

Hot Spring

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PEACE EFFORTS:

LTTE RESPONDS FAVOURABLY

It is learnt that a high official of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry is likely to visit Jaffna early next month to have discussions with LTTE. The purpose of the Norwegian official's visit to Jaffna is to initiate peace moves finally leading to talks between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government.

At the same time another report says the Mr. M. H. Mohammed, the Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament, is also likely to visit Jaffna early next month. He also comes to Jaffna to have discussions with the LTTE in an effort to create an

atmosphere of peace to enable discussions to be held between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government.

It is learnt that the LTTE has already indicated its willingness to meet the Norwegian official as well as Mr. Mohammed. Therefore

these delegations are likely to be in Jaffna in early April unless the Sri Lankan government aborts such peace moves.

Observers said that the LTTE has established its bonafides by continued positive responses to all peace efforts from whatever quarters they came. They pointed out the several instances when the LTTE released Sri Lankan prisoners of war held by it not only on its own initiative for humanitarian reasons but also on the specific request of peace missions which tried to create the necessary conditions for peaceful negotiations. The LTTE did not ask for anything in return for its own gestures of good-will. The LTTE continues to make these positive responses even in the light of the Sri Lankan government retracting from its commitments as in the instance of the government of Sri Lanka going back on its undertaking to lift the embargo on certain essential consumer commodities agreed to by the Government of Sri Lanka at the time of negotiations to have the fasting Sri Lankan prisoners of war released. In fact the Government's agreement was officially notified by publication in the Government Gazette intimating the lift on the economic embargo on certain items of consumer commodities.

Rt. Rev. Ambalavanar, the former Bishop of C. S. I. replying said, 'The Sri Lankan government was oppressing the Tamils by many devious methods and as such Tamils are struggling hard to face up to that challenge by re-discovering their souls and creating a new epoch and history. The most that they could do at this juncture was to preserve their souls and continue the struggle making sacrifices towards that end.'

Rt. Rev. (Dr.) S. Jebanesan, the present-C. S. I. Bishop of Jaffna, Rev. Fr. S. J. Emmanuel, Vicar General, Prof. Sivathamby, Kambari Varithy E. Jeyarajah, Rev. Fr. Jeyanesan, Mr. Sivalingarajah, lecturer Jaffna Campus, Rev. Fr. D. Thilagajarah and others also addressed the gathering.

Continue the Struggle Rt. Rev. Dr. D.J. Ambalavanar

'What doth it profit a man if he gains the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul? We, Tamils should endeavour to a small extent, at least, to seek the welfare of our souls. It is then and then alone, the Tamil people will win their objectives, which include their liberation or the right to self-determination', so said Rt. Rev. (Dr.) D. J. Ambalavanar, former Bishop of the Church of South India, at a function held at the Bishop Kulendiran Memorial Hall, Jaffna, on the occasion of the release of a book entitled, 'Because of the Grace Conferred on Me' in connection with his 66th birthday. Vice Chancellor, University of Jaffna, Prof. A. Thuraiarajah presided.

POLITICAL ASPIRATION?

The 'Hot Spring' in its issue of February 20th reported a statement made by Brigadier Rohan Gunawardene Military Co-ordinating Officer at a conference held at the Batticaloa Kachcheri under the caption 'Army will ensure everyone cast his vote - It won't be the Indian Way.'

In his speech at the said conference, Rohan Gunawardene has himself said that the Army will pursue action against all those who boycott the local elections of March 1st. Those who stayed at home and abstained from voting would be

considered as having boycotted the elections. The Army would take all necessary action to see that all go to the polling stations...

If forcing voters to go to the polling station by the Army is not direct military intervention, what else is it?

Perhaps, like all other politicians, Brigadier Rohan Gunawardene might deny making such an utterance on the ground that no government official would dare to give evidence against a Military Co-ordinating Official while still having his foot in an army occupied zone. Hence, the Brigadier was

emboldened to offer a challenge that he would resign the following day, March 2nd, if any one could prove that the Sri Lankan Army under his command had in any way interfered in the Local Government Elections held in the Batticaloa District.

Well, the Brigadier has now by his denial qualified himself as a politician and probably expects nomination for the post of President in the next Presidential Elections or failing which he will lie abroad for the good of his country, as some of his ilk are now doing!

LESSON OF HISTORY

"...We, pledge to Ireland our love and we pledge to English rule in Ireland our hate... life springs from death; and from the graves of patriotic men and women spring living nations... The defenders of this Realm... think that they have pacified Ireland... the fools, the fools! They have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree, shall never be at peace."

Poet Padraic Pearse.

Bullets hit Jaffna Hospital

Bullets fired from the Sri Lankan Army camp at Mandaitivu hit the walls and some windows of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital but caused no major damage or injury to person.

The Hospital is in the Safety Zone under ICRC control.

The incident occurred on the night of Wednesday, March 2.

Night Bombing at Thondamannaru

Two Sri Lankan Air Force bombers carried out night bombing at Thondamannaru.

The incident occurred on Wednesday, March 2, about 9.30 p. m.

The bombing took place at Periyamalai, north of the Selvasannathy temple, at Thondamannaru. The bombs, however, fell in the adjoining sea and no injury to person or property was reported.

Shortage of Drugs to Combat Malaria

Jaffna Government Hospital circles inform that they have exhausted all their stocks of Chloroquine pills. This drug is used in the treatment of malaria.

In the wake of the rainy

season, malaria has taken epidemic proportions in the Peninsula. The shortage of this drug particularly at this time, is causing a health hazard, according to Health Department officials.

State Terrorism in the East Says Southern Politico

Mr. Amarasiri Dodanagoda, former Chief Minister of the Southern Province is reported to have told a meeting in the southern province that the UNP government was exploiting govern-

mental machinery and resources and letting loose a reign of terror in the eastern province to win the local government elections organised by the Government in the eastern province.

ALL IS FAIR - NOT FREE - IN WAR

The Sunday Observer of 27.02.94 reported that the D.I.G. in charge of the Elections Secretariat at Police Headquarters said that all Police arrangements for the Local Government Elections in the Eastern Province and Vavuniya had been completed... to ensure a fair and peaceful elections.

The D.I.G. concerned had failed for obvious reasons

to mention the word 'Free' in his statement but had included the word 'fair'.

Perhaps, he must have remembered the saying 'All is fair in love and war.' As this is a local election held in the midst of a war, the word 'fair' did not bother him much but he had been meticulous to omit the word 'free.'

Thanthai Chelva Memorial Celebrations

A grateful Tamil Eelam Nation will pay homage to its departed leader, Thanthai S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, on his 96th birth anniversary on 31st. March and again on his 17th death anniversary on April 26th.

The Jaffna Christian Union will conduct a Thanksgiving Service at St. John's (Anglican) Church,

Chundikuli, Jaffna on Thursday 31st. March at 3.30 p. m. As the day falls on Maundy Thursday, a date of Religious significance to the Christians, the service will be a short one.

The parishioners of Tellipalai who are now displaced, will hold a similar Memorial Service at Uduvil like last year on his 17th death anniversary on April 26.



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DO YOUR DUTY

The latest bombshell is thrown by Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. In an interview to a Colombo based newspaper, he has said that the UNP never accepted the concept of a traditional homeland for the Tamils.

Ranil Wickremasinghe was a Minister in the J. R. Jayawardhene government when the Rajiv Gandhi - Jayawardhene Accord of 1987 was signed. He is a member of the UNP and cannot pretend ignorance about the provisions of the Dudley-Chelvanayakam Pact of 1965. Mr. Dudley Senanayake signed it on behalf of the UNP and Ranil's closest relatives, J. R. Jayawardhene and Mr. Esmond Wickremasinghe, participated in the discussions leading to the Pact and in the drafting of it. Needless to say that the two agreements recognised the traditional Tamil homeland.

Yet the Prime Minister who is from the same party says that the party never accepted the concept of the Tamil homeland. Of course, the history of Pacts and Agreements between Tamils and Sinhalese has always been a record of disgust for the Tamils and jubilation for the Sinhalese - jubilation for the Sinhalese because by sheer prevarications they broke their promises to the Tamils and the Tamil leaders found themselves deprived of golden opportunities of winning Tamil rights because they trusted the Sinhala leaders.

Be that as it may, Ranil Wickremasinghe's statement is far too serious to be left unchallenged. Tamil history in the island is as old as that of the Sinhalese, if not older. The Tamils have had their own kingdoms and chieftainships which ruled the Tamil territory from time immemorial. Tamil chieftains continued to rule their chieftainships even after the Tamil maritime chieftainships and Kingdom fell to the Portuguese.

The first British Colonial Secretary, Sir Hugh Cleghorn, clearly indicated the Tamil homeland and Sinhala homeland as early as 1799. From thence forward the British who ruled the island admitted the separate identities of the Tamils and Sinhalese not only language and religion wise but also in every other way including the territorial divisions and identities.

They had a separate judicial division for Tamil areas and a separate division for Sinhala areas. Tamil Native officials were appointed to Tamil areas and Sinhalese native officials to Sinhalese areas. This system continued even after the unification of the administration in 1833 as can be witnessed by the appointment of only Tamil Divisional Revenue Officers to the Tamil areas and Sinhalese to Sinhalese areas.

Even the system of representation in Legislature before the Donoughmore Commission was based on nationality basis. Separate 'Durbars' were held for the Sinhalese, Tamils and Kandyans by the British. The only common factor for the Tamils and the Sinhalese was the overlordship or rule of the British.

Fortunately Britain has in her possession all records from official documents. They are not like the Mahawamsa myth. These records conclusively prove that the Tamil land identified by Sir Hugh Cleghorn in 1799 remained the same in 1948 when the British handed over the reins of power to the Sinhalese.

In view of the prevarications of the Sinhala leaders it becomes incumbent on British Prime Minister Mr. John Major and his Government to confirm to the world the Tamil territory in the island as identified by Sir Hugh Cleghorn. It is Britain's duty.

Adrian Wijemanne tells Sunday Island:

GOVT. OBSESSED WITH POLITICS OF SURVIVAL

I have just had the opportunity of reading your exhortatory editorial "Wake up!" in your issue of Sunday 1st August, '93. What comes through very clearly is your sense of pained surprise at a debacle such as that at Janakapura despite all the money, men and equipment committed to this ten-year effort to curb northern terrorism.

There seems to be a conceptual problem which lies at the root of the pained surprise. The problem is this. What is the nature of the enemy whom we fight? Is the enemy "northern terrorists" i.e. a criminal conspiracy akin to gang robbers bent on plunder etc. for their own aggrandisement similar to the Mafia? Or is the enemy a nationalist guerilla force bent on establishing a separate state for their nation? If it is the former, then the money, men and equipment committed to their suppression can certainly be regarded as adequate and we must search for reasons as to why the results which could legitimately be expected, have not materialised. On the other hand, if the enemy is a nationalist guerilla force bent on establishing a separate state for their nation, then very serious doubts arise as to the adequacy of the money, men and equipment committed to fight such a guerilla force.

Since you have mentioned "money" first let us look at the adequacy of the funds provided for this effort. Early this year, the late President declared that Rs. 23 billion was being provided this year for it. The British government is engaged in a very similar effort against the IRA in Northern Ireland and spends £3 billion per annum on it. This is approximately Rs. 230 billion or ten times what the Sri Lanka government spends. The IRA is a very small force numerically - around 300 "hard men" - and Northern Ireland is about two-thirds of the land area of the north-east province of Sri Lanka. So you provide less than one tenth of what is provided for a similar effort in Northern Ireland.

You refer next to "men". The comparison there raises serious doubts about adequacy. The British Army and the Ulster Defence Forces together field about 110

troops to 1 IRA guerilla and yet after 25 years of relentless fighting, the IRA is stronger today than at any time during the conflict. The Sri Lankan army fields 10 to 1 against the LTTE assuming that 80,000 men or the bulk of the Sri Lankan Army

foreign exchange first for the requirements of a civil government which has a high propensity for foreign exchange - swallowing imports. The enormous costs both in foreign exchange and local currency of a civil government amount to an albatross

No Nationalist Guerilla war for a separate State ever ended other than by the establishment of such separate State.

are deployed against the 8,000 frontline fighters of the LTTE. (Indian assessments have put the LTTE's strength at around 30,000 but I am using the lower figure just for the purposes of argument). The British troops in Northern Ireland are well trained professional soldiers many of whom have been in action in the Falklands and Gulf Wars. Even so the ratio of 110 to 1 against the IRA has proved insufficient. The Sri Lanka army is of recent origin, has not been in action overseas and is less well-trained than the British army. To believe it can do better at 10 to 1 against the LTTE, a far more numerous and formidable force than the IRA, than the British army has been able to do so far against the IRA, one would have to take leave of one's senses altogether.

Next you refer to equipment. All the equipment required by the British forces in Northern Ireland - arms, ammunition, transport, communications equipment, medical supplies, fuel, food etc. is produced in this country. None of it has to be imported. Sri Lanka has to import all this using its limited foreign exchange for the purpose. It may be countered that the LTTE is in exactly the same position. The answer to that is 'not quite' - for the LTTE devotes all its foreign exchange resources to the war whereas the Sri Lanka government has to provide

round the neck of the Sri Lanka forces. The LTTE is entirely free of such a burden.

To sum up, the Sri Lankan forces, grossly inadequately funded for such a conflict, have not the numbers on the ground even for bare survival and are hamstrung by the ballooning costs of a civil government which seems unable to comprehend the true nature of the conflict in which it is engaged and is obsessed with the politics of survival to the exclusion of all else.

Wars are very debilitating. Britain's 25 year (and as yet unsuccessful) war against the IRA has contributed in no small measure to its relative decline vis-a-vis its partners in the European community all of whom except Spain, are at peace. In Sri Lanka if anything remotely resembling an adequate effort is to be mounted an army 5 times its present size for instance is necessary civil Government will disappear and even so the final outcome will be dubious. It is sobering thought that no nationalist guerilla war aimed at establishing a separate state has ever ended other than by the establishment of such a separate state - from the Irish Republic in 1992 to the State of Eritrea in all the years in between.

These, dear Mr. Editor, are the realities to which the Sinhala people and their government will have to wake up.

Courtesy: TAMIL NATION.

HOW IS THAT? PMG.

Postal Authorities seem now to be sitting pretty and say that all back log of mails to the North have been cleared. This nonchalance of the PMG is now challenged by the Local Government Pensioners who have

complained that their February Vouchers have not been received, although the other Pensioners are now due for their March Pensions. L. G. Pensioners ask why this step-motherly treatment has been meted out to them?

LTTE strikes Again at Manal Aru

4 Soldiers Killed - Arms Recovered

The LTTE carried out a commando attack on a Sri Lankan Forward Defence Line Army sentry post and killed 3 Sri Lankan soldiers and a Sinhala Home Guard at Manal Aru.

The attack took place post guarding the Parakramapura Sri Lankan Army February 28. A sentry camp in the Manal Aru

area, was destroyed.

The attack lasted only for 3 minutes. The LTTE recovered arms, ammunitions and other military - ware too. There was no loss to the LTTE.

HEAVY AERIAL BOMBING AT KILALI One Killed-Another Injured

Two Puccaro planes and a helicopter of the Sri Lankan Air Force carried out heavy attack on the coasts of Kilali, Allippalai and Alankerny.

A traveller named Manickam Selvanayagam was killed and another traveller was injured and admitted to Jaffna hospital.

About 9.45 p. m. on Saturday, February 26, artillery shells were launched towards Kilali and Allippalai. Within minutes 2 Sri Lankan Puccaro planes and a helicopter launched heavy attacks.

The Puccaro planes dropped bombs and rockets in

the coasts while the helicopter carried out 50 calibre gun fire on boats crossing the Kilali sea. Reports also said that the coast of Alankerny also was bombed.

No reports of the damage in the sea and the coast of Alankerny were received.

Heli Fires at Fishermen 2 Killed-1 Injured

A Sri Lankan helicopter fired at fishermen at work in the Kerativu sea killing two and injuring another. A fourth man jumped into the sea and escaped unhurt.

On Monday, February 28, about 4.30 p. m. a helicopter flying over the Kerativu sea fired at fishermen who were engaged in fishing.

Two fishermen, Arumugam Chelliah (aged 63) and V. Nadarajah (aged 72) were killed on the spot. Chelliah's

son S. Vanesachelvan (aged 34) was injured. A fourth man who was fishing along with the dead and injured jumped into the sea and escaped unhurt.

Fishermen from Thanankilappu went to the sea after the helicopter left and

brought back the dead and injured man along with their boat.

The injured man was admitted to the Jaffna Hospital.

It is noteworthy that the firing on fishermen took place on the eve of Feb 28, when the G. A. Jaffna had been informed earlier that the ban on fishing in the seas would be lifted from March 1.

Teedor News

Environment Protection

A special organisation for environment protection has been set up by the Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR). According to TEEDOR, preliminary steps are already afoot to plant 1.2 million casuarina plants in a thousand-acre sandy soil in Vadamaradchy East.

Tank Breach Prevented

The TEEDOR's Village Productivity Committee of Oddisuddan, mustered the villagers and carried out work on a voluntary basis for three days when water was seen seeping through a breach in the Bramanakulam Tank in Oddisuddan. Sand bags were piled and the breach repaired, 150 acres of paddy cultivation were saved by the timely action.

Milk Collection Centre

A milk collection centre has been opened at Kumilamunai in the Manal Aru area by TEEDOR. This is an area where cattle are found in large numbers and

cows are not milked for want of market for milk. The Centre now provides the necessary market for milk.

Village Uplift Schemes

Under the village Uplift Scheme of TEEDOR, a coir production centre at Nachikudah, poultry farms at Pannikudah and Chemmankunru, dry fish processing at Iranaitivu and coconut plantation in Aripallu in the Mannar District have been started and made functional.

Assistance for Agriculture

A sum of Rs. 35,000/- has been given by way of agricultural assistance to seven families with incomes below poverty line at Rs. 5000/- per family. The recipient families are from Navakeeri in the Jaffna District.

Bare land distributed for cultivation

TEEDOR has allocated 3½ acres of bare land to eight families of landless in Kaththannagar, Thumrukandy and Selvanagar to encourage them to take to agriculture. So far TEEDOR has allocated 120 acres of

such bare land to landless people.

Agriculture Seminar at Pandivirichchan

An agriculture seminar was organised by TEEDOR at Pandivirichchan in Mannar District.

Representatives of Government and non-governmental organisations also participated. Over 125 agriculturists in the area also participated.

Agriculture Incentives

195 farmer families have been given agricultural inputs as incentive to get them engaged in paddy cultivation. These families are from the villages of Mamadu, Oonchakatty, Pattikudiyiruppu, Olumadhu, Nedunkerny, Palampasi, Katkulam and Maruthodai.

Voluntary Social Services

TEEDOR's Mullaitivu District branches carried out voluntary social service work involving the people in the villages of Puthukudiyiruppu and Oddisuddan. The work included cleaning and repairing schools, roads and playgrounds.

No Life without Struggle

Media View

To the Sri Lankan government "the war has gained more importance than food" and the "war has become very essential and urgent even beyond the destruction caused to the country". In this aspect President D. B. Wijetunge of Sri Lanka remains very clear. He has said explicitly that whatever calamity to which the country becomes exposed, he will never withdraw from the war that is being waged to retain the island under unitary rule.

D. B. Wijetunge is not only clear on the war but also clear on his objective. "The sentiments of the major nationality composing 78% of the population of the island, cannot be neglected, taking into consideration the demands put forward by a minority who constitute 22% of the population. The government and the political powers of the whole island should remain in the hands of the majority. The majority will provide protection to the minorities. But the protection of the majority can never be entrusted to the minority in any part of the island. I cannot even imagine such situation". This is his clear objective.

This implies that in no part of the island, the smaller nations should remain with their separate identities or political powers. In any part of the island, they should and would always remain a minority under the subjugation of the majority. In the event of this being otherwise, the majority should, by resorting to war, capture political power and the right to rule. This is explicit from his statement.

Under these circumstances, the utterances of Ranil Wickremasinghe regarding negotiations, and the statements made by the government that it is prepared for such negotiations, is nothing but false and hypocritical. Further, how far could Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe's declarations over-ride the stand taken by the Executive President?

In the prevailing situation, the reality is that the war has been thrust on the Tamils against their wishes.

But this does not mean that this war has been thrust on the Tamils only today. The fact is that the war has been thrust on them ever since the Sinhala Only official bill was presented in Parliament.

The racist Sinhala government, however, suppressed with the might of its armed forces the initial struggles put up by the Tamils, even when the struggles were peaceful. They never recognised the rights of the Tamils.

In the context of these circumstances, an armed struggle became an unavoidable compulsion to the Tamil people. It was when the racist Sinhala government resorted to acts of genocide to wipe out the Tamils with a vengeance, it was brought home to the Tamil Nation that their safety and protection lay in an armed struggle. The growth of this armed struggle in the midst of several crises stood as a pointer to its logical necessity.

In other words, an armed struggle was thrust on the Tamil people, who unable to avert it, were forced to accept the challenge. The Liberation Tigers came forward to give the Tamil Nation the leadership and the protective shield to that struggle. But the Sinhala racists have not changed their attitude even after facing repeated defeats but are persisting with a vengeance to wipe out the national identity of the Tamil people.

In this circumstance, the Tamils are further compelled today to come to an unequivocal decision. A clear situation has emerged that the Tamils have no right to live in this island except by resort to struggle. Avoidance of struggles will in effect mean that the Tamils will only destroy themselves. At a time, when Sinhala racism is prepared to pay any price to retain its hegemony the need of the Tamils to fight for their own security and right has become a historical compulsion. If the Tamils do not do so, there is no place for the Tamils in this island.

Eelanaatham -
Editorial of 23.2.94

SPORTS

CRICKET

St. John's drew with Jaffna Hindu at the former's grounds.

Scores:— St. John's - 227 all out with Nirmalan scoring a century-Jaffna Hindu-150 & 160 for 5.

In a one-day match played at St. Patrick's grounds,

Canagaratnam M. V. were able to force a draw.

Scores - St. Patrick's - 203 for 9 decl.

Canagaratnam M. V. 94 for 9 at close.

Jaffna Central beat Skanda Varodaya by an innings at the latter's grounds at Chunnamakam.

Scores - Jaffna Central - 227 for 7 decl.

Skanda Varodaya 98 & 100.

Election in Occupied Tamil Eelam Territory

This is not the first time that Tamils see the exercise of the so-called 'democratic process of elections' in their territory being staged with an alien army of occupation controlling every aspect of their activity and life. They saw this fraud being staged more than once by the Indians in 1988/89 and have just seen a similar fraud staged by the Sinhalese on March 1.

Fraudulent Elections

From all reports it is clear that there were more armed thugs of the Government, variously called as armed forces, police, STF and Home Guards, strutting about the streets on the polling day than voters! Perhaps this necessitated the police to play the role of voters and cast the votes on behalf of the voters. The Elections Commissioner himself has admitted such a 'democratic process' to have taken place in certain polling areas. No wonder the Police had to engage in this type of 'save democracy' exercise because the large part of the indigenous population is out of

its homes as refugees not only within the districts but outside the districts and away in far off lands. And the armed services had the dual duty of ensuring that not only the votes were polled but were polled for the U.N.P. So the show of their enthusiasm born out of government patronage, has led to an embarrassing situation in which the Elections Commissioner had to admit mass scale stuffing of ballot boxes with votes by a handful of Policemen and the Returning Officer for Batticaloa saying he was waiting for further detailed reports as to the happenings to make a fuller report. And that is not all.

Almost the entire media around the world has ridiculed the UNP government's 'democratic process of elections' in occupied Tamil Eelam territory. Even the Indian Express is reported to have likened D. B. Wijetunge's performance with Rajiv Gandhi's in 1988/89 in Tamil Eelam territory with Indian Army's presence.

Motive

D. B. Wijetunge and his government had only one motive in conducting the so-called elections and that one motive was **LOOT**. One form of loot was to relieve foreign countries of their pockets by showing that everything was normal - no war in Sri Lanka is the latest cry of DBW - and the other is the loot of Tamil territory. Perhaps Wijetunge and his government may feel that they have succeed-

ed but they have to be reminded of a grim fact.

There are some persons 'elected' from Tamil Eelam during a similar step in the democratic process in 1988/89 by the Indians. Wijetunge knows them better because these 'elected' men are under his care and patronage in Colombo ever since their 'election' not caring or daring to meet their 'electors' in Tamil Eelam and the latter not wanting them either. Their pitiable position lays bare the Indian fraud. What will be the position of the newly elected councillors of local bodies?

One thing is certain. They are not liable to be sent home by dissolution of the councils because of two reasons. They contested to oblige D. B. W. to stage a fraudulent drama and Wijetunge has to reward them with some offices and their continued presence in local bodies is necessary for Wijetunge to secure the second part of the loot-viz. Tamil territory. So they shall not have to go home.

Efforts at Artificiality

Doomed to Fail

The B. B. C. in its election analysis report said

that the voting pattern showed that the people are divided on the basis of their nationalities. People who had gone to vote under threat and compulsion had voted for members of their own race instead of voting for any party irrespective of race. That is a B.B.C. comment on the so-called 'elections.'

The B.B.C. comment perhaps arises out of a supposition that the position can be otherwise in an island with two nations. The entire history of the island shows that Tamils have voted for Tamils and Sinhalese for Sinhalese in quite a natural way. It is the effort at artificiality-make one nation of two and one people of two-that has caused all the blood-shed. If Tamil identity and oneness cannot be wiped out even in an occupied part of Tamil Eelam with the entire armed forces muscled for one day's exercise how can Tamil Eelam be ever devoured and digested for all time? Isn't all this an exercise in futility too? Tamil Eelam history will not be determined by fraudulent elections.

Human Rights Violations Against Tamils S.L.Govt. Fails to implement agreed measures

News Service date-lined 27-10-93 published by Amnesty International states as follows:-

Despite promises by the Sri Lankan Government to safeguard Tamils from arbitrary detention, well over a thousand members of the Tamil community have been arbitrarily arrested in the capital, Colombo, and its suburbs since 15 October and at least six have been held in unacknowledged detention.

"The latest arrests show a complete failure by the Sri Lankan Government to implement the measures which it agreed with Tamil political leaders in June which were intended to safeguard Tamils from just this kind of abuse," said Amnesty International.

Some of those recently arrested have been taken away by men in police or military uniform, others by officers wearing civilian dress, often in the middle of the night. In some cases the arrests had still not been acknowledged by the police three or four days after the arrest and despite the explicit promise made in June that relatives of detainees would be informed of where prisoners were being

taken, relatives often do not know where they are held.

"Since June, there have been several waves of such arrests forming part of a pattern of human rights violations directed at the

Sri Lanka: More than a Thousand Arbitrarily arrested and at least six held in unacknowledged detention.

Tamil community, in which thousands of people appear to have been arrested solely on the basis of their ethnic origin," said Amnesty International.

The first wave of arrests followed soon after elections to provincial councils had been held in June. Since then thousands have been arrested, apparently in connection with investigations into the assassinations of opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali and President Ranasinghe Premadasa on 23 April and 1 May respectively, and with reports that the armed opposition Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have infiltrated the city. Police attributed both assassinations to the LTTE, which is engaged in armed conflict with government forces to establish a separate state in the north-east of the island.

The most recent mass arrests began on the night of 15 October following a statement by the Defence Ministry that a body-bomb (to be worn by a suicide bomber) had been found in a box on a beach at Modera, north of Colombo, on 14 October. The bomb was said to be of the type used

to kill both former President Premadasa earlier in the year and the former Indian Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, in 1991, raising fears that LTTE suicide squads may have entered the city.

Many of those arrested were released within hours or days. Hundreds, however, have reportedly been kept in custody - from 15 to 17 October, for example, some 1,500 Tamil people were reportedly arrested in the Colombo area, of whom 500 were kept in detention.

Reports received in the past three months suggest that in many cases there are no valid grounds for arrest and that people are simply held in custody while police check their identities and whether there is any existing intelligence information about them. Amnesty International called on the government in June

to ensure that people are only arrested when there are grounds to do so.

Some people have been repeatedly arrested in recent months despite government assurances in June 1993 that certificates would be issued on an individual's release to ensure that they would not be rearrested for routine questioning. For example, a young man arrested by police at Modera on 20 October was eventually traced by his relatives to Kotahena police station, and was expected to be released. He had been detained and released three times previously.

Amnesty International is concerned that the way in which people are being taken into custody is reminiscent of the manner in which thousands of people were detained in the south between 1988 and 1990, when

the government was seeking to suppress an insurgency by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front). The lack of proper procedural safeguards on arrest and detention enabled tens of thousands of people to "disappear" in custody in that period.

Amnesty International has appealed to the authorities to investigate the whereabouts, and ensure the safety of the six individuals whose arrests have not yet been acknowledged - and whose whereabouts remain unknown. The organization is also urging the government of Sri Lanka to ensure that the safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention agreed to in June are fully implemented, to take effective action against officers who fail to enforce them, and to ensure that arrests by officers in civilian clothes cease.

AWAKE! WOMEN!

Awake! Women, it's time up Awake,
Alike for those, who for today prepare,
And those, that after a tomorrow stare,
For them, the reward is neither here nor there.

With lots of hope, the seed of wisdom did we sow,
And with our own hands labour'd it to grow,
And this was all the harvest that we rear'd,
Our great travail broke the locks of our slavery gate.

In the battle against the foes of Tamil Eelam so far,
Women's valour hath proved so undaunted in war,
Many reporters, all along the worldwide,
Had appreciated the brave valour of our side.

Awake! women, it's time up, Awake,
To secure our rights of own sake,
That will assure our self-reliance,
Awake! women its time up, Awake.

—Malarannai