

Hot Spring

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A Fight to the End

"Every position must be held to the last man: There must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall, and believing in the justice of our cause, each one of us must fight on to the end"

Call of first Earl,
Douglas Haig on 12th April, 1918

TAMILS REGRET: Sinhala Leaders Take Self-contradictory Positions

BY OUR SPECIAL REPORTER

A true and sincere desire for peace and settlement of the Tamil - Sinhala problem seems to be still far away from the minds of the Sinhala leadership-political or otherwise. - This is the general opinion amongst people in Jaffna.

All persons to whom this correspondent spoke expressed this view and they belonged to a cross-section of the people.

They point out that none of the Sinhala leaders-whether of the Government or Opposition - speaks of peace without at the same time talking of 'militarily weakening the Tigers' as a pre-requisite to peace. What does this pre-requisite of weakening the Tigers militarily mean?

The Jaffna people feel that it clearly indicates that the Sinhala political leadership desires neither peace nor a just solution to the Tamil problem.

President Wijetunge's Views

They also point out to President Wijetunge's stand that there is no ethnic problem but that only a terrorist problem exists in the Northeast and say that President Wijetunge's false stand has

not been exposed by the Sinhala politicians of other hues. On the other hand, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe is defending and justifying the President's position. A former Minister, Gamini Jayasuriya, has all the praise and encomiums for President Wijetunge. No other opposition leader has condemned President Wijetunge's views and taken any step to counter his statement and propaganda. In other words, all Sinhala politicians are one with President Wijetunge's views.

And what are his views? No ethnic problem exists and therefore it necessarily follows that there is no solution needed. There is only a 'terrorist' problem in the Northeast which means it has to be solved militarily. To put in another way, if LTTE is militarily crushed or at least effectively weakened, there will be no further Tamil problem to solve. Sinhala rule can continue as it has continued from 1948. This is why all Sinhala poli-

ticians speak of militarily weakening the Tigers and at the same time mouth sentiments calling for an end to the war.

Has any Sinhala politician called for an end to the war unconditionally and the commencement of peace processes? It is pointed out that not a single politician whether of the Government or of the Opposition has expressed such a view so far.

Sinhala People's Agitation

The Sinhala people themselves are beginning to feel the pains of war. They probably must be beginning to feel that their rising cost of living and lack of growth of gainful economic pursuits must be a consequence of the war. Quite apart from that, the Sinhala people have begun to feel that mortality in war will not be confined to the Tamils only just because the Government has planes, shells, battle tanks and all sorts of modern military hardware, weapons and ammunitions. Especially after

the Poonakari war it has not been possible for the Government to hide from the Sinhala people that Sinhalese soldiers also die in large numbers in the war in the Northeast.

The Poonakari war has exposed the Government's utterly false propaganda. Tamil civilians who are not involved in combat are killed in large numbers by aerial bombardment and shelling. Hardly a single Tiger ever died in these aerial bombings and shellings. But the Government made false propaganda to deceive the Sinhala people that it was killing large numbers of 'Tiger terrorists' when in fact those killed were all civilians. For the first time after the Poonakari war the Sinhalese people found that in actual war more Sinhalese soldiers died than Tigers! Not only that, the Government also lost heavy weapons to the Tigers which naturally increases the fire power of the Tigers.

The large number of Sinhala soldiers killed during the Poonakari war emotionally affected a cross-section of the Sinhala people throughout the South because these

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STARK REALITY

"If they consider past history, they would see that these communities, the Tamils, the low-country Sinhalese and the Kandyan Sinhalese, have lived for over 1000 years and have not shown any tendencies to merge. They preserved their customs, their language and their religion. He would be a rash man who would pin his faith on the gradual disappearance of these differences."

—S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake, quoted in Morning Leader of July 17, 1926. Reproduced in article in Sunday Times of 3.10.93 by Dr. Jayadeva Uyangoda.

Arms and Ammunitions Recovered from Muslim House

A Report from Batticaloa said that the Sri Lankan Police recovered arms and ammunitions buried in the compound of a house belonging to a Muslim at Valaichenai.

Bullets, bombs, and walkie-talkies are amongst the other items recovered. These have been kept buried round the house in the compound where the house stands.

Mannar: Army Makes further WITHDRAWAL

The Sri Lankan Army is reported to have withdrawn its sentry points covering about 150 yards in the Kattai-kadu area in Mannar.

According to the report the Sinhala Army which withdrew from these Forward Defence Lines is said to be in occupation of a building here. Earlier too the Army

made withdrawals from Forward Defence Lines twice.

The Forward Defence Line now stretches from Sirunavatkulam to Vankalai covering about ten miles.

The Army continues to be in occupation of the Mannar island but only occupies a small area in mainland Mannar.

BOMB EXPLODES IN BUS

A bomb was reported to have exploded in a bus that was carrying passengers from Pulmoddai to Anuradhapura on Wednesday, January 19.

The explosion is said to have taken place at Rambawa in the Anuradhapura District. At least eleven people were reported killed and over 40 injured.

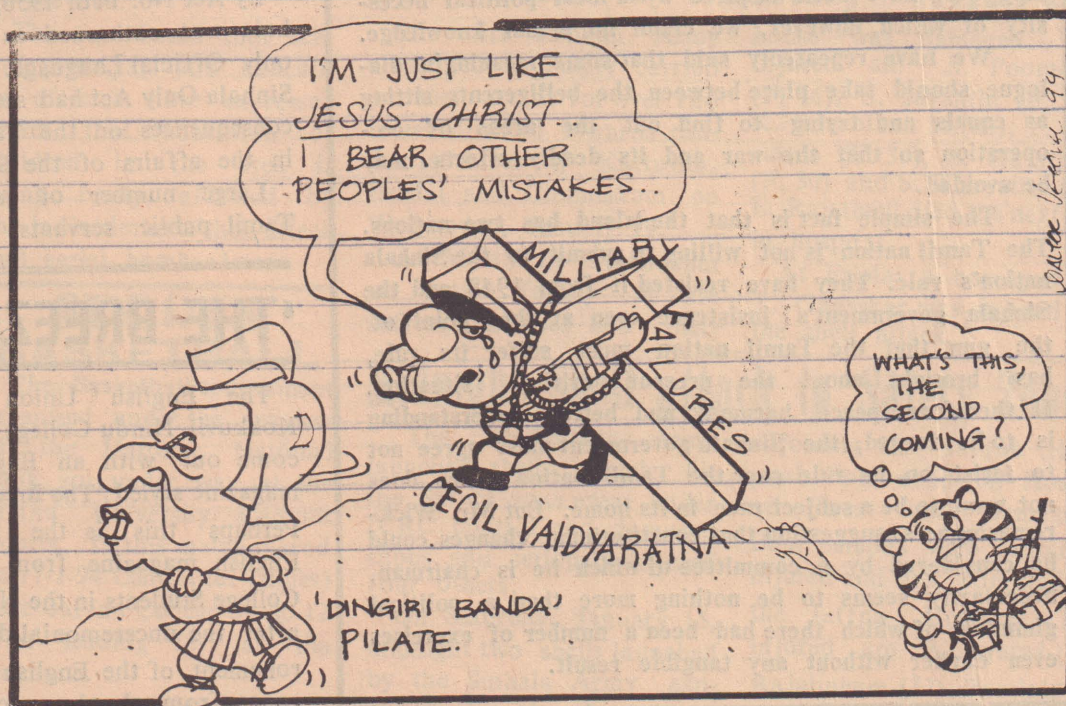
Fifteen Tamils Arrested

News from Trincomalee said that the Sri Lankan Army and Police carried out round-up and search operations within the Trincomalee town area on Tuesday, January 11.

The areas rounded-up were the Trincomalee town area, Plantain Point and Inner Harbour Road area.

The rounded up persons were taken to the Kalyana Mandapam and subjected to questioning. Fifteen persons were detained. The detained people include many old men.

No further news about the detained persons has been received.





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RANIL'S GIMMICK

The latest bomb-shell has come from Sri Lanka's Prime Minister, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe.

From some platform in Ruhuna he is reported to have invited the LTTE to send in its proposals for constitutional amendments to a Parliamentary Committee that is being headed by him.

Ever since the Tamil youths decided to take the bull by the horns, the Sinhala politicians have striven their best to take the wind off the sail by resort to appointment of 'Committees' under various nomenclatures. Committees have sat and dispersed to no useful purpose whatsoever in relation to the solution of the Tamil problem. But the Government has made use of these Committees to buy time and buy further stock for its arsenal telling the world that it was all the time trying to 'solve' the problem by discussion.

Nobody is aware of any special Parliamentary Select Committee having been appointed specifically to go into what is described as the 'ethnic problem' ever since the notorious Committee styled, the Parliamentary Select Committee headed by Mr. Mangala Munasinghe aborted but persisted in bringing out an abominable deformity conceived by the Sinhala members thereof.

Perhaps Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe is referring to the Committee appointed to go into the question of reporting whether the Executive Presidency should be continued or discontinued. Of course, the terms of reference of the Committee would in the normal run include other amendments to the constitutional provisions. This is another way of confusing issues and seeing that nothing is done.

If Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe meant that the LTTE should send proposals to this committee to say the least, he is very audacious. This is also clearly discernible in his 'war programme' of which too he has spoken of at the same meeting. Nobody - be it the politician or the so-called 'national press' - cuts much ice with any one when he or it speaks of both war and peace at the same time.

The Tamils have persistently said that the Sinhala government lost all its moral right to rule the Tamils from 1948 and its legal right in 1972. Therefore to expect the Tamils to consider amendments to a basically illegal document can only arise out of haughtiness arising from office and power. And the brazen way in which the invitation comes from a political platform may well have been inspired by a local political necessity of which, however, we claim no actual knowledge.

We have repeatedly said that some meaningful dialogue should take place between the belligerents sitting as equals and trying to find out the areas of co-operation so that the war and its deadly effects may be avoided.

The simple fact is that the island has two nations. The Tamil nation is not willing to submit to the Sinhala nation's rule. They have resisted it from 1948 and the Sinhala government's insistence even at the point of the gun that the Tamil nation must suffer its rule, has brought about the present critical situation. If therefore, peace, harmony and better understanding is to be forged, the Sinhala government must agree not to insist on its rule over the Tamil nation which does not want to be a subject race in its home. But Mr. Wickremasinghe's suggestion that constitutional changes could be considered by a committee of which he is chairman, necessarily seems to be nothing more than a political gimmick of which there had been a number of exercises even earlier without any tangible result.

Gerry de Silva is now much in the news. Since becoming Commander-in-Chief of the Sinhala Army, of course,

He is reported to have said that it was only the Army that

was capable of bringing to an end the ethnic problem. This is another way of saying that the Tamils should be suppressed by the Sinhala Army or what they say in coated language - a military solution to the ethnic problem.

We all know that his predecessor in office Cecil Waidyaratne too, while holding the post spoke very cocky of doing this and that to wipe out the Tigers but ultimately had to go out of office saying that he was ashamed that he started his military career in the Armoured Vehicle Division of the Army and rose up to command the entire army only to lose battle tanks to the Tigers. One would have wished that Cecil had said that he was ashamed that the Army had to use battle tanks at all! But that was not to be. Anyway Cecil said that like Jesus Christ he was bearing the burden of others faults and made his exit.

Of course, the 'national press' carried on a bitter campaign against the Army consequent to the debacle

at Poonakari, as if a battle was some thing like sitting in an office under fans, lights and all the parapha-

nelia and vomiting venom. A battle necessarily involves losses and if the pressmen thought that the Sinhala Army would always be the winners, they too cannot be blamed too much because Cecil - very much unlike a professional soldier was turning out to be a political-military leader.

Gerry de Silva probably wants to excel his predecessor. Hence the statement that it is only the Army that could solve the ethnic problem.

It is clear that Gerry de Silva is also trying to boost the Army Command in the North which according to a report has come in for severe criticism by a Commission of Inquiry set up within the Army. Gerry de Silva is reported to have said that while the Tigers destroyed the Mankindimalai Army Camp within hours it took them 48 hours to do the same at Poonakari. Perhaps this part of the statement is intended also to scoff at the report of the Commission of Inquiry. As a matter of fact, all these are exercises in futility.

A Commission of Inquiry should have been appointed to inquire into not the losses and gains in war, but into the causes that brought about the Tamil problem at all. Such an inquiry,

if it were done honestly, would reveal that the cause of the Tamil problem is the treachery of the Sinhala leaders not only of the present day but of those right from Donoughmore Commission days.

Despite the fact that Gerry de Silva has the experiences of his predecessors, like the Bourbon Noblesse, he seems to have learnt nothing and forgotten nothing. Hence his position that only the Army could solve the Tamil problem.

The Tamil problem is a political problem. But when the Army Commander says that it is only the Army that could solve this problem, one has to surmise that it has gone into Gerry de Silva's head that the Army is the only organisation in the Sinhala state structure that is capable of solving complicated political problems!

All we can say is that it is a distortion of facts and realities to propound the theory that the Army alone can solve a political problem.

—KUMARAN—

NAVY LIFE BUOY FOR PMG

It is heartening to note that in the New Year, S.L. Navy men have been diverted from their heavy duty in the Northern coasts and elsewhere to help the PMG to sort out the postal mess which has now reached gargantuan proportions. It is reported that there has been an accumulation of more than 1,500 bags and that they have so far cleared 200 bags only with the prospects of increase in the

number of bags with the passage of time!

In the midst of this naval pastime, the poor sufferers and victims are the people of the North who have been cut from ties with their near and dear ones for more than four months now. The PMG directive, on the other hand, in regard to the pilfering of foreign mails at the Mail Sorting Office



in Colombo, appears to be a puerile attempt to draw a red herring in the form of smuggling contraband and soothe the International Community and people in the South that adequate steps are being taken to prevent tampering of foreign mails, while the big postal mess starkly stares the PMG in his face. Grafting of navy men to the sorting service of the postal department may help the navy to enrich their coffers but will in no way cleanse Augean postal stables! Jaffna. A Reader.

DRACONIAN ACT

By Act No. 14 of 1956, Sinhala was enthroned as the only Official Language. The Sinhala Only Act had serious consequences on the Tamils in the affairs of the State.

Large number of senior Tamil public servants suc-

cumbed to the numerous pressures under the Language Act by way of loss of promotions, seniority and premature retirements and not to mention that a few of them even vacated their posts.

The attention of the Govt. Pensioners' Association as well as that of the Jaffna Branches is commended through this esteemed journal to study this matter and to give their minds to this aspect and if it merits any substance, to make amends.

D. Jeevananthan Vathiry.

'THE BREEZE' Kokkuvil Hindu Comes out with an English Magazine

The English Union at Kokkuvil Hindu College has come out with an English magazine styled 'The Breeze.' Perhaps this is the first English magazine from any College Students in the North after the unceremonial dethronement of the English language from school curricula.

Student contributors to the magazine include children reading in Year 6 to Year 13. The magazine also reveals the distinction Kokkuvil Hindu students had achieved in English education judged from the number first, second and third

places these students have won at competitions held at cluster and divisional levels. Kokkuvil Hindu students deserve the heartiest congratulations for their efforts guided and inspired, of course, by their able teachers and principal.

Four Tamils arrested at Thangapuram

Four Tamils were arrested at Thangapuram in the Trincomalee District by the Sri Lankan Army.

The news in this connection said that on Wednesday, January 12, the Sri Lankan Army encamped at Pallikudiyiruppu in the Trincomalee District rounded up the village of Thangapuram and arrested four civilian Tamils there and took them to the Army camp.

TEEDOR NEWS

Tube-Wells

TEEDOR has selected the village of Iranai Matha Nagar at Mulangavil in Mannar District to sink tube-wells. The TEEDOR has planned to sink tube-wells in back ward villages with a view to help the poor inhabitants of such villages. The first choice under this programme has fallen on Iranai Matha Nagar. The work of sinking the tube-well is already proceeding.

Restoration and Cleaning of Tanks

Small tanks in Omanthai, Poovarasankulam and Nainamadhu have been cleared by cutting down shrubs and

deepening the tanks. The work has been done by the TEEDOR with people's participation.

Cattle Grazing

Under a scheme organized by TEEDOR to have cattle taken to graze lands and avoid the menace of stray-cattle, 120 cattle are being taken to graze every day. TEEDOR has employed herds for the purpose and Rs. 3/50 is being obtained from each owner of cattle to pay wages to the herds. Three men are employed. The scheme is being implemented in Ariyalai, Jaffna District. Each cattle is returned to the owner every day evening after being taken for grazing in the morning.

The arrested persons have been identified as M. Thangathurai, T. Varathan, V. Oppilamany and V. Srikumar. No further information about the arrested persons has been received.

Fruit Plant Distribution

Under TEEDOR scheme to grow more fruit trees, 100 persons were selected, at Thondamannaru and Kerudavil to receive fruit plants for planting. Each recipient was given a mango plant, lime plant and co-conut plant.

Leather Production

Locally processed leather from locally available material has been put on the market for sale. Also locally produced leather goods of many descriptions are now available for sale.

Cane Workers

Ten families which were dependent on cane based cottage industries and who were undergoing hardship because of the non-availability of cane have now been provided with sufficient cane to re-start their occupations.

Y.M.H.A. Calls for Prayers

The Jaffna District Young Men's Hindu Association has called upon the people to engage themselves in prayers reciting devotional hymns composed by great Saiva Saints to help restoring the opening of Sivan temples now closed or which do not have any pooja ceremonies consequent to the people in the area being displaced by war.

The call by the YMHA says that Eelam is an ancient Siva land where Sivan temples flourished but today

many have been closed and in many others daily poojahs are not held.

The YMHA call specifically refers to the devotional hymns composed by the Saiva Saints in honour of the Lord Siva at Thiruketheeswaram and Thirukoneswaram and says that people must recite these hymns and others daily so that these temples are once again re-opened for daily worship without harassment and impediments to the devotees.

EXPERIENCE SPEAKS

"He (N.Q. Dias) stood before the Satyagrahis (opposite the Jaffna Kachcheri in 1961) who were seated on the roadside, and looked for a gap among them to enter the Kachcheri building. Sensing his intention the satyagrahis, both men and women, stretched themselves prostrate on their stomachs. Dias was angry. He stepped on their bodies and, planting his well-shod feet firmly on their backs and bottoms, walked on them up to the wall and vaulted over into the Kachcheri yard. He told the Government servants he could not understand why they should not gain entry in the same way and work in their offices; they had no reason to fear bodily harm.

Now N.Q. Dias was no member of a riotous Sinhalese mob. He was a university-educated man who entered the old Ceylon Civil Service of the British days when entrants to the Civil Service were regarded as the cream of a country's intellects. He was now at the head of the bureaucracy which was running the Government. And yet he did what animals like horses would not do. If the incident taught anything, it was that non-violent Satyagraha was out of place in a struggle against people of whom Dias was a representative specimen."

From: The Fall and Rise of the Tamil Nation - by V. Navaratnam, ex-M. P. for Kayts. Emphasis ours.

The Foul Smell of Bankruptcy

Indications as to the limits of democratic norms which would govern the conduct of elections which the government proposes to hold in the East, have already been given!

The elections will be held in the background of undiluted dictatorship. The elections will be held solely to achieve the objectives of the government and its army. It will be conducted according to the whims and fancies of the government and its armed forces.

Oppression, thuggery, threats, corruption and fraud shall be the norms for the elections in the East.

The beginning itself shows this beyond any doubt. The army is compelling people who do not desire to contest the elections, to file their nominations at gunpoint.

Persons who do not wish to come forward to serve the public on their own are being brought into the electoral fray, by the scruff of their necks, by the army telling them that they are the most suitable candidates for such office. Those who summon a little courage to decline the offer of office and stand for elections are being arrested by the forces. Such an achievement in the field of anti-democratic exercise, has to be learnt from Sri Lanka alone by other countries!

A person who has the desire to serve the public comes forward to contest an election on his own volition. Else he stands as a candidate desiring either wealth or office. But in the East, one has to stand as a candidate not of his own choice but under compulsion exerted by the government and the army.

This is quite contrary to the basic principle of democracy as meaning a people's government and is equivalent to a topsy turvey of democracy.

Not only this, it also deprives the individual of basic human right to choose for himself his likes and dislikes.

The usual electoral malpractices are impersonation, obstruction of opposition supporters from exercising their right to vote, unauthorised removal of ballot boxes and when the votes are being counted, acting in favour of the party in power.

The Sri Lankan government has been well trained in all aspects of the aforesaid illegal acts. To

get nomination papers signed by candidates under compulsion and threat, is a new terror tactic far worse than the usual electoral malpractices and beyond any one's imagination as an electoral offence. This is an anti-democratic act which makes a mockery of the electoral process and the credibility of elections. Has it not become clear from the beginning that the elections are being held in the East to show that an election has been conducted and that the Tamils too participated in the election process by contesting the election as candidates and exercising their right to vote?

The campaign in search of candidates and the arrest of persons who decline to contest is also a forewarning and threat to the Tamils that they should participate in the elections. To play the game of hide and seek to serve the opportunity instead of presenting proposals which could solve the Tamil problem and pursue the impractical military solution, is a kind of political bankruptcy. To offer to conduct an election defying all democratic principles in a state of anarchy and lawlessness is another form of political bankruptcy. The foul smell stinks from the beginning.

Uthayan-Editorial of 10.1.94

Shell Attack from Palaly An entire Family Injured

The Sri Lankan Army encamped at Palaly carried out shell attack for over two hours directed towards residential areas of Kattuvan, Erlalai and Chunnakam on Wednesday, January 19.

At Mylani in Chunnakam an entire family of six suffered injuries and their

house was damaged. The injured are S. Poomagal (F. 46), S. Jayanthi (F. 20), K. Rasanthan M. (06), T. Rasathie (F. 35), E. Rajathevi (F. 30) and S. Thayalini (F). E. Rajathevi died the next day in hospital.

At Erlalai a boy aged 10, T. Gavaskar was injured by the shell attack.

Midnight Shell attack in Safety Zone

The Sri Lankan Army launched shells which hit the Safety zone area under ICRC control and damaged shops and seriously injured four others.

On Saturday, January 15, midnight two shells launched by the Sinhala Army exploded in the bus stand

adjoining the Jaffna Hospital. Four shops on Hospital Street were damaged. Four persons were seriously injured and are admitted to the Jaffna Hospital. The injured are P. Jayaraj (28) Rajalingam (32) Ramiah (55) and Thiyagalingam (57).

New Tamil Eelam Police Station at Mankulam

A new Tamil Eelam Police Station was opened at Mankulam on Sunday, January 9. Mr. Ravi, the LTTE's special Commander for Vanni ceremonially opened the new station by cutting the ribbon.

Mr. P. Nadesan, Head of the Tamil Eelam Police Unit, and Mr. Para, the Head of the Administration of Justice Unit also participated at the ceremony presided over by Mr. Pon Thiyagam, the Head of the Heroes' Office.

Schools in Manal Aru Closed Indefinitely

Reports from Manal Aru said that most schools in the area have been closed indefinitely as children stopped attending schools consequent to aerial bombardment and heavy shell attack on the area.

The report said that school principals and education officials have expressed regret that education of children in the area is being badly affected by the indiscriminate shell attack and aerial bombardment.

SPORTS BASKETBALL

The Basketball tournament organised under the auspices of the Hatton National Bank got under way at the Jaffna University Campus Courts. In this match played on 17-1-94 Centralites (Blues) beat Jaffna College by 30-12 after leading 18-7 at the lemons.

— Vijayakumar.

Navy Attack-Temple, Hospitals Damaged CIVILIANS INJURED

Two Sri Lankan Naval Dvora Speed boats carried on shell, cannon and 50 calibre gun attacks for over half an hour along the coast at Polikandy-Valvettiturai which resulted in physical injury to persons, damage to temple, hospitals and private residences.

On Saturday, January 15 about 6.15 a.m. two S. L. Navy Dvora Speed boats that came from the direction of Kankesanthurai started firing shells, cannon and 50 calibre guns along the coast of Valvettiturai - Polikandy - Thikkam.

The historic Kanthavanam Kantasamy temple at Polikandy was damaged. A private medical institution nearby was also damaged. The kitchen of the Valvettiturai hospital was also damaged.

An old woman, Thirunavukkarasu Sinnapillai (65) of Polikandy who was sleeping in her house was injured. She is warded at the Point Pedro Hospital. A fisherman named P. Kurukulasingham received injuries in both hands and is warded at the Valvettiturai hospital. His raft and nets were damaged.

Many houses were damaged at Polykandy and Thikkam.

A raft was damaged at Valvettiturai also.

FORCED LABOUR WITHOUT PAY

The Sinhala Army stationed at Periyaniavanai is reported to be rounding up building workers and taking them to the Army Camp to work on bunkers, toilets and flower gardens within Army

Camps. The workers are not paid any remuneration for the work done.

This forced labour without pay is causing hardship to the workers who are daily-wage earners and in poor

circumstances. If they have to work free they lose the chance of being gainfully employed for themselves and their families.

It is learnt that most of the affected workers are from Maruthamunai in Batticaloa.

Tamils Regret—

(Continued from page 1) lads came from all parts of the Sinhala country. The death at one and the same time of Sinhalese soldiers much in excess of the Tigers who died in the same battle clearly showed the Sinhalese people that the Government was lying. They did not know what had happened to their own children. Whether they were alive or dead was not known to them. So they naturally demanded to know what has happened and began to think seriously of the war which was taking place away from their own homes and of which they knew nothing.

It is this agitation that began in the minds of the Sinhala ordinary villager that in turn began to worry the Government and the Sinhala chauvinists.

The Worry of Baudha-Sinhala Chauvinists

The Sinhala chauvinists—the so-called 'national press' and 'intellectuals'—were worried that a realisation by the Sinhalese people that their children were laying their lives in alien soil without the 'enemy' having come to attack them in their homes,

can lead to the Sinhalese people refusing to participate in the war. This would mean that they will not be able to induce the Sinhalese people to join them in the mad pursuit of a war to establish Baudha - Sinhala hegemony on the Tamils. In an effort therefore to pacify Sinhala popular opinion they began to speak of peace and militarily weakening the Tigers at the same time. This self-contradictory theory clearly shows that Sinhalese politicians, press (including the so-called 'national, (English) press based in Colombo) and 'intellectuals' are really not keen on peace and a just settlement of the Sinhala - Tamil problem but only are interested in appeasing angered Sinhala public opinion.

Silence of Well - Meaning Sinhalese

Many persons interviewed also regretted that even some Sinhalese people who are believed to be not Baudha-Sinhala chauvinists have not expressed their regret on this double - stand of Sinhalese leaders. They merely speak of war as an evil but do not call for an immediate stoppage of war. They do not tell the Sinhalese people that the Tamils have a real political

problem and that it should be solved. They do not say that Tamil militancy can be abated by solving the problems of the Tamils. According to the people interviewed, a major problem is that even well-meaning Sinhalese are not willing to tell the Sinhala people that the Tamils have political grievances which must be removed as a prerequisite to finding peace. They even fail to condemn those Sinhalese leaders who talk of military victory and peace at the same time. This is a very sad state of affairs. The Sinhala leaders are talking differently at different times with intrinsic contradictions. This shows that a long way has still to be traversed before solution and peace are achieved.

Two Police men Killed in Land - Mine

Sri Lankan Police Headquarters said that two Police Officers were killed and two were injured in a land-mine explosion at Batticaloa.

According to Police Headquarters the land-mine explosion took place in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa District on Wednesday, January 19.

There was no confirmation of the Police news from LTTE sources.

THE TAMIL NATION - AN EXISTING FACT

"The Tamils possess many of the characteristics that contribute to modern nationhood. They have a shared historical experience, a continuous linguistic and cultural tradition, a common way of life, the result of a traditional system of beliefs and values dominated by Saivism and, most important of all A DEFINED TERRITORY AS HOMELAND. Far from breaking down sectional loyalties, recent Ceylonese history has strengthened them and correspondingly weakened the all-Island identity. Sinhala nationalism which seeks to pose as Ceylonese nationalism incorporates nothing of the Tamil tradition and is even seen to be in conflict with it. A graduated scale of nationalism, with concentric circles of loyalties, the larger subsuming the smaller without being in conflict with it, is yet to evolve in Sri Lanka"

Michael Roberts in his book 'Collective Identities, Nationalisms and Protests in modern Sri Lanka.' published in 1979.

"War-time Prophecies"

A Seminar will be conducted by the Lay Centre for Encounter and Training at the Parish Hall of the Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist, Chundikuli on Saturday, 29th January, 1994 from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

The theme of the seminar is 'Prophets during times of War'

The Secretary of the Centre, Mr. C. C. Arumainayagam, cordially invites everyone to participate. A sum of Rs. 10/- will be levied to defray cost.

NEMESIS

Valvettiturai, a coastal town in Jaffna, was subjected to carpet bombing during the period January 20 to 23 - 1991 for four days. The whole town was turned into a heap of debris and mutilated human bodies. The area was completely deserted without a single soul there until the raging madness of the Air Force receded on the fourth day and people who escaped returned to the village.

Exactly one year later on January 21, 1992 the Air Force Base at China Bay in Trincomalee, witnessed massive explosions within the Base causing damage to Air Force planes, buildings etc. At least four Killer planes were damaged beyond repair. 'God's retribution' said Tamil victims of aerial bombardment.

Sugar - Rice Shortage in Jaffna

Sugar and rice have gone scarce in Jaffna adding to the bad food situation arising out of the non-availability of wheat flour.

There is no sugar at all in the Co-operatives which have run through their rice stock also. Limited quantity of sugar is being sold by certain

private dealers at Rs. 55/- per kilo. A kilo of par-boiled country rice is being sold by private dealers at Rs. 35/-

Last week co-operatives supplied 3 kilos of wheat flour per family which is hardly sufficient for barely two days. There had been no supply since then of any wheat flour.

JAIPUR FOOT IDLING IN COLOMBO Harbour for Seven Months

The Sri Lankan Army has refused to permit the transport of Jaipur foot to Jaffna and consequently four hundred of them—200 imported from India by the NGO, SCF, and 200 by the Jaipur Foot Works functioning in the Jaffna District—are lying idle at the Colombo

harbour for the last seven months while many people requiring the use of these are not able to get them.

If it is also learnt that raw materials required for manufacture of Jaipur Foot and imported from India for production locally worth Rs. 250,000/- is also lying idle at the Colombo Harbour because the the Sri Lankan Army would not permit the transportation of these to Jaffna.

New Era Publications, Luckshmi building, Dutch Rd, Kalviyankadu, Jaffna.

LIFT US O LORD

O Lord

Lift us up to your realms

Where justice, equality, and peace are the marks of your heavens

Stoop down O God to our realms

Where injustice, inequality, and war are the common things

Speak to us our language that we may know the right path

Make us think your thoughts that we may walk in your path

Penetrate into our creatureliness and help us

Penetrate into your creatorhood that we may become

Co-creators with you

In making the heaven on earth

Amen.

— Henry Victor —