

HOT SPRING

Vol. 3

17th January 1993

No. 14

Tamil Aspirations Must be Understood

"I have pleaded for peace and amity at three previous receptions accorded to visiting new bishops. Speaking on this fourth occasion I shall not plead that the new bishop of Colombo should work for peace which had not come to this island for the last forty years. Rather I would plead that the new Bishop works for a clear understanding of the aspirations of the Tamils amongst Sinhalese."

Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Bishop of Jaffna at the Reception accorded to Rt. Rev Kenneth Fernando, of Colombo, at St. John's College Hall, Jaffna recently.

SEVERAL THOUSANDS DEMONSTRATE

Economic Blockade & Military Attack Denounced

MASS PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION IN JAFFNA

Several Thousands of people of all age groups, of all calling and sexes demonstrated through the streets of Jaffna protesting against the economic blockade, military pressures and killings carried out by the Government of Sri Lanka against the Tamils on Monday, January 11.

Thousands of people from all walks of life and from all over the peninsula assembled near the Nallur Kanthasamy Temple about 10.30 in the morning and marched towards the Jaffna secretariat via the ICRC office. It was a large gathering and took two hours for the procession to pass a point. The demonstration was organised by the Confederation of Peoples' Organisations which included all organised

groups and Associations in Jaffna.

The demonstrators shouting demands and carrying banners handed over a memorandum to the ICRC team at Jaffna. From there they proceeded to the Jaffna Secretariat. At the Jaffna Secretariat the leaders of the Con-

federation handed over a memorandum to the Addl. Government Agent, to be transmitted to President Premadasa. The Govt. Agent Jaffna was away in Colombo and the Addl. Govt. Agent who received the memorandum undertook to have it sent to President Premadasa.

The memorandum which dealt with in detail the (Continued on Page 4)

DEMONSTRATION IN JAFFNA



A section of the demonstrators who participated in the mammoth procession that preceded the demonstration outside the Jaffna Secretariat on Monday, January 11.

Picture - Courtesy: Uthayan.

SUPERSONIC JETS AGAIN CHAVAKACHCHERI BOMBED

Two supersonic jets of the Sri Lankan Air Force bombed Madduvil North in Chavakachcheri on Tuesday, January 12.

At 8.00 a.m. on January 12 two Supersonic jets of the Sri Lankan Air Force dropped 3 bombs near the Madduvil Mahavidyalayam but as all the three bombs fell in a bare land there were no deaths except for an old woman who lived near the area who died as

a result of the shock she received. Another woman, Tharmalingam Letchumiam-

mah (45) suffered injuries as splinters hit her and is admitted to the Chavakachcheri Hospital. About six houses in the vicinity were damaged by the tremor caused and splinters hitting them. Most people had taken shelter under trenches and thus escaped injuries.

Plantations and even paddy ready for harvest were damaged.

Two Tigers Killed at Manal Aru

The LTTE announced the death of two of its fighters at Kokkuthoduwai in the Manal Aru area on Saturday, January 9, in a skirmish with the Sri Lankan Army. The dead LTTE fighters are Captain Muthuchelvam and Lt. Ilamaram.

Ghee Production Centre Opened at Nedunkerni

Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR) opened a new Ghee Production Centre in the village of Thanduvan in the Nedunkerni Division on December 5, last year.

TEEDOR in a press note said that the Centre would benefit dairy farmers in the area. Milk production can be increased and excess milk can be converted to ghee.

MR. PIRABAKARAN STATES : LTTE POSITION TO BISHOP OF COLOMBO Two Sinhala Prisoners of War released as good-will gesture

"All know what our political ideal is. If the Government of Sri Lanka and the Sinhalese people do not like the division of the island it is the responsibility of the Government of Sri Lanka to place before us for consideration concrete and meaningful proposals which recognise the aspirations of the Tamil people." Mr. V. Pirabakaran so informed the Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando, Bishop of Colombo (Anglican Church).

Visiting Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando, accompanied by Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Bishop of Jaffna (C. S. I.) and Rt. Rev. Thomas Savundaranayagam, Bishop of Jaffna (R. C.) met Mr. Pirabakaran on Sunday, January 10. The meeting lasted for two and a half hours and various matters were discussed.

Mr. Pirabakaran is also reported to have told the visiting dignitary that the

Government of Sri Lanka wishes to have talks whilst carrying on the war. Mr.

Pirabakaran has said that this was untenable and that (Continued on Page 4)]

MR. PIRABAKARAN MEETS PRELATES!



Mr. Pirabakaran photographed with Religious Heads. Left to Right: Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando, Mr. V. Pirabakaran, Rt. Rev. Thomas Savundaranayagam.

Exploiting the Fiction of Prestigious Schools

The system of the Government holding an examination in two subjects at the end of the 5th year, at the termination of the Primary school level, has given an opportunity to some schools with vested interests to the fiction of prestigious schools to indulge in anti-social practices. A supposed prestigious school collected Rs. 2,140/- from each child who was misled by this fiction of prestigious school but gave a receipt for only Rs. 5/- which was membership subscription for a co-operative canteen. There was no receipt for the balance sum of Rs. 2,135/-. The question arises: Who takes possession of this money? A Parent-Teachers' Association is a duly recognized body to collect funds and incur expenditure. It

seems that there is no Parent-Teachers' Association at this school. Who decides on the expenditure to be incurred? Is the expenditure decision taken with due consideration to economy, value received etc.?

Is the collection and expenditure of these monies

in the days of Assisted schools when schools had the freedom to prescribe the text books to be used and teachers were, so to say, "institutions" in the schools. There were several outstanding teachers in each of the Colleges. They stuck to the teaching profession and they were part and

These have their merits and demerits. They are well-written and comprehensive in coverage and take the form virtually of "notes". The personality of the author is nowhere to be found. It is the pulsating personality of the author which makes the reader read - which com-

Nestor always began his introductory lecture on economics by asking the students the simple question: "Why are wells sunk in circular shape?" and it only after instilling into their heads the grasp of mathematics possessed by our ancients that he proceeds with the lecture. The Government produced books are brief, comprehensive and promotes students to cram and are of course very helpful in passing the examination, particularly as the examination questions set follow what is brought out in the Government-produced books. The teacher has just

(Continued on Page 3)

MUSINGS by NESTOR

subject to audit? Is an annual Report published by the body collecting these funds? Are proper accounts published by the body which collects these monies compulsorily from the new admissions? Kannangara's "pearl of great price" the free education system is very expensive!

Prestigious Schools

The expression "prestigious schools" had some meaning

parcel of the School. Today all schools are Government schools. Even a so-called private school cannot prescribe a text-book of its choice. All the books are produced by the Government.

pels the reader to continue to read without any feeling of tiredness or dullness.

The books supplied by Government do not reflect the personality of the author and may lack the capacity to provoke thinking.

Meditation before Ganesha

O God

The breath of all breathing creatures
We live move and have our being in you
From your formlessness you gave us forms

O God of Wisdom

The wise take counsel from you
The wise give exhortation because of you
They act wisely because they are moved by you

O God

They proclaim that you are the remover of obstacles
Therefore many worship you
And seek your assistance

O God in unknown form

You are God of all ganas, the demi gods and your attendants
Therefore some call you
Ganesha and Ganapathi

O God

Businessmen often succeed
When they mention your name
And keep cheating us

O God of just order

I wonder how the rich succeed to create disorder
Where you attempt to evolve order?
Will you explain the present disorder?

O God of might

You possess nuts fruits and all kinds of sweet
Both the lion and the rat are equal in your sight
Yet how is that only a small group of humans eat a balanced diet?

O God of every order

Why should organised murder
Along with state terrorism and genocide
Become the order of the day?

O God you are formless

But in whatever form you come to me
Make me ready to receive you
No matter whether you come as a human or an elephant

O God train me to bow before you

Even if you come as half elephant and half human
For it is not your form
But your being that matters

O God in case I turn you down

Because I fail to recognise your being
In the form you come to me
Reject me not for my foolishness

O God do not turn me down for my small heartedness

And my inability to understand you and myself
Instead gently draw me to your being that comes to me
With a variety of strange forms

O God you often come to us through our own

You also come to us in whatever way we come to you
Lead me away from all idols both mine and my neighbours
Lead me towards your being even when that comes through idols
For your being is always a mystery

Dr. Henry Victor

OUR READERS SAY Premadasa & Eric Honecker

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany had been taking all steps to have former President, Eric Honecker of East Germany punished for his ordering the killing of East Germans who tried to cross into West Germany. Who is going to take the necessary steps to have President Premadasa punished for his ordering the killing of innocent Tamil civilians trying to cross into the mainland from the Jaffna Peninsula?

On the 2nd of this month, the Sri Lankan Navy at the sight of three small boats, had shot at these boats at random and then tied them to their boats and removed them to the area under their control. So far the death toll has been counted as forty. It might be much more, if you include the corpses in the boats and the bodies which got washed ashore in areas under the control of the Sri Lankan Forces.

Sri Lanka being a Unitary State with the Government and Commercial capital in Colombo, the Tamil people living in the Jaffna Peninsula are forced to cross to the mainland to attend to various types of affairs. When you declare the water-way separating the Peninsula from the mainland out of bounds, then how is it that the armed forces at Vavuniya are permitting people to go to Colombo etc? Surely, the least of intelligence should tell them that these people had come through the area which was declared out of bounds. The fact that people are allowed to cross Vavuniya, prompts the people to believe that the out-of-bounds declaration is just a paper not fiction not to be followed by the Forces.

If in Germany the killing of East Germans on the orders of President Eric Honecker is a crime, even though the order not to cross, had no loop-holes, the ordering of President Premadasa to shoot people off and on, is hundred times more criminal than that of President Eric Honecker.

Who will see that the perpetrator of this unthinkable crime is suitably punished? It is idle for the LTTE to strictly follow the rules of war, when its enemy is daily breaking the rules of war. And what has the LTTE to say when the International Community is not taking the smallest step to warn the Sri Lankan Government not to by-pass the rules of war?

The Sinhalese people are now used to the death of Sri Lankan Forces mainly because these are poor country side lads.

Will the Sinhalese Government and Sinhalese people accept as a norm of war, if Sinhalese civilians are killed in retaliation, though I am pained to pose this question?

Urumpirai

S. Alagaratnam

Unserviceable currency Notes

It is gratifying to note that the Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna and its branches have decided to accept torn, damaged or mutilated currency notes from account holders in various branches in exchange for new currency notes.

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Election Postponed-Big Brother Says

'Hold Them'-Leninism-New Thought

Like Mohamed Ali alias Casius Clay proclaiming "I am the greatest", President Premadasa, beating his chest, said "No one can beat me". He, thereby, indirectly said that 1993 would be the election year for Provincial Councils, Parliament and for the Presidency. Some Lake House newspapers came out with the advantages that would favour Premadasa for a landslide victory in all areas and gave the causes why the Opposition could not win. It even showed the percentage of votes he would get, the futility of the obstructionist attitude of the Opposition on the assumption that the elections were round the corner etc. But suddenly Premadasa has changed his tactics and announced that Presidential Election will be held only in December, 1994, two years hence. Even though the Opposition says that these new tactics are to put them off the track and take them by surprise, the actual reasons are somewhat different. Before the change of tactics, President hoped that he could fool both Sinhalese and Tamils with 'his' Sinivasan's proposal. Political climate in the Capital changed immediately. Tamil groups operating from Colombo were taken by surprise. Their future became a blind alley. New Delhi was alerted. Thondaman who was vacillating at first, got out of the initial shock and there was a unified voice against the outcome of the Select Committee. Things moved fast. CWC resigned from the Select Committee. Premadasa who was banking, as the UNP always did, on the votes of the Tamils and Thondaman, got perturbed. The militant chauvinist elements in the SLFP also brought terror to Premadasa. Hela Urumaya and the MEP showed signs that they could sway Sinhala votes. President also knew that even Tamil votes outside the North East could be depended only by the grant of some solution or other to the problem. This Premadasa could not

achieve because the majority of the top rung in the hierarchy of the armed forces who are not involved in the actual war, but were on the periphery and enjoying the 'fringe benefits' directly or indirectly because of the continued existence of the war, is opposed to any political solution. All these compelled Premadasa to change tactics. Above all, it is beyond all doubt that neither President Premadasa nor the UNP is prepared to concede anything to the Tamils.

It is President Premadasa, as Head of the Council of war that is waging a war against Eelam, who has ordered 'the out-of-production Bukkara fighter aircrafts', M. 1. 8 from Russia and speed boats from France. What are these for? Are they to be given as presents to the Tigers (sometimes it is also possible)? No, they are definitely for killing the Tamils and only the Tamils.

"Hold on"

It is in this context that we should look at the viewpoint expressed by some journalists from the South. Mr. Gamini Navaratne says that he was alarmed at a news item appearing in 'The Island' of 31st. December that Security Forces are poised to make that long planned final push against Jaffna, heartland of Tamil country shortly and that in all seriousness, he thought that if the operation were carried out, it would negate all the efforts of responsible people on both sides of the communal divide to bring about a negotiated settlement. There is no doubt that a negotiated settlement has to be arrived at. How is it to be arrived at? Is it to be dictated by the Sinhalese, who as a nation has all the advantages in its favour? Mr. Gamini Navaratne who knows Jaffna and its people well (Does he not?) understands that things have gone beyond redemption because of the attitude shown by successive Sinhala Govern-

ments to strangle the genuine and just demands and rights of the Tamil people. In a war does he expect one side to 'hold on' till someone comes to intervene? Or does he think that if the Sri Lanka army got the advantage of a 'push' that it will listen to him and 'hold it', till saner people decide on some peaceful course or other? Does he not realise that it will be something akin to a big chandiya, having got down a victim for purposes of ransom and while that man was being subjected to torture, asking his henchman to 'hold it' saying "he

S. Thiagarajah

is relenting and will accede to our demand?" Is it not another chauvinistic big brother attitude?

Mr. Gamini Navaratne was aware that even before the commencement of the Government's war against Eelam in 1983 that the majority of the Sinhalese had been made and taught to hate the Tamils. Just imagine a Sinhala child who was five years old in 1983, as Mr. D. U. Gunasekara has pointed out in an interview to the Laankadipa, would be fifteen years old. Year, by year this child would have, owing to the circumstances and environ-

ment he was living in, would be having a prejudicial bias towards the Tamils. He will think that the Tamils want to grab the land of the Sinhalese and are a race of demons who kill the Sinhalese child. Under these circumstances, will there be any possibility of both the Sinhalese and Tamils living in amity hereafter?

Neo - Leninism

Mr. Dayan Jayatileke is preaching Leninism and Mao-Tse-Tung thoughts in his article in the Sunday Observer of 3.1.93. The fact is that the people to whom he is preaching are not revolutionaries nor even moderates believing in evolutionary reforms nor are they like government servants striving hard to earn their annual increments. They are rejects of the Tamil people both democratically and otherwise. They do not deserve to be called democratic Tamil parties. They had lost their credentials long ago. Mr. Jayatileke should know that there are better and competent persons who know the thoughts of Marxism, Leninism and Mao-Tse-Tung and could interpret the same better. It is better he keeps his half-baked understanding of those philosophies to

himself than preaching them to these imbeciles of the so-called democratic Tamil parties.

Mr. Jayatileke says that the struggle for national liberation, similar to the struggle for Socialist Revolution is one of stages, sub-stages and phases. It is so. No doubt about it. But for whom? It is for those people who are really engaged in liberation struggle and socialist revolution. But do the Tamil groups operating from Colombo have anything to do with liberation struggle or socialist revolution? Mr. Dayan also says, for tactical purposes Lenin agreed to the Brest-litovsk Treaty with Germany to safeguard his weak and fledgling Soviet Government. He was right in doing so. But, can these imbecile Tamil groups in Colombo be compared with Lenin or his Government? What do these jokers have in common with them, other than what is provided by either Sri Lanka Government or the Indian Government? Or, is it by any chance that he is accepting the fact that the UNP and other parties representing the Sinhalese are fascists toting Hitler's line against the Tamils? It is high time that Mr. Jayatileke understands that the liberation struggle of the Tamils is proceeding on the correct line with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam spear-heading it with wholehearted support and backing of the Tamils of the North East. They know what revolution is. The seizure of power by armed force,

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Musings...

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to follow the Government texts. Under these circumstances there is nothing to call 'role of prestigious schools.'

The grammarian Pavananthi emphasises that a student gains immensely by discussion among themselves. The more enlightened the students, the greater the advantage by such discussions. The prestigious schools' only claim for superiority is that they have managed to collect a group of bright students from other schools by exploiting the fiction of prestigious schools. But it is a loss to the other schools which have at considerable expense and effort produced these bright young infants. If these bright students remained in their own schools, those schools would benefit by their presence. One thing becomes clear. It is rather unsocialistic. Equality of opportunity is denied to the students who remain in their old schools from which the cream of

the students have been removed by exploiting the myth of prestigious schools.

Surely the de facto Government of Tamil Eelam ought to intervene and enforce the principle that no school-recruit students on the results of the scholarship test if the school from which the student seeks admission also conducts classes leading up to the

Advanced Level in the whole range of subjects. If such a rule is not enforced the majority of schools will lose their best students and higher education will suffer from a severe strain.

One prestigious school sold its obsolete magazine of nineteenthcenties at Rs. FIFTY percopy as a condition of admission of those who passed the scholarship test for 1993.

Unserviceable

(Continuation from Page 2)

This decision is most commendable and help the public to a very great extent who have suffered a great deal because of the failure of trading and business establishments to accept such notes in business dealings.

In the past Banking Institutions accepted torn and disfigured notes in exchange for good notes but this practice was discounted. Even Post Offices too then extended the courtesies to their customers.

The difficulties experienced by members of the public with torn or mutilated notes was earlier spotlighted by me in the Hot Spring. I am happy to note that the Bank of Ceylon and its branches have opened their eyes to the problems of the public in the matter of money transactions.

It is time other Banking Institutions, viz. the People's Banks and the National Savings Bank follow suit for the convenience of the public in pecuniary transactions.

S. Jayaratnam
Chavakachcheri.

Aids and Prevention - Rotarians Organise Lecture

At the monthly Guest Speaker's day meeting of the Rotary Club of Jaffna, held recently at Hotel Subhas, Jaffna Dr. R. Theivendran, Medical Officer of Health, Jaffna delivered a talk on "AIDS & PREVENTION" amidst a distinguished large gathering. Among those present were Heads of Dep'ts, Heads of Schools, Medical Personnel and Representatives of various Social Organisations.

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VOL: 3 Sunday 17th January 1993 ISSUE: 14

DESPERATE KICKS OF A DYING DONKEY

Recent weeks have witnessed an acceleration in the process of killing Tamil civilians by the tottering racist Sinhala State.

On Christmas Day, a Christian family which had got together to celebrate X'mas were the victims of a heinous crime against humanity, committed by a rabidly Sinhala State, when its Air Force bombed their dwelling house at Ariyalai, Jaffna.

It is rather strange that some Christian countries are aiding and abetting this murderer by providing military aid and financial aid. Some of these countries are playing fiddle to the swansong of 'Territorial Integrity' of the Sri Lankan State to encompass the Tamil homeland.

On Saturday the Second of January, 1993, when civilians were crossing the Jaffna Peninsula after celebrating the New Year with their families, the Sri Lankan Navy exhibited their true cowardly character by deliberately attacking the civilian convoy of boats. According to eye witness accounts, when the Navy gun-boats approached, the civilians had cried for mercy. Yet these beasts in human form have lobbed grenades into the civilian boats, fired at them and even indulged in stabbing and chopping the defenceless civilians. Many of the bodies were found to have been mutilated.

Again on Wednesday, 7th January, supersonic jets bombers of the Sri Lankan Air Force had thought it fit to fire rocket mortar and bomb the village of Sithankerny in Jaffna, without any rhyme or reason. They fired over two dozen rocket mortar all over the village. They succeeded in killing ten civilians and wounding over twenty others. Most of the victims were passers-by on a public road and those working at a rice mill.

The genocide of the Tamils is being carried on with undue haste and the supersonic jets are also used liberally for this purpose. All sorts of atrocities on Tamil civilians, including an increasingly tightened economic blockade are being perpetrated, while the Sinhala President Premadasa, as usual, is pretending to be a Buddhist Apostle preaching peace, harmony and non-violence. Day in and day out he relentlessly preaches profusely quoting from Buddhist Scriptures, speaks of 'noble weapons' to achieve lasting peace instead of lethal weapons. His obsession for preaching seems to have reached such a mental state that he cannot be without constantly preaching and preaching concepts he never practised and never intends practising.

He only preaches to others. What he himself practises, can be gauged by the number of Sinhala youths who were made to 'disappear' by his killer squads and the frantic efforts his government is making to procure Bukkbara bombers, MI 8, helicopter gunships and many other lethal weapons to accelerate the annihilation of the Tamils.

Tamils are convinced of the evil colonial intentions of the Sinhalese and are not going to be deterred by Sinhala State Terrorism. The barbarous and brutal methods adopted by the Sinhalese to keep the Tamils under subjugation, abusing their hold on the State apparatus, has gained notoriety all over the world. The Sinhalese seem to fail to understand the fundamental nature of the human spirit and the urge throughout the ages to rid itself of all oppressions.

The Tamils as a nation are determined to preserve their national identity and are not prepared to forsake their ideals under fear or cowardice. We are sorry and ashamed to see the petty-mindedness of the Sinhala chauvinists and the enormity of racism and bigotry in which they are engulfed and the low depths to which they descend to militarily subjugate the Tamils.

We can only say to the Sinhala President Premadasa that you do your worst to perform your impossible aim of militarily maintaining your fast collapsing illegitimate rule over us and we Tamils will do our best to liberate ourselves and re-establish our own independent Sovereign State of Eelam.

IN BATTICALOA DISTRICT

6 Sri Lankan Soldiers Killed Arms - Recovered

Six Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and their arms captured by the LTTE in a confrontation between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Army in the Batticaloa District.

The news in this connection states that a confrontation took place between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Army on Sunday, January 10 morning around 7.00. The Sri Lankan soldiers who were going from an Army Camp at Kosgala to another camp at Tham-

batty tried to round-up a group of Tigers and battle ensued between the two.

The LTTE killed six Sri Lankan soldiers and recovered their arms but 12 LTTE fighters died in this action.

Several..

(Continuation from Page 1)

sufferings of the Jaffna population underwent, called upon President Premadasa to - (1) remove the military pressures and economic blockade and make available essential food supplies at normal prices, (2) to open the Poonakari-Sangupiddy causeway by removing all army encampments and installations in the Poonakari area (3) to stop military actions against the Tamils and to start negotiations with the LTTE.

Similar memoranda were handed over to the ICRC team and Heads of diplomatic missions in Colombo.

The memorandum to the ICRC was handed over on behalf of the confederation by Rev. Fr. M. E. Pius.

A memorandum to the same effect addressed to UN-Secretary - General, Mr. Boutros Ghali was handed

over by Vamadeva Sarma Kurukkal to be transmitted to UN-Secretary General.

After handing over the memoranda at the Jaffna Secretariat, the demonstrators dispersed peacefully.

Reports from Kilinochchi state that a similar demon-

stration was held at Kilinochchi. Several thousands who marched to the Kilinochchi Secretariat handed over a memorandum to the Govt. Agent to be forwarded to President Premadasa.

The Kilinochchi mass demonstration took place on Tuesday, January 12.

KILALI MASSACRE 3 More Bodies Washed Ashore

Three more dead bodies of massacred civilians who crossed the Kilali sea on Saturday, January 2, were washed ashore near Alankerni on Monday, January 11.

The bodies were highly decomposed and could not be identified except as male bodies.

The people of the area buried the bodies nearby.

With these three new bodies the number of dead bodies found has increased to 31. The Sri Lankan Government is trying to protect its naval murderers by pretending ignorance of the murder on the high seas but proceeding to proclaim by Gazette Notification the Kilali sea area as a prohibited area with retrospective effect.

Mr. Pirabakaran...

(Continuation from Page 1)

talks could take place only in an atmosphere of peace.

Mr. Pirabakaran also told the Bishop of Colombo that no move to divide the Tamil homeland would be acceptable to the Tamil people.

Mr. Pirabakaran also agreed to the Bishop of Colombo meeting the Sinhalese prisoners of war and also releasing two of them unconditionally as a gesture of good will. Accordingly the following day, Monday, January 11, the Sinhala prisoners of war were presented to the Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando. Two of them were released and handed over to Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando. The released prisoners are Police Sergeant K. L. M. Bandara (44) of Kandy and Police Driver S. K. Edward Perera (40) of Kegalle.

Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando who received the freed prisoners said he was very grateful to the LTTE leader who readily agreed to his request to be allowed to see the Sinhala prisoners and also to release two of them. He also said he would take along with him the freed Sinhala Police Officers to Colombo and also present a written memorandum to the President.

Police Sergeant Bandara, speaking at the release ceremony said that they were looked after well by the LTTE during their captive days.

It is learnt that during the two and a half-hour long discussion Rt. Rev.

Kenneth Fernando had with Mr. Pirabakaran, many matters were discussed including the difficulties the civilian population in Jaffna undergo, and creation of a peace atmosphere.

Election...

(Continuation from Page 3)

the settlement of an issue by war, is the central task and the highest form of revolution. The Tigers are engaged in a revolutionary war to oppose the counter-revolutionary war imposed on Eelam by the Sinhalese elites. They are engaged in a just war which is opposed to the unjust war thrust on the people of Eelam.

Transfer to Anuradhapura

It is of significance that the Tigers, in spite of being in a commanding position regarding the war, have shown many an indicator that they are prepared for negotiations. Release of Sinhala prisoners from time to time and various other gestures of goodwill shown by the Tigers, should not be considered by the Government as weakness. The Government, no doubt, understands that they are weak internally and internationally, both militarily-wise and economically. But it wants to show a bold face.

President Premadasa wants to muddle the situation and hoodwink the Sinhalese. The Government wants to shift its military operational command to Anuradhapura. This move too is a multi-pronged manoeuvre to defraud the Sinhalese. Whether it is Colombo or Anuradhapura, what difference would it make? It is only to bolster the morale of the soldiers at the forward defence line and for them to think that their commanders too are with them. But actually, it is to safeguard those top-rung officers in the armed forces who are now susceptible to risk and danger in Colombo that the command is being shifted to Anuradhapura. Among the Sinhalese, there seems to be none who could visualise the hollowness of the strength and tactics of Premadasa's war manoeuvres and expose them to the ordinary Sinhalese. No one seems to be worried because after all, it is the ordinary Sinhalese lad who has joined the Army for his economic benefit but who is getting killed in the battlefield.

New Era Publication Ltd.
267, Main Street, Jaffna.