

Hot Spring

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No. 16

Say Not, the struggle
Naught Availeth

Say not, the struggle naught availeth.
The labour and the wounds are vain,
The enemy faints not, nor faileth,
And as things have been, they remain.

Arthur Hugh Clough.

Safety Zone Shelled Again

Baptism of Fire for Archbishop and his Team

The Jaffna Hospital Safety Zone-area was shelled again on the night of Thursday, January 27 by the Sri Lankan Army encamped at Mandativu. Six shells were launched in all. One shell hit the house of Subramania Das and damaged it severely but the inmates of the house miraculously escaped because they were sleeping in another part of the same house. Several other adjoining houses were also damaged. Some shells exploded very close to the Safety Zone area.

The Archbishop and his team of delegates from Colombo who were attending a special staging of the Play 'A. D. 2000' by the Centre for Performing Arts at Main Street, Jaffna were severely shaken by the explosion of shells in the vicinity and had their hands crossed of what next. It must have been obviously their first experience of this Baptism of fire which has been the rule than the exception for people in the North.

The ICRC Team Head in Jaffna visited the damaged

houses on Friday, January 28 morning. The occupants of the houses showed him the damages sustained. The Jaffna Team Head contacted the ICRC's Asian Affairs

Deputy Head who was at Palaly on that day and informed him of the shell attack within the Safety Zone area.

The ICRC's Asian Affairs Deputy Head is expected to (Continued to page 4)



Picture shows Mr. P. Nadesan, the Head of the Tamil Eelam Police Service, Miss. Josephine Doley, the ICRC representative and Mr Gabriel Fernando, the Sinhalese fisherman who was released from custody by the LTTE.

Sinhala Fisherman Released

A Sinhala fisherman, Gabriel Fernando, who was taken into custody by the Tamil Eelam police at Nagarkovil sea in Vadamaradchy East was released on the orders of Mr. V. Pirabakaran, the LTTE leader. Gabriel Fernando was released and handed over

to the ICRC's representative at Jaffna by Mr. P. Nadesan, the Head of the Tamil Eelam Police Service on Friday, January 28.

The LTTE said that Gabriel Fernando was being released on humanitarian grounds.

Archbishop Expresses Sympathy for the Suffering People

"The sufferings of the people make me feel that endeavours should be made to bring peace", said His Grace Nicholas Marcus Fernando, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Colombo at a conference held at the Bishop's House, Jaffna.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Colombo and his team met religious heads, educationists, government officers and some members of the public at a conference held at the Bishop's House in Jaffna on Thursday, January 27.

Many people described the hardships faced by the people.

The Bishop of Trincomalee-Batticaloa Rt. Rev. King-

ley Swampillai said the sufferings of Tamils in the East cannot be described in words. He said that the Tamils in the East suffered at the hands of the armed forces, Sinhalese and Muslims.

"Killings, Robberies, Kidnappings and rounding-up of villages by armed forces are a regular feature in the

East. There is graveyard peace in the East and one cannot say whether it is for good or for evil", he said.

The Archbishop His Grace Nicholas Marcus Fernando said that he had come to see the damages caused to churches and civilian houses and others and share the grief with the affected people.

(Continued to page 4)

CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP IN JAFFNA MEETS LTTE LEADERS

The Roman Catholic Archbishop, His Grace Nicholas Marcus Fernando and his team who were in Jaffna, met LTTE leaders and had discussions for about two hours on Thursday, 27th January.

Associated at the talks were Rt. Rev. Kingsley Swampillai, Bishop of Batticaloa-Trincomalee, Rt. Rev.

Dr. Thomas Savundranayagam, Bishop of Jaffna, Rev. Fr. Alfred Alexander, Head of the Blessed Sacrament Society, Rev. Fr. S. J. Emmanuel, Vicar-General and Rev. Fr. S. H. Jebanesan, Director, Human Development Centre.

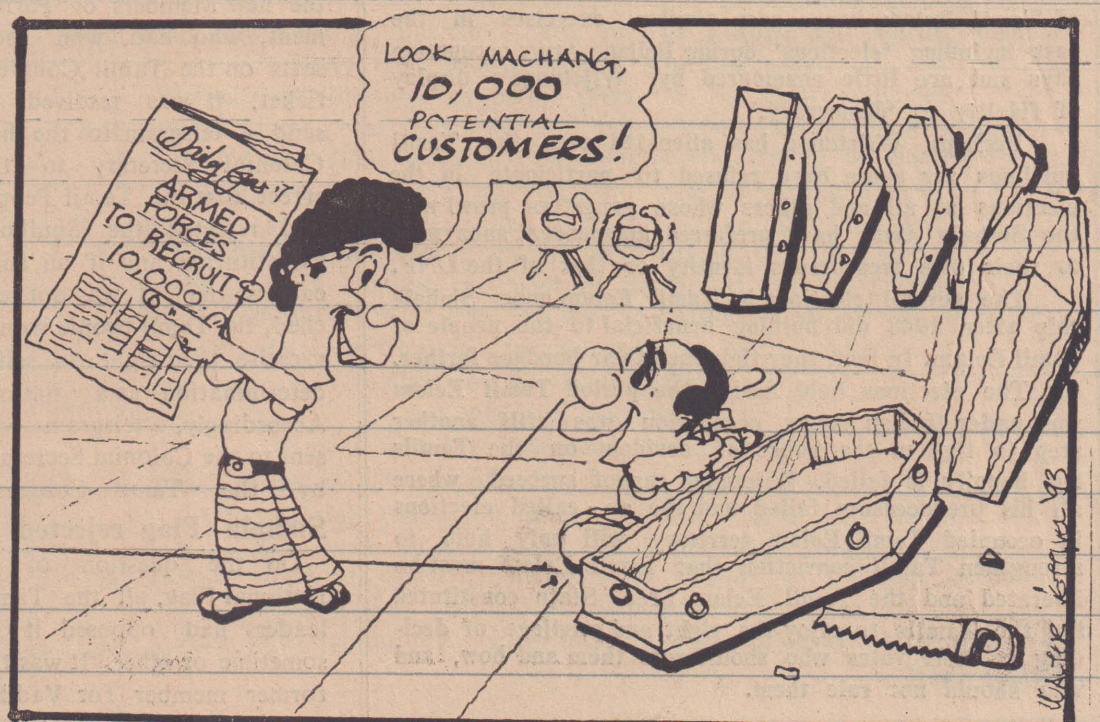
The LTTE delegation comprised Dr. Anton Balasinha (Continued to page 4)

COLOMBO'S ARCHBISHOP VISITS P.O-W's

His Grace, Nicholas Marcus Fernando, Archbishop of Colombo (R.C.) visited the Sinhala Police and Army Prisoners of War held by the LTTE.

The Archbishop's team left Jaffna for Colombo on Friday evening.

Rev. Fr. Alfred Alexander who was a member of the Archbishop's team and Head of Religious Orders told the Voice of Tigers Radio that on their return they proposed to speak to the relevant authorities about the discussions they had with the LTTE and the difficulties of the Tamil people.





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Elections in occupied Tamil Eelam

Democracy is a word that is often paid homage by the worst of tyrants. J. R. Jayewardene styled his 1978 Constitution as 'The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.' He was its architect. The cunning fox that he was, he still made a slip in one of the rarest unguarded moments in his life and conduct.

He said soon after his notorious constitution was promulgated and he himself was made President that **PARLIAMENT HAD MADE HIM A KING** but he remained a servant of the people! In his enthusiasm to picture himself as a servant of the people-Sinhala, of course - he made the slip and blurted out that under the constitution he had become King!

The word 'Democratic' in the official name of the constitution was disproved by the author of the constitution itself! He did not even bother to think that Kingship and Republicanism could not be synonyms.

Take socialism again. J. R. Jayewardene is the man who steered the course back to capitalism. This is acknowledged by all. This policy of capitalism and of privatisation goes completely counter to the socialist concept of common ownership. Yet he called his constitution 'socialist'.

So now, it is Wijetunge's turn. He wants to show his own attachment to 'democracy' because there is a need to hide his reign of terror. He and his government claim that they have 'cleared' certain areas of Tamil Eelam territory of 'LTTE terrorists' and established 'civil administration'. 'If so, why military rule in those areas?' ask perplexed donor countries and enlightened public opinion. So he wants to show that 'civil administration' can be conducted with not only bureaucrats controlled by the Army but even with 'elected' members controlled by the Army!

According to reports, the army has compelled many people to sign nomination papers on the UNP lists. There is also report that some people who declined to oblige have been arrested. How crazy over democracy? Not only the people are being compelled to exercise their franchise but they are being compelled to contest elections also!

Wijetunge thinks that he could hoodwink world opinion and that he could cheat the Sinhala people about his government's performance in Tamil Eelam territory but he probably little realizes that the people of Tamil Eelam have seen similar exercises in the past including 'elections' during Indian Army occupation days and are little enamoured by Wijetunge's display of fidelity to 'democracy.'

Perhaps, Wijetunge has alienated even the Tamil quislings for some have refused to participate in the elections at all and others whose gangsters prowl with the Sinhala Army have preferred independent anonymity to their own treacherous identity or that of the UNP.

The several elections in Tamil Eelam under Sinhala rule after 1948 did nothing beneficial to the people of Tamil Eelam. In fact, they tightened their bondage further.

The elections held during the period Tamil Eelam was under Indian Army occupation was still another step to tighten the noose of serfdom on the Tamils but happily it failed. Wijetunge cannot succeed, where all his predecessors failed and the so-called elections in occupied Tamil Eelam territory will only help to strengthen Tamil conviction that Tamil Eelam must be liberated and the Tamil Eelam Free State constituted for the Tamils to enjoy the right and privilege of deciding by their votes who should rule them and how, and who should not rule them.

The Conflict goes on from 1948 Tamil Eelam Only Solution

Political parties in Sri Lanka claim that the island gained its independence on February 4, 1948. Right from the beginning, the Tamils did not feel that they had become free with the changes made constitutionally from a Colony to that of a Dominion within the British Commonwealth. A news paper article written by Thanthai S. J. V. Chelvanayakam appearing on the issue of February 4th 1948 in the Tamil Daily, 'Virakesari' published in Colombo, bears sufficient proof.

Unlike in India or Pakistan where freedom was granted first and the people of the respective countries were asked to frame their own constitutions, in Ceylon, a constitution was installed first and its people were granted the so-called independence.

Soulbury Constitution rejected

The Tamil people have rejected that constitution earlier at the General Elections held in July, 1947 to elect the first Parliament. Excluding V. Nalliah who was elected from Kalkudah Constituency, every other Tamil representative of the former State Council who had voted for the adoption of the Soulbury Constitution, was defeated at the polls by the Tamil electorates. Instead, those who opposed the new constitution, were elected to represent them in the new Parliament.

The All Ceylon Tamil Congress which vehemently opposed the Soulbury Constitution, won the majority of the seats it contested. All those Tamil candidates who contested from the United National Party, were rejected by the Tamil voters in the North and East of the island.

At a reception given at the Colombo Town Hall to the new Members of Parliament, who had won their seats on the Tamil Congress ticket, it was resolved to send a telegram to the then Colonial Secretary to the effect that the Tamil People had rejected the Soulbury Constitution and if an amicable settlement was not reached, the Tamil people would exercise their right to self-determination as a nation. Accordingly, a telegram was sent to the Colonial Secretary by the Tamil Congress.

Sinhala Flag rejected

On the question of a National Flag, all the Tamil leaders had opposed it at sometime or other. It was the former member for Vaddukoddai, K. Kanagaratnam

and his leader G. G. Ponnampalam who foiled the attempt of D. S. Senanayake to make the Lion Flag as the National Flag at the time Ceylon attained its freedom. Then a Select Committee of both the Houses of Parliament, was appointed to recommend a National Flag for the island. When that Committee made its report, that report itself contained the dissentient report of Senator S. Natesan. The leader of the Jaffna Youth Congress, Handy Perinpanayakam did not favour a beast of prey on the National Flag. C. Suntharalingam even went to the extent of resigning his

ANANTHAN

seat on the issue, calling the flag an abominable one! He won the By-election by a big majority, defeating the government nominee who opposed him. Thanthai Chelvanayakam flew the Nandhi Flag, the flag used by the last King of the Jaffna Kingdom on his motor vehicle to register his objection against the Lion Flag.

The opposition to the Lion Flag did not stop with politicians alone. Even Christian clergy opposed it. When asked to hoist the Lion Flag at a function during Independence Day celebrations, the principal of the Theological College at Pilimalalawa, Rev. Fr. Donald Kanagaratnam declined to do so saying

that the Tamil people have not accepted it as their National Flag nor did they feel that they have become free. His objections to the Lion Flag caused his removal from the Theological

College, Pilimalalawa and being sent to the North and today he remains as the Arch-deacon of the Anglican Church in the North. He opted to serve his people from his home town of Vavunia.

There is yet another Tamil clergyman who had voiced his opposition to the Lion Flag. He had done so at an international Christian conference at which he had participated as a member of its Steering Committee. He was not a member of the Sri Lankan delegation. A female member of the Sri Lankan delegation had taken with her a Lion Flag to hoist it at the conference at an appropriate moment. There at the Open Conference the said Tamil clergyman stood up to speak for the rights of the Tamil people and voiced his objection to the Lion Flag being hoisted as one representing the entire people of the island. After 1977 at an International Socialist Youth Conference held in the Cuban capital, Havana where at the march past, the delegates from Eelam marched under the Tiger Flag to the astonishment of the Sri Lankan delegates who were marching without a flag, as they had failed to take the Lion Flag with them.

In 1956, the United National Party which was in power (Continued to page 4)

APPRECIATION

Late. S. Visakasuntharam

'Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And departing leave behind us
Foot-prints in the sands of time'

— Long fellow

This great man is our late Visakasuntharam, who was born in the village of Valvettithurai, small in stature, soft-spoken with high ideals.

After receiving his primary education in his village, he joined Hartley College to pursue his secondary education where he had Dr. C. J. Eliezer, Emeritus Professor, La Trobe University, Australia, as his rival in Mathematics. He and his colleague Dr. Eliezer passed with honours the Cambridge Junior School Certificate and Senior School Certificate gaining distinctions in Mathematics and Chemistry - a rare achievement those days. He proceeded to the University College to secure success in the Intermediate Science Examination of the University of London.

His attraction to a job made him join the Survey Department and he gained scholarships to enrich himself in the field of Surveying. His intellectual attainments took him to the position of Deputy Surveyor-General but his patriotism to the Tamil language and Tamils made him retire before sixty.

He served as a member of the Board of the Tamil University Movement and as Vice President of the Colombo Tamils Sangam. He was always in the forefront of the freedom struggle even in his retirement at his home at Point Pedro. God's will to remove him at seventy six will be a great loss to his family and friends.

R. Rudra B. Sc. (London)
Advocate, Point Pedro.

MILITARY ATROCITIES:

JAFFNA'S G.A. TELLS
DEFENCE SECRETARY

Mr. K. Manickavasagar, the Government Agent of Jaffna is reported to have met Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe, the Defence Secretary in Colombo on Saturday, January 15 and apprised him personally of the indiscriminate shell and air attacks.

Mr. Manickavasagar brought to the personal attention the indiscriminate shell attacks on civilian dwellings and including the Safety Zone declared by government and which is under the control of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He also referred to the displacement

of families from their homes due to shell and aerial bombing.

According to the report, Mr. Manickavasagar also told Gen. Wanasinghe that the Church of St. James, Gurunagar was bombed and a number of people killed. The parish priest and the people protested against this attack by taking out a protest march. The neighbourhood of the Church was again bombed. The people of Jaffna regarded this attack as wanton retaliatory against the people for conducting a silent protest march against military atrocities.

How will the Election be?

Media View

Victor Ivan, the editor of 'Ravaya' has posed the question, 'How will the local elections in the East fare?' He has also divulged details about the manner in which the list of candidates of the United National Party were filed.

Some youths who have been arrested by the army are required to report weekly at the army camp to sign their names there. Those who had turned up at the army camp to sign their names had been compelled to put their signatures to the list of candidates!

Unarmed civilians have been ordered to sign the list of candidates by armed men!

One Tamil Political party itself has lodged a complaint to the Commissioner of Elections on this aspect.

In the meantime, the Commissioner of Elections has said that no international observers would come to monitor the elections.

Not only that, he has further added that none of the Emergency Regulations will be relaxed during the course of the elections.

Polling stations too, have been shifted to different 'safe' areas under pretext that there was no security in normal polling stations.

It's not astonishing that the voters raise the question 'No Security - For whom?'

Under these circumstances, it will not surprise anyone if voters entertain the fear that ballot papers will be smuggled in bulk and dumped together into the ballot box to remain there for security reasons, after having been marked in bulk, as to whom they should choose!

For the ruling party, this is not the 'first experience' in election - rigging.

It has the earlier experience of conducting the Jaffna District Development Council elections in 1981 in accordance with 'democratic methods'.

Besides that, the report of the Commissioner of Elections on the conduct of the Presidential Elections in 1988, was handed over to the President only in January, 1993. What was the reason for the governing party refusing a Parliamentary Debate on that report?

How will the election be? It would not be difficult to enter along with Ivan in being able to conceive what it will be like.

Eelanadu - Editorial of
19.1.94.

Curfew and the
Northerner

halese to know better.
It is an open secret
the Government and its

Mr. Dingiri Banda Wijetunga's government imposed a curfew, in the Northern Province, from the 12th of November '93 and this was continued without a break for than 11 days (277 hours). The powers that be, should not refuse to understand the misery and hindrances, people of this area would have been subjected to, during this period. None of the political parties nor the few members of Parliament who are supposed to represent the North, raise this matter either in Parliament or outside.

Is it because, the people who were affected were all Tamils? Whether the curfew imposed was observed or not, is a different matter. The motive for the imposition is questionable. Certainly, the government would not have done such a thing in down South. I do not know whether the government presumes that they can mete out any treatment to the Tamils, to suit their taste.

The most serious ill-effect of this long curfew was the loss of school hours. In spite of these and very many other short-comings, undergone by the students of North and East, the University Grants Commission has thought it fit to reduce the admission of students to the Jaffna and Batticaloa Universities. What a pity? If people of eminence can't understand the sorry plight of the Tamil students, it is futile to expect the Theros and ordinary Sin-

that forces are harassing the Tamils by adopting various nefarious methods and treating them worse than animals. Every now and then, males and females, are arrested at odd hours and taken to police stations, locked up in ill-ventilated rooms. I was shocked to learn that more than 200 people were locked up in a room which was 20' x 30'. I am reminded of the Cruelty to Animals Act. It is an offence to transport

more than a fixed amount of cattle in a vehicle. The administrators do not know what is human right. The government is creating all these problems, to ensure the speedy birth of a separate state. How on earth can anybody expect the Tamils to solve their problems with the consent and compromise of the Sinhalese, whose attitude and approach and actions are contrary to normal, reasonable and respectable procedures?

It is rather unfortunate, that Mr. D. B. Wijetunga by accident or otherwise, is now the Executive President of Sri Lanka. I have heard that D & B denote Deaf and Blind Wijetunga. It will not be charitable on my part to accept this version. For me, he is Dingiri Banda. I am sorry that he is refusing to accept the existence of an Ethnic problem. My sincere sympathies are with him. He is yet to learn many lessons.

Mavadiyan.
Chavakachheri,

GOD OF THE POWERLESS
SPOKE AND SAID

Oh you rich Christians of Europe and North America
I have listened to your sermons

I have taken account of your clever preachings to me
While you have been pretending to pray and intercede
For the poor of the third world

Your words are excellent

Very beautiful

They are exotic exhortations

Consistently logical

Including your various dramatised versions of your message

You move from conference to conference

Workshop to workshops

Debating, defining and even 'dialogueing'

About the poor and their suffering

But never feeling or suffering 'the poverty'

This you always do among yourselves

But occasionally with the hand picked 'middle class poor'

From the third world who scratch your back while you do for them
These well chosen poor are always striving to be like you
But in their verbal support for the powerless poor out smart even you

Oh! you who try to domesticate me

You who dilute and diffuse the radical message of Jesus, my servant
Through whom I intended to liberate

The defenceless poor

Who have been made poor only by your bloody piggish greed!

Have you not considered

The story of the rich, both man and woman

Dressed in luxurious clothes

Made out of cheap cotton and silk

Produced in the wealthy land of the third world

These 'bulls and cows of Bashan' - Oh! no - of Europe and North America

Drive their Metro, Mazda and Mercedes

Eternally determining the petrol prize for the Gulf countries

And always Sipping the cheap tea and coffee - Oh! no - blood of the poor
Persistently objecting Lazarus from Bangladesh arriving at Heathrow

In fact Lazarus and his household turned to the west

Because the west professed to know me as an unlimited love

Lazarus did not expect special treatment in the first world

But only a humane treatment he demanded for his family
Unlike the westerners who went to east expecting to be treated as Lords

Oh you rich Christians of Europe and North America

Can you be so forgetful

Do you not remember

How I sent the rich empty away to hell

While gathering Lazarus and his family to my heavenly abode

Oh you rich Christians of Europe and North America

Stop your noisy sermons and your busy 'doings'

Stop your works of charity that takes no account of political justice

'Let justice flow like a Stream'

And also righteousness which includes right trade relationships

— Henry Victor

JAPANESE BUDDHISM AND SINHALA BARBARISM

During the Second World War, in April 1942, four days after the raid on Colombo on Easter Sunday, the Japanese struck at Trincomalee. When flying back after the attack, they spotted the aircraft carrier 'Hermes' off Kalkudah on the Eastern Coast.

They did not attack the ship immediately. They dropped bombs around the ship as a warning to the crew to enable them to escape. They returned an hour later and destroyed the 'Hermes', after the crew of about 700 had left the vessel.

Japanese fighters returning after sinking the 'Hermes',

had spotted a British hospital ship. They did not attack the hospital ship. Instead they signalled to it that the crew of the aircraft carrier were on the seas in their life boats at a certain spot. This was the conduct of the Japanese Buddhists to whom cruel stories were

attributed during the war.

What of our neighbouring Sinhala Buddhists? In their greed to keep the Tamils under subjugation, the Sinhala Buddhist government of Sri Lanka is using its armed forces to bomb and kill unarmed Tamil civilians. If one hospital had been bombed, it can be considered as an accidental bombing. It is doubtful whether a single

hospital in the 'North' has been spared from their bombing. Red Cross ambulance vehicles, temples, churches, schools and other civilian targets are being repeatedly bombed in their mad misadventures. They seem to be specialists in bombing civilians unlike the Japanese both of whom are said to be Buddhists.

Certainly nothing is wrong with the religion. What is being practised here is not Buddhism but Barbarism in the name of religion and race.

NAVY FIRES AT FISHERMEN ONE KILLED

A fisherman was killed when Sri Lankan Navy fired at fishermen at work in Poonakari - Periyaveli.

The news in this connection said that on Friday, January 21, when some fishermen were fishing at Poonakari - Periyaveli sea, a Sri Lankan Naval patrol boat suddenly appeared in the area and started heavy firing on the fishermen at work. A fisherman named Soosaipillai Thavakumar was killed. The boat in which he went out fishing and the

fishing implements in it were destroyed by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Two other fishermen who were in the same boat jumped into the sea and managed to swim back to shore safely.

The same report said that two other fishermen from Passaiyoor who were also at work in the same area, were arrested and taken by the Navy. The arrested fishermen are Manuelpillai Amaladas (Age 40) and his cousin, A. Thevathas.

Later reports said that the arrested men are now warded in the Jaffna Hospital with

injuries. They told press reporters that they were assaulted and put into the Navy boat where their hands and feet were tied and eyes blind-folded. They were taken to Kankesanthurai and assaulted there too. They were thereafter put in a room.

On Saturday, January 22, night Navy men came back and took these people back to the Naval boat. Towards midnight the Navy men unbound them and threw both of them into the sea. The fishermen who are aware of the area, swam to shore by moonlight.

diseases. This was done as part of TEEDOR'S Social Uplift Programme.

Teedor News

Tank Repair

Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation's (TEEDOR) Village Production Committee is currently undertaking repairs to Alaikarikulam. About 50 acres of land are cultivated from the water from this tank. Repairs were necessary, as the bund was breached.

Tanks Restored

Three tanks and a KERNI, (a tank generally built in temple premises for temple purposes) in the Puthukudi-yiruppu area in Mullaitivu District have been restored by TEEDOR with the participation of the people. These tanks were abandoned earlier. Consequent to their restoration the water-level in wells in the area have risen and cattle can have drinking water.

Grazing Grounds

Grass rich in food nutri-

tion for cattle has been grown by TEEDOR in the grounds near Perarukulam in the Mullaitivu District. The different varieties of grass have grown well and TEEDOR proposes to sell grass to cattle-owners.

Tank Breach Repaired

Damage to paddy crops by water flowing out of a breach caused to the Koolamurippukulam was averted by the TEEDOR immediately covering the breach with sand bags. The people of the area participated with TEEDOR in this work.

Gift of Goats

The TEEDOR gifted 60 goats to 12 families at 5 goats per family in the village of Vivekananda Nagar in Kilinochchi. The recipients of the gifted goats were tutored in goat farming including prevention of

Danger of Tank Breach Averted

Over 1000 people participated in the emergency work undertaken in Muthu Iyan Kaddu Kulam-a major irrigation tank in the Mullaitivu District-to prevent a breach in the tank which would have caused great loss. The value of work done is estimated by TEEDOR at Rs. 300,000/. The danger of breach was occasioned by the recent rain and floods.

Market at Muthu Iyan Kaddu

A new market has been opened by TEEDOR at Muthu Iyan Kaddu. The new market is a boon to the farmers because hitherto they walked up to Oddusuddan (5 miles) or Puthukudi-yiruppu (12 miles) to market their goods.

Archbishop...

(Continued from page 1)

He also said that he had been able to see that the difficulties here have grown in greater proportions than 2 years before when he visited Jaffna.

He also said that he was able to feel that endeavours should be made to bring peace.

AERIAL BOMBING AT MANAL ARU

Four Sri Lankan Air Force bombers carried out extensive aerial bombing in Manal Aru.

According to the report on Tuesday, January 25, about 11.00 a.m. four S. L. Air Force planes carried out

extensive and heavy bombing in Manal Aru area.

As the people took shelter in safe places there were no deaths reported but many cattle were reported to have been killed. Many trees were strewn to pieces.

ILLEGITIMATE SINHALA GOVERNMENTS

"The fact that foreign governments accorded recognition to Srimavo Bandaranaike's Government and the successor government under J. R. Jeyawardhene and have dealings with them has no bearing one way or the other on their legitimacy. They will continue to be illegitimate so long as the revolution lasts. And that revolution which has escalated into a civil war is not likely ever to come to an end until and unless the independent Tamil State is founded, and is recognised as such."

V. Navaratnam, Ex. M. P. for Kayts in the Fall and Rise of the Tamil Nation.

The Conflict—

(Continued from page 2)

then, was getting ready to hold its annual sessions at Kelaniya and pass the resolution to make Sinhala Only as Official Language. It wanted to dissolve Parliament and seek a mandate from the voters on its new Official Language Policy. The Kelaniya resolution was passed on February 20th, 1956 but the Independence Day preceded it. For the first time the Tamil people observed this day as a Day of Mourning.

People in the North-East instead of hoisting the Lion Flag, hoisted black flags all over the Tamil territory. From 1956, the people of Tamil Eelam observed February 4, as a Day of Mourning and for the last few years have ignored it as a day of any significance.

In the General Elections held in 1970, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party sought a mandate from the people to scrap the Soulbury Constitution and usher in a Re-

Safety...

(Continued from page 1) meet President Wijetunge and apprise him of the attack within the Safety Zone under the control of the ICRC. This area had been the target for shell and aerial attacks several times in the past too!

Catholic

(Continued from page 1) gam, V. Ilankumaran and V. Balakumaran. The political situation and the difficulties the Tamils faced, were said to have been discussed at the meeting.

publican Constitution. While the Sinhalese people gave the mandate asked for, people of Eelam rejected the call resoundingly. The Republican Constitution was foisted on the Tamils and Tamil leaders at the next elections held in 1977 called for a mandate from the people of Tamil Eelam to restore the lost State of Tamil Eelam. The Tamil people gave the mandate for Tamil Eelam.

The Tamil Eelam representatives did not participate in the vote taken for the adoption of either the Republican Constitution of 1972 or that of the one in 1978. As they had no part in the framing of these constitutions, they declined to vote for any new constitutional amendments moved later. If they, the Tamil Parliamentarians, supposedly moderates, had taken such a bold step to prevent them becoming a party to the Sri Lankan Constitution, how can the Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremasinghe now ask the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to compromise in their stand by submitting amendments to the existing Constitution of the State of Sri Lanka? 'Leave us alone! Let the people of Tamil Eelam go free!' is the message.

It is for the Sinhalese people to accept and recognise the aspirations of the Tamil people and assist them to enter the Comity of Nations and remain as good neighbours with the New State of Tamil Eelam.

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