

## HOT SPRING

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No. 22

The Unitary State  
Has Ceased to be Viable

"..... Our assessment, meanwhile is that the Unitary State for which Colebrooke, Donoughmore and Soulbury provided the structure and which the British bequeathed to Don Stephen Senanayake in 1948, has ceased to be viable."

The Break-up of Sri Lanka.  
The Sinhalese - Tamil Conflict  
By A. J. Wilson

# S. L. Forces Start Attack in Many Areas

Sri Lankan Armed Forces began offensive operations in most parts of Tamil Eelam territory this week and operations are still proceeding.

## Vavunia and Mannar

The offensive operations started with the declaration of curfew in the Vavunia and Mannar Districts on Monday, March 8. The armed forces in the Cheddikulam area started the operations in Vavunia. Air Force planes and battle tanks were said to have participated in the operations.

## Boatman Killed at Kilali

A boatman named Seeman (30) was killed when Sri Lankan Navymen opened fire on a boat transporting goods in the Kilali sea. This happened on Thursday, March 11.

Seeman was injured and was taken to the Jaffna hospital for treatment but he died on admission.

In Mannar, Sri Lankan Air Force planes carried out wide-spread bombing. At Periyapandivirichchan three Air Force bombers and a helicopter were engaged in attack. Six bombs were dropped there. Helicopter firing took place for about half an hour. Four houses were damaged at Periyapandivirichchan.

Following the attack at Periyapandivirichchan Air Force planes dropped eight bombs in Kattaiyadampam and Madhu Road. A helicopter was also engaged in the attack.

Again bombs were dropped after a break of three hours at Periyapandivirichchan near the place bombed earlier in the day. The curfew imposed in the Vavunia and Mannar Districts on Monday, March 8 was lifted on Wednesday, March 10.

But the Sri Lankan Armed Forces began operations on Wednesday, March 10 in the Padavia area on the North East of Vavunia.

Details of damages have not been verified.

## Jaffna

On Tuesday, March 9, two bombers and a helicopter attacked areas between Ariyalai East, Poonakari-Poovarasantivu. Four bombs were dropped in this area.

Also Sri Lankan Army at Siruvilan is reported to have

blown down many houses in Siruvilan, now under Sri Lankan Army occupation.

## At Batticaloa

News from Batticaloa stated that the Sri Lankan armed forces started operations in the Batticaloa District on

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## PIRABAKARAN AWARDS PRIZES



At a ceremony held on Sunday, March 7, Mr V. Pirabakaran, leader of the LTTE, awarded 5, extra-special prizes and 61 special prizes to LTTE cadres for their excellence in battle duties. Here Mr. Pirabakaran is seen handing over the extra special prize to LTTE fighter, Cheran, for his excellent performance in the successful sea-mining and destruction of a Sri Lankan Naval vessel in the Kilali sea.

## Fishing Nets Destroyed

The Sri Lankan Navy men carried out a wilful campaign of destruction in the sea off Point Pedro.

According to reports on Thursday, March 11, two Sri Lankan Naval boats passed by the Munai sea at Point Pedro. The Navymen caught three fishermen while they were fishing at Munai sea and assaulted them severely. The assaulted fishermen are T. Ratnam, S. Logasingham and K. Kunam.

Thereafter the Navymen cut to pieces 5 nets in the possession of these fishermen and also dumped all their catch in the sea. Further three fishermen in another boat escaped assault and swam to shore but the Navymen cut to pieces 12 fishing nets belonging to these men.

The nets have been so badly cut and damaged that they are beyond any further use. The cost of these nets is assessed at Rupees Thirty five thousand.

## New Sri Lankan Army Camp in Batticaloa

According to news from Batticaloa the Sri Lankan Army has set up a new camp in the Batticaloa District.

Over a hundred Sri Lankan soldiers are reported to have gone to Manmunai in the Batticaloa District and set up a camp there. This took place on Saturday, March 6.

## Army Shows its Defiance?

The Sri Lankan Army encamped at Poonakari moved out of its camp and supported by a helicopter and four speed boats of the Sri Lankan Navy moved towards the Sangupiddy causeway but moved back to its camp after five hours. This happened on Tuesday, March 9.

Meanwhile on the same day UNHCR officials were having a conference at Jaffna with LTTE representatives, discussing the question of opening the Sangupiddy causeway for civilian transport. Last month too a similar conference was held at which the Tigers said that the Sri Lankan Army could be withdrawn some distance away from the causeway to enable free transport of passengers and goods in and out of

Jaffna. The Army had opposed this suggestion then.

The UNHCR officials, whose first move as mediators to open a pathway to the peninsula, failed, again returned to Jaffna last week for further discussions with the LTTE, possibly with other suggestions. They had talks with the LTTE representatives on Sunday, March 7 which was adjourned for Tuesday, March 9. It was on this adjourned date of meeting of UNHCR officials with LTTE representatives that the Sri Lankan forces made a combined effort to reach the Sangupiddy causeway, stayed there for about 5 hours and thereafter retreated to its camp at Poonakari without of course firing any shots.

The question now being asked in Jaffna circles is whether the combined Sri Lankan forces were sending a message by their act indicating to the UNHCR that the armed forces would not agree to leave the causeway point and would even defy any such agreement if reached at any level to enable free passage between the peninsula and the mainland.

## Cerebral Malaria

Cerebral malaria is on the increase in Jaffna according to note issued by the Malaria Prevention Association. The note further says that the increase noted this year, is double last year's figures.



# Education in Mannar District

## A Perspective

Mannar district which is situated in the North West Tamil Eelam, had been a neglected district, as far as development is concerned for a long time. This district which is rich in human, land, sea and cultural resources, continues to be neglected by the Sinhala government in respect of education, health, transport and other socio-economic developments. At the same time the Sinhala state terrorism is spreading its ugly tentacles all over Tamil Eelam. Lives and resources of the Tamils are destroyed. Education which is the treasure of the Tamils, is also being taken away from us. All Tamil Eelam districts are facing this problem. But it is worse in the Mannar district, as far as education is concerned which this article seeks to portray.

Mannar district which is roughly about 1985 square kilometres, according to the statistics of 1981 contained population of 106,940. Out of this, 68,178 were Tamils. The district is divided into the mainland and the island of Mannar with five Assistant Government Agent divisions of Mannar, Muthai, Musali, Nannaddan and Madhu. Its main administrative centre is Mannar town which is in the island of Mannar.

### EDUCATION AND RESOURCES.

Comparatively this district is backward than other districts and there is disparity among the AGA divisions and the villages within the District itself in respect of education. If one takes into consideration the educational distribution in Mannar district, one can observe that except for the Mannar Town and some of the surrounding big villages, education and other facilities in the areas are backward and neglected especially the coastal fishing settlements and the villages engaged in cultivation. In an atmosphere where educational facilities in respect of science, medicine and engineering have not reached even to administrative centre viz. Mannar, those studying in the distant villages are forced to give up their studies at secondary level and do not further pursue higher studies. Because of the selfishness of certain officials in the educational set-up and some Muslims, educational prospects of many small villages were badly affected. Lack of transport facilities and the weak financial conditions prevented students from going to big

owns to pursue their studies. In this state of affairs with the outbreak of the Second Eelam War and the terrorism let loose by the Sinhala army reaching its zenith, entire educational set-up was disrupted.

There are about 104 schools in Mannar district. Of these 3 are Sinhala schools, 27 Muslim schools and the balance 74 are Tamil schools. Out of these, the Tamil schools were four IAB, 2 eleven IC-5 Tamils schools. The rest were Muslim schools. In the mainland, in the AGA's division of Naanaaddan there were three IC schools and one school in Adampan where children were taught up to G.C.E. (A/L) in Arts and Commerce. It is interesting to note that up to now, there are no IC Tamil schools in the AGA's divisions of Silavathurai and Madhu having G.C.E. (A/L) classes IAB schools with Mathematics and Science courses being found only in the island of Mannar. This uneven distribution of schools has caused an imbalance in educational standards among people of this district. That is while Mannar town and the adjoining villages get their normal education, far off Tamil villages and areas are neglected and are denied higher education. At the same time, one can observe schools with G.C.E. (A/L) classes have been provided to the Muslims in Musali, Periyamadhu, Kakayankulam and Vidathalivu.

### POSITION TODAY

Today after the commencement of the Eelam war and the Muslims getting out of Mannar, Muslim schools are not functioning. Because of army terrorism in the coastal areas and the island of Mannar, Tamil people too went away as refugees in thousands to India and Madhu. As a result of systematic aggression by the army, several Tamil villages are deserted and the Tamil schools there are not functioning. In consequence 11 out of 16 schools in the island of Mannar have been closed. Even though the army maintains that they have retrieved the island of Mannar, only five schools are functioning nominally. It is observed that the island of Mannar which had 6589 Tamil students in 1990, has today only less than 1500 students and there are only a very few advanced level students. St Xavier's Boys' and Girls' schools which have

science divisions in them, are just existing without proper resources as regards teachers, non-teaching staff, laboratories, library and other facilities.

As far as the mainland is concerned, at the time of the commencement of military aggression, 10 schools in Vankalai cluster, 7 schools in Nanaddan cluster and 4 schools in Silavathurai cluster were closed. Due to barbarous army aggression carried out in the latter part of 1992, 11 schools in the Adampan cluster had to be closed. Today there are about 32 schools within the army-controlled areas and 10 schools near the periphery which are not functioning. Murungan Maha Vidiyalayam which was functioning to the last with advance level classes, was converted into an army camp. Even though it has been retrieved from army control, it is not in a position to discharge normal services.

Because of constant army round-up, shell attacks concentrated on this area, only few students attend this school. Apart from this, out of the schools that are functioning, many teach only up to Grade III, i.e.

6th Year. It is to be noted that there are only four schools teaching G.C.E. (O/L) classes. In early 1990 the number of students in the mainland was more than 19,000. But today it is only 8,957. Others have been displaced as refugees and are not able to come back.

### MADHU OPEN RELIEF SCHOOL

Madhu Open Relief School has been set up, centering around the Madhu Refugee camp. After the commencement of the Eelam War because of military aggression, fair number of displaced persons sought refuge in the Madhu Church. As aggression accelerated, this number steadily increased to more than 25,000 refugees. In particular, persons from the AGA's division of Chettikulam in the Vavuniya district and persons from the AGA's divisions of Nannaddan, Silavathurai and Adampan are among the refugees.

In the Open Relief School which had been established to cater to the students who had been deprived of their houses, property and education, there are about 3,876

students studying. Out of this, students from Mannar number 1353, Vavuniya 1417, Trinco 212, Mullaitivu 543 and Jaffna 15. There are about 65 teachers including 12 volunteer teachers. For these students, sky is the roof and the shades of trees their class-rooms. These students are carrying on their studies without furniture, books, libraries, laboratories and without basic sanitary facilities. Even writing has to be done, while seated on the floor. Only a few had appeared for G.C.E. (O/L) and A/L examinations. It should be relevant to note that today a set-up has been established with the help of Tamil Eelam Students Organisation at Pandivirichan enabling 47 A/L and 150 O/L students to pursue their studies. It should also be noted that the decline in higher studies, had led to a great fall in University admissions. Jaffna University Mannar District Organisation is showing great interest in providing higher education. This is an important activity of this organisation.

Till we destroy the Sinhala majority concept and aggressive military activities, our educational prospects will be bleak. It is our duty to smash them and safeguard our educational wealth.

## Direct Talks with LTTE - Only Way

The Tri-partite Coalition Government of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Lanka Samajamaya Party and the Communist Party (M) headed by Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranayake at the tail end of its regime (1970-77) convened an All Party Conference at the Bandaranayake International Memorial Hall in Colombo to find ways and means for resolving the Tamil problem. The TULF which attended one of its sessions, openly told the conference through its spokesman, Mr. S. Kathiravepillai, MP for Kopay that their party would participate in peace talks, provided the Government came forward to have direct talks with the TULF alone.

Then Government acceded to the request and they both had one round of talks. They were scheduled to meet again subsequently but the meeting did not take place due to an accident encountered by Thanthai Chelva at his home at Tellipalai and his death following it in quick succession.

In July, 1965 immediately after the General Elections, the leader of the United National Party, late Mr. Dudley Senanayake, had talks with

the Federal Party alone on the Tamil problem and concluded a pact with Thanthai Chelva prior to his assuming office as Prime Minister of the so-called National Government.

Before that even in June-July 1957 the leader of the

### Anandan

MEP government, Prime Minister S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake, in order to avert the threatened civil disobedience movement by the Federal Party, had to conduct not one but several rounds of talks with the Federal Party alone before he signed an

interim agreement with Thanthai Chelva for the granting of Regional Councils to the Tamils.

On all those three occasions, talks took place with the accredited representatives of the Tamil people, although Mr. Chelvanayakam happened to be a single individual.

So why the hesitation now to have talks with the LTTE? LTTE is the only genuine representative of the Tamil people. When the

(Continued on Page 3)

### Instil Within Me

Instil within me  
An eager curiosity  
Of the being which is thee  
Grant me an increase of bursting courage  
To dive deeper and deeper  
Into your being which has no fencing hedge  
Make my small self stone bold  
To explore consciously and consistently  
the unexplored  
Regions of your being that makes me cold

Dr. Henry Victor



# Thimpu and Right of Self - Determination

Thimpu talks of 1985 are once again in the lime-light. The Virakesari of 21.02.93 has published a letter written by S. Sivasuntharam, a member of Ambegamuwa Pradeshya Sabha wherein he has categorically stated that to say that it is because of the fact that the North-East Tamil political parties took up the issue of Citizenship to the people of Malayaham and insisted on same at Thimpu resulted in their being granted citizenship, is something like twisting the facts of history. He goes on to say that from the time the people of Indian origin were denied their citizenship rights, several forces fought for same. He has stated that protests, satyagraha, fasting campaigns etc were indulged in. He goes on to say that even left parties agitated. No doubt, there were protests and campaigns by several interested parties. But their interest in this issue was based on increase of membership to their trade unions to swell their funds. It was, no doubt, half-hearted. Because the people of Malayaham did not have the right to vote, none of the political parties, whether right or left, took them seriously except to get their contribution to the trade union fund. It was only late N. Sanmugathasan who fighting a different sort of battle, educated them politically to smash the machinery of the capitalist state and not to have faith in parliamentary politics. The fight for the rights of the people of Malayaham took up a different dimension from the time the Tamil youth took up to arms to achieve Eelam.

## Direct..

*Continuation from Page 2*

Tamil people have lost all faith in the Sri Lankan parliament, why should the LTTE be asked to go before one of its Select Committees? The ground realities do not dictate such a step. Even if all others come to terms with the dictates of the Sri Lankan government, no agreements so arranged could possibly be implemented in the North-East without the LTTE co-operation. So instead of fooling oneself and taking the International Community for a joy ride, it will be more practical and sensible for President Premadasa to declare an immediate cease-fire and have talks with the LTTE. Resorting to any other means, even if it be a military operation, is bound to fail. War or Peace, it is for Premadasa to decide and face all ensuing consequences.

When the liberation struggle of the Tamil in the North East hotted up, the Sinhala government thought of the people of Malayaham. It did not want to have two fronts to fight against.

## DEAD POLITICS

The denial by S. Sivasuntharam of the contribution of North East political groups in this respect is definitely to twist the facts of history and not to give credit to those who deserve credit. Persons of the calibre of Sivasuntharam are found everywhere. Recently, a book had been released in Jaffna. A 'Scholarly' person writing about the Ancient Jaffna kingdom, extended his sphere of 'gratitude' to the present to boost the dead politics of late Amirthalingam.

## S. Thiagarajah

Knowing very well, as an insider, the turbulent history of the evolution of the demands put forward at Thimpu Conference, he wants to give a different picture and erase the black role played by TULF during this period. He says that 'even though the concepts like Tamil nationalism, traditional homeland and right of self-determination which were placed by Tamil organisations in 1985' were talked about at the time when S.J. V. Chelvanayakam inaugurated the All Ceylon Tamil Arasu Kadachy in 1949, these concepts became more strengthened and effective as a result of the contributions made by the organisations of the youth. The net result was the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord that came into effect in 1987. Before the Thimpu Conference commenced, the Tigers had drafted a 'Freedom Charter' enunciating their stand on various matters. They wanted to place this before the Conference. But the TULF vehemently opposed this Charter, even though the presentation of such a charter would have strengthened and consolidated the bargaining power of the Tamils. In any event, the four demands arrived at finally, were from this charter, in spite of the opposition by the TULF. To accommodate TULF and others and not to break the unity, the demands were diluted and made a little mild. If the author thinks that the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord of 1987 reflects the aspirations of the Tamils, he is far away from ground-realities. Either he wants to gloss over certain facts or has something sinister to grind in the future.

## SEPARATION

The Virakesari of 21.02.93 also contains an elaboration and a further explanation to an already written article by E. Thambiah, national organiser of the New Democratic Party. This organisation composed of individuals who opposed the correct theories of N. Sanmugathasan about the New Democratic stage of the revolution in Sri Lanka and the right to fight against the chauvinistic majority concept of the Sri Lankan government for their own personal benefits called themselves 'left'. These persons along with certain Sinhalese and Malayaham people professing petty bourgeois thinking, have formed themselves into a party to hoodwink the Tamils, Sinhalese and people of Malayaham. They want to project what they could not achieve directly earlier in an indirect way in the North.

Mr. Thambiah says that the right of self-determination does not equal separation. He goes on to say 'in particular the New Democratic Party which from the inception acknowledged the right of self-determination of the Tamil people had been opposing the demand put forward in that context for a 'separate state'. This party is saying that it is against a separate state of Eelam. These people who could not say this while in the North, are subtly and indirectly saying the same thing in a different context, when discussing the right of self-determination of the people of Malayaham. Normally in the world, even people enjoying the right of self-determination, do not put forward

the right to a separate state, as pre-condition. It is when the demand for a federal set-up is either rejected or not feasible that the demand for a separate state, takes a bigger dimension. Do these 'Left parties' not know all these exercises have been exhausted, as far as the people of the North East are concerned? If these people want to continue to lick the boots that kick, let them do so, but let them not preach to others these sacred doctrines.

They want the people of Malayaham to subjugate themselves to the whims and fancies and the oppressive nature of the Sinhalese. When Mr. Thambiah says that the people of Malayaham are a separate national minority and that their problems should be solved on the principles of the right of self-determination, does this gentleman not know that the right of self-determination includes in itself the right of separation? If there is no right of separation where does the bargaining for the right of self-determination lie?

## MALAYAHAM

People of different ethnic groups who had been brought together for easy rule and administration by foreigners, have the right to fight for their own identity as a nation or to ally with that group with which it is easy to amalgamate because of language, culture and geographical reasons. The people of Malayaham or Malai Nadu are emerging as a separate national minority. They speak the same language which is Tamil like the people of Tamil Eelam. Their basic cultural and religious practices are similar to that practised in the North and East. They are occupying a contiguous territory immediately adjoining the Eastern Province. Their problems are also the same as those of the people of the North and East, i.e. fighting against oppression by the Sinhalese. In this context there is nothing to prevent the people of Malayaham identifying themselves with the people of the North and East and join forces with them against their common enemy.

## COLOMBO - GATE SCANDAL CONFIRMED

Hot spring, in its issue of 14.2.93 exposed the fact that letters addressed to residents in Jaffna from abroad were being surreptitiously opened by the Army with the furtive motive of taking cheques or other forms of money sent to addressees by their relations - against the provision of the Post Office Ordinance prohibiting opening of closed letters.

More than after 5 months for the first time some foreign letters detained by the JOC in Colombo have come to Jaffna on 24th March but all opened. The Post Office authorities in Jaffna have asked the addressees to call over at the Post Office to remove the letters personally as they take no responsibility for the opening of private letters addressed to people.

## Jaffna Rate Payers' Association Begins Active Protest Campaign

The Executive Committee of the Jaffna Rate-payers' Association which met on 2nd March under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Nagarajah, its President, decided to call upon the Jaffna Municipality Rate-payers not to pay rates to the Municipality on the basis of the increased assessments made for the year 1993. The Association has told the rate-payers to send individual protest letters to the Special Commissioner as and when notices are sent to individual rate-payers by the Special Commissioner and has offered to give free advice to them formulating the objection of each individual rate-payer. Incidentally the President of the Association

is an Advocate and a former Mayor of Jaffna.

The Association has also decided to hold public meet-

ings in each of the Municipal wards to explain to the rate payers the injustice of the increased assessment of property value.

## Civilian Passengers: 1 Killed - Another Injured

One civilian passenger was killed and another injured when they were going in a boat at Munaikadu Kanohirankudah in the Batticaloa District.

The news in this connection states that on Sunday, March 7, two civilians were travelling in a boat in the lagoon at Munaikadu - Kan-

chirankudah about 11.00 am. Sri Lankan soldiers attached to the camp at Kokkatticholai opened fire on them killing one and seriously injuring the other.

The man who was killed has been identified as Tamby (32) of Arayampathy. The injured man is Sath (22) also of Arayampathy. Both are



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## Presidential Bluff

The one-hour BBC World Programme last Sunday, March 7, in which Mr. R. Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka answered questions of listeners from all over the world - should be an eye-opener to all, especially as President Premadasa came over the air almost in the wake of Mr. V. Pirabakaran's interview to the BBC which was broadcast just a couple of days before.

What did Mr. Pirabakaran say? He re-iterated that he would consider a federal solution based on self-rule and an undivided Tamil territory. North and East were separated into two provinces only in 1833 when the Britishers centralized the administration of the entire island in their hands. Before that, the British and the Dutch administered the two provinces separately.

After the British left, the Sinhala chauvinists too admitted the North and East as Tamil areas in Pacts as well as laws and finally today we have a single North-east Province. Now we are told that the Sinhalese people want to solve the problem by federalism as has been recommended by the Sinhala members of the Parliamentary Select Committee whose consensus Mr. Premadasa has pledged to implement. But when asked by some listener about Mr. Pirabakaran's statement, Mr. Premadasa has talked of the complexities of the Sinhala constitution, a required two-thirds majority and approval at a referendum to change his ill-gotten Baudha-Sinhala constitution.

We editorially commented last week on Mr. Premadasa's International Affairs Advisor, Mr. Bradman Weerakone's statement to the same effect. It should now be clear to everyone after listening to Mr. Premadasa that what is lacking on the part of the Baudha-Sinhala chauvinists is the will to solve the problem on the basis of the inalienable rights of every human being.

Mr. Premadasa has also boasted that they are capable of solving the problem without the intervention of third parties including the U.N.O. We have already had notice of the Sri Lankan Government's attitude in regard to mediation by third parties. Writing in the Sunday Observer of January 17, Anurudha Tilakasiri, regarded as the President's propagandist criticised the 'Sunday Times' for advocating UN intervention and tried to fan Sinhala chauvinism saying "we cannot rule out the possibility of the international community coming round to the point of view that the Tamil people are perfectly justified in asking for a separate and independent state - and then supporting and implementing it." Anurudha Tilakasiri was in fact betraying the frailties of Baudha-Sinhala Imperialism which have now been confirmed by President Premadasa himself.

Answering another questioner about the economic blockade, Mr. Premadasa retorted telling the questioner that he (the latter) did not know what was happening and that the Government was providing all relief and referred the questioner to international organisations for confirmation of his claim forgetting for the moment that the same BBC had reported the shortage of all essentials and the pressure exerted by international organisations to send consumer commodities! What a poor performance? Nor can it be otherwise in the light of what the government is doing to achieve its objective of genocide of Tamils and consolidating Baudha-Sinhala imperialism.

# WORLD WOMEN'S DAY

World Women's Day was celebrated in a grand scale in liberated areas of Tamil Eelam on Monday, March 8, with processions followed by mass meetings organised by the Women's Front of Liberation Tigers.

In Jaffna a huge procession where many thousands participated started from Kondavil junction and proceeded to the esplanade in the Jaffna University premises via Palaly Road. The procession started at 2.30 p.m. There was a march past

in which members of LTTE's Women Front, Sea Tigers' Women Front, Police Women Force and school children participated. Large numbers of women participated in the procession, which was about 2 miles long.

At the meeting ground the special commander of the LTTE Women Front took the salute along with other LTTE women leaders.

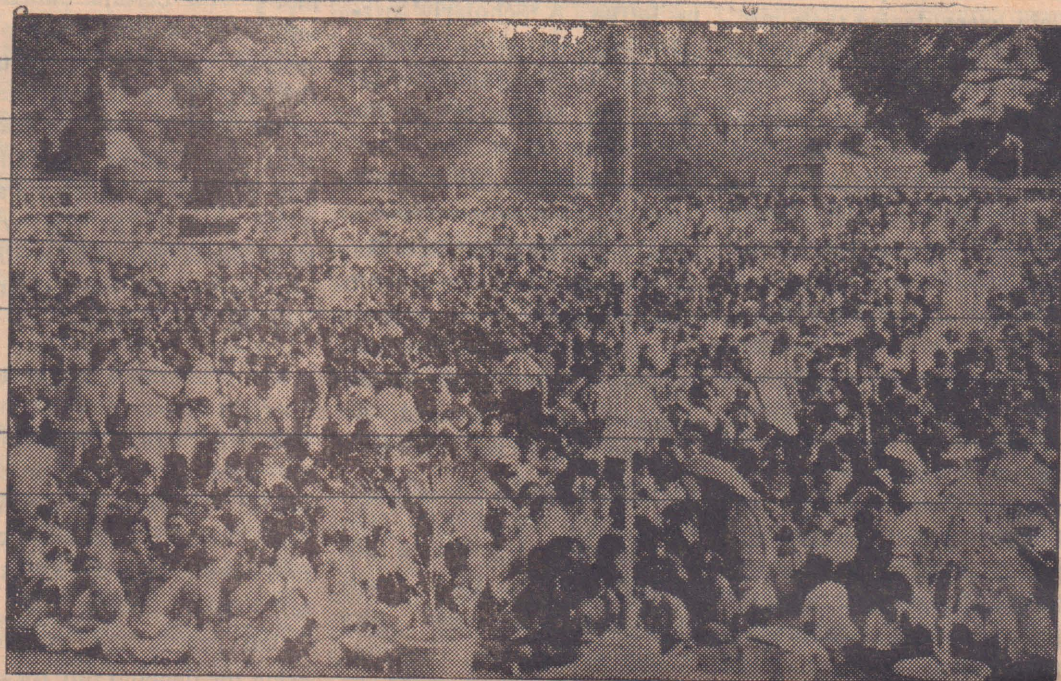
The meeting was chaired by Miss Thanikaichelvi. Several LTTE women leaders and Mr. Karikalan, the

Deputy Head of the Political wing of the LTTE, also addressed the meeting.

Reports from Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi state that World Women's Day was celebrated in these places too under the aegis of the Women's Front of LTTE. In the Mullaitivu District, the procession and meeting were held at Mulliyavalai. According to reports about 15,000 participated.

In the Kilinochchi District celebrations were held at Mallavi and Viswamadu.

## Sea of heads on Women's Day



A section of the large crowd that attended the meeting at the Jaffna University esplanade to celebrate World Women's Day.

## Patient Dies Because of Army Taboo

A sickly woman, Raveendra Saraswathy, died because the Sri Lankan Army at Vavunia refused to allow the Red Cross vehicle in which she was being taken for treatment.

The news in this connection says that Raveendra Saraswathy, a sick woman from Kilinochchi along with four other patients were being taken to Vavunia hospital for further treatment in a vehicle belonging to the Red Cross.

At the Sri Lankan Army check point before reaching Vavunia town, the Sri Lankan soldiers refused permission for the Red Cross vehicle with patients to proceed to the Vavunia hospital.

The vehicle returned with the patients as it was not allowed to proceed beyond the Sri Lankan Army check point. On the return journey one of the five patients, Raveendra Saraswathy, whose condition was bad, died.

## ICRC Obtains Release of 61 Tamils

The ICRC obtained the release of 61 Tamils who were in detention at the Palaly Army Camp.

Most of the detained were sick persons who were entrapped at the time S.L. Army invaded their villages. Some were fishermen who were abducted by the Sri Lankan Navy when they were out in the sea fishing. They have been united to their families now.

The release took place on Monday, March 8.

## Fugitive Soldier Caught

Reports from Batticala state that a Sri Lankan soldier who deserted the Sri Lankan Army Camp at Kokkatticholai and made his escape was chased by fellow-soldiers in the camp in motor-cycles and caught at a place called Kaddukkaimunai. The soldiers who gave the chase took the fugitive back to the camp.

This incident happened on Saturday, March 6.

## S. L. Forces...

(Continuation from Page 1)

Wednesday, March 10. Pukkara Planes two bombers and helicopter were used as well as battle tanks.

The Batticaloa news also stated that Sri Lankan Army from the Pulipainthakal Army camp moved from the camp in two Buffel armoured vehicles, 11 tractors and ten lorries and that they have now taken position at a place called Tharavai.

At the same time Sri Lankan Armed Forces from the Karaityanaru Sri Lanka Army Camp moved out and

have taken position at a place called Navindiyaadhu.

Sri Lankan forces which moved out of Urukamam and Kithul Sri Lankan Armed forces camps and were proceeding towards Periya Miyankulam are now stationed at the 9th mile post.

Over twenty bombs have been dropped in these areas by the Pukkara and Air Force bombers.

No reports of the damages caused have been received as yet.

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