils are no fools or knaves or traitors to themselves and their progeny to accept the 13th Amendment hatched behind their backs.

Nobody likes to kill another. Tamils do not want to kill anybody. In fact they are the worst sufferers in the war. Negotiations are most welcome but the fundamental condition necessary for negotiations to succeed is not intellectual dishonesty but the acceptance of the rights of the Tamil Nation to statehood - the right of the Tamils to self-determination as asserted by International Law.

165 'Disappearances in' Alayadivembu

It is reported that 165 Tamils have disappeared from the village of Alayadivembu alone during a period of one and a half years between June, 1990 and November, 1991.

Alayadivembu is a Tamil village in the Amparai District. All the Tamils who have thus 'disappeared' are males.

According to the reports the Secretary of the Amparai District Citizens' Committee has said that he has details of the names of all the 165

persons thus reported missing.

According to Government claims the elite Special Task Force is in charge of the 'security' situation in the Amparai District.

The Special Task Force is an elite group organized during the tenure of office of former President J. R. Jayewardene, under the supervision of his son Ravi Jayawardene and trained by Israeli Agents.

Hindu Temple to give way to Cultural Hall

Mannar Hindus Worried

Reports from Mannar state that the Hindu Murugan Temple at Grand Bazaar in the Mannar Island has

been closed down on the orders of the Sri Lankan Forces stationed there for last few weeks.

Reports further add that the closure of the temple is a fore-runner to a plan to demolish the temple there and build a cultural hall at the site. The Hindu residents of Mannar who have been worshipping at this Temple are perturbed and have made representations to higher authorities and institutions.

WHO IS THE KILLER?

A number of deaths are occurring in Government hospitals in the Jaffna District for lack of a drug - Ergometrine injection - used to arrest bleeding after child birth. "Who is responsible for these wanton deaths?" asks a worried citizen. Is it the fault of the Regional Health Authorities for not arranging to have this drug? Or the bureaucrats in Colombo with the 'Let the beggars die' mentality? Or the Top Brass in the Sinhala Army not being satisfied with the direct killing of Tamils, tampering with the flow of vital drugs to the Tamil areas? Or Should the blame be placed on the racist mentality of

the Government itself as part of its grand genocidal plan?

Strangely, it is said that this drug - Ergometrine is used only for the purpose stated above and for nothing else!

Human Rights Violations in India I.C.R.C Assistance Sought

The LTTE has requested the ICRC to make arrangements for the latter to visit about 75 LTTE members held in incarceration by the Government of India.

According to the LTTE its members who are in Indian cells are injured men who were undergoing treatment there.

The Indian Government has, contrary to humanitarian considerations, arrested these injured men and put them behind the bars. The LTTE has now called upon the ICRC to extend its humanitarian services and see to the humane treatment of their men.

Sir P. Ramanathan's Services to the Sinhalese

A Scoop from memory - Yes down memory lane - Those were the days. Glorious days.

At a time when homage is being paid to Sir Ramanathan let me recall the following incident.

In the late thirties the writer was a student in Colombo and happened to listen to a vitalizing speech by a University lecturer in Western classics - Mr. B. Jeyasuriya, a first class Honours graduate who later took to law.

He was delivering a lecture on Patriotism, Nationalism and Politics.

The late Sinhala Marikkar Wijebahu Wijesinghe and even Buddhakitha Thero were among the students.

The speaker started with a simple definition.

"A man who sacrifices his own personal interests for the welfare of his family is a noble and admirable man."

"He who submerges the interests of the family for the good of his race or clan is a great man."

"Whereas he who takes risk and defies threats to his life with an abiding love for the soil of his birth and the entire inhabitants regardless of caste creed or colour is a 'Patriot'."

To the last class belonged Sir Ramanathan. All patriots are not necessarily politicians nor vice versa.

Today politics is a profession not far dissimilar to the "oldest profession" in principles and practice.

A wit defined Politics as "The art of getting money from the rich and votes from the poor under the pretext of protecting one from the other."

The Sinhalese people placed enormous trust and held in great esteem and affection Sir Ramanathan.

The latter lived up to that trust. He never retracted, wavered, or compromised principles for profit or personal gain.

He never sidetracked nor retracted owing to pressure, inducement or threat of whatever magnitude nor from whichever quarter it came. He truly practised right thought, speech and action in the Buddhist way.

He loved his language, race and religion and wrote scholarly treatises. But that did not deter him from loving

the language and religion of all other countrymen with equal fervour.

In fact he did yeoman's service to the Buddhist religion when he of his own introduced the Buddhist Temporalities Act in the legislature. This act went a long way in consolidating and conserving the assets of the religion.

Once when he presided at a prize giving function in Ananda College he expressed righteous indignation at the neglect of the Sinhala language which he described as a very beautiful one. He even went on to say that he had travelled in many lands and lived among men of all types, but he had not met a better specimen of humanity than the Sinhalese.

Words are easily spoken to suit the occasion. But a man's mettle is shown when put to the acid test in practical life.

"Science is not everything - nature has endowed us with other means of perception even superior to this comparatively new - fangled approach to human affairs". This was the bombshell let drop by our village wit, just the other day, at a leisurely gathering of our village elders. As usual, this made many a hoary head wag vigorously in agreement and sparked off a lively discussion. How could a renowned scientist, that astronaut Armstrong is, fail to observe even the single rabbit on the moon, when he set foot there, in spite of the solemn insistence of venerable Sinhala sages, for quite some time (for centuries!), that there has been, and still is, such an animal on our neighbouring heavenly body? The rabbit could very well have hopped to the other side of the moon everytime a busybody from our Earth went over to investigate. Then, we have other scientists of world repute, such as Leakey and his comrades, on a ceaseless quest of hunting down clues leading to the origins of man. They seem to have a predilection for crediting the ape with being the progenitor of Homo Sapiens, whilst the authoritarian chronicles of the Maha-

During the riots and martial law round about 1914 Rama rose to the occasion and showed his colours. There was panic and terror all around. No one opened his mouth except to eat. Innocent people were dragged out of homes and shot on the flimsiest pretext. Train loads of Indian regiments were let loose. They simply jumped out of trains and sprayed bullets around.

K. P. S. LINGAM

The British lion's tail had been twitched. Only Rama stood up and fearlessly crossed swords with the White-man at the very top. A powerful man at that - A monarch of all he surveyed.

Threats were held out, inducements were proffered. The old man did not waver an inch.

Finding his arguments and pleas fell on deaf ears here in Ceylon he decided to block the torrent at its source - Whitehall. Those days travelling to England was by sea and beset with grave dangers. German submarine EMDEN was playing havoc with ships.

The old man told his advisors who dissuaded him.

"I have lived fairly long enough. I must die oneday. Let it be now for a great Cause - In service of the land of my birth."

His application for Visa was turned down. But he was not the type of man who took no for an answer,

He despatched a full report on the situation and the attitude of the Governor to the Secretary of State for Colonies through an agent who travelled to Madras to transmit from there.

Down came the reply ordering the Governor to permit Ramanathan to proceed to U. K. Thus he went and represented matters there. But as usual, the English bureaucracy true to its tradition tended to uphold and white wash the action of its officials Ramanathan threw a veiled hint to reach for the masses - the voters - the British Public on soap boxes at junctions

Officialdom turned cold. They knew this coloured

man's powers of oratory in their language and the effect it would produce on the public. They yielded but threw a spanner into the works.

They asked him who would take the responsibility if the Sinhalese rose in revolt and massacred the Whites in case they rescinded the martial law.

Ramanathan replied "keep me here as a hostage and take off my head if that happens". This was too much to hear and bear. Orders were issued cancelling martial law in Ceylon and recalling the Governor.

Ramanathan returned triumphant and a grateful crowd untied the horse that was to pull his carriage and pulled it themselves.

Some day we Sinhalese must repay that debt."

This speech had a tremendous effect on the Sinhalese students. They treated the Tamil students with respect and bore up some of their foibles with a tolerance similar to the one a son-in-law shows to the mother-in-law.

DESULTORY RAMBLINGS OF VADALI VELAN

vamsa assert that, at least, the Sinhala (human?) race, was sired by another race, the Lion. Perhaps it is this animal lust for blood that drives the Sinhalese into these frenzies of killing their own kind, not to speak of the slaughter of hordes of others. You find them even "throwing acid" in the faces of their spouses as an expression of their impotent fury. As was in the time of European occupation, the annual crime figures for the Island always bespeak of many a cowardly knifing or lethal pestle - attacks by our Sinhala brethren. Are the Sinhala people being influenced by an intermingling, in their makeup of the genes from their other ancestor, the Yakshaya queen, Kuvani? Is the present upheaval in the ruling Sinhala political party due to a throw-back character of theirs, consistent with the cannibalistic tendencies inherent in their primitive forebears, the Veddahs? After all, giving due credence to the claim of the Sinhalese of being of Aryan origin (as the Mahavamsa too would have it), the preponderance of the

darker - complexioned individuals amongst the Sinhalese can only be accounted by their additional Veddah ancestry and not by that of the civilizing Dravidian one. All the while the foregoing conjectures, especially against science, were going on and on at our village gathering. I, yours truly, was plunged into a deep melancholy. Here I was trying to bridge the generation gap and keep pace with these "modern smart alecks", decades younger than I, when I am suddenly hauled back into an inherited ancient ethos and pressured to accept long - time assumption which I can scarce ascribe to the the rational - and to be honest. I do, of course, have my moments of doubt.

Having as it is, a highly coloured and fanciful historical background, the Sinhalese are yet in a bemused state and even groping for their national identity, whilst their endeavours are being motivated by contradictory aspirations - spouting Buddhist maitri from one corner of the mouth and snarling murder from the other. There is this story of how a small

boy who wouldn't believe that there was such a thing as the giraffe. In an effort to convince him to the contrary his fond pappa took him along to the nearby zoo. After taking a long and hard look at the spotted animal, with its weirdly elongated neck, topped by a head munching foliage high up amidst the branches of trees, the youngster exclaimed. "Oh no! there can be no such creature!". Such is the stubbornness of the Sinhalese against accepting realities. In the main, it has to be realised that the struggle for a permanent Tamil Eelam is of paramount import to her people and is not confined solely to the province of the LTTE cadre.

Besides, these freedom fighters sprang from, and are continuing to spring, in ever-increasing numbers, from the land of Tamil Eelam. It is only those who refuse to understand the national psyche of Tamil Eelam who hurl such laughable and inane accusations as that of the LTTE snatching the bread out of the people's mouth for their own sustenance. The people would themselves disdain wasting their time refuting such a vile and

(Continued on Page 5)

Birds of the same feather —

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation as quoted from its accomplice, the Lanka Puvath, the notorious Chauvinistic Press Institute, has broadcast that there were two LTTE detention-persecution centres, one at Thunukkai in the Vanni district and the other at Kachchai in Chavakachcheri in which the detainees had been brutally persecuted in narrow darkcells, fenced by barbed wire.

'The wolf is crying over the wetting goat!'

The Lanka Puvath is further quoted to have said that in the Kachchai Persecuting camp some of the security forces, captured by the LTTE, had also been severely tortured.

At this crucial moment we, the Tamils, have to switch

our attention to assess the present critical situation. The Lanka Puvath presumes the probable impossibility of further maintaining the white elephant against the LTTE, resulting only in killings of armed forces and so it finds no - other alternative, except the spreading of such false stuffs to create tension among Sinhalese, thus pressing the government for the continuation of violence over the Tamils and sabotaging the on going political endeavours to bring peace and harmony in the country, under the wings of the old hand, Mr. S. Thondaman.

Suppose there is the least truth in saying that the captured army personnel had been persecuted in the so called Kachchai persecution Centre; the Question is, when

the location of the camp of Persecution is well known to the ridiculous Lanka Puvath, why couldn't the impartial, non-governmental institutions be asked to make investigations and submit a report in this regard?

Besides, the Sri Lankan armed forces are notorious for their violations of human rights and repeatedly condemned by the Amnesty - International.

The massacre of hundreds of Velikade Tamil Prisoners by their fellow prison cut-throats - the Kumudini boat massacre of the sucking infants, the mercy begging innocent children, persons, old and young of all walks of life - the brutal killings of 31 poor fishermen of Pasaiyoor in the middle of

the sea and the recent killings of 200 Kokkaddisalai civilians are all, as instances, reflecting the Sri Lanka's human rights violations in the motion Pictures of the military cinema on the country's political stage.

What else does the Lanka Puvath deserve?

Is it merely, as some intellectuals have maintained, the gimmick of the birds of the same feather - the Lanka Puvath and its accomplice the SLBC - to create tension in the south so as to afford no grounds to find a proper solution to the Tamil problem?

Excuse me, let me further write a few words before drawing the line to this article, about the role of the government's indifference to the communal

attitude of the state press. The distorted news of this strange type is a part of the state terrorism.

I would dare say the government is also indirectly spanking on the buttocks of the state journalists for the distortion, repression, and manipulation of the news so that they might trumpet in one hostile voice to cut throats of their adversaries' necks.

The fundamental obligation of the state's fair free press is to serve as the monitor of the Government.

If the ultimate power is to rest in democracy - not in the unilateral democracy, but in the multilateral democracy at country level the press and the other telecommunication sources must release the facts impartially.

Otherwise the freedom of press and other news sources, the democracy, and ultimately the political Solution for the North-East problem will all be a mockery.

M. S. George
Mirisuvii

Desultory Ramblings of Vadali Velan..

(Continuation from Page 4)

goebellian canard. The freedom fighters are not only striving to succour the people against dastardly and inhuman military excesses but also labouring in every way for the badly battered economic, social and even cultural well-being of a defenceless people, beleaguered by a governmental programme of an especially intense economic strangulation. It needs only a little imagination for our Sinhala brethren to imagine the horror of it all, homeland, unlike as on the rare occasions when the Sinhalese public squeal en masse in terror when a bomb or two (only ground bombs at that!) explode in the suburbs of Colombo. You would want your little children slumber blissfully in the nights and also go to school, free of the fear of aerial bombings, artillery shellings and helicopter strafings? You also want them to pass their examinations without a break? You would want to have them adequately fed and would also want your cake of soap to bathe your children and sufficient milk and sugar to put in their morning cups of tea? In the home, you want your electrical and gas appliances going; your telephone working? You yourself may want to enjoy your leisurely stroll on the Galle Face Green or go purchasing your sundries at the convenient super-market nearby. You want to attend "bana" at your favourite temple or go to bury your dead? You may even need the loving kindness of those who are neither Sinhala nor Buddhist, who

knows? Well, my Sinhala brethren you can have all these! Tamil Eelam does not begrudge you these and other comforts, though they are denied her own people. She wants only the freedom for her people to live their own lives.

It fools no one when the Sinhalese make their gestures of peace and utter, "mea culpa, mea culpa. We have all along wronged the Tamils and would now welcome a rapprochement. We are all children of the same mother".

These are sentiments expressed (of course! out of hearing of the yellow-faced gentry) for the benefit of foreign powers, especially when extending the begging bowl or when frightened out of their wits by the bogey of invasion by Big Brother, India. We have known each other long enough and we certainly are mindful of how we have been made the butt-end of Sinhala wheelings and dealings for ever so long. We know all about their sincerity; and they know that we know about titoo!

That foreign aid to Ceylon for development purposes, had been used fraudulently and surreptitiously to wage war against the Tamils, has been glaringly exposed in many instances. But on the other hand, it pains poor Premadasa's heart that such aid is yet continuing to be conditional on the safeguarding of human rights. Being a highly sensitive soul, he opines that having a painful

heart is much more disastrous than the innumerable stilled hearts, occasioned by the murders and eliminations of the citizens of this country by him and his cohorts. He is still in dire need of foreign aid to kill the Tamils and his other adversaries, thereby making these foreign powers accessories to his fell deeds. Meanwhile our Sinhala friends tirelessly proclaim the atrocities and cruelties inflicted by our freedom fighters, to gain additional support for the Sinhala-Buddhist war against the Tamils. But then, the whole world now knows only too well not to be fooled by such propaganda.

Everyone is aware of what led to this liberation struggle and how the ball started rolling with the government-sponsored riots and the mass killing of Tamils, before Tamil Eelam youngsters were unbearably provoked. The Sinhalese are now reaping the effects of their own causation! Remove the causation and you have peace, prosperity and the goodwill of others. As it is, peace will be a long time coming, if at all, for it will necessarily involve the assumption of the political Sinhala leadership by individuals of personal integrity, honesty and political acuity, with the courage to act according to one's convictions and with a repugnance for intrigues and double dealings. Moreover, it will be a time-consuming and herculean task for the Sinhala Buddhist race to

reclaim its mangled image and win the confidence of the Tamils, who are no longer in the mood to be deceived just another time. The statement that the government is awaiting the weakening of the LTTE, the only bulwark against the complete Sinhala Buddhist obliteration of the Tamil race, is palpably mala fide and

reveals the Sinhala illwill and their racial intention of taking every advantage of the Tamils. This is because the time is not ripe for meaningful dialogue; and Tamil Eelam is not ready to foolishly bare her throat only to have it slit. Well, Sinhala brethren, to be precise, your slip is showing!

Well Said - Mr. A. S. P.

Recently the Chief Minister of the Uva Province, Mr. Percy Samaraweera convened a conference to discuss the security situation in the Province. It is reported that an Asst. Supdt. of Police (Mr. Karunaratne) also addressed this meeting which was attended by high officials.

According to the report Mr. Karunaratne has said that the Police had received information that there was tiger intrusion in the Uva Province also. This should be nipped in the bud. If the problem worsens in the hill country we have to draw the forces from the North to contain the situation. If we draw the forces from the North there is a likelihood of a separate Tamil state being born in the North. The Police have been carrying out arrests in the Uva to prevent the situation worsening in the Uva.

The Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr. Karunaratne has come out with a stark fact. The fabric of Sri Lanka is only being maintained in the North by military might - not by the will of the people.

The Assistant Superintendent of Police has unwittingly exposed the hollowness of Premadasa's claim to democratic right to rule Tamil Eelam.

New form of Attack by Heli

A Sri Lankan helicopter proceeding towards Palaly is reported to have dropped a log of wood instead of the usual granite at Kaithady.

The falling log from the helicopter fell on the house of one Mr. R. Ganeshan at Kaithady Centre and caused damages to the roof and walls of Mr. Ganeshan's house. Fortunately no one was hurt.

CORRECTION

Adverting to our News item on 15 - 12 - 1991 relating to the Association of Lecturers on Secondment, we are informed that the Secretary of the Association is Mr. J. J. Arupharajah, Mr. C. S. Arulpiragasam referred to therein as Secretary is the Assistant Secretary.

HOT SPRING

VOL: 2 SUNDAY 29th December 1991 ISSUE 12

A MEANINGLESS EXERCISE

The Colombo Declaration issued after the one day conference of the SAARC has turned out to be nothing.

The peoples all over the globe witness many associations of states which make pious declarations.

We have the world body the UNO. It does some useful work but is again made impotent because of its own rules which only recognise the rights of states but not of the peoples of the world. And the states have unlimited power even over the world body that many states are able to pooh-poo UN. For example, UN Declarations on Human Rights was followed up with two covenants and an Optional Protocol. While many states have not ratified the covenants, except a few Scandinavian countries none of the states - including the founding states of the UN have accepted or ratified the Optional Protocol.

This situation shows the impunity with which world states render even the world body impotent. Nevertheless the imperative need for a world body cannot be minimised. What is necessary is that this body should be made more effective in its functions, which would benefit the peoples all over the world.

The birth of other organisations extending beyond municipal boundaries was very loftily spoken of. Some such organisations are the Non - Aligned Movement, the SAARC, etc. etc.

But what do these organisations achieve. Perhaps in the changed context of world power situation the Non - Aligned Movement will have a natural death with hardly any one to mourn its death.

The SAARC as an Association of countries in our own region is of interest to us.

Its meeting planned for November this year was sabotaged by no out-sider, Undeterred another effort was made to hold the Conference in Colombo and the world witnessed a tamasha on December 21. In a single day those assembled at Colombo went through some sort of a meeting.

A communique called the Colombo Declaration was issued. It comes out with nothing tangible. The declaration has spoken of terrorism. Terrorism has, however, been not defined.

It is a sad state of affairs that of the Heads of states who met at Colombo - all do not represent the peoples over whom they wield power. This is especially so of Sri Lanka.

The Government of Sri Lanka is a terrorist Government. It has no backing at all from the Tamil people in the Northeast. It never had. Still it wants to impose its authority over the Tamil people purely by a reign of terror.

In the course of establishing its illegitimate rule of the Tamil Eelam - its neo - colonialism over Tamil Eelam - it has let lose a reign of terror which has also come in for criticism from international agencies.

In order to hide its terrorist rule it seeks support from others. Of course the other members of the SAARC also join in pious declarations against terrorism because many of these states also practise terrorism.

The question arises whether a Government is entitled to let lose a reign of terror. Is it because the Governments think that they can do so they say that aid and human rights violations should not be linked?

In any event states cannot do anything useful unless the states represent peoples and are prepared to abandon terrorism themselves.

914, Infants Die in Six Months

Malnutrition — The Cause

It has been reported that 914 infants died during the last six months in the Jaffna District alone. It is further reported that the fundamental reason behind the steep infant mortality is malnutrition.

It is further reported that 144 infants died on birth because of malnutrition of the pregnant mothers.

208 infants died within one month of birth again due to malnutrition.

165 weak children between the ages of 1 - 5 died during the same period again for want of nutrition.

397 premature births resulted in death of the infants.

It is also reported that during the same period 21 pregnant mothers also died.

Thousands of children have been found underweight because of malnutrition.

ATTACK IN VAVUNIA CONTINUES

It is reported that army attack in the Vavunia District is continuing for more than a week.

The villages of Puthukulam and Kattayarkulam came under heavy straffing from Sri Lankan helicopters on Sunday, December 22.

Also artillery shells were fired from Army Camps directed towards the villages of Koliyakulam, Kontharathankulam, Palamodai and Kattayarkulam. The attacks have not abated at the time of writing this news.

Vavunia reports also say that Sri Lankan Air Force planes also bombed many areas in the District.

Reports of the damages caused by the attacks have not been received yet.

Netherland Suspends all Aid to Sri Lanka

It is understood that the Government of Netherland has suspended all aid to the Government of Sri Lanka. It is understood that the Netherland Government's decision to suspend aid to Sri Lanka has been prompted by the Sri Lankan Government's record of human rights violations.

It is further understood that the Government of Netherland has told the Sri Lankan Government that it could consider resuming aid only if the Government of Sri Lanka showed evidence of willingness to uphold human rights in Sri Lanka.

U S S R Goes out of World Map

The U. S. S. R. has ceased to exist as one country. The U. S. S. R. was the largest country in the world extending from Europe and covering most of Northern Asia extending to Vladivostok at the eastern point of Asia touching the Pacific Ocean. It will no more be found in world maps hereafter drawn. Mr. M. Gorbachev, the President of U. S. S. R. formerly resigned his post on Wednesday, December 25.

The U. S. S. R.'s representation in the U. N. will hereafter be occupied by a number of Independent states. Already the U. S. S. R.'s membership in the Security Council has been given over to the Russian Republic.

A number of new sovereign states which constituted the former U. S. S. R. have

been recognized as sovereign states by a number of countries including the U. S. A.

It will be recalled that the U. S. S. R. formed in 1917 composed of a number of Republics with different peoples and has come to an end after 74 years of existence.

A Commonwealth of the former republics within the U. S. S. R. has been consti-

tuted for greater co-operation among the former Soviet Republics now completely independent. It is expected that the new Commonwealth might function on the lines of the E. E. C.

The break up of the U. S. S. R. into a number of its constituent units, each free and independent, is expected to have great impact on human thought in the coming years.

Heavy Aerial Bombardment at Manal Aru

Reports reaching Jaffna from Manal Aru area state that villages and forests without exception in the area were being heavily bombed for two days, Tuesday and Wednesday, Decem-

ber 24 and 25. Apart, from bombing by planes, helicopters were also involved in the straffing.

It is learnt that the villages of Nayar, Alampil and Kokkuthoduwai were subjected to the worst attack. Preliminary reports indicated heavy damages to houses and properties in the area.

Another report states that fresh contingents of the Sri Lankan Army personnel have been sent to the Manal Aru area.

Details of the loss caused to civilians and property as a result of the brutal air attack has not been received but the loss is expected to be very heavy.

CURFEW IN POONAKARY

The Joint Operations Command of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces have announced an indefinite curfew in the AGA's Division of Poonakary in the Kilinochchi District effective from 6-00 am. on Friday, December 27.

Further reports from Poonakary state that the Sri Lankan forces stationed there have demolished a

number of houses in the villages of Chettiyakurichchi and Karukkaitivu. The Sri Lankan Army soldiers are also reported to have looted a number of houses in the area abandoned by the occupants on the Army's invasion of the area. The soldiers are also reported to be killing cattle left behind by the people for their food.