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READY TO KILL



A FAMILIAR SIGHT IN TAMIL AREAS OF SRI LANKA

THE GENOCIDE CONTINUES WITH UNABATED FURY

The squalid notoriety of Sri Lanka for killing Tamils has never before been given due acknowledgement as when a British Sunday 'broadsheet' columnist commented recently on the front page that the performance of the Sri Lanka cricket team at Lords 'sent the islanders, otherwise preoccupied with communal violence, into ecstatic celebrations'.

The killing of Tamil civilians by the Sri Lankan security forces reached a new high over the last two months. The genocide continues with unabated fury. Hospital mortuaries all over the Tamil areas were receiving corpses several times in excess of their storage capacities. The stink from the putrefying bodies was as foul and nauseating as the stink of the reputation of the JR regime in the Human Rights forums of the world and the corridors of the UN offices in Geneva.

Undertakers were having a field day in Tamil areas as well as the Mossad Frankensteins, who are no doubt preparing the ground to be undertakers to the JR regime as the wheels of history make the ultimate revolution.

Quite apart from the gruesome and increasing genocidal killings, and besides the sheer destruction of the flesh, blood and life, there are now in operation qualitatively new forms of genocide, strangulating the fields of economy, agriculture, industry, culture, religion and education of the Tamils.

Look at the fishermen of Jaffna. They had had their means of living — their mechanised boats — shelled from the air and the sea, set on fire and destroyed by the navy and air force, and their fishing nets plundered by the army.

The farmers have had their agricultural registration identity cards and processed

applications for seed potatoes incinerated by the troops along with the regional agricultural offices. The state banks are holding on to their pawned jewellery, the farmers' means of revolving credit for agricultural expenses, even though they have paid up the capital and interest months ago.

The main banks which paid the wage-earners and pensioners have been razed down by bomb blasts by 'unidentified persons' over a period of several hours, and the security forces stationed barely two kilometres away failed to turn up in spite of frantic calls by bank employees, leading the Jaffna Citizens Committee to identify a sinister hand at work.

The result? Delays in payment of salaries and pensions and harassment to wage-earners and pensioners who had to queue up at the Jaffna esplanade from twilight hours. Interests are no longer being paid monthly by the state savings banks, depriving the Tamil man of the means of supplementing his meagre income.

Is this not in effect a form of genocide inflicted on the economic life of the Tamil man?

The burning of the libraries continues, the latest to suffer incineration being the Library of Hartley College. Over the last two years Jaffna has become a cultural desert. Where are the dance arangetrams and recitals, dance dramas, classical music recitals, pop shows, dramas, naatu kootus and villu paatus (dramatised folk presentations), Kazhai Vizhas, Bharati Vizhas, Navaraathri Vizhas, Temple festival art programmes, cinematic and review seminars, and poets' forums?

They have all become dreams of the past. All auditoriums are conspicuous today by their deafening silence, their one-time patrons the

Tamil people — now on the run to keep life and limb together, in a chronic state of panic and tension, and withdrawing into their cocoons for the day in a self-imposed curfew with the sun still high in the sky — having deserted them.

Isn't this a form of genocide meant to wipe out the history, the literature and the culture and arts of the Tamil people?

The annual car festival of the Hindu temple at Nallur, usually drawing devotees from all over Sri Lanka, and marked by the Deity being drawn in procession in a mighty chariot by devotees outside the temple precincts, has witnessed for the second year running, the farce and mockery of the Deity sneaking out of the temple and dashing back into it in more than double-quick time as if to escape from the menacing might of the Sri Lankan armed forces.

Christian ministers are languishing in jails alongside common criminals for allegedly failing to rush to police stations with confessions heard; and are the subjects of abuse, threats and insults from political platforms by Ministers of State, while their churches are being shelled and desecrated by the Army. Isn't this a form of genocide meant to deny freedom of religion and worship to the Tamils? Tamil youth between 16-35 are either shot at sight or taken into custody and the Minister responsible for it justifies it on the grounds that the Tamil people are refusing to volunteer information about the militant youth. Having deprived the Tamil youth of university education by requiring them to score far more marks than Sinhala youth sitting the same papers at examinations, the government now proceeds to wreck their school studies by getting the troops to burn down school buildings, science laboratories and libraries;

very often by getting the security services to commandeer school buildings for occupation; and to move them into occupation into adjoining buildings to intimidate, harass, assault and drive away students from schools.

If parents pack their children off to Colombo to escape the butchery by the troops, they are accosted and arrested at Colombo railway station for going to Colombo, thus denying them freedom of movement. In desperation, if Tamil parents sell off their jewellery, land and property to educate their children abroad, they are ordered to have their children fingerprinted and obtain clearance certificates from the police as part of immigration requirements, a rule that does not apply to Sinhalese children.

The police certificate never comes, and sometimes the Tamil youth who goes to solicit a police certificate never returns. Isn't this a form of genocide directed at the basic education of the Tamils?

Yes, the message is clear.

The Sinhalese chauvinist government of Sri Lanka has declared 'War' against a section of the population, the Tamil Nation, and every Tamil must realise it, and realise it now. The actions of the despotic regime in Sri Lanka are directed against every Tamil, in some form or other, in whichever part of the world he or she is. The time has come for the Tamils to cry a halt to their polemics, their animosities and their petty squabbles. The time has come for all Tamil groups and all shades of Tamil opinion to bury the hatchet without any further delay. All resources of Tamils should be pooled forthwith — material, intellectual and what not, to fight back the barbarous government of Sri Lanka, if the Tamils are to survive as a Nation.

Let not posterity curse the present generation of Tamils for having abdicated their duty at the most crucial moment in the history of the Tamils of Eelam.

FOR A UNITED FRONT OF ALL LIBERATION FORCES

By S. KUMAR

The emergence of Tamil liberation groups in Sri Lanka was an inevitable development at least for two reasons. Firstly, peaceful protests beginning in 1956 against measures of national oppression by successive governments purporting to act on behalf of the ethnic majority Sinhalese, were suppressed with brute force.

Secondly, the traditional parliamentary party representing the Tamil people of Sri Lanka. The Federal Party and later the TULF, failed not only to restore their lost rights but also proved lamentably incapable of arresting or preventing the relentless and menacing march of Sinhala-Buddhist hegemony which was determined to ensure total subjugation of the Tamil people.

When the thrust of Sinhala-Buddhist hegemony was accompanied by state terrorism and inspired mob violence against Tamil people, the pursuit of the methodology of using political counter-violence also became inevitable.

The causes that led to subsequent divisions and contradictions that manifested within and among Tamil liberation groups go to the very nature of their birth. It is not incorrect to say that these groups were born from and out of the womb of the Federal Party and later the TULF.

These groups did not emerge armed with a revolutionary theory with clearly defined strategies or tactics. The common thread that ran through their thinking was that Tamil rights could no longer be restored by non-violent or peaceful methods advocated by the TULF and that the use of armed political violence was inevitable.

Lack of cohesion

As months and years passed, state terror exacted many casualties from the liberation groups and in the context of the fact that they lacked political or organisational cohesion based on a common liberation strategy, it was inevitable that splits occurred, giving rise to the formation of several liberation groups, albeit all of them committed to national liberation and the establishment of Tamil Eelam.

To justify their existence as separate identities and in the pursuit of claiming legitimacy and acceptance before the Tamil people, all liberation

groups were now compelled to commence the task of defining and delineating their positions on political, social and economic questions.

And today, all the better known Tamil liberation groups have reached a stage in their development to be able to take clearly discernible, if not demonstrable, ideological positions on major questions, political, social and economic.

Today, it would appear that there are five recognised Tamil liberation groups, namely the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), People's Liberation Front of Tamil Eelam (PLOT), Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) and Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS).

United Front

In April this year, the last three organisations, EPRLF, EROS and TELO, after a series of prolonged discussions, came together to form a United Front. While remaining separate, they accepted the following political principles as a common basis for implementing an agreed minimum programme:

'To liberate our motherland from Sri Lankan domination; nothing less than Eelam will be acceptable; armed struggle at broad mass level to be our path; to construct a socialist society in independent Eelam; and to free our nation from the yoke of neo-colonialism headed by US imperialists.'

The agreed minimum programme included: to implement co-ordinated armed action against Sri Lankan armed forces; to jointly carry out overseas propaganda; and to collect funds in support of the liberation struggle and to manage it by a joint committee.

The Tamil people of Sri Lanka, who continue to face genocidal attacks almost every day at the hands of the Sinhala dominated government, ought to feel happy and welcome the United Front of the three liberation groups.

If differences on policy or tactics among the liberation groups have kept them apart, at least the scale of the state-inspired pogrom of July 1983 and the sustained attacks upon the Tamil people since then and which continues to this day with ever in-

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 20

ARBITRARY ARRESTS PROVOKE STRIKE IN PLANTATIONS

Repressive actions by the Sri Lankan government have spread to the central highlands where the bulk of the Tamil plantation workers live and work in the tea estates.

The security forces made a series of arrests in these areas at the beginning of September. Mainly the youth had been the target and reliable reports indicate that they have been subjected to torture.

As a result of the continuing repressive action and particularly as a direct consequence of the arrest of six Tamil youths, over 12,000 plantation workers went on strike in protest. The General Secretary of the Ceylon Workers Congress, Mr M.S. Sellsamy said that the strike was in protest against the arbitrary arrest

and torture of innocent plantation Tamil youth and feared that the strike might spread to other tea estates.

Over 1,500 students of a leading school in the central town of Nuwara Eliya have been boycotting classes in protest against the arrest of their Principal. The police claim that he was engaged in 'subversive activities'

has been discounted as false.

During the second week of September several officials of social service institutes in the plantation districts, including youths attending courses conducted at these institutes have been taken into custody. Already in custody is the Sinhalese principal of one such training institute and his Tamil wife who is an executive committee member of the World Council of Churches.

S.L.F.P. MEETING BROKEN UP BY POLICE

The Sri Lankan police, on September 9, used tear gas and batons and fired in the air to break up a meeting organised by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), led by the former Prime Minister Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike and her son and leader of the opposition, Mr Anura Bandaranaike.

Over 5,000 people had gathered at this well-publicised meeting at Akurana in the central Kandy district. In the police attack several people were injured.

To Mr Anura Bandaranaike, whose close connections with President Jayawardene are widely known, the police attack must have come as a rude shock. Protesting at the police

action, he said that the place looked as if it had been under siege. Mrs Bandaranaike exclaimed: 'Is this the democracy that the government preaches from plaforms?'

The excuse offered by the police to break up the meeting was that it was unauthorised, but Mr Anura Bandaranaike claimed that that permission had been granted a month ago.

There is no doubt that the police action had the full authority from Jayawardene's government and exemplifies its repressive character in that it is determined to stamp out any organised opposition.

MGR K.O.'s JR

'In the wake of the bombing of Madras airport in early August, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed told Chatwal (India's High Commissioner in Colombo) that the Sri Lankan Intelligence had heard of a possible attempt on the life of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.G. Ramachandran'. The Chief Minister's reply was: 'I hope the Sri Lankan government shows the same anxiety for the lives of the Eelam Freedom fighters. How do they have the heart to destroy innocent Tamils who have nothing to do with politics? No force on earth could now drive a wedge between Ceylon Tamils and the 50 million Tamils of India. Anyone who thinks so, who attempts to do so, is doomed to fail.'

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THE MOSSAD TOUCH

It was not surprising, when the bomb blast took place at Madras airport some weeks ago, that so many people, immediately felt that there was a 'Mossad touch' about the affair.

All the pieces fitted together so conveniently to underline a propaganda ploy that Mossad's employers in these parts wanted to emphasise.

First, that the 'terrorists' were an inhuman bunch with no respect for innocent human life. Secondly, that they were a danger not merely to Sri Lanka but also to Tamil Nadu which was misguidedly giving them shelter. Thirdly, if India did not want any more such incidents, it should round up the 'terrorists' taking shelter there and hand them over to the Sri Lanka authorities.

Whatever the real facts about the Madras airport outrage (which is still under investigation) may be, a similar 'Mossad touch' is discernible in the front page story in the *Daily News* (30/8) about a letter allegedly written by 'terrorist leader Prabakaran' to

his chief theoretician, Dr S.A. Balasingham.

The 'substance' of the letter (but not the letter itself) had been allegedly 'leaked' to 'intelligence sources' in Sri Lanka after Balasingham's briefcase had been 'stolen in Madras last week by "PLOT and EPRLF" spies', while he, in the company of 'Batticaloa jailbreakers Mr and Mrs Nythiananthan and Dr. Sinnarasa, was attending a video film show' at the Madras Chola Hotel.

'Police informers'

Nothing is missing, and everything and everyone falls neatly into place! Prabakaran's LTTE is thus informed that its rivals PLOT and EPRLF are police informers and deserve to be given the treatment!

If, as the 'intelligence sources' say, the contents of the letter were actually written down by Prabakaran and carried in a brief case to a film show by Balasingham, they must be two of the biggest fools alive. For Prabakaran admits, in writing, the LTTE con-

nections with the Madras airport bomb blast, reveals that it was intended to trigger off an attack on Padaviya and Medawachchiya by 'Thambipillai's crowd', which would compel the 'Sinhala army' to vacate the north, leaving it free for LTTE to send its battalions in, declare a 'Socialist (note the sinister Marxist connection) State of Tamil Eelam' and 'invite Indian troops'.

Prabakaran also instructs Balasingham to issue to the world media photographs of Tamils executed by LTTE and claims that they were innocent civilians murdered by the 'Sinhala army'. If some Tamils also got killed, it didn't matter as 'The majority of Tamils were in any case co-wards'.

Thus, everyone is put against everyone else and the only persons that emerge blameless are the UNP government.

Anyone who could swallow such a clumsy fabrication should have his head examined! Perhaps, Mossad's pupils are still in the elementary stages of their training.

NOW, LALITH THREATENS BISHOP OF JAFFNA

Is the 67-year-old Catholic Bishop of the northern Tamil city of Jaffna, Rt. Rev Dr. B. Deogupillai, going to be the next target of the Sri Lankan government? This is the question that agitates the minds of the Catholic church and the Tamil people in general, following the public accusation by Minister of National Security Mr Lalith Athulathmudali that the Bishop 'had a lot of connections with 'the boys' ('boys' meaning the Tamil militants).

At a press conference on August 14, the Minister threatened that more information of 'the Bishop's connections with the boys' would be made public shortly. He also accused the Bishop of not condemning the 'boys' because 'they were militants fighting a cause' and for stating that the danger to the people was from the army and not from the 'boys'.

Natural reaction'

The minister added that the Bishop had written to the *Tamil Times* and said that the attack on the Buddhist Temple and a Sinhala school in the north was a natural reaction of 'the boys'. The Minister's threat and accusations were carried in the Sri

Lanka press on their front pages with banner headlines.

The reference to what the Bishop wrote to the *Tamil Times* is patently false. In correcting a report which had already appeared in the *Tamil Times* (April 1983), the Bishop denied that the attack on the Temple was by his parishioners and said that it was a 'spontaneous and natural reaction from the people in general'. There was absolutely no reference to 'the boys' in the Bishop's letter to the *Tamil Times* (May 1983). The distortion by the Minister appears to be deliberate and calculated to prepare the ground for future action against the Bishop.

The Bishop, living in the heart of Jaffna, is a witness to the daily atrocities inflicted upon the Tamil people and their property by the army. He is not the only one who had described the predominantly Sinhala army as an occupying force. Every international reporter who had visited Jaffna had confirmed that the army behaves and acts in the manner of an army of occupation.

It was only the other day that the Bishop of Mannar denounced the orgy of violence unleashed by the army and said: 'It is like an army of

occupation flattening everything in its path.'

Mr Lalith Athulathmudali's anger at the Bishop is understandable because, as a respected religious leader, what he says is generally accepted as truth and truth is what the Minister and the government he belongs to are afraid of.

Unprovoked attack

When the Minister attempted to cover up the unprovoked attack by the army on the Church of Our Lady of Refuge in Jaffna on April 9, 1984, and suggested that the Church was used by 'Tamil terrorists' to ambush the army, the Bishop did not mince his words, and characterised the Minister's statement as tendentious, absolutely false and preposterous.

It is not that the Bishop has any connection with 'the boys', but what the government and the Minister cannot tolerate is the outspoken manner in which the Bishop is expressing the anguish and suffering of the Tamil people.

With his characteristic and outspoken manner, the Bishop has categorically denied the insinuations

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SRI LANKA IN THE DOCK

By our special Geneva correspondent

The question of violation of human rights in Sri Lanka was not even on the agenda of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (generally referred to as the Human Rights Commission), when it met in Geneva during August.

However, when Item 6 which related to the general question of gross violations of human rights was taken up, it was obvious that Sri Lanka would figure prominently in the discussions. Even before this item was taken up, the first volleys were fired by Mr Whitaker, the British expert member on the Sub-commission when he took up the question of the attack on the independence of the judiciary in Sri Lanka.

Despite the fact that Sri Lanka was not a member of the Sub-Commission, there was a squad of five observers, headed by Sri Lanka's Ambassador in Geneva, Mr Jayantha Dhanapala and Assistant Solicitor General, Mr Sunil de Silva from Colombo.

In spite of the behind the scene efforts, which included dinners and tea parties to several members and delegates from non-governmental organisations, and three or four interventions with statements and replies, the continuing violence against Tamils and gross violations of human rights in Sri Lanka dominated the discussions, so much so that Mr Dhanapala and his lieutenants were heard to complain as to why Sri Lanka was being singled out for such condemnation.

But what they failed to realise was that, while there are gross violations under authoritarian and dictatorial regimes, these regimes do not parade themselves before the world as 'vibrant 5-star democracies' as Sri Lanka and its government often does.

Once a government claims that it respects human rights and the rule of law, it cannot be heard to complain when such claims are challenged on the basis of proven facts, reports and observations by independent and unimpeachable bodies and individuals.

Several members of the Sub-Commission and delegates from a number of non-governmental organisations delivered speeches attacking the continuing violence against the Tamils, the indiscriminate killing of civilians and the destruction of their properties.

Particularly scathing was the frontal assault by the expert member from India, Mr Bandare (see page 8), who not only dealt with the failure on

the part of the government to control the violence against the Tamils in the past, but also gave graphic details of the atrocities committed by the armed forces even as the Sub-Commission was sitting.

Questioning the sincerity of the government in the conduct of the All-Party Conference, Mr Bandare accused the Sri Lankan government of resorting to naked force, 'a concerted plan of genocide' and state terrorism against the Tamil population. The exodus of thousands of Tamil refugees to India was a manifestation of the grossness of the violations in Sri Lanka, declared Mr Bandare.

Members, delegates and observers from various countries (about 150 in all) were surprised and stunned by the strong language and the directness of the attack by the Indian expert. Although Mr Bandare was not a delegate representing the government of India, those present interpreted his speech as reflecting India's sense of exasperation and anxiety about what was happening in Sri Lanka and its gradual loss of faith in President Jayawardene's commitment to a negotiated settlement of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

Mr Joinet, the expert member on the Sub-Commission from France, also delivered a strongly worded condemnation of the gross violations of human rights in Sri Lanka, including incommunicado detention and torture under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, arbitrary killings of civilians and other excesses committed by the security forces, and the deprivation of civic rights of the former Prime Minister, Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike.

He made specific reference to the failure of the government to investigate the July 1983 anti-Tamil violence and the massacre of 53 prisoners in the custody of the government in the Welikade prison.

Among the UN recognised non-governmental organisations, the International Commission of Jurists, Pax Romana, International Human Rights Law Group, Pax Christi, All-India Women's Conference, International Association of Disabled Persons, etc. touched on a variety of violations of human rights in Sri Lanka.

The failure of the government to institute a judicial inquiry into the massacres of Tamil detainees in July 1983, incommunicado detention and torture, extra-judicial killings by the armed forces, the continuing military

rampages were some of the areas of violations that were referred to in the speeches by the delegates of these organisations.

The performance of the Sri Lankan five-member observer team was characterised by a mixture of sanctimonious hypocrisy, unabashed falsehoods, and deliberate misinformation. While the suave and apparently polite and pleasant personality of Mr Jayantha Dhanapala and his rather conciliatory tone no doubt paid dividends, they were not enough to persuade the members or delegates to go against the unanswerable case presented against Sri Lanka.

There were no answers to the charges that the government has so far failed to institute an investigation into the July 1983 anti-Tamil violence; that no judicial investigation had been carried out into the prison massacres; that no proceedings have been instituted against army personnel who committed excesses; that the government was continuing to permit the armed forces to commit further excesses, etc.

The catalogue of violations documented in the Reports of the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International remained unchallenged and uncontradicted. With such grave charges pending on the file, on-the-spot reports of continuing outrages of killings and arson at Valvettiturai, Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mannar which appeared in the international media did not help the behind the scene manoeuvrings and machinations of the Sri Lankan Ambassador and his team. Each and every report confirmed that the Sri Lankan government was not taking action to control the excesses committed by its armed forces against civilian Tamils and property.

The attempt of the Sri Lankan team to put all the blame on 'exaggerated and sensational reports' and the suggestions that responsible non-governmental organisations had been misled by the false propaganda of expatriate supporters of 'Tamil terrorism' did not cut much ice with many of those present.

Nor did their attempt to camouflage and put the blame on the demand for a separate state (admittedly a highly sensitive issue with many members) for all the violations succeed. The same fate befell the efforts to introduce the element of the 'maintenance of the integrity of the national territory' by way of an amendment to the main resolution on Sri Lanka.

THE RESOLUTION ON SRI LANKA

Deeply concerned about the recurrence of violence in Sri Lanka which resulted in severe loss of life and property and holding the government responsible for the protection of all sections of the community, the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (generally referred to as the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights) which met in Geneva during August this year, has called upon the government of Sri Lanka to 'submit information on the progress made in the investigation of the incidents and the recent efforts to promote communal harmony, to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-first session'.

The resolution to this effect was adopted by the Sub-Commission, 11 voting for, and 3 against. Voting for the resolution were the expert members from Jordan, India, Belgium, Greece, Canada, Argentina, France, Zambia, United States, Soviet Union and Ecuador. Members from China, Ethiopia and Romania voted against.

The full text of the Resolution is as follows:

'The Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

Deeply concerned about the recurrence of violence in Sri Lanka which resulted in severe loss of life and property.

Recognising the ultimate responsibility of the Government of Sri Lanka for the protection of all sections of the community.

Appreciating decision 1984/111 of 14 March 1984 of the Commission on Human Rights in which it appealed to the parties to continue to take all necessary measures to strengthen and maintain peace and restore harmony among the people of Sri Lanka and welcomed all measures for rehabilitation and reconciliation.

Anxious that the All-Party Conference convened by the Government will achieve the progress ardently hoped for in the direction of resolving or reducing the ethnic tension in the country.

1. Expresses the hope that the government of Sri Lanka will submit information on the progress made in the investigation of the incidents, and the recent efforts to promote communal harmony, to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-first session.

GOVERNMENT PLANS ATTACK ON CHIEF JUSTICE

Although the Parliamentary Select Committee appointed to investigate the controversial speech delivered by Mr Neville Samarakone, the Sri Lankan Chief Justice, on March 14, 1984, found that the Chief Justice 'has not violated any law passed by Parliament', and that he too should not be denied 'the freedom of speech available to any citizen', the government of President Jayawardene is determined to attack and disgrace the Chief Justice.

A President who publicly confessed that he personally ordered the promotion of two police officers found guilty by the Supreme Court for violating constitutionally guaranteed rights of citizens, can hardly be expected to act otherwise, said a senior Queen's Counsel.

The Parliamentary Select Committee report was a majority one and the division was predictably on party lines. The ruling United National Party MPs voted for the report, which held that the Chief Justice was guilty of 'improper conduct' and as a person occupying the position he held he should not have made public comments on controversial public matters. All the opposition MPs voted against the majority report.

As is known, the government, and especially President Jayawardene, were greatly annoyed at what appeared to them to be the Chief Justice's critical remarks about the workings of the Job Bank scheme as far as it concerns legal departments whose work he overlooks, as well as his comments on low salaries and growing impoverishment among public employees being a major factor in the vast increase in corruption and

bribery.

President Jayawardene, it is learnt, was particularly annoyed at the Chief Justice's wry comment, in reference to the claim that the President's salary had to be increased because it was a 'pauper's salary' and that he was 'living on the poverty line', that the people 'are paying a hell of a lot of money to keep him in poverty'.

Not content with publicising the Select Committee's report, the government intends to pursue its vendetta against the Chief Justice by using the report as a basis for a 'vote of censure' on him in Parliament, where MPs have protective privileges.

The other alternative of impeachment has been dropped as likely to be too politically explosive and also giving the Chief Justice the opportunity to defend himself publicly.

Public opinion remains unimpressed by the government's tender concern over the alleged 'improper conduct' of the Chief Justice.

They point to the fact that a great deal of what the Chief Justice said is what the man in the street not only knows to be true but himself says every day, albeit in more forceful and less elegant language.

The government's determination to hound the Chief Justice, who has broken no law, is also contrasted with its patronage and promotion of police officers whom the Supreme Court has found guilty of violating the fundamental rights of citizens, and its indifference over taking any action against its own thugs who sought to intimidate Supreme Court judges outside their houses.

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U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TOLD OF 'TAMILS BEING VICTIMS OF A CONCERTED PLAN OF GENOCIDE'

Mr Chairman,
Item 6 of our Agenda which deals with the question of violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all countries is, in more senses than one, the *raison d'être* of this Sub-Commission. This is so, not only because it covers the whole gamut of human rights issues, but also because it provides an opportunity to deliberate, examine and establish the facts about what are generally termed 'human rights situations' and seek to apply a collective moral pressure on those that are responsible for violations of human rights in any part of the world whether they be the governments or their agencies, communities or even individuals. As a body of independent experts represented in our individual capacities I expect that what we say here under this item will be seen in its proper perspective.

Grave human rights situation

Mr Chairman, we are meeting at a time when the grave human rights situation in Sri Lanka has cast its shadow on the Sub-Commission's deliberations. Last year the Sub-Commission, taking into account the serious ethnic violence and incidents that had taken place in Sri Lanka in July-August 1983, with severe loss of life and property to the Tamil minority, had invited the government of Sri Lanka to transmit to the next session of the Commission on Human Rights all relevant information on the communal violence in that country and also requested the Commission to examine the situation in Sri Lanka in the light of all available information. The Human Rights Commission in turn had appealed to the Parties to continue to take necessary measures to strengthen and maintain peace and restore harmony among the people of Sri Lanka and had welcomed all measures for reconciliation including the All-Party Conference and expressed the hope that they will succeed in achieving a lasting solution.

Reason to be outraged

But now, five months after the Human Rights Commission decision and more than a year after the July-

August 1983 events in Sri Lanka, there is, unfortunately greater reason for this Sub-Commission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to be outraged by what has since happened in Sri Lanka.

Instead of peace and harmony, there has emerged a pattern of almost

A frontal attack concerning gross violations of human rights in Sri Lanka was made on August 21 by Mr Bandare, the Indian expert, before the United Nations Sub-Commission on Human Rights at Geneva.

Referring to the agony and suffering of the Tamil population in Sri Lanka, Mr Bandare detailed the indiscriminate killing of Tamil civilians, the mass scale destruction of their properties and other atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan security forces. Pointing out that the government of Sri Lanka had opted for a 'purely law and order approach through naked force', he said that 'a pattern of systematic and continuing violence against the Tamils — almost a plan of action' had emerged, and that the Tamil people had become 'victims of a concerted plan of genocide'. Appearing on this page is the full text of Mr Bandare's address.

endemic violence. The agony and suffering of the Tamil population, far from decreasing, has only intensified and for them there seems to be no relief and little hope. This cannot but cause doubts on the sincerity of the political process set in motion to bring about reconciliation.

I would briefly like to refer to some developments with regard to the human rights situation in Sri Lanka to

bring out the fact that the situation in Sri Lanka calls for our urgent attention. My account will be based not only on what has been appearing in the international media but also on the excellent studies prepared on this and fact-finding missions undertaken by some non-governmental organisations including those by the International Commission of Jurists (especially the Paul Sieghart Report) and the Amnesty International.

Indiscriminate killings

Till March 1984, according to official sources alone, more than 112 Tamils had been killed at the hand of security forces or whilst in state custody. At the end of March, i.e. soon after the Commission on Human Rights appeal, the Sri Lankan Government launched a 'security offensive' against so-called Tamil terrorists resulting in a large number of deaths of innocent and peaceful civilians and extensive damage was caused to Tamil property.

Amnesty International's report deals with the incidents of 28th March 1984 when Sri Lankan Air Force personnel came to a market place in a Tamil area — Jaffna, Chunnakam District — in a truck and van and opened fire at random into the crowded market, killing eight civilians including a woman and injuring 35 others.

Further, between 9th to 12th April, a number of violent incidents took place in and around Jaffna when security forces attacked a Tamil church and burnt vehicles and shops. Dozens of Tamils were killed by the security forces and the situation in the Northern Province as also in Colombo and other areas remained tense for several weeks. Though estimates of the number killed are put at 100, it is noteworthy that the Government Agent of Jaffna, (the civilian head of the district), was quoted as saying 'and hardly any of those killed by the army were linked with guerrilla campaign for more autonomy for the Tamil minority.'

Mass scale killing & destruction

In the last few days, particularly from August 3rd 1984 onwards, the offensive against Tamil militants has

sharply escalated, resulting in the loss of life of the Tamils on a mass scale and destruction of their property in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. On 3rd and 4th August, the Sri Lankan Navy is reported to have extensively shelled the coastal Tamil town of Valvettiturai in which many people have lost their lives and property whilst many others have fled and become homeless.

Army authorities conducting operations in Valvettiturai asked the local population to produce male teenagers, undertaking that they would be questioned and immediately released after checking their identity. The children, as the Secretary-General of the United Liberation Front, Mr Amirthalingam, pointed out in his statement to the All-Party Conference on 17th August, 'were arrested, tortured and transported like cattle by lorries with barbed wire, to unknown prisons in the south.' Only 32 of the younger children were released. Not even the Government Agent has been informed where the children are being kept. Parents of these children fear that they would be tortured and even be massacred. The Jaffna Citizens Committee has made an appeal to President Jayawardene pleading for the release of the innocent children of Valvettiturai.

On 7th and 8th August there were a number of killings in Vavuniya and several people including women were arrested and taken away from their houses and to this day their fate or whereabouts remain unknown.

More recently, i.e. on 12th and 13th August, security forces set fire to the town of Mannar and nearby towns in retaliation for the bomb-blast some 40 miles away from Mannar in an uninhabited area. More than three thousand are said to have lost their homes and the soldiers, according to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Mannar, ramaged through the town. As a result of the fear and insecurity generated by these developments, there has been a refugee exodus from Sri Lanka and the number of Tamil refugees is on the increase. Refugee exodus is in my view an index of the grossness of the violations of human rights.

Resort to naked force

Mr Chairman, from the incidents that I have outlined, this Sub-Commission cannot but note with concern certain disconcerting trends that have emerged.

● Firstly, the desire to find a negotiated political solution to the problem of Tamil demands seems to have waned and available evidence points

towards the government opting for a purely law and order approach through resort to naked force.

● Secondly, even as many Tamils in the rest of the country have fled the violence in the non-Tamil areas by retreating into their traditional lands in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, the scene of violence has now shifted and kept confined to these predominantly Tamil areas of Sri Lanka. These provinces have been cordoned off from the rest of the country through the stationing there of 5,000 (out of total number of 14,000) Sri Lankan troops who are almost entirely Sinhalese in composition and have replaced the local administration and police authorities. The government seems to have come down with a heavy hand on the innocent Tamil population in the name of reprisals against Terrorists thereby instilling fear and insecurity in the Tamil population whilst the world outside has few means to know about their predicament.

● Thirdly, the violence against Tamils has become a matter of direct action by government through the use of security forces and it is now, no

'If individuals and communities resort to violence to secure their human rights, it is objectionable enough but if Governments resort to and engage in violence — in the nature of collective reprisals against communities, it is morally indefensible and results in the society getting caught in an unending spiral of violence and be one day engulfed by it to the detriment of all concerned. In the ultimate analysis, state terrorism cannot be morally justified.'

longer a question of sporadic communal violence but one of State-directed violence against the Tamil population — a form of collective reprisals against a community through acts of looting, arson and indiscriminate killing.

Systematic violence against Tamils

● Fourthly, even if the Government's actions are interpreted as necessary counter-measures against law-breakers, a large number of newspaper reports testify to the fact that in carrying out their assigned task, the security forces have acted without discipline or accountability and hit innocent civilian population indiscriminately, a fact admitted by the government itself. As I have emphasised very often in connection with other human rights matters, law enforcers should not become law breakers themselves.

● Fifthly, the dimensions of the violence have so evolved that there now seems to be a pattern of systematic

and continuing violence against the Tamils — almost a plan of action.

The gravity of these developments and trends is further underlined by the lack of investigation into incidents involving excesses by the security authorities against the Tamils on the one hand, and on the other by the fact that no earnest efforts seem to have been made to reach a viable political agreement at the All-Party Conference under which the just rights of minorities in Sri Lanka would have been assured and their frustrations and grievances on account of continuing denial of basic human rights such as equal opportunities in education, employment, use of language and their feeling of insecurity of their life, livelihood and property, set to rest.

Concerted plan of genocide

All of us, I am sure, would have been relieved if the political process which had been set in motion last year, and on which the Commission on Human Rights had placed some hopes, had led to a political solution. Regrettably, no substantial break-

throughs have been achieved in the parleys during the All-Party Conference. Instead mounting violence continues to work against the search for a political solution because it leads to a hardening of positions, the building up of resentment, the deepening of the feeling of insecurity, of fear and desperation, of being under attack and of being victims of a concerted plan of genocide. Above all, violence imparts a surrealistic character to political negotiations and in turn induces loss of faith in peaceful methods.

Mr Chairman, today, not only is the right to life of Tamils threatened but their property, their livelihood and their way of life is jeopardised. They are made to suffer political and civic disabilities. Draconian laws and emergency regulations reinforce and react with harsh counter-measures taken by the Government to severely curtail their human rights and effectively block out any access to remedies.

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HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SRI LANKA

'CONSEQUENCES ARE TRAUMATIC AND DEVASTATING FOR WOMEN'

During the last five decades, the All-India Women's Conference has grown from strength to strength under the able Presidentship of illustrious women leaders who not only helped the AIWC to grow but also contributed greatly to the political and social life in India and to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women. AIWC has always raised its voice against social injustice and violence and has advocated the cause of the underprivileged and the minorities.

In the present-day context, among other things, maintenance of communal harmony and promotion of National Integration are subjects that are receiving the attention of AIWC members in most of the states.

As a women's organisation, we are concerned at the recurrence of violence against the Tamil people of Sri Lanka, not because of the political issues involved nor because of the fact that there are 55 million Tamils in our country. The Honourable Observer from Sri Lanka in his statement yesterday mentioned that Democracy was under siege by terrorists in their country and their fight was not anti-Tamil but anti-terrorist. In the light of this statement, what I am placing before you is all the more relevant.

We are directly concerned mainly because of two reasons. Firstly, the human rights violations to which Tamils of Sri Lanka are subjected adversely affect women more than any other section of society. Secondly, the violations of human rights and the recurring violence results in thousands of Tamils, including women and children going over to South India as refugees.

Traumatic & harrowing

To take the first point, when arbitrary arrests and incommunicado detentions become a daily phenomenon under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, it is the women at home who have to bear the brunt of the consequences of such arrests and detentions. Particularly when the whereabouts of those arrested or detained are not notified, as is usually the case in Sri Lanka, it is the women and their children who suffer most.

Again when those arrested and detained happen to be breadwinners of the family, the consequences are harrowing and devastating. Particularly

harrowing and traumatic are situations where the arrested sons or husbands 'disappear' and such cases are not infrequent.

We cannot calmly sit here as if nothing has happened when the

Appearing on this page are excerpts from the speech delivered by Mrs Lalita Balakrishnan of the All-India Women's Conference before the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights on August 24. The AIWC is one of the earliest UN recognised Non-Governmental Organisations.

Tamil-speaking people of Sri Lanka are being harassed, mutilated and murdered by armed forces. I will particularly mention that the Tamil children are arrested, tortured and transported by lorries to unknown prisons in the south of the country.

I wish to quote here from yesterday's (21.8.84) *Financial Times* report by John Elliott. 'More than 300 women fasted under a banyan tree by a Hindu temple in this small north Sri Lankan coastal town called Valvettiturai yesterday to protest against the round-up of 500 of their sons and husbands by government troops for removal to the south of the island.'

In this connection, it is relevant to mention the gruesome massacre of 53 Tamil prisoners in the Welikade jail in Colombo on July 25 and 27 last year. Many of them were only detainees on suspicion and not convicted prisoners. After they were brutally murdered, their wives, sisters, children and parents came to know about their death only through the radio.

Much more terrible was the fact that the bodies of these detainees were buried or cremated without any member of the families knowing or being present. They were not even given the chance of having a last look at the body.

No amount of sanctimonious expressions of sorrow or statements made before the Commission that the Sri Lankan Government was not proud of what happened at the Colombo jail would be acceptable to the civilised world when up to date, the

government has failed or neglected or refused to order an independent judicial inquiry into this unprecedented slaughter of those who were in the custody of the Government.

Influx of refugees

Our second point is the influx of thousands of Tamil families who have come over to South India. There are an estimated 40 to 50 thousand Tamil refugees. Whole families have come over either having lost all their worldly possessions or leaving behind whatever they had. These people have come over because they could no longer put up with the violence they had to face.

The violence they complain of is either from mobs during times of general breakdown of law and order or from the armed forces which has apparently become a daily phenomenon particularly in the northern Tamil areas. To all these people, India is an alien country. They have come over in search of physical security, and for nothing else. Our organisation has been contacted by many of these families seeking assistance and we are compelled to respond to the needs and care of particularly women and children.

Mr Chairman, yesterday the distinguished observer of Sri Lanka made a long statement in which he said that the allegation that the Sri Lankan navy had shelled civilian targets in the coastal town of Valvettiturai was false and that the navy did not have the necessary equipment to carry out such shelling. In this connection, I quote from an on-the-spot report by John Elliott which appeared in yesterday's *Financial Times* (21.8.84):

'Brigadier N. Seneviratne, the Jaffna combined security forces chief who also heads the civilian administration, says the shelling is either practice rounds, or aimed at suspected terrorists.'

'But local residents say that shelling usually takes place at night and is often directed for a short period around 9p.m. at the shore.'

We respectfully appeal to the Sri Lankan government, to take all measures to alleviate the sufferings of the Tamil population of Sri Lanka, especially the women and children who are the most vulnerable sections of the society. ♡

PUNJAB & SRI LANKA SITUATIONS DISTINGUISHED

Mrs Lakshmi Puri, the Indian government observer, effectively countered attempts made by some members to equate the situation in the Indian state of Punjab to that concerning the plight of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, before the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights.

The following is an extract from Mrs Puri's speech delivered before the Sub-Commission on August 23:

'Mr Chairman, an analogy was sought to be drawn between recent developments in Punjab and developments in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. I will, as government observer, not dwell on the latter situation since all aspects of that situation have been clearly brought out in several statements made by members of the Sub-Commission as well as the Non-Governmental organisations, which indicate beyond doubt that any attempt to equate the two situations is an exercise in generalisation and superficiality and that the former situation is a class apart.

Small minority

'Before pointing out some distinctive features of this situation relating to Punjab, I would briefly like to set aside the comment made by the member of the Sub-Commission to the effect that 'Government dealing with a minority that has been behaving like the Sikhs of Amritsar'. We firmly object to the insinuation against the Sikh community as a whole, which remains peace-loving and loyal to India, being the flag-bearers of Indian freedom and nationalism and in the forefront of the great Indian endeavour. Only a small minority from that community had resorted to terrorism.

I would now turn to some distinctive features of the situation relating to the situation in Punjab. The first distinctive feature is that the Sikhs, far from suffering any linguistic, religious, administrative and educational discrimination, are a case study of a successful flourishing and even a dominant minority.

I could provide detailed statistics to prove this. But suffice it to say that constituting only 2.0 per cent of the population, they have a 50 per cent higher per capita income than the national average and their representation in the defence services is 15 per cent, Indian Administrative Services 6 per cent and Indian Police Service 10 per cent. The state government of Punjab has been mainly composed of Sikhs and most of the land-

holdings are in the hands of the Sikhs.

The second distinctive feature relates to the nature and scale of terrorism in Punjab which the Government had to deal with. A group of terrorists preaching militant communalism and anti-national separatism converted Gurudwaras — the holy shrines of the Sikhs — into fortified arsenals, stockpiled arms and ammunition, turned them into what 'The Economist' of London calls 'command centres of carnage' and let loose a veritable reign of terror.

Thus, in 19 months of escalating terrorism in Punjab, Sant Bhindranwale and his unholy terrorist squads had left in their wake 441 deaths (more than two-thirds of which were Sikhs) and 855 injured. There were 290 cases of arson and sabotage. To eradicate the root of this terror and violence the Government had to send in troops into the Golden Temple to flush out the terrorists and to dismantle these 'command centres'.

The third distinctive feature is the nature of the army action which is best described by 'The Economist' of London and I quote: 'India's General Ranjit Singh Dayal (himself a Sikh) took on a gang of cold-blooded killers armed with mortars and machine-guns, who were menacing not only the people of Punjab but the cohesion of India.'

In the conduct of the army operation, the armed forces displayed a high sense of duty and discipline which has been widely acknowledged and praised and there is not a single incident of their having taken any action against civilians. On the contrary, by lifting the pall of terror from Punjab they enabled the civilian population to live again without fear.'

MORE & MORE DRACONIAN LAWS

The Sri Lankan Prevention of Terrorism Act, which has been denounced as 'an ugly blot on the statute book of any civilised country' (ICJ) and characterised as comparable only in its South African counterpart, is to be amended to make it more draconian.

Opposition parties and other democratic forces in Sri Lanka are greatly disturbed at the news that the government intends to give new teeth to the draconian 'Prevention of Terrorism Act', which they have condemned and want replaced.

Further details of the amendments that the government has in mind were disclosed in the Sunday ISLAND of August 26.

ARSON BY BOTTLE-LAMP?

Mr Chandra Monerawela, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in the UK, took up his position only recently and achieved his LLM degree in double-quick time. To the uninitiated, it should be explained that, in the Sri Lankan context, LLM stands for Master of Lies and not Master of Laws.

When newspapers reported about the rampage by the army in the northern Tamil town of Mannar and burning down of 123 business properties and houses, Mr Chandra Monerawela made his maiden appearance on television and declared to the effect, 'in Mannar many people use bottle-lamps in their premises and the properties got burnt as a result of these bottle-lamps being knocked over in the course of the cross-fire between the armed forces and the Tamil guerrillas! What imagination! What ingenuity!

Publicly admitted

Unfortunately for Mr Monerawela, the following day, the Minister of National Security publicly admitted the army had in fact gone on a rampage committing arson on a mass scale and compensation was to be paid to the victims.

This ministerial confession and promise of compensation had nothing to do with Mr Lalith Athulathmudali's honesty or compassion for the victims. The fact was that many of the properties destroyed belonged to the Muslim residents of Mannar and the government, being heavily dependent on the support of Muslims in the South, had to assuage their estranged feelings. So, Mr M.H. Mohamed, himself a Muslim, visited Mannar and reported the truth of the army rampage.

Mr Monerawela feels very let down as his credibility has received a severe battering on his maiden attempt to lie and thereby protect the image of his government, country and the armed forces. One can understand his feelings, for he does not know when to lie and when not to.

These amendments seek to give the police sweeping powers to take possession of documents or obtain other information from banks in regard to those whom they suspect of 'terrorism' or assisting 'terrorism'; to extend the Act to persons whom they suspect of retaining or using monies or properties robbed by 'terrorists'; and to make admissible in courts

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REIGN OF STATE TERROR AGAINST TAMILS

'UDAYA THARAGAI' Reports from Jaffna

Tamil G.A. threatened

MANNAR, August 5 —

Mr Jega Senthilnathan (a Tamil), the Government Agent of the Mannar District, was intimidated by Sri Lankan troops today, while returning after prayers from the Thiruketheeswaram temple. When his car approached the Thallaiady junction, his car was accosted by troops carrying sub-machine guns. Though the windscreen of his car prominently displayed the 'Government Agent' tag on the windscreen in Sinhalese, Tamil and English, he was rudely ordered to alight from the car.

The G.A. refused to alight from the car and patiently proved to them that he was in fact the G.A. of the district. The troops declared that they did not care a damn about his status, abused him and ordered him to get out. Mr Senthilnathan stood his ground and refused to budge from his seat. Thereupon, his car was subjected to an intensive search by the Army and they succeeded in ferreting out the broken half of a coconut, some flowers, holy ash and sandal paste which the G.A. had offered to the Gods at the temple!

Army shoots commuters

JAFFNA, August 8 —

Seven commuters who were waiting to board a bus at the Jaffna bus stand, were admitted to the Jaffna General Hospital today with gunshot injuries sustained when the army opened fire indiscriminately in that area. They were identified as S. Sivaratham, 40 years (Jaffna); Pathmanathan, 34 years (Kokuvil); Selvarajah, 45 years (Trincomalee); Kandasamy, 35 years (Meesalai); Rayappu, 50 years (Kopay); Balasingam, 24 years (Jaffna), and Sinnadurai, 40 years (Uduvil). A 60-year-old man was shot at Aathisoody Lane, Kandarmadam and admitted to the Jaffna hospital. Some others injured by gunfire at Kandarmadam were treated in private hospitals.

Under-16s also arrested at VVT

JAFFNA, August 10 —

Mr M. Panchalingam, Government Agent, Jaffna, today telephoned Major General Sepala Attygalle, Secret-

ary to the Ministry of Defence, and expressed concern about the several hundreds of Tamil youth and children taken into custody by the army at Valvettithurai. Major-General Attygalle promises to have all those under 16 years in custody released within two days after questioning.

One killed, three injured as Army opens fire

JAFFNA, August 11 —

A taxi driver died on the spot and three others were seriously injured when the army opened fire on civilians at Main Street, Jaffna, today. The taxi driver, identified as Mr Logeswaran (34 years) from Colombothurai died in the seat of his taxi.

K. Emmanuel, 42 years (Nallur), V. Ganesan, 46 years (Jaffna), and T. Yakoor (Jaffna), were admitted to the Jaffna Hospital with serious gunshot injuries.

Meanwhile, Mr Pathmanathan, 39 years (Kokuvil) and Atputharaja, 15 years (Kanagarayankulam), who were being treated for gunshot injuries sustained by army firing, succumbed to their injuries today.

'Save the city of Jaffna'

JAFFNA, August 13 —

'Eela Nadu', the Tamil daily published from Jaffna, in an editorial carried today contradicts and condemns the Internal Security Minister's announcements that troops were locked in combat with terrorists and that it was the terrorists that the army was killing. It goes on to say that if all those killed in recent times were terrorists then Jaffna would have had all its terrorist cadres wiped out by now! The editorial ends up baring the truth that the majority of the people killed are none but innocent civilians.

Mortuary 'overflowing' with dead bodies

VAVUNIYA, August 13 —

Vavuniya Government Hospital sources said today that over the last few days the mortuary was full and that the hospital authorities were faced with the problem of finding space for the steady inflow of dead bodies, almost all being riddled with bullets.

Bulletins by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

The bodies of six dead people were handed over to the next of kin today. They were identified as Murugesu Sellathurai, 55 years (Puttur); Thillaiampalam Ratnam, 50 years (Puttur); Arumugam Thangarajah, 12 years (Vavuniya); Selliah Gnasegaram, 28 years (Vavuniya); Radhakrishnan Selvarajah, 18 years (Vavuniya) and Rajaratnam, 28 years (Vavuniya).

5,000 civilians flee, following army rampage

MANNAR, August 13 —

Following Sri Lanka troops going on a rampage of arson and murder, men, women and children today fled from their homes at Mannar and Adampan and sought refuge in neighbouring villages. 5,000 people are reported to have fled from the village of Adampan alone.

'A National Suicide'

JAFFNA, August 14 —

JAFFNA, August 14 — For the second day running, the 'Eela Nadu' Tamil newspaper carries an editorial today on the Army rampage. It points out that under the pretext of wiping out terrorism in the North, the resident population is being wiped out. It goes on to caution the government that the river of blood flowing in Jaffna today had the potential of destroying the whole of Sri Lanka, and that what was happening was sheer national suicide.

9 killed, 25 injured at Kaithady

JAFFNA, August 14 —



K. Kuganendran, 12 years, killed by the army at Kaithady

The army opened fire and killed 9 and injured 25 civilians who were travelling in a mini-van belonging to the private transport services. Eight of the nine dead bodies have been identified as those of Velupillai Sivasubra-

maniam, 38 years, Kandasamy Sinathurai, 38 years, Sithamparan Sooriyakumar, 21 years, Arumugam Selvaratnam, 42 years — all of Kaithady; Subramaniam Nadanasabesan, 19 years (Navatkuli), Kathiravelu Kuganendran, 12 years, Markandu Sinnarasa, 25 years, and Kandiah Balu, 26 years.

'Corpses Corpses, Oh Lord, Corpses!'

JAFFNA, August 15 —

For the third day running, the 'Eela Nadu' in its editorial spotlights the state of collective funeral house that the entire Northern Province has been reduced to. The title of the editorial is said to reflect the screams of anguish of people living in Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Chunnakam, Kaithady and Valvettithurai where the concentrated massacre by the Sri Lanka war machine was most felt.

Looking around, it was all screams of death and funeral houses, with the news of the death of the children and the elderly — of men and women — spreading like wildfire and engulfing entire townships and villages in a state of mourning. Hospital mortuaries were stinking with heaps and heaps of dead bodies which had far exceeded the facilities for storage.

The editorial warns the government that its actions would only end up in recreating and adding momentum to exactly what it was trying to destroy and would eventually defeat the government.

VVT Citizens Committee assesses damage

JAFFNA, August 15 —

The Citizens Committee of Valvettithurai, inaugurated recently under the Chairmanship of Professor K. Sivathamy of the University of Jaffna, has completed its preliminary assessment of the damage caused to the village of Valvettithurai by the recent army rampage.

It has been estimated that 171 houses and 100 small businesses belonging to Tamils were entirely destroyed by the troops between the 9th and 14th August. Fifty-nine mechanised fishing boats and four motor cars had been destroyed. Fishing nets worth £39,000 had been taken away by the troops. The total loss of property has been estimated at £665,000. The Citizens Committee has submitted a report to the Government Agent, Jaffna, giving details of the damage.

It also goes on to describe how on August 14, the troops made loudspeaker announcements in the village of Valvettithurai asking parents to

send all youth aged between 18-25 years with their National Identity Cards to a nearby community centre for questioning, assuring them that they would be sent back soon after.

Instead, all youth between 18-35 years were arrested and taken away to the Sinhalese southern coastal town of Galle, nearly 350 miles away by road.

2,000 people flee

JAFFNA, August 20 —

It has been assessed that 2,000 citizens fled from the village of Kaithady following the recent army rampage and sought refuge in neighbouring villages.

Fled from Jaffna, arrested in Colombo

JAFFNA, August 20 —

Fifteen Tamil youth, who had been sent by their parents to homes of relatives in Colombo, following the Army rampage at Point Pedro, were arrested by security forces at the Colombo Fort railway station yesterday. The parents said that they had sent their children to Colombo for the safety of their lives, following the indiscriminate massacre of Tamil youth in Jaffna.

500 mothers fast for their captured children

VALVETTITHURAI, August 20 —

Over 500 weeping mothers fasted in front of the Vevil Pillaiyar temple today asking for the return of their children captured by the Army. They said that they had lost their homes, lost their means of living — their fishing boats and nets and their children. Having been reduced to the state of destitutes overnight by the rampaging Army, they were seeking the return of their children.

Who destroyed the banks?

JAFFNA, August 20 —

The Jaffna Citizens Committee which met today saw a sinister hand behind the flattening of the Bank of Ceylon, People's Bank and National Savings Bank buildings in Jaffna. They said that these attacks had been carried out in an entirely new style by some persons, and appeared to aim at the total disruption of the economic life of the Jaffna people.

This belief was reinforced by the fact that though several bank employees informed the security forces stationed nearby of the destruction of these buildings, it was several hours

later, after the demolition of the buildings had been completed, that the forces had turned up and then opened fire on innocent civilians.

Weeping mothers demonstrate in Jaffna

JAFFNA, August 24 —

Weeping mothers demonstrated in the streets of Jaffna today, asking for the custody of hundreds of innocent children who had been captured by the Army. Carrying placards marked 'Mothers Front' in Tamil, Sinhalese and English, they marched in silent procession, tears streaming down their cheeks as well as those of onlookers, some with rosaries in their hands, to the Office of the Government Agent, Jaffna, and requested him to help restore their children. Over 500 mothers participated in the demonstrations.

Tension restricts festival

JAFFNA, August 25 —

The Nallur Kandasamy temple, one of the premier Hindu shrines of Sri Lanka, had to severely restrict its annual car festival, owing to the prevailing state of panic in Jaffna. The festival is marked by the deity being drawn round the temple by devotees on a 60-foot high chariot, a process which usually takes about eight hours.

Yesterday the proceedings were hurried through within the space of 2½ hours outside the temple. The devotees paid obeisance to the God within the temple building after the chariot returned to its base. Devotees usually flock from all over Sri Lanka for the car festival. Last year too, the festival had to be restricted likewise, owing to the state of panic that had prevailed in Jaffna following the Army rampage.

Mental patient shot by Army

POINT PEDRO, August 25 —

A 45-year-old mental patient was admitted to Manthigai Hospital today with gunshot injuries inflicted by troops. Thamotherampillai alias Rajadurai had been shot by the security forces at Vallai Veli.

Magistrate's house set ablaze

ACHCHUVELY, August 26 —

Four houses, including that of Mr P. Balasingam, the acting magistrate of Mallakam, were attacked and set on fire by the army here today. The magistrate was at his home at

Achchuvely when the troops had arrived. On hearing an explosion in front of his house, the magistrate had run away for safety through the back entrance of the house. His house was almost completely razed to the ground.

Counter-attacks will take place, says Security Minister

MATALE, August 26 —

If the terrorists of the North launch an attack anywhere, the government would reply with a counter-attack, said Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, Sri Lanka's Minister of National Security. He was speaking at a religious function which took place at a Buddhist temple in the hill country town of Matale.

Youth arrested because parents fail to be informants

COLOMBO, August 28 —

Sri Lanka's Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, said at a top-level conference held at his Ministry today that hundreds of Tamil youth had been arrested and held under custody at Galle because the Tamil people were failing to give the government information about terrorist activities.

Money paid but no jewellery

JAFFNA, August 28 —

The state-owned People's Bank is refusing to return pawned items of jewellery to its customers though they had paid up both the pawned money and interest in full, nearly six months ago. Pawning of items of jewellery to raise money for sowing is part of the 'rolling economy' of the poor Jaffna farmer, who usually redeems it after the harvest. The People's Bank is refusing to return the jewellery, saying that the present security situation in Jaffna prevents them from making arrangements for the return of the jewellery.

250,000 students boycott schools

JAFFNA, August 31 —

Nearly 250,000 students from about 560 schools in the Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts boycotted classes today to express their condemnation of the attack on school students by the security forces and seeking protection for their lives. The boycott was 100 per cent successful — even the usually busy private tutorials in Jaffna were found deserted today.

Bye-elections for Trincomalee, Padirippu

COLOMBO, August 31 —

With a sardonic sense of humour, the government has announced today bye-elections to the Tamil speaking electorate of Trincomalee and Padirippu, in the Eastern Province, even before the echoes of the weeps and wails of the collective funeral house in the vacant electorates of the Northern Province could die out.

Nominations will be accepted on September 27 and elections held in mid-October. Almost all of the seats of the Tamil speaking electorates fell vacant in Parliament nearly one year ago when MPs of the TULF, the major Tamil party in Parliament, refused to take the oath against separation in accordance with the 6th amendment to the Constitution introduced by President Jayawardene's government.

Achchuveli arson affects 600 farmers

JAFFNA, September 1 —

About 600 registered farmers from the Achchuvely area have been badly affected by the Army rampage at the village of Achchuvely which saw several buildings go on fire. The fire had also gutted the office of the Agriculture Extension Office, destroying the registration cards of 600 farmers and their applications for seed potatoes for cultivation in the coming season. The coming season could see these farmers redundant.

Point Pedro devastated — College Library gutted

POINT PEDRO, September 3 —

Rampaging units of the Sri Lanka security forces have wrought havoc on the little town of Point Pedro over the last two days, several civilians including Sadadcharam, Captain Mohanadas and Muttucumaru have been shot dead. Many others, including Muttucumaru, 48 years (Puloly), and Thurai, 46 years (Point Pedro), have sustained gunshot injuries. At the time of going to press, it is reported that at least 18 civilians have succumbed to gunshot injuries.

Forty-six shops, six houses, one cinema, two printing presses, one industrial concern and a motor van were attacked by the troops and set on fire. They have been completely razed to the ground. The new town centre of Point Pedro is no more.

Bearing ample testimony to the havoc wrought at the town centre

stands the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, its head broken and hanging on a side. Hartley College, Point Pedro, has been singled out for special attack. Three entire building blocks and the chemistry laboratory have been demolished by fire.

The Samuel library of the College with its 7,500 books valued at £30,000 has been completely gutted by fire. The Government Agent, Jaffna, yesterday visited Point Pedro and surveyed the destruction caused. The Principal of the school has indicated that it was not possible to commence classes immediately considering the extent of the damage. The students have refused to attend school till the army which has moved into occupation in a nearby building is moved out.

No money for savers

JAFFNA, September 3 —

Hundreds of account holders who called over at the state-owned National Savings Bank in Jaffna to collect their monthly interests were turned away from the Bank. They were told that it would take about a month before the Bank could commence paying interests.

Pupils attacked by Army boycott classes

KANKESANTHURAI, September 4

All schools in the Kankesanthurai area had to be closed at noon yesterday following attacks by the army on 15-year-old Jacob Christie of Nadesawara College and some other students, leading to panic and pandemonium among students in the area.

Lawyers boycott courts

JAFFNA, September 4 —

Jaffna lawyers commenced a one-week boycott of the courts in Jaffna and Mallakam to register their protest at the massacre of civilians and the widespread destruction of entire townships by the army over the past several days. Lawyers' homes too have been set on fire by rampaging troops and their valuable briefs and documents of clients burnt. Under those circumstances it was not possible for them to function adequately in the dispensation of justice.

**CENTURY OF ETHNIC
CONFLICT (PART IV)
will appear in next
month's issue**

PLAN UNDER WAY FOR MORE SINHALA COLONISATION IN VAVUNIYA

Government plans have reached an advanced stage to settle over 1,000 Sinhalese families in the Nedunkerny area in the northern district of Vavuniya. These plans have been drawn up by the Ministry of Lands and Land Development under Mr Gamini Disanayake.

It will be remembered that, in August 1983, several thousands of Sinhalese 'invaded' Vadamunai and other villages in the Kalkudah constituency represented by Mr K.W. Devanayagam, Minister of Home Affairs and that this 'invasion' was led by a Buddhist Monk and assisted by some government ministers, MPs and officials.

Subsequent to the protest by Mr Devanayagam and other Eastern Province MPs, the Sinhalese 'squatters' were evicted. It is these squatters who are to be settled in the Vavuniya district.

To facilitate early implementation of the government plans, the clearing of the Nedunkerny area is being presently undertaken with speed. A high official from the Ministry of Lands and Land Development is now permanently posted in the area to supervise the clearing operations. The Deputy Minister Mr Percy Samaraweera also paid a secret visit to the area to observe the progress.

It is learnt that the newly colonised area will be included within the Gra-

ma Sevaka division of Mahamaduru and brought under the Government Agent in charge of the Sinhala division of Vavuniya.

It should be noted that in 1981, a controversy arose whether this part of Vavuniya came under the Assistant Government Agent of North Vavuniya (where Tamils are in a majority), or under the Sinhala division of South Vavuniya. This dispute was left in abeyance and never settled. It is now clear that the present plans to bring this area under the Sinhala South division.

It is also reliably learnt that proposals were discussed during the last week of August for the extension of the boundaries of Vavuniya. This extension would result in bringing within Vavuniya certain Sinhalese dominated AGA divisions presently falling within the Madawachiya district. The underlying motive behind this diabolical plan is to convert Vavuniya into a 'Sinhala majority area'.

Similar Sinhala colonisation schemes are also planned in the Mullaitivu district. In many places, both in Vavuniya and Mullaitivu districts, those Tamils who have been already settled, many of whom displaced from the plantations due to communal violence, are being forcibly evicted by the security forces to facilitate colonisation by the Sinhalese.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the government has adopted plans for the takeover of the privately owned 261 acre 'Dollar Farm' in Vavuniya.

The leadership of the TULF has protested to President Jayawardene about the latest attempt to colonise traditionally Tamil areas with Sinhalese brought from outside the area.

ARMY DETAINS T.C. LEADER

The leader of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress, Mr Kumar Ponnampalam was briefly detained by the Lankan army on September 3, 1984.

Mr Ponnampalam, when returning with his wife from Thirukoneswaram temple in Trincomalee was stopped by the army. His car was subjected to a search and he was asked to produce his identity card. He said that he did not have his identity card in his possession but produced his wife's card. The army was not satisfied and Mr Ponnampalam was taken to the army camp at Trincomalee and later to the police station. After subjecting him to questioning, he was released.

Mr Ponnampalam, a lawyer and leader of the Tamil Congress and son of the late Mr G.G. Ponnampalam, is not an unknown person. In spite of that fact, the action of the army on this occasion is typical of the harassment to which all Tamils are subjected day in and day out.

LANKAN SHIPS 'BLACKED' IN INDIAN PORTS

Trade unions of Indian dockworkers have extended their refusal to handle ships flying the Sri Lankan flag from Madras, where the boycott started, to most other Indian ports.

The decision is part of their protest against the Sri Lankan government's military actions against Tamils in the north and east of Sri Lanka as well as the threat to India's security from Sri Lanka government's induction of the Israeli Mossad into Sri Lanka and its

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF TAMIL
SPEAKING PEOPLE HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL
(S.C.O.T.—H.R.C.)
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**In Loving Memory of
T.J. RAJARATNAM
(Retired High Court Judge)**



Born 23.1.1919
Called to rest 15.9.1981
Our family chain is
broken
A voice that we loved
is still
A place in our home is
vacant
No one on earth can fill
Sadly missed and
lovingly remembered by your wife Arul,
children Rajiv, Renuka, Sri, Jayanthi.

attempts to give facilities to the US Navy at Trincomalee.

The All-India Port and Dockworkers Federation has called on dockers' unions in other countries to do the same to any ships flying the Sri Lankan flag that call at ports in their countries.

This boycott will hit hard the ships of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation and Ceylon Shipping Lines, as well as the other 43 other ships which at the moment fly Sri Lankan 'flags of convenience'.

The Indian boycott is estimated to cost Sri Lanka a loss of several million rupees.

'VICTIMS OF A CONCERTED PLAN OF GENOCIDE'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

State terrorism

Mr Chairman, for this commission which is a Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the situation in Sri Lanka today raises some fundamental issues concerning the responsibilities and role of the Government, of communities — both majority and minority — and of individuals in the protection and promotion of human rights. Further it brings into focus the question of using violent means to achieve given ends.

Human rights

If individuals and communities resort to violence to secure their human rights, it is objectionable enough but if Governments resort to and engage in violence — in the nature of collective reprisals against communities, it is morally indefensible and results in the society getting caught in an unending spiral of violence and be one day engulfed by it to the detriment of all concerned. In the ultimate analysis, state terrorism cannot be morally justified and a solution has to be found through peaceful and non-violent means which in the long term will not only reverse the process of the alienation of the Tamil minority but also seal and secure the unity and integrity, not to mention the humanistic

traditions and democratic structure of Sri Lanka.

Mr Chairman, in the light of all that I have stated here, it is clear that this august body cannot be a silent spectator to what is happening in Sri Lanka. The mass scale of loss of life, the destruction of homes, properties and means of livelihood of the Tamil population, the torture and random killing of their youth, have caused enormous suffering.

The Sub-Commission must call upon the Government of Sri Lanka to exercise restraint in dealing with the situation, show compassion towards the human suffering that has been caused to the Tamil minority, impose discipline on its security forces so that they do not enjoy a carte blanche to wreak havoc upon the hapless Tamil population, investigate and bring to book all those responsible for violation of human rights of the Tamil population and compensate and rehabilitate to the extent possible those who have suffered in the violence. We would also respectfully submit to the Sri Lankan government to show the political will to find a negotiated solution.

Lastly, I would also submit that this Sub-Commission should, as we did last year, request the Commission on Human Rights to consider the situation in Sri Lanka at its 41st session.

The minister hinted that specific incriminating evidence against the Bishop would be forthcoming at the trial beginning next Tuesday of two Roman Catholic priests charged under Sri Lanka's controversial Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Speaking in the garden of his Jaffna residence, the 67-year-old spiritual leader of 250,000 Catholic Tamils, admitted that the increasing level of violence and the general intensification of separatist politics had placed the Church in a critical situation.

Personal position

He also admitted that his personal position had become 'extremely delicate'.

The Bishop firmly denied he was in league with the terrorist element, or the 'militant youth', as he preferred to define them. 'I don't even know the leaders, I have never met them,' he said.

Dr Deogupillai, who has been Bishop of Jaffna for the past 11 years, suggested that the government might be irritated by the fact that an American couple captured by Tamil terror-

SINGARAYAR TRIAL POSTPONED

The trial against Rev Fr A. Singarayar, on charges under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, was put off for 22nd October by Mr D. G. Jayalath, High Court judge of Colombo, on an application by Senior State Counsel Mr C.R. de Silva.

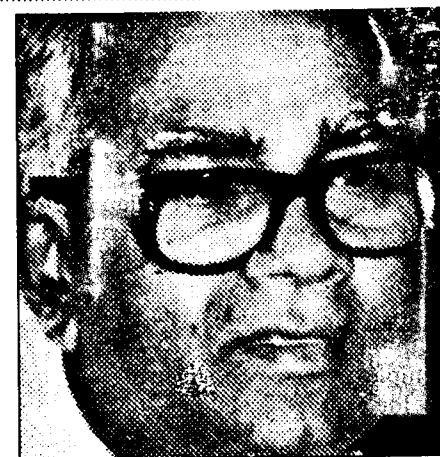
Mr de Silva told the court that he was compelled to ask for a postponement of the trial as the police had been unable to serve summons on the vital witnesses owing to a complete breakdown of communications in Jaffna.

Application

The High Court judge, in putting off the trial, allowed an application by defence counsel Mr Bala Tampoe for Fr. Singarayar to be taken back to naval custody in Trincomalee.

In this case, Fr Singarayar is being charged with failure to give information about the whereabouts of certain alleged terrorists.

Fr Singarayar was arrested in 1982 and detained under the Sri Lankan Terrorism Act. He claimed that he was tortured while under detention. Amnesty International has adopted him as a 'prisoner of conscience'.



Dr Deogupillai

ists in June were ultimately released in his care.

'But I had absolutely no knowledge of this affair until the night I was walking here in the garden and some boys approached me to say they were members of a liberation front and had the American couple.

'They told me they would be leaving the couple. I had no choice but to let them stay.

'The boys went off and within an hour the couple were in the hands of the authorities,' said the Bishop.

BISHOP OF JAFFNA

FROM PAGE 16

made against him by the Minister. In his despatch from Jaffna, Ian Ward (*The Daily Telegraph*, London, 17.8.84) reported:

'The Roman Catholic Bishop of Jaffna, Dr Deogupillai, yesterday denied the suggestion that he was aligning the Church with the militant Tamil separatists.

He was strongly criticised by the Sri Lankan government earlier in the week for failing to condemn Tamil violence.

'Of course, the Church condemns violence, but the government leaders in Colombo won't appreciate that the Church in Jaffna cannot abandon its people.

'We are part of the people and here the people regard the so-called terrorists as freedom fighters, and the military as a foreign occupation army.'

Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, National Security Minister, claimed last week that Bishop Deogupillai had maintained 'very close connections' with the terrorists for the past three weeks.

MEDIA FILE

INDIAN MESSAGE TO JAYAWARDENE

The Indian reaction to the periodic upheavals in Sri Lanka, when the Tamil community is subjected to savage reprisals in the name of fighting terrorism, ranges from expressions of anguish, horror and shock to indignation, resentment and outrage. It is often the inflamed public opinion in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, which again is partly if not wholly a product of local political tensions, that com-

pels the centre to react a little strongly than it would in more normal circumstances.

The big problem that the policy-makers in Delhi face is how to blend the geopolitical, ethnic and emotional strands to evolve a coherent, no-nonsense policy on Sri Lanka calculated 'to serve the best interests of both the countries for evolving a lasting solution to the Tamil problem. The mere offer of good offices, in the absence of a matching clarity of purpose and scope for positive action, has proved to be no more than a piece of escapism.

message across to the Sri Lanka President Mr J.R. Jayawardene that there is a limit to its patience and tolerance. If it persists in this monumental folly of savage reprisals against the helpless civil population in Jaffna peninsula in the name of wreaking vengeance on the Tamil militants through indiscriminate military action, a point will be reached when India will be compelled to intervene.

Message to Jayawardene

And how India is going to handle this grave crisis in Sri Lanka, combining firmness with flexibility and affront with restraint, will demonstrate to the world its capacity to handle such developments in its neighbourhood with the necessary resolution and imagination. The induction of Israeli agents and other foreign elements by Sri Lanka poses a threat to India itself which is separated only by a narrow strait and no government in this country can afford to put up with this threat unless Mr Jayawardene is prepared to make due amends even at this late hour, withdraw his marauding troops from the Jaffna peninsula and open a meaningful dialogue with the Tamil leaders. This message must be got across to Sri Lanka through some common friends leaving him in no doubt of the inevitable consequences of the virtual war this government has declared on the hapless Tamil population.

G.K. Reddy

(Extracts from "Ad Hoc approaches to regional issues," THE HINDU, August 19, 1984)

SHAKING HANDS WITH THE DEVIL

No one should be surprised by the reports that Sri Lanka might be thinking of resuming diplomatic relations with Israel.

Since the day it hired Israeli experts to train its security forces in anti-terrorist operations, Sri Lanka let itself fall into a trap. It gave the Zionist entity permission to fish in troubled waters, and work towards its own ends under the cover of security.

Is it not a little odd that after the Israeli experts came in, the situation has gone from bad to worse? Security Minister Athulathmudali may feel that his forces 'have never had such good training', and the security forces may be happy at their wholesale destruction of property and indiscriminate killing of the Tamils, but prospects of a peaceful settlement have receded. The gulf between the two ethnic groups in the country has widened further.

This is what Israel wants. Escalation in warfare would require more 'expert' advice, and continued warfare, continued advice. Long Israeli presence in Sri Lanka can then lead to permanent presence.

The tactics may be machiavelian, but they are easy to see through. Even if the extremists, in the heat of the moment, become blind to it, the Sri Lankan leadership should not be so short-sighted.

President Jayawardene, while talking about help for training the army against the terrorists, had said last month that 'I would shake hands with the devil itself'. Little did he know that he had already done it.

SAUDI GAZETTE Editorial,
August 24, 1984

Diabolical plans

The hardliners in Sri Lanka have skilfully exploited the false expectations generated by it to play for time and complete their diabolical plans for seeking a military solution to the Tamil demand for separation.

So the real fulcrum of India's neighbourhood diplomacy now is Sri Lanka which has become the focal point of an epic struggle for self-assertion by a tormented minority that is being subjected to the most brutal suppression, worse than what South Africa is doing in denying basic rights to its non-white population.

It is not easy for a country like India to remain a silent spectator or intervene to save the Tamils from their terrible plight. But it can get the

IDEOLOGICAL TAKEOVER

Asia Foundation, Peace Corps, VOA, and now the American University/Colombo link-up show a different type of penetration, mainly in the area of ideas, with the aim of creating a new elite, an American rather than a British trained elite, which is in any case dying slowly. The scientific and technological institutes, the universities and the upper bureaucracy, the professions (lawyers, engineers, managers, law officers, military), the unions and social service organisations are the nurseries.

Lavish grants

Lavish grants from various foundations, the seminar, the fellowship and the research grant is the induction process; the expert and the visiting professor is the agent. The Foundation is the foundation.

But what is most significant is that Sri Lanka in itself is no big deal. Colombo will be the regional centre.

For two years Colombo University has been searching for a Professor of International Relations. The post was advertised several times but the chair is vacant, or has been kept vacant. And how the Dean of the School of International Studies of the American University will be here to map out a programme of co-operation between the American University and the Colombo University. The American University has two such arrangements in the Arab world — Beirut and Cairo. With its Dean shot dead, Beirut is not the most congenial now.

Colombo will be a regional centre for South Asia.

(LANKA GUARDIAN, 15.8.84)

GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER 1,000 HOSTAGES

Beginning August 4, the Sri Lankan government has taken over a thousand Tamils as hostages from the northern Jaffna district. They were herded into open trucks and transported to a camp in Boosa in the Southern Galle district, about 300 miles away from where they were captured.

There was a set pattern in this exercise of hostage-taking. All residents of Jaffna district were ordered by the Minister of National Security to stay indoors. The army went round with loudhailers ordering Tamil

males between the ages of 14 and 40 to present themselves at the nearest market square, school hall or army camp for identity checks; this order was accompanied by threats of indiscriminate reprisals for failure to comply with the order.

Herded into trucks

When the people presented themselves with their identity cards, they were promptly herded into trucks and lorries and transported 300 miles away to a military camp in Boosa. On the way, the Tamil hostages were

subjected to torture and all forms of degrading treatment. They were not given food or water.

Tamil Times has been able to obtain a comprehensive, although not exhaustive list of Tamils, with details of names, addresses, ages, occupations and the time and place where they were taken as hostages. Lack of space does not permit the publication of the whole list. However as an illustration and for the record there appear on these pages the names of those taken into custody at Point Pedro and Valvettithurai:

TAKEN INTO CUSTODY IN VALVETTITHURAI since 4.8.84

(age in brackets; m = married; um = unmarried)

| Name | occupation | arrested | Name | occupation | arrested |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| S. Sriharan (21) | um | student 4.8.84 | S. Senthilkumaran (19) | um | Baker 4.8.84 |
| K.V.Kathirkamalingam (18) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | S. Thillaiampathy (24) | um | Baker 4.8.84 |
| S. Sivakumar (18) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | V. Koneswaramoorthy (19) | um | Baker 4.8.84 |
| T. Arunasalam (19) | um | Student 4.8.84 | I. Kumaralingam (22) | um | Baker 4.8.84 |
| M. Premalingam (24) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | K. Pratheepkumar | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| O.N. Saldon (17) | um | Student 4.8.84 | K. Rajkumar (18) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| N. Balendran (21) | um | Student 4.8.84 | M. Balasundram (24) | um | Driver 4.8.84 |
| P. Kannan (20) | um | Student 4.8.84 | P. Ramanathan (16) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| M. Arunthavarasa (20) | um | Student 4.8.84 | M. Kumavel (20) | um | Peon 4.8.84 |
| S. Kandasamy (21) | um | Student 4.8.84 | M. Manickavel (18) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| S. Muraleetharan (21) | um | Student 4.8.84 | P. Arumairasa (21) | m | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| S. Puvaneswararajah (20) | um | Labourer 4.8.84 | K. Ravindrathas (25) | m | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| T. Uthayasingam (23) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | S. Rajendram (22) | m | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| T. Varnakulasingam (20) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | S. Amirtharasa (19) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| A. Sivakumar (26) | um | Driver 4.8.84 | P. Uruthirakumaran (19) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| P. Vijayachandran (18) | um | Student 4.8.84 | K. Muraleetharan (20) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| K. Sithiravelautham (21) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | S. Selvekumar (24) | um | Sailor 4.8.84 |
| K. Mohanadas (20) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | A. Vanniasingam (21) | um | Businessman 4.8.84 |
| S. Ganeshakumar (18) | um | Student 4.8.84 | V. Juvarajah Asari (26) | um | Ironmonger 4.8.84 |
| M. Sabanathan (23) | m | Fisherman 4.8.84 | V. Theivendran (23) | m | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| I. Kirubaharan (21) | um | Student 4.8.84 | S. Sivasothy (17) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| K. Paskaran (17) | um | Student 4.8.84 | A. Kuhananthasundram (25) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| S. Baburajah (23) | m | Fisherman 4.8.84 | A. Jegenanthasundram (22) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| S. Aravintharasa (16) | um | Student 4.8.84 | S. Jeyakumar (18) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| K. Gnanavel (18) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | Velum Mylum (21) | um | Village Cl. worker 4.8.84 |
| K. Jeyapala (25) | m | Labourer 4.8.84 | P. Mahendran (18) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| V. Mahendran (22) | um | Business 4.8.84 | I. Subramaniam (25) | um | Welder 4.8.84 |
| V. Theivendran (20) | um | Seaman 4.8.84 | K. Shandrakumar (21) | um | Labourer 4.8.84 |
| V. Surendran (17) | um | Student 4.8.84 | K. Ravindrakumar | um | Driver 4.8.84 |
| S. Sivakumar (20) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | A. Arulkumar (23) | m | Labourer 4.8.84 |
| P. Chandrakumar (20) | um | Labourer 4.8.84 | A. Sivakumar (26) | m | Driver 4.8.84 |
| P. Yogachandran (21) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | Thur. Sriganeshan (25) | um | Seaman 4.8.84 |
| I. Manoharan (24) | um | Shop 4.8.84 | Subram. Yogendran (20) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| P. Thiruchelvam (20) | um | Student 4.8.84 | S. Thillaiampathy (24) | um | Baker 4.8.84 |
| P. Arudchelvam (18) | um | Student 4.8.84 | V. Koneshawaramoorthy (18) | um | Baker 4.8.84 |
| P. Ravikumar (26) | um | Sailor 4.8.84 | P. Karthigesu (24) | m | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| P. Kuganantharasa (24) | um | Shop 4.8.84 | K. Tharmadasan (21) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| I. Arunthavarasa (18) | um | Student 4.8.84 | K. Rajakopal (24) | m | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| I. Mohanadas (21) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | K. Eeswararajah (22) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| J. Parthipan (16) | um | Student 4.8.84 | N. Varnakulasingam (22) | m | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| I. Amirthaganesan (24) | um | Sailor 4.8.84 | Mohanadas (21) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| S. Jegatheeswaran (17) | um | Student 4.8.84 | I. Arunthavadas (18) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| M. Santhirakandan (22) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | I. Kirubaharan (21) | um | Salesman 4.8.84 |
| M. Alagarajah (23) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | I. Paskaran (18) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| S. Yogalingam (23) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | R. Gnanachandran (25) | m | Driver 4.8.84 |
| S. Selvachandran (20) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | A. Geevagan (25) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| S. Sivanewaran (18) | um | Fisherman 4.8.84 | T. Vijayasigamani (17) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| A. Prinsley Puvipal | um | Electrician 4.8.84 | S. Mathurnayagam (37) | m | Labourer 4.8.84 |
| M. Ganeshalingam (20) | um | Student 4.8.84 | S. Manoharan (22) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| P. Ravindran (22) | um | Student 4.8.84 | K. Krishnakumar (20) | um | Student 4.8.84 |
| P. Navindran (18) | um | Student 4.8.84 | K. Muthuvel (26) | m | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| S. Jeyasundram (26) | m | Driver 4.8.84 | S. Sivanathan (31) | m | Fisherman 4.8.84 |
| S. Thayalan (22) | um | Baker 4.8.84 | N. Paramsothy (34) | m | Carpenter 4.8.84 |

| Name | | occupation | arrested |
|-----------------------------|----|--------------|----------|
| P. Ganeshalingam (22) | um | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| P. Ravichchandran (19) | um | Fisherman | 4.8.84 |
| T. Kamalakannan (22) | um | Clerk | 4.8.84 |
| P. Jeyapalasingam (18) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| K. Rajeswaran (28) | m | Fisherman | 4.8.84 |
| V. Pushparajah (20) | um | Farmer | 4.8.84 |
| U. Rajkumar (17) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| T. Santhakumar (25) | um | Fisherman | 4.8.84 |
| I. Rajkumar (18) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| K. Prabakaran (27) | m | Sailor | 4.8.84 |
| K. Geevakaran (17) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| K. Puthirasihamani (37) | m | Fisherman | 4.8.84 |
| P. Suresh (21) | um | Driver | 4.8.84 |
| T. Gunaratnam (26) | um | Business | 4.8.84 |
| K. Paskarathas (23) | um | Painter | 4.8.84 |
| S. Aananthavel (20) | um | Student | 7.8.84 |
| K. Puvaneswararajah (20) | um | Fisherman | 7.8.84 |
| P. Mahendrarajah (29) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| S. Amirthanathanthevar (23) | um | Electrician | 4.8.84 |
| Ponnuchamy (33) | m | Sailor | 4.8.84 |
| S. Ramasamy (38) | m | Fisherman | 7.8.84 |
| T. Sathiyaseelan (34) | m | Driver | 7.8.84 |
| K. Thevarajah (28) | m | Driver | 4.8.84 |
| S. Ganeshalingam (28) | um | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| S. Kulendrasingam (21) | um | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| T. Sridaran (20) | um | Sailor | 4.8.84 |
| I. Sooriyakumar (23) | m | — | 4.8.84 |
| V. Mylerumperumal (39) | m | Driver | 4.8.84 |
| S. Ravindran (19) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| K. Kritharan (19) | um | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| K. Ravindrarajah (26) | m | Mason | 4.8.84 |
| S. Paramanathan (24) | m | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| P. Thevarajah (26) | um | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| I. Selvachandran (29) | m | Sailor | 4.8.84 |
| K. Kopalakrishnan (18) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| K. Kularajah (27) | um | Sailor | 7.8.84 |
| T. Pusparajah (22) | um | Painter | 5.8.84 |
| I. Packiyarajah (19) | m | Farmer | 5.8.84 |
| V. Mahendrarajah (20) | um | Student | 5.8.84 |
| T. Paskaran (20) | um | Labourer | 5.8.84 |
| K. Subramaniam (22) | um | Labourer | 5.8.84 |
| N. Loganathan (18) | um | Conductor | 5.8.84 |
| Y. Rathakrishnan (21) | um | Painter | 5.8.84 |
| I. Rajendra (24) | um | Sailor | 5.8.84 |
| S. Thangarajah (24) | m | Labourer | 5.8.84 |
| K. Kumarakulasingham (29) | m | Sailor | 4.8.84 |
| T. Paramsothy (28) | um | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| T. Ravindrasihamani (31) | m | Seaman | 4.8.84 |
| K. Thaventhirathas (27) | m | Fisherman | 4.8.84 |
| Velum Mylum (35) | m | Fisherman | 4.8.84 |
| Thavalingam (17) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| T. Muraleetharan (27) | um | Seaman | 4.8.84 |
| S. Amuthan (24) | um | Shop owner | 4.8.84 |
| N. Balakrishnan (21) | um | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| T. Baskaran (21) | um | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| T. Sivasubramaniam (32) | m | Seaman | 4.8.84 |
| M. Nadanasabai (42) | m | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| Punithrasa (24) | um | Seaman | 4.8.84 |
| R. Rajendrarajah | um | Seaman | 4.8.84 |
| E. Pathmanathan (26) | um | Seaman | 4.8.84 |
| S. Muthuvel (18) | um | Seaman | 4.8.84 |
| S. Ramaswami (40) | m | Seaman | 4.8.84 |
| T. Sathiyaseelan (34) | m | Driver | 4.8.84 |
| S. Balachchandran (18) | um | Carpenter | 4.8.84 |
| T. Indrakanthan (26) | m | Carpenter | 4.8.84 |
| Sakthivel (40) | m | Renter | 9.8.84 |
| P. Kumarakuruparan (21) | um | Student | 5.8.84 |
| S. Srisarvanantha (21) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| P. Suresh (20) | um | Driver | 4.8.84 |
| Ratnasihamani (22) | m | Driver | 4.8.84 |
| P. Kailanathan (19) | m | Fisherman | 4.8.84 |
| V. Arumugan (27) | m | Co-op worker | 4.8.84 |
| M. Nathan (19) | um | Baker | 4.8.84 |
| S. Visahaperumal (39) | m | Fisherman | 4.8.84 |
| K. Sridaran (19) | um | Labourer | 7.8.84 |
| I. Kumaringam (21) | um | Baker | 4.8.84 |
| N. Narendran (28) | um | Goldsmith | 7.8.84 |
| T. Thevachandralingam (31) | m | Mechanic | 4.8.84 |

| name | | occupation | arrested |
|------------------------|----|-------------|----------|
| P. Mahadevan (30) | m | Sailor | 4.8.84 |
| S. Krishnakumar (26) | um | Electrician | 4.8.84 |
| T. Surendran (25) | um | Sailor | 4.8.84 |
| N. Rajan Fernando (21) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| K. Mahandrarasa (24) | m | — | 4.8.84 |
| S. Ratnam (38) | m | Student | 4.8.84 |
| P. Shanmuganathan (27) | um | — | 4.8.84 |
| K. Krishnamoorthy (18) | um | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| K. Pathmanathan (24) | m | Fisherman | 4.8.84 |
| S. Ananthalingam (23) | m | Barber | 4.8.84 |
| S. Vimalasan (25) | m | Student | 4.8.84 |
| K. Paskaralingam (20) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| T. Vimalanathan (23) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| S. Selvachandran (24) | um | Labourer | 4.8.84 |
| A. Rasalingam (30) | um | Farmer | 4.8.84 |
| T. Sivendran (19) | um | — | 4.8.84 |
| K. Thangavel (29) | m | Farmer | 4.8.84 |
| A. Thayanathan (19) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| S. Ravinathan (20) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| G. Premathas (19) | um | Welder | 4.8.84 |
| V. Mahendhrathasa (18) | um | Student | 4.8.84 |
| I. Packiyarajah (18) | m | Farmer | 4.8.84 |
| S. Selvarasa (22) | um | Driver | 4.8.84 |
| S. Aloysious (32) | m | Welder | 4.8.84 |
| T. Arulrajah (20) | um | Mason | 7.8.84 |
| T. Vignarajah (16) | um | Mason | 7.8.84 |
| V. Ravikumar (20) | um | Electrician | 7.8.84 |

ARRESTED IN POINT PEDRO since 4.8.84

| name | | occupation | arrested |
|--------------------------|----|---------------|----------|
| S. Yogarajah (24) | um | Fisherman | since |
| M. Vijayakumar (24) | m | Fisherman | since |
| S. Sriharan (20) | um | Painter | 4.8.84 |
| Y. Sivathanan (23) | um | Conductor | " |
| A. Sriskantharajah (23) | um | Fisherman | " |
| A. Thirumugarajah (14) | um | Fisherman | " |
| S. Krishnakumar (26) | um | Fisherman | " |
| S. Indrakumar (22) | um | Conductor | " |
| S. Nagendrakumar (24) | m | Fisherman | " |
| S. Pulendran (20) | um | Fisherman | " |
| P. Jeyarajah (23) | m | Fisherman | " |
| S. Varatharajah (20) | um | Fisherman | " |
| S. Sakurtharajah (20) | um | Fisherman | " |
| M. Kubendranathan (20) | um | Fisherman | " |
| T. Sriskantharuban (20) | um | Fisherman | " |
| V. Sivanantharajah (20) | um | Fisherman | " |
| K. Kathirgamanathan (19) | um | Fisherman | " |
| J. Gunanathan (21) | um | Student | " |
| Y. Msoharanathan (19) | um | Student | " |
| K. Rasakumar (30) | m | Fisherman | " |
| K.T. Jeyakumar (30) | um | Engine Driver | " |
| K.T. Mahesan (25) | um | Student | " |
| G. Raveendran (25) | m | Press worker | " |
| R. Srimchan (30) | m | Clerk | " |
| T. Thuayakumar (21) | um | Student | " |
| R. Ratnasingham (20) | um | Labourer | " |
| N. Kugan (28) | um | Photographer | " |
| K. Poorananathan (28) | um | Photographer | " |
| V. Srirangan (23) | um | Photographer | " |
| S. Sivapalan (19) | um | Photographer | " |
| T. Rajalingam (21) | um | Student | " |
| V. Manoharan (22) | um | Tea Maker | " |
| S. Balaraj (19) | um | Fisherman | " |
| T. Rasamoorthy (24) | um | Driver | " |
| K. Arumuganathan (19) | um | Fisherman | " |
| P. Sivasothy (19) | um | Labourer | " |
| S. Selvarajah (25) | m | Labourer | " |
| S. Kandasamy (23) | m | Labourer | " |
| S. Sivakumar (27) | m | Labourer | " |
| V. Kannathas (21) | um | Labourer | " |
| S. Gunathas (24) | um | Labourer | " |
| R. Krishnamoorthy (24) | m | Labourer | " |
| R. Sriskantharajah (32) | m | Police | " |
| P. Jegarajah (28) | um | Mason | " |
| V. Manoharan (26) | um | Labourer | " |
| S. Thamilmaran (20) | um | Goldsmith | " |
| K. Prabakaran (24) | m | Goldsmith | " |
| S. Loganathan (22) | um | Goldsmith | " |
| V. Suresh Kumar (23) | um | Student | " |

S.C.O.T.— HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL TAKES THE LEAD AN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

Since its formation four months ago, the Human Rights Council of the Standing Committee of Tamil Speaking People (SCOT-HRC) has taken the lead among expatriate Tamil organisations to campaign on the question of human rights violations in Sri Lanka.

The most recent activity in which the SCOT-HRC was involved was the preparation of documentation, lobbying etc, in connection with raising the question of gross human rights violations in Sri Lanka before the United Nations Sub-Commission on Human Rights conference held in Geneva in August this year.

Among the documents prepared by SCOT-HRC and distributed to members and delegates who attended the Sub-Commission are (a) Violence and Violation of Human Rights in Sri Lanka; (b) the New Inquest Procedures — A Farce and a Fraud; (c) Extrajudicial Executions in Sri Lanka; (d) Human Rights Violations in Sri Lanka — Quotations from Reports of the Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists; and (e) A collection of press clippings from the international media.

The Secretary of SCOT-HRC was present in person and attended the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights. During his two weeks stay in Geneva, he met several members of the Sub-Commission and delegates from Non-Governmental Organisations. The documentation distributed here and the intensive lobbying done by the Secretary not only contributed a great deal in convincing a large body of opinion on the question of violence against Tamils, and other forms of human rights violations in Sri Lanka, but also accounted for the considerable support received for the resolution adopted on Sri Lanka. During his stay, he was able to establish several contacts, which no doubt will be beneficial for future campaign work.

SCOT-HRC was instrumental in organising and obtaining signatures from MPs, Members of the House of Lords, academics and other personalities for the insert

entitled 'Remembering the July 1983 Violence against Tamils', which appeared in 'The Guardian' of July 28, 1984. 'The Guardian insert cost the SCOT-HRC over £2,000.

On the occasion of the visit of President Jayawardene to the USA and UK in June this year, SCOT-HRC published a 16-page pamphlet entitled 'Dear Mr President, Will You Answer?', raising several questions including the July 1983 violence, the massacre of 53 Tamil prisoners in the maximum security jail, extrajudicial executions, deprivation of nationality, of one million plantation Tamils, the Terrorism Act, attacks on the judiciary, etc.

This pamphlet was distributed to all British Members of Parliament, Educational Institutions, Foreign Diplomats, Human and Civil Rights organisations, etc.

Members of SCOT-HRC have also met several foreign missions and Members of Parliament to place the case and plight of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. Some MPs have addressed the SCOT General Council under the auspices of the SCOT-HRC.

Appeal for Contributions

A fair amount of money has already been spent on the aforementioned activities and a considerable amount of financial support will be required to continue the work of SCOT-HRC. As SCOT does not want to spend any of its money collected in connection with relief and rehabilitation of Tamil people for human rights work, all members of SCOT and other well-wishers are requested to contribute generously to SCOT-HRC.

All contributions should be made out to 'SCOT-HRC' and sent to:

Secretary
SCOT-HRC
P.O. Box 208
LONDON WC1 3QN

UNITED FRONT

FROM PAGE 3

creasing brutality should immediately pose the question of a United Front of all liberation groups as the highest priority.

Co-ordinated attack

Having bought time under the pretext of a Round Table Conference the government has since armed itself with massive modern heavy weaponry and hired the services of the Israeli Mossad and the British SAS with the intention of militarily subjugating the Tamil resistance movement. Burning down Tamil villages and towns, killing Tamils in their hundreds at a time, destroying their livelihood and economic infrastructure and literally starving them are part of a well-coordinated diabolical plan.

The response to such a co-ordinated attack upon the Tamil people also of

necessity must be co-ordinated. And such co-ordination requires a United Front of all liberation groups. It is generally believed that the LTTE and PLOT are the two major ones among the liberation groups. Hence a duty falls upon the leaders of these groups to take the initiative to effect a United Front with the other three groups which are already in a Front.

Given the enormous strength of the forces behind the government, no group can afford to consider itself strong enough to ignore the other groups. The recent statements attributed to the leaders of the LTTE and PLOT would seem to indicate their recognition of the urgent and absolute need for a United Front of all liberation forces.

MORE AND MORE DRACONIAN LAWS

FROM PAGE 11

'confessions' made by suspected 'terrorists' without producing the police officers concerned to give evidence.

The present Prevention of Terrorism Act, which makes most of the arbitrary and punitive powers of the government under a state of emergency part of the ordinary law of the land, gives the government sweeping powers of search, arrest without warrant, and detention without trial for long periods. It has been severely criticised by both domestic

and foreign organisations concerned with civil and democratic rights.

Recent statements by the President and other ministers that terrorism is no longer a 'northern phenomenon' that there are extensive links between so-called 'terrorism' in the north and the south, and that Marxism is also a variety of terrorism, have been seen by many as a prelude to the government's intention to extend its draconian powers under the PTA, hitherto mainly confined to the north and the east, to the entire country.

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TRADE UNIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENT REPRESSION

The government has unleashed repression today in all parts of the country. The truth about the repression carried out against the Tamil people in the North has been revealed to us by the international press. The government's propaganda agencies do not disclose the truth', said Mr Bala Tampoe at the National Trade Union Conference against Government Repression, held at the C.M.U Hall, Colombo on 11th August.

He said that 'since emergency has been declared and there is press censorship the people are not able to learn the truth about the repression of students'.

'The Pseudonym law' is another step the government wants to take against writers. In this background we should try to make the people know the truth about repression by the government.

Referring to the programmes in the north, Mr Bala Tampoe said that 'however much the government tries to conceal the truth the whole world knows what is happening in the north. The government accuses expatriate Tamils of spreading misinformation but it is clear that it is the government which is indulging in false propaganda.'

He also referred to the 'agitation by Muslims in the Eastern province against the setting up of the Israeli Interests Section, in Sri Lanka'.

'The government used repressive measures to stifle that agitation and banned the publication of any news about the agitation.'

'Under the circumstances, the imperative duty of trade unions is to collect all information about repres-

sion of the minorities, students, workers and let the people know the truth.'

Mr Vasudeva Nanayakara said that 'the national liberation struggle in the North and the workers' struggle in the South should be linked up to toll the death knell of the UNP Government.'

Among the matters discussed by the 1,000 delegates from 21 trade union centres and organisations at the Conference, were:

1. Violations of human rights, including killings and torture.
2. Repression of civil and political liberties, including detention of persons without trial, deprivation of civil rights, banning of political parties and arrests of trade union, student and political leaders and activists.
3. Repression of democratic rights; including press censorship and other restrictions on the freedom of the press, banning of public meetings, exhibition of posters or distribution of hand-bills in public places or to the public, and banning of public processions without police permission.
4. Attacks upon trade union rights, including banning of strikes and mass dismissals of strikers, closure of trade union offices, attacks upon the right of workers to join a union of their choice, victimisation of trade union leaders and activists, refusal to deal with or discrimination against trade unions that do not collaborate with the government, and prevention of any trade union activities or organisation in the Free Trade Zone.
5. Use of organised thuggery against persons acting in opposition to Government policies, intimidation of members of the judiciary who have

given decisions unacceptable to the government, and organised terror against Tamil people and people of Indian origin, including murder and arsonist attacks upon their homes or places of business, and/or looting of their possessions.

6. Mass eviction of Tamil people, especially Tamil refugees from plantation areas, who have settled in other districts, especially in the North Central Province.

7. Dissolution of student bodies, stationing of police on university campuses and police violence against students, including shooting, and other forms of repression of free student activity.

The continuance of a state of emergency and the use of Emergency regulations and orders for repression, and the use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act likewise, especially against Tamil people, were also discussed.

CANADIAN REPORTER GRILLED BY POLICE

A reporter from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation was taken into custody by the Sri Lankan police on August 11 and questioned for five hours.

The reporter told journalists in Colombo that immediately after he had telephoned the leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Mr A. Amirthalingam, police arrived at Hotel Taprobane where he was staying, searched his room and promptly took him into custody.

The reporter was not physically ill-treated but no one from the Canadian High Commission was allowed to meet him and he was released only after he had signed a statement regarding the purpose of his visit.



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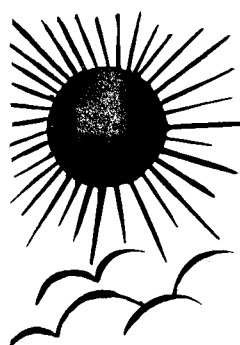
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