INDEPENDENT WEEKLY From: TAMIL EELAM

Spring

Vol.

27th February 1994

No. 20

Rs. 5-00

'VOTE

"The promises made by political parties at Election Time are like those made before marriage. Yet people marry. So do they go to vote in the elections.

The only difference is that the parties to a marriage genuinely believe that they will keep their promises, while the political parties suffer from no such illusion".

- Acharya J. B. Kripalani - 'The Bhavan's Journal' - 19. 9 1971.

TWO SRI LANKAN POWS RELEASED

Piraba's Sign of Goodwill to Encourage Peace Efforts

Two Sri Lankan policemen held prisoners of war by the LTTE were released on Thursday, February 24, on the orders of the LTTE leader, Mr. V. Pirabakaran The released prisoners immediately left for Colombo.

Tillakaratne Bandara (39) of Teldeniya and Chandra-sekara (36) of Dambulla, taken prisoners by the LTTE in June 1990 when the LTTE attacked and captured the Sri Lankan Police Stations at Mankulam and Oddisud-

dan were released and handed over to Rev. Fr. Alfred Alexander, the Special Emissary sent by His Grace Nicholas Marcus Fernando, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Colombo.

It is understood that Rev. Fr. Alfred Alexander came to Jaffna on Wednesday, February 23, with a personal letter to Mr. Pirabakaran from His Grace Nicholas Marcus Fernando and Mr. Pirabakaran responding to the Archbishop's letter ordered the release of the two prisoners of war. The two prisoners were released and handed over to Rev. Alfred Alexander.

The ceremonial release took place at 3.00 p. m. on Thursday, February 24. Mr. Thangan of the LTTE handed over the two prisoners to Rev. Alfred Alexander. Associated on the occasion were Dr. Anton Balasingam,

the Political Advisor to the LTTE and Rev. Dr. Chandra-kenthan, the President of the Jaffna University Teachers' Association.

Rev. Fr. Alfred Alexander, who took charge of the released prisoners of war, left for Colombo.

Continuing Goodwill Gestures from LTTE

REV. FR. ALFRED ALEXANDER

"We continue to receive encouraging indications of good-will to our peace efforts from the side of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. We whole-heartedly acknowledge it." So said Rev. Fr. Alexander in a special interview he granted to the Tamil Daily Eelanaatham.

Eelanaa tham in its issue of 20.2.94 carried his interview.

Continuing Rev. Fr. Alfred Alexander said:—

The factual position today is that there has been no favourable response so far to the gestures of goodwill shown by the LTTE.

The first round of talks in relation to peaceful negotiations took place at the end of last month. We then came to Jaffna and had discussions with representatives of the LTTE. Thereafter we returned to Colombo and explained to many persons our own discussions with the LTTE. These included the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Army Commander Gerry de Silva, & Minister John Amaratunge.

After our discussions with these gentlemen an emergency meeting was held chaired by Army Commander, Gerry de Silva. But we have not been informed of the (Continued to page 4)

Ban on Freedom of Movement to Ensure Voting

Tamil residents of Mutur in the Trincomalee District have been instructed by the Sri Lankan Army not to leave their houses to ensure voter participation in the forthcoming Local Government Elections on March 1st.

The above order remains valid until after Polling Day.

In the meantime, several villages in the Mutur Electorate were rounded-up by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces on Wednesday 23rd. February and the residents there were taken to the schools in the area under duress.

Symbolic of Goodwill Towards Peace Efforts

DR. ANTON BALASINGAM

"The two Sri Lankan prisoners of war are being released on the orders of Mr. Pirabakaran who has taken the decision to release them so that their release may be a helpful key in the

hands of the Catholic and Christian clergymen to open the doors of peace in their current peace efforts", said Dr. Anton Balasingam, the political adviser to the LTTE, speaking to pressmen immediately after the release of of the two prisoners of war.

Dr. Balasingam also said that the release of the two prisoners of war was symbolic of the goodwill the LTTE showed towards the peace efforts. The two prisoners were married men and the choice therefore fell on them.

STATES OF STATES

Mr. V. Pirabakaran seen on board the Sri Lankan Naval Speed Boat Captured by the LTTE at Poonakari.

—Picture release By LTTE.



VOL: 4 Sunday 27th February 1994 ISSUE: 20

BONDAGE - NOT FOR ALL TIMES

The speeches of President D. B. Wijetunge remind one of the days of the campaign for Sinhala Only in mid-fifties.

S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike started the Sinhala in 24 hours cry, only for the UNP to outdo the SLFP with its notorious 'Sinhala only' resolution at its Kelaniya sessions.

A Prime Minister-to-be and leading Marxist, W. Dahanayake, Galle's leading light, did it much better by forming a Basha Peramuna' (Language Front) and campaigning for Sinhala Only.

Then a University Don, F. R. Jayasuriya, started a fast opposite parliament-taking of course orange juice mixed with glucose - to ensure that Mr. Bandaranaike's Sinhala remained unadulterated pure 'Sinhala Only' and Bandaranaike obliged the don by piloting a purely 'Sinhala only' Act.

Tamil blood was spilt on Galle Face Green on that memorable day of June 5, 1956 and at distant Amparai where Sinhala colonists were settled. It is being continued to be spilt to this day-Sinhala politicians having no qualms about it.

The Sinhala Only Act laid bare-nakedly bare-the Sinhala determination to rule the Tamils for the benefit of the Sinhalese.

Despite protestations to the contrary from the notorious Sinhala Only politicians of both the UNP and the SLFP and other assorted political forces amongst the Sinhalese, the actions of everyone of them proved the evil intent of the Sinhala rulers. The entire island was to be ruled by the Sinhalese and for the Sinhalese. 'People' in their parlance meant Sinhalese people.

The present President, D. B. Wijetunge, has been quite out-spoken.

He has said that the island should be ruled by the 'majority' (like an ostritch he seems to think that the choice of the word 'majority' can hide that what he means is Sinhalese) and that the 'majority' would provide the necessary security for the 'minority.'

He has further said that in no part of the 'country' can the security of the 'majority' (his jargon for Sinhalese) be entrusted to the 'minorities.'

Many said that D. B. Wijetunge was a simple and humble man with no ambitions (This was before he became President) but of course we likened him to Dickens's Uriah Heep - a villain of the worst type - in one of our editorials of 6-2-94.

What does Mr. Wijetunge say? He tells the Tamils that they shall never have any say in deciding who should rule them. They cannot rule themselves even in their own homeland.

This is the gist of Wijetunge's speech. Of course this is what all Sinhala leaders want-though some of them are shrewd enough not to say it openly.

What the Sinhala leaders fail to realize is that every step they took to cut the ground under the feet of the Tamils only brought in stiffer opposition from the Tamils. Every act of theirs alienated the Tamils and today the Tamils have repudiated everything that is Sinhala. They have raised the standard of revolt.

Mr. D. B. Wijetunge believes he can crush the Tamils by the might of his arms. He fails to learn from history that no people can be kept in bondage all the time.

Sri Lanka's Democratic Exercise Vis - a - Vis Tamils A Lesson From Past Pages

The Sri Lankan Government is adopting an intransigent attitude in holding the Local Government elections in areas of Tamil Eelam which is presently under occupation by the Sri Lankan army against the advice of all other political parties. Perhaps, the Sri Lankan Government wants to impress on the donor countries that the civilian life has returned to normalcy in areas of Tamil Eelam presently occupied by its armed forces. Yet reports coming from the East, clearly indicate how the Sri Lankan government intends to conduct the Local Government elections there by resorting to pressure and arm-twisting tactics through the medium of its armed forces. Even the international media like the BBC have already brought to the notice of the world how the Local Government elections in the East are being state-managed to produce the intended verdict. To assist the government in achieving this 'democratic process', even the Commissioner of Elections has already announced that unlike the Parliamentary Elections or the Presidential Election, there will not be any international observers visiting the island to monitor the Local Government elections in the East or Vavunia.

This reminds one of the Jaffna District Development Council elections held on June 3rd, 1981 where the custodians of law and order, the Sri Lankan Police, themselves resorted to arson on the eve of Election day. The Jaffna City itself was engulfed by flames of fire. The office of the only daily news paper, Eela Nadu. then published in Jaffna, was gutted by fire. The Jaffna Public Library with its collection of 98,000 books and rare manuscripts was reduced to ashes and state of Emergency was declared. On Election Day, those officers appointed by the Commissioner of Electctions for the conduct of the polls, were dispensed with and minor employees brought from the South by a then Senior Minister, Cyril Mathew, were posted as Senior Presiding Officers. At some polling stations, the voters were not allowed to cast their votes until 11 a.m. The ballot boxes were removed to unauthorised places such as Subha's Guest House where the visiting Cabinet Ministers had taken up temporary residence. This, perhaps, must be the only election in the world where the counting was allowed and the results were announced without clearing the mystery of the six missing ballot boxes. It has come to light recently that some of the ballot boxes used in that election were not the products of the Government Factory but had been surrepti-

Thiraviam

tiously introduced by interested elements with the blessings of the Government.

All those endeavours howver failed to produce the intended results to get at least some UNP members returned, for all the voters sensing the mind of the Government, had jointly thwarted its attempt. Ultimately it turned out to be a one hundred per cent success to the main Tamil Party opposing the Government at the Jaffna District Devolopment Council Elections.

Similarly, when a Local Government election was held in the North on May 18th, 1983 to get the Jaffna

Municipal Council Urban Councils for Chavakachcheri, Point Pedro and Valvettiturai elected, the total voter - turn out was less than ten per cent. The Liberation Tigers had asked the people to boycott that election and the voters responded favourably to that call. Many candidates who had filed their nominations too made public statements that they were withdrawing from the contest, although such withdrawals were not valid in law. The Government, however, went ahead with the 'democratic process' on the Election Day but the voter turn out was the minimum recorded in any elections so far in the Island. Still the results were announced but to the surprise of everyone concerned, none of those returned ever assumed office. To this day, these Local Bodies are still being run by local Government employees. One may lead a horse to water but one cannot make it drink. Likewise, it is certain that all attempts to hold elections in the East is bound to fail in the end.

Late Mr. Suntharalingam A knowledgeable Lawyer

appreciation:

The cruel hand of fate snatched from our midst a highly knowledgeable and able lawyer, Mr M. S. Suntharalingam. He passed away most unexpectedly on Sunday-February 20 at the age of 65.

Mr. Suntharalingam hailed from Point Pedro. He was the son of a lawyer, the late Mr. Sivapiragasam of Point Pedro. Many others amongst his relations were lawyers. His own elder brother Mr. Panchalingam is still a practising lawyer.

As a student at Hartley College, Point Pedro, and later at the University of Ceylon, Mr. Suntharalingam excelled both in studies and athletics. He was a brilliant mathematician. After graduating, Mr. Suntharaligam taught for a time at his Alma mater before he decided to take to law.

Mr. Suntharalingam made his mark as lawyer in a very short time and was soon a much-sought-after lawyer in all the courts in Jaffna District. He mainly functioned as an advocate in the civil courts, and was well-known for his acknowledged mastery of the law of Thesawalamai.

He was dedicated to his work. He was very amiable and had a sympathetic heart. I was shocked to find a former client of his - an old man - crying like a child over the body of Mr. Suntharalingam recounting the various acts of benevolence done by Mr. Suntharalingam to him personally-though he was nothing more than a client.

Mr. Suntharalingam was the President of the Jaffna Law Society which he helped to inaugurate only an year ago. He was its founder President which at once shows his qualities of leadership as well as popularity amongst fellow - lawyers.

As President of the Jaffna Law Society he spent time in attending to the problems faced by the Society as a whole and the individual members thereof.

It was Mr. Suntharalingam's desire to have a treatise written on the Law of Thesawalamai. The last book on the subject was one authored by Dr. H.W. Thambiah, retired Supreme Court Judge. Since the publication of Dr. Thambiah's work a large amount judicial decisions on the law of Thesawalamai - some of them by Dr. Thambiah himself - have enriched the legal lite-

(Continued to page 3)

Imminent Cholera Epidemic

AT KOTTRAVATTAL SCHOOL CLOSED

The Deputy Director of Education Point Pedro Division, Mr. T. Selvaratnam, has approved the temporary closure of the Kottravattai American Mission Tamil Mixed School because of the outbreak of cholera in the village.

Already four persons in the village died of cholera and 20 students are afflicted by the same disease.

Urgent message has been sent to the Health Department to take effective steps to contain the spread of cholera in the village.

TIGERS HITFDL

One Soldier killed - Arms recovered

The LTTE attacked a Sri Lankan Army Sentry post called Forward Defence Line FDL position Monday February 21.

The LTTE said it attacked the Sentry Post between the Ceylon Theatres Army Camp and Ariyakun-

dan Army Camp at Nedunkerny in the Mullaitivu District.

One Sri Lankan soldier was killed and four other were injured. The LTTE also recovered some arms and ammunitions.

no LTTE There was casualty.

PUCCAROS BOMB MANNAR AGAIN

Two Sri Lankan Air Force Puccaro planes dropped six bombs in Kattaiadampan in the Mannar District.

This happened about 2.00 p.m. on Monday, February 21.

Two helicopters also straffed the same area at the same time.

Report of damages has not been received at the time of writing this news.

Late Mr. Suntharalingam-

(Continued from page 2) rature on the subject of Thesawalamai. In fact Mr. Suntharalingam did start

work seeking to bring out in Tamil a book on Thesawalamai and had in fact completed a few chapters at the time of his unfortunate and untimely death.

Not only the Law Societybut the entire Jaffna Society has become poorer by the death of an educated and cultured man with an all too human heart - who was willing to help his fellow beings.

May God Almighty take him into his self!

> A. Muthukrishnan Secretary, Jaffna Law Society.

Teedor News

Soil & Water Research

Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR) is engaged in soil and underground water research analysis in the bare land at Kopay called Kopaiveli. The TEEDOR also undertook test paddy cultivation in a portion of this area. The test has proved successful and further research is being done with a view to reclaim the whole land for cultivation.

Loans to fish - mongers.

Twenty - two fisher families with income below poverty line have been selected from Valvettiturai North -West and North - East and each family given an assistance of Rs: 5000/- each for the family to engage in sale of fish for their income. This assistance was given by Village Productivity Committee of TEEDOR.

Voluntary Social Services

Voluntary social service in the form of cleaning surroundings of hospitals, schools, roads and halls in memory of Heroes was undertaken in the Akkarayan area of Kilinochchi in commemoration of the Heroes' Week. According to a press note issued by TEEDOR 29 projects valued at Rs: 24,350/were carried out by 2191 people voluntarily participating in the service.

Vaccination for poultry

TEEDOR is carrying out an intensive campaign for vaccination of poultry in the

Thenmaradchy Division. Vaccination for birds was undertaken on January 11 in the village of Sarasalai followed by such services in other villages every Saturday.

Sun - Flower - Ground -Nut Cultivation

The Mullaitivu Branch of TEEDOR has undertaken cultivation of Sun Flower and ground - nuts in the Thattamalai area in Mullaitivu District. A sum of Rs: 59,000/- is being spent on this project by TEEDOR.

Poultry and Poultry Houses

TEEDOR has put up fifteen poultry houses and given 20 birds per family to fifteen families with incomes below poverty line selected from the villages of Kondavil, Puttur and Chankanai.

First Aid Centre for Cattle.

A first aid centre for cattle has been opened at Skanthapuram, Akkarayan Division. Vaccination being given to cattle and also for poultry at this centre. The services of veterinary surgeon is also available twice a month at this centre. TEEDOR has advised people to make full use of the centre.

Bombay Seed Onions

TEEDOR in a press-note says quality Bombay seed onions could be obtained by cultivators from its store at Kondavil.

Tree Planting in Vavunia

According to a press-note issued by TEEDOR 30,000 palmyrah plants, 1000 teak plants and 800 margosa, tar-

marind and Samandalai plants have been planted in the Vavunia District by its efforts. The Press - note also says that Govt. and N.G.O. bodies in the area and the public gave full co - operation to carry on the tree planting campaign.

Stud-Centre

A stud-centre has been opened at Manna Kandal in Mullaitivu District by the TEEDOR. The Centre became functioning from January this year.

Tree Planting at Kilinochchi

Ten thousand plants were planted in the Kilinochchi District in connection with the Heroes' Week 1993. Teak, Wood-Apple, arind and big plants have been planted.

Prevention of Sea Erosion

Protective bunds have been put up to an extent of 2 miles along the coast in Chemmalai area in Manal Aru to prevent sea water seeping and causing erosion by the Mullaitivu Branch of TEEDOR. Also palmyrah plants have been planted along the bund.

Goat Supply

Pedigree goats have been donated to eight families with incomes below poverty line at Arasarkerni in Thenmaradchy. Earlier 24 families were given such help in this area.

Similarly 24 families have been given goats in Anai and Vivekan-Vilunthaan anda Nagar in the Kilinochchi District.

Media View

The United National Party is resorting to unscrupulous measures to grab votes and became victorious in the Local Govt. Elections which are going to be held in the Eastern Province. This is the accusation brought up by Mr. Ashraff, the Leader of the Muslim Congress.

The Tamils had levelled charges against this Government to which the Government has adopted the attitude of a crocodile meaning that the Tamils understand the maxim that mad men and crocodiles never act sensibly.

Therefore, the Tamils are engaged in action, having learnt the contextual meaning of Valluvar's stanza that 'those who perform works of penance. do their end attain."

The Muslim Congress which had hitherto taken a wavering stand with the Sri Lankan Government, has now begun to condemn the Government, when overwhelmed by crises and pressures, it has come to face stark reality.

What does the charge of Ashraff that the Police Stations and Army Camps in the East are functioning as Agency Houses for the United National Party show?

Just as in the case of 'Suriyakanda-human trench', when one excavates the soil in the East, after a lapse of a few weeks, won't it unearth the fact to what depth to which the demohas been cratic process buried there?

Ashraff was the one, who had met the Prime Minister and requested a postponement of elections until such time as normalcy is restored.

What was the reply given to him? The Prime Minister's reply was emphatic in that the object in mind was not that the UNP should win the elections but that the elections must be carried through.

recounted Ashraff had several instances taking place in the East, such as - awakening of Grama Sevakas at midnight, summoning them to police stations and asking them to implement Janasaviya Schemes under duress and issuing threats that the security being provided to Muslim villages would be withdrawn if the Muslims voted against the

The Tamils do not trust in the false propaganda put out by the Government that they are ensuring Tamil -Muslim Rights, that they are conducting elections and handing over governance to the 'elected representatives'.

Will the statement of the leader of the Muslim Congress prove that even the Muslims do not trust the government!

Eela Nadu - Editorial of 19. 2. 94

O! CITIZENS OF EELAM

Comes here the enemy, With thunder and blast. Time has come to destroy, Those who destroy 'Eelam'. Citizens how right and true your ways, Will you refuse to declare your greatness A new crisis is upon you, Let victory your goal be, 'Cause your actions just are, And for all to see. Thanks to the Tigers who lead your way.

-S.N. Prakash

SPORTS CRICKET

Jaffna Hindu College beat Manipay Hindu by ten wick-

Scores:- J/Hindu 162 and 84 for no loss Manipay Hindu 74 and 162 all out.

St. Patrick's College beat Skanda Varodhaya by an Innings.

Scores .- St. Patrick's 238 for 6. Patrician skipper Prasad, scored a century.

Scores:- 238 for 6 - St. Patrick's

Skanda Varodhaya. 101&27 all out.

Jaffna Central drew with Canagaratnam M. V. at the former's grounds. The scores-Canagaratnam M.V. 89&214 for 8 at close.

J/Central 238 for 8 decl.

St. John's drew with-Kokkuvil Hindu on the for mer's ground. Scores:-

St. John's-165 &113 all out. Kokkuvil Hindu - 140 & 30 for 7 at close.

LTTE ATTACKS AT

MANAL ARU

'Buffel' Destroyed - 6 Sinhala Soldiers killed

In a commando attack carried out by the LTTE a 'Buffel' armoured vehicle belonging to the government was captured and completely destroyed. Six soldiers of the Sinhala Army died on the spot and three were seriously wounded.

The news in this connection said that on Wednesday, February 23, about 8.35 a.m. the LTTE attacked a group of Sinhala soldiers proceeding towards the

Kadakwewa junction from their camp at Kapilivela. The attack took place within 600 yards of the camp.

The LTTE also captured a 'Buffel' armoured vehicle

from the Sri Lankan Army and completely destroyed it. Six soldiers were killed on the spot. Three others were seriously wounded.

L. T. T. E. also recovered some arms, ammunitions and other military ware from the Sri Lankan forces.

As the ground battle raged, Sri Lankan Air Force bombers and helicopters flew into the area for the assistance of the Army. Four bombers and 2 helicopters straffed the area for several hours.

The LTTE said that a group of its special auxilliary forces also participated in this attack. Two LTTE cadres were killed in this incident.



Picture taken after the ceremonial release of Sinhala POWs shows Mr. Thangan of the LTTE who handed them over with Rev. Alfred Alexander and released POWs.

Voters being threatened SIFP M. P. on Polls are at at the state of the

"Supporters of all political parties contesting the Local Government elections in the East, except the Sri Lanka Freedom Party are moving about with fire-arms. The fire-arms issued to government supporters during the previous elections have not been withdrawn from them. The weapons issued to various other groups by the Indian Peace Keeping Force too, have not been withdrawn. Thus, when the supporters of all other political parties are moving freely with fire-arms, we, alone of the SLFP are facing the hustings without any arms." So said Mr. L. M. K. Thenaperuma, S.L. F.P. Member of Parliament for the Amparai District.

He further added "The people of Eastern Province, whether they be Tamils, Muslims or Sinhalese are facing the elections with a lot of misgivings and fear and hence one cannot expect a

free and fair elections in this part of the Island'.

"A peaceful climate is

absent in the area to conduct any election. The Local Government elections are being conducted in an atmosphere of fear and tension. It has not been possible to hold a proper election campaign there. Only a half-hearted election campaign has so far been conducted." he continued to say.

Mr. L. M. K. Thenaperuma concluded, "The worst affected areas are the Tamil and Muslim villages where severe threats have been made on the voters as to how votes should be cast. The people there are engulfed in a fear psychosis so that under the circmustances a free and fair election is not possible.

Continuing-

(Continued from page 1) outcome or decision of this meeting.

Having talked to the government side, now we had a second round of talks with the LTTE. We desire to move very carefully and slowly in regard to the peace negotiations. We propose to explain very clearly about the present happenings to the government side and high officers of the Government.

Whatever the impediments are, we will continue our efforts to achieve peace. I verily believe that peace can be achieved, if all of us unitedly work towards peace having faith that peace efforts will succeed.

If local Catholic and Christian organisations are unable to produce good results, we shall even contact foreign organisations and try to obtain good results. For this purpose we are currently engaged in discussions with

countries like Britain and America. They have so far not clearly stated their decisions in regard to this matter.

Rev. Fr. Alexander gave the above interview to Eelanaatham after two Sri Lankan Policemen in LTTE custody were released on the orders of the LTTE leader as a gesture of good-will and handed over to Rev. Fr. Alfred Alexander.

New Era Publications, Luckshmibuilding, Dutch Rd, Kalviyankadu, Jaffna.

MUSLIM CONGRESS COMPLAINS

As the Local Government Election Day approaches, supporters of the government party are becoming impatient and resorting to violence.

"People in mufti travelling about in unnumbered vehicles gain unauthorised entry into private residences and are issuing threats and assaulting the inmates", so said Mr. S. M. Abubakar, M. P. for Vavuniya District in Parliament.

Mr. Abubakar further said that some government officials are using the authority of a UNP Minister to issue threats on people saying that if they do not vote for the UNP, the Janasaviya Scheme will be curtailed and that security will be withdrawn.

Thanks to LTTE and its leader-Not to Government-Released POWs

"We have obtained our release thanks to the good-will of the LTTE leader Mr. V. Pirabakaran and of the LTTE," so said the released prisoners of war, Tillakaratne Bandara and Chandrasekara, speaking to pressmen after their release.

Continuing further they said that ten of their fellowprisoners of war, released earlier, also obtained their release due to the goodwill shown by the LTTE and its leader. They also said that it was regrettable that the Government had not taken any meaningful steps to have them released. In the circumstances they have no reason to be thankful to the Government of Sri Lanka but only to the LTTE.

The released men also stated that they were held prisoners for over 45 months but during this period the LTTE looked after them very well attending to all their needs of food, health and medicine. Even their parents were allowed for one month to stay with them and look after them when they undertook a fast. Perhaps this is unique and an example for the whole world.

Even though the LTTE provided opportunities earlier for their release they could not obtain their release because of the Government's indifference. The released men also said that they would try to obtain the release of their fellow prisoners with the assistance of Buddhist priests. They would appeal to the Heads of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters of the Buddhist clergy to press the Government to enter into peace talks.

WISHFUL THINKING

Former Minister Gamini Jayasuriya's Sinhala Arakshaka Sangamaya (SAS) unashamedly states that it is of the view that it would not be difficult to arrive at a solution to outstanding problems on the following basis:—

- (1) Sri Lanka should remain a Unitary State.
- (2) Sinhalese should have the right to colonise state lands in North and East in accordance with their all-island ethnic proportion.
- (3) There should be no re-drawing of boundaries on ethnic basis as it will lead to difficulties in the hill country.
- (4) There should be no devolution of powers, particularly in regard to law and order, state land, ports and air ports.
- (5) No traditional homeland for Tamils.

Of course Gamini Jayasuriya's SAS has got in Mr. D. B. Wijetunge a President after its heart. But little does the SAS think that a solution has to be found with the consent of the Tamils.

And who is the Tamil, who is going to negotiate with the SAS or with any other person on the basis of the points formulated by SAS? Perhapsnot even the quislings in Colombo.

But let us not deny the S. A. S. some pleasure by its own wishful thinking making it believe that the impossible would become possible! Tamils' rights are not negotiable.