

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Vol. 6 No. 32 29th August 1987

JR SAYS HE IS NO BANDA

(BY THE EDITOR)

"I am not a Bandaranaike," President Jayewardene told me at an interview at his residence shortly after the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord was signed on 29th July.

He was replying to a pointed question whether it would go the way of the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact of 1958, which was torn up after protests by the Sinhalese chauvinists led by the Buddhist Clergy.

"I will go through with it, implementing it in both letter and spirit, come what may", the President said.

And it came in the form of an assassination attempt while the President was chairing a United National Party Parliamentary Group meeting in a Committee Room in the Parliamentary complex at Kotte on 18th August.

Two hand grenades and a revolver shot have finally made Government MPs realise the tragic experiences of the people in the North in the past decade during which they had been shelled, bombed and butchered.

The Accord, by providing the basis for an unprecedented devolution of State power in Sri Lanka, has gone quite some way in satisfying the aspirations of the Tamil people and at last brought peace to the North.

President Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi deserve the thanks of the people of Sri Lanka — not grenades or rifle butt blows.

The path has now opened for the rapid economic development of the country—for the prosperity of ALL.

The Sinhalese, too, should be satisfied with the Accord, not try to wreck it and the country.

A repetition of July 1983 or July 1987 should not be permitted. On both occasions, the Sinhalese suffered heavily, proving the adage "Sinhalaya Modaya Kavun Kanta Yodaya" (the Sinhalese are fools but giants to eat oil cakes)!

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students, (EROS) the two groups which spear-headed the national liberation struggle, remain dissatisfied. Their objective continues to be complete independence for the Tamils from the Sinhalese.

Mr. Gopalasamy Mahendrarajah alias "Mahattaya" who described himself as the Deputy Leader of the LTTE, and Mr. V. Balakumar, the key member in the triumvirate which guides the destinies of the EROS, in separate interviews with me last week, said that they were not party to the Accord. It was signed between the Governments of India and

Sri Lanka. But they would go along with it because there was no other alternative at present. In other words, the Accord was forced on them by the two Governments.

But there was an alternative. I made a supreme effort to help bring about a negotiated settlement of the ethnic crisis without undue intervention by India, that is, through direct talks. I almost paid the supreme sacrifice. Fortunately for me and the others concerned, the three lamp-posts I have reserved outside the SATURDAY REVIEW were not painted in blood-red!

Arriving in Jaffna as an official emissary of the President on 26th July, I laid certain proposals before the LTTE leadership. If these had been accepted, the overall situation concerning the resolution of the ethnic problem could have been different.

I was suspected as a spy for the Government and almost got the "treatment"!

With the Accord came the surrender of the arms, in the presence of Indian troops. The Indian troops are here to help implement the Accord. How long will they remain in Sri Lanka? For another 150 years? Like the Dutch whose help was sought by the Sinhalese Kings to oust the Portuguese, who had been exploiting the maritime provinces for nearly 150 years but after achieving this objective remained to rule the roost for another 150 years?

However, the LTTE, the EROS and the other militant groups could be won over if the Sinhalese-dominated Government implements the Accord faithfully. That is the challenge before it.

The Sinhalese, on their part, must realise that they cannot keep the Tamils under their feet for ever.

If the Sinhalese want peace they must endorse the accord and co-operate in its implementation. Otherwise, they would be inviting self-destruction. Designing politicians ambitious for power, should

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has charged that three of its members — unarmed at the time — were shot dead in Mannar by a rival group — the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE).

The incident is said to have taken place in Nanattan round about midnight on Wednesday, when the 3 Tiger militants were returning to their camp after visiting their homes.

Those killed are: Gilman (Adampan), Arjuna (Kalviyankadu and Ranjan (Pichchaikulam):

In a press release the LTTE says one of its camps was also encircled and fired upon: the Indian peace keeping force was immediately contacted but they failed to turn up.

not be allowed to exploit, the situation for their own advantage.

A gigantic problem of resettlement and rehabilitation of those affected by the ethnic violence is on the Government's hands. The Government cannot handle this problem on its own. It needs international assistance. There is no doubt that such assistance will be forthcoming.

First priority should be the revival of the fishing industry in the North. For the fish is there, waiting to be caught. Over 25,000 fisher families comprising nearly 150,000 people, have been severely affected by the declaration of the Northern seas as a "security zone" since

1984. Many of their houses have been demolished and their boats and nets destroyed, all by the Security Forces. With the revival of the fishing industry, the Northern economy will also begin to revive. So also Sri Lanka's economy.

The second priority is the early restoration of the Telecommunication services and rail, road and air transport.

Vast vistas promising a golden future for the people of Sri Lanka are there — provided our politicians seize the unique opportunity afforded by the Accord.

Or go to Hell collectively.

(The interviews with the two leaders appear on page 3.)

DEATH GAME

Three children who were playing about with an unexploded shell, died on the spot when it burst.

This happened at Kadduvan on Thursday.

Rajkaran, a 11-month-old child, Sinnapoddi Nageswari (13) and Sinnapoddi Manoharan (18) died and Sinnapoddi Viswaratnam (17) and Navaratnam Mathialagan (12) were badly injured when the shell exploded.

The children had picked up the unexploded 6-inch Army shell at Kadduvankulathaddi and taken it home, hoping to barter it for ice-cream cones.

On the fateful day, they had invited their neighbour Mathialagan to join them in the shell game.

Landmine Clearing Held Up

There are inevitable delays in clearing landmines buried by the Sri Lankan forces as mine detectors cannot spot plastic explosives; digging up these plastic explosives is a hazardous business, Major Balakrishnan of the Indian peace-keeping force told pressmen recently.

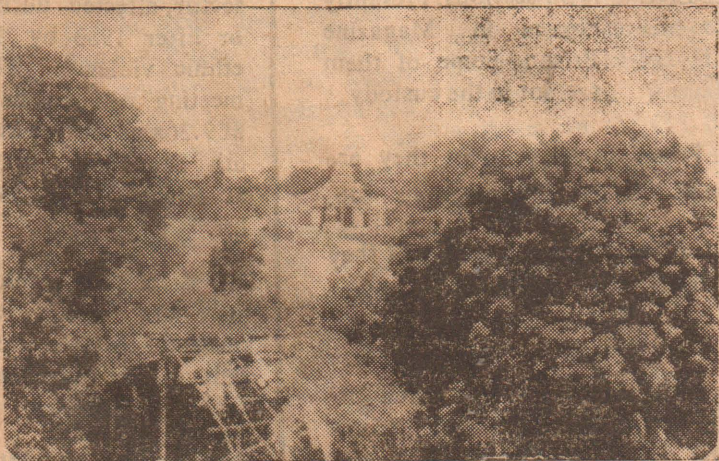
Trinco Refugees

Refugees who left Trincomalee four years ago at the height of the crisis are presently scattered in the outskirts of the town and in places like Mullaitivu, Muthur, Thoppu and Batticaloa, numbering nearly 40,000.

10,500 new houses are required if these persons are to be resettled in Trincomalee.

Freedom Soon

Mr. P. M. Samarasingha, the soldier who was on sentry duty at the Palaly Camp and had defected to the Tigers in May this year, is expected to be released soon, according to press reports in Jaffna. It will be recalled that he had left the camp due to ill-treatment by his senior officers.



MUNIAPPAR'S FATE: This is how Muniappar Temple just beyond the ramparts of the Jaffna Fort looks after 2 years of siege. But Muniappar saved his temple from even the slightest damage.

Saturday Review

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GAMINI NAVARATNE

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Vote For Dr. V. H. Si-
riwardene at the forth-
coming election of members
to the Medical Council.

— Well - Wisher

VACANCY

Applications are invited from suitable persons for the post of Registrar, North Lanka Medical College. Applicants should be a graduate of a recognised University with not less than ten years experience in Administration. Applications to be sent under Registered post on or before Wednesday 23rd September, 1987 to:

The Hony. Secretary, Board of Governors, North Lanka Medical College, Administration Block, No. 164 Fourth Cross Street, Jaffna.

Hony Secretary,
Board of Directors.

The Truth About Operation Liberation World Knows, Do The Sinhalese?

During the last few days we have had the opportunity of visiting areas like Valvettiturai, Nelliaddy, Uduppiddy, Point Pedro, Kankesanturai, Tellippalai, Kattuvan, Kurumbasiddy, Palali, Vasavilan and other places. Nearly a thousand here lost their lives during the so-called 'Operation Liberation' of the Sri Lanka armed forces. Hundreds of youth have disappeared without any trace. Due to severe injuries many people have become invalids. The destruction and damage inflicted upon Tamil Society is immense. It is rather impossible and too early to make an evaluation of the total loss incurred due to the war waged against the Tamil people by the armed forces of the Government of Sri Lanka.

A young Tamil officer involved in rehabilitation work in the Jaffna Peninsula told us that it was too premature to assess the cost due to the destruction caused by the Sri Lankan armed forces during the past 6-7 months. The destruction of towns and villages was so great that it was a difficult task to gauge the general loss. He said that they were trying to make a general assessment with the help of the Assistant Government Agents and Citizens' Committees.

Nelliaddy MMV, Uduppiddy Boys' College, Vasavilan MMV, Union College, Tellippalai will have to be re-built. Many smaller schools in the above areas have been razed to the ground. An Education official of the Jaffna Education Department told us the loss of school buildings may be more than Rs. 30 million. Educational Institutions that have been serving generations have been completely destroyed. More and more people from the South of Sri Lanka must come and see for themselves what the so-called 'Operation Liberation' meant. It is then they will realize why the Jaffna people felt relieved with the arrival of the Indian Peace Keeping Forces.

People who left their villages are now trickling back to their previous habitats. The villagers felt that the 'war' is over at last but they are wary or doubtful about their future. The people of Jaffna at the moment generally appreciate the restoration of

a climate of peace. For some it is a 'breathing space'. Yet another section sees this phase as just a 'slowing down of events'. The Tamil people generally feel that though their plight and conditions have been highlighted in the 'World Press', the Sinhala people in

the South have not been informed and told about what happened in the Northern and Eastern Provinces during the last four years.

It is too early to predict future developments. Due to the short-sighted opportunist policies of those who ruled the country after the British left, the Indian Forces have arrived here. In 1985 when I visited Jaffna, lots of people were of the opinion that they needed rather India's co-operation but certainly not its domination to resolve the ethnic conflict. Even today the Intelligentsia of Jaffna Society think the same way.

The Tamil people in the North and East should be given full freedom and autonomy to run their own affairs. The Governments of India and Sri Lanka should co-operate to achieve this goal. We call upon all those who were and are engaged in the National Liberation Struggle to unite to face the future.

The Ceylon Teachers' Union has always stood for a negotiated peace for the settlement of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. We strongly feel even today that a political solution be found through negotiations.

— H.N. Fernando
General Secretary,
Ceylon Teachers' Union

SR Editor's Refugee Relief Fund

More Donations

We acknowledge with thanks the further following contributors to the Fund:

	Dollars	100
Mr. T. Hunhammed		
In loving memory of the late Mr. Sivaloganathan	Rs.	500
Mr. R. Somalingam (Seychelles)	"	100
Mr. J. Jeyabalan	"	500
In loving memory of Mr. Gamini Navaratne's mother	"	100
Mr. K.D. Pillai, (Seychelles)	"	3,636
M/s Krishna Mart (")	"	3,640
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Mr. A. Navaratnasamy (")	"	2,000
Mr. V. Sivasubramaniam (")	"	1,000
Mr. G. Sivashanmugampillai (")	"	3,636
A Well-wisher (")	"	1,136

Sinhala Political Prisoners

The Campaign For the Release of Political Prisoners (CROPP) has sent us the following list of names of Sinhala - speaking political prisoners either convicted or indicted and detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA):

1. B. A. CADER - Sentenced for 20 years Presently housed in Bogambara Prison.
2. UDUWARAGE HENRY PERERA - Sentenced for 10 years Presently housed in Galle prison.
3. DAYAN JAYATILLEKE AND 22 OTHERS - Indicted and the trial is on sessions Presently housed in Magazine Prison. Some of them are not in the custody.
4. JAYATILLEKE DE SILVA/ INDIKA GUNAWARDENE AND 42 OTHERS - Indicted and the Trial is on sessions. Presently housed in Magazine Prison. Some of them are not in the custody.
5. Some of the Political Prisoners allege that they are members of the Northern Militant Organisations too.
6. The Sri Lankan prosecution indict them saying that they worked in connivance with the Northern Militant Organisations.
7. According to their confessions which they made to the authorities under the PTA, these Political Prisoners totally opposed the policy adopted by the present Sri Lankan Government towards solving the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. As the situation been changed now not only that they support Indo - Sri Lanka Peace Accord but also if they be freed will work for ethnic harmony in this country.

'In accordance with the provisions of the Indo - Ceylon peace pact, signed between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka on 29th July 1987, the Committee of the C.C.D.E. has decided to hold a meeting of all displaced employees of Government Corporations / and private sector, affected during or after 1983 by the ethnic violence. The meeting will be held at 9.30a.m. on Sunday, 6th September 1987, at Hindu Lodge, Nallur.

All displaced employees are kindly requested to be present at the meeting to air their views.

President, Co-ordinating Committee of Displaced Employees, 95/1, Stanley Road, Jaffna.

Interviews With 'Mahattaya,' Balakumar

'Mahattaya' As Chief Minister?

With the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Mr. Velupillai Prabhakaran publicly declining to be a contender for the Chief Ministership of the North (combined Northern and Eastern Province), at the proposed elections to the Provincial Council for the region under the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord, his new deputy, 31 year Mr. Gopalasamy Mahendrarajah, is expected by knowledgeable sources in Jaffna to be his nominee.

Questioned on this point at an interview at LTTE Headquarters at Thinnevely, Jaffna, on 22nd August, Mr. Mahendrarajah, (code-name "Matthaya") said that no decision on the matter had been taken so far.

Pressed, Mr. Mahendrarajah's interpreter, Shanker quipped "His residence (in Jaffna) is named "Ram Thottam" (after the name of the residence of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran) and he smiled.

The former commander of the LTTE forces in Vavuniya, he took over the Jaffna district command after Mr. Sathasivam Krishnarajah (code-named Kittu) was seriously injured in an assassination attempt and his successor (code named Radha) was killed in a gun battle.

Also present at the interview were Mr. Selvam Canagaratna ("Statesman", Calcutta) Mr. A. Jayaram (United News of India news agency) and Mr. Chandra Perera (National Broadcasting Corporation of America.)

The upper floor of the building situated opposite the Jaffna University is occupied by Indian troops.

Asked whether the LTTE would participate in the proposed election Mr. Mahendrarajah, who spoke in Tamil, said certain basic proposals in the Accord had not been honoured by President Jayewardene's Government so far. He made particular reference to the failure to release all political prisoners, stoppage of state-aided colonisation and the revocation of the "State of Emergency" in force from 1983,

He said there were nearly 6,000 political prisoners (mostly members of the LTTE) detained at Welikade, Boosa and elsewhere, but only a little over 1,000 of them had been released so far, while the Emergency

was extended by another month on 21st August.

But indications are that the LTTE is preparing for elections scheduled for later this year. LTTE cadres, relieved of their arms, have left many of their camps and fanned out to the two provinces to work among the people. In Batticaloa, the 'public Relations Office' (an euphemism for a political office) has been opened lately.

On the Accord itself, Mr. Mahendrarajah said the LTTE was not party to it. It was signed between the Sri Lanka and Indian Governments. The LTTE was willing to go along with it because there was no other alternative at present.

Asked whether the LTTE regretted the surrendering of arms, as required under the Accord, he said that they did not regret it. Asked whether all arms had been surrendered, he said most of it.

On the presence of Indian troops in the North, he said

it had not brought about any significant changes. Especially in the Eastern Province, the Security Forces were continuing the harassment of the people while state-aided colonisation of the area by the Sinhalese was proceeding apace.

He admitted that in Jaffna itself there was a sense of peace and physical security but it was not the same all over.

Asked whether the LTTE would resume the armed struggle if the implementation of the Accord failed, he said no force could prevent the people from taking to arms if they continued to be oppressed.

To another question about how long the LTTE would wait if the Accord was not implemented in letter and spirit, he said the time could not be stipulated.

He denied that the LTTE was behind the recent demon-

strations outside the camps where the Indian troops are stationed as a sign of protest against the Accord. If the LTTE organised the demonstrations, the crowds would have been much bigger.

He said that the Accord was being denounced in the North, including by student bodies and trade unions as well as academics of the

by

Gamini Navaratne

Jaffna University, as a "sell out" of the Tamil people.

In Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts people still felt insecure. When he toured the region recently people told him that previously the LTTE had arms to protect the people; now they have no one to save them.

He was bitter about the continued re-settlement of Sinhalese in what he described as traditional Tamil areas,

particularly in Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts. Sinhalese were being planted from where the Tamils had to flee because of army activity.

As an example, he cited the case where 100 Tamil families who lived near the Buddhist Temple in Vavuniya town had been forced to evacuate. The houses were now occupied by Sinhalese, he said.

Another example, he said, was the forced evacuation of Tamil people from around Vavuniya airfield. Now Sin-

halese people had been settled there.

He said the aim was to alter the demographic pattern of the region still further in favour of the Sinhalese.

Asked whether the LTTE regarded the Accord as a hurdle in attaining its final objective of Eelam, he said that it certainly was. The LTTE had not given up its goal. In the past 15 years of the Tamil liberation struggle, the LTTE had overcome many hurdles. It would overcome this hurdle also.

Accord Only An Interim Solution

— Bala

Mr. V. Balakumar, of the Eelam, Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) expressed similar views on the developing situation in the North as those of the deputy leader of the LTTE but differed on one significant point — EROS will not contest the provincial council elections.

"Electoral politics has no relevance to our movement," he said. "But we are willing to work with other groups for the welfare of the Tamil people. We want to be with the people."

Mr. Balakumar is the key figure in the triumvirate which guides the destinies of the EROS. At 39 years, he is one of the most elderly among the leaders of the various militant groups.

The interview with him was held in a house at Inuvil, Jaffna, on 23rd August. Also present on the occasion was the UNI Correspondent.

Mr. Balakumar said the EROS would carry on the struggle to achieve a separate state, using peaceful means now they had been deprived of their arms.

Asked whether the EROS had surrendered all its arms, he said "Completely."

He said there was great difficulty in convincing the cadres to surrender their arms. There was much mental agony. "But arms are only one means of struggle. There are several other means. We are not crazy after arms."

He said that the EROS acted with a clear political vision. The Accord was only an interim solution.

What India had done, he said, was to thwart American designs over the South Asian region; in other words, to safeguard its own vital interests.

Mr. Balakumar was particularly worried about the situation in the plantation

areas of Central Sri Lanka. The workers of Indian origin had been used by Mr. S. Thondaman, Minister of Rural Industrial Development, as pawns in a big political game. His organisation would try to correct that situation.

He acknowledged that the Accord had brought peace to the North but the situation in the Eastern Province was still disturbing. He was going to concentrate his attention on that province, moving among the people and awakening their conscience.

Policies of the EROS were based on Marxist ideology, he said. Basic socio-economic structural changes were

necessary not only in the North but throughout the whole world, as part of the anti-imperialist struggle.

If the Sri Lankan Government allowed the EROS to carry out its political struggle, it would be a welcome thing. But if there was any further repression, then EROS would take up arms again, he warned.

PM's Denial

Prime Minister Premadasa's office has denied that the Prime Minister has given an interview to the Gulf Newspaper Khaleej Times on the Indo-Lankan Accord.

All India Radio had quoted this interview in its news bulletin on Monday (24th August).

According to the Gulf newspaper, Mr. Premadasa had said, in an exclusive interview that he fully accepted the Accord now. The doubts he had about the Accord concerned certain provisions about the Eastern Province: these had been fully cleared up and he was completely satisfied with the Accord.

Cambridge Schol

Mr. P.N. Suganthan, whose unparalleled achievement in the G.C.E (A/L) Examination in August 1986, was spotlighted and applauded in the Press, has been awarded, a full scholarship by the Cambridge University to follow a course in Engineering Tripos in Electronics.

He secured distinctions in all the four subjects at the

A/L examination, obtained an all time record aggregate of 372 (average of 93 marks)

He left for the U.K. on 23rd August.

Mr. P. Suganthan is the son of Mr. P. Nagarathnam, Principal of Skantha Varodaya College, and Mrs. Vallinayagi Nagarathnam of Tellipallai.



JAIPUR FOOT PROJECT

Extracts from the speech made by Mrs. Swarna Ferdinand, Project Manager, Jaipur Foot Workshop, Colombo at the opening of the Jaipur Foot Workshop, Jaffna on 15th August.

On behalf of the Colombo Friend - Friend - In Need - Society which I represent at this function today, I thank the Mothers' Front of Jaffna which has invited us to share their happiness in opening a Jaipur Foot Workshop for Jaffna as a Branch of our Society. I bring to you greetings and best wishes from my Society's President Mrs. Paul Perera and all the Members of our Executive Committee and Board of Management.

We started working on this Project almost a year ago, when NORAD seeing the number of disabled in Jaffna suggested it to us in Colombo, and the Mothers' Front in Jaffna undertook to sponsor it. Although preliminary matters like training of technicians and purchase of machinery and equipment were done in Colombo, we faced tremendous difficulties in opening this Workshop due to the disturbances here.

To go back to the beginning of the establishment of the Jaipur Foot Workshop in Colombo just 1½ years ago, this technology was brought to us from India. It was Dr. P.K. Sethi of Jaipur in Rajasthan Jaffna who invented this revolutionary artificial limb to suit the masses of India. It was a unique contribution to the disabled mainly of the developing world and it was

ideal for the masses of Sri Lanka too. The uniqueness of the Jaipur Foot is its low-cost (just one thousand rupees) and the fact that all the raw materials needed is freely available in Sri Lanka, and every part of it could be made in our own Workshop.

The Jaipur Foot is waterproof and flexible, it can be worn without a shoe, a person could comfortably squat on it or sit cross-legged on the floor, the farmer could wear it in his paddyfield, a person could drive a vehicle, ride a bicycle or a motorbike, climb steps and in short live a very normal independent life unencumbering his family or community.

The Jaipur Foot Workshop in Colombo has a 100/- staff of disabled youth. The Jaffna Workshop has followed this principle and they have started with 3 disabled young people - a young girl Rathicca for clerical work and 2 young disabled boys of this District Paramakumar and Johnson, as technicians who were trained for six months in Colombo. We fitted only 20 amputees from Jaffna in Colombo in these 1½ years for these were the very few who braved the perils of transport to Colombo. When these 20 people came to Colombo from time to time we found them so frightened, so full of mistrust in us, lacking any confidence in us. Some of them asked me whether they could for their personal safety have someone of theirs to watch over them while they stayed in our Transit Home.

I must mention here that the Jaffna Workshop was

entirely financed by NORAD which gave us a Grant of Rs. 250,000/- towards it. We miss Mr. John Hutchison today - then Representative of NORAD who is now back in Norway. He was a great inspiration to us and he instilled the strength and courage we needed to launch on this venture.

This building was obtained on a five - year lease by the Mothers' Front of Jaffna and it was this Mothers' Front that worked untiringly towards achieving this goal.

When we started the Colombo Workshop we had one determination and that was to serve every disabled person of this land irrespective of any barriers - race, religion, caste or creed, district, social status or political belief. The only qualification a person needed to register for a Jaipur Limb was that he had no leg or legs, nothing else mattered, and so we were able to build bridges across the country and serve our brothers and sisters everywhere.

We need the assistance of the public to support the Jaipur Foot Project in Jaffna, but since coming here and seeing the devastation of this part of our land. I do not know how to ask for such support. I therefore direct my appeal to the citizens of Colombo and other parts of Sri Lanka who have the welfare of the people of the North of heart. I promise to do my best for you from Colombo and I am sure the Government will also assist us here, now that there is Peace among us.

Cross - Cultural Interpreter

A. K. COOMARASWAMY

Dr. A. K. Coomaraswamy's 110th birth anniversary fell on 22nd August.

Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy was born at Rheinland Place, Kollupitiya to Sir Muthu Coomaraswamy and the English lady from Kent, Miss Elizabeth Clay Beeby, on 22nd August, 1877.

No writing of him can claim to completeness without a word of his illustrious father. The father was the first member of the British Colonial Empire, to be knighted. He was entertained for his integrity in circles of the elite of London, and he rubbed shoulders with Disraeli and Palmerston, Queen Victoria held him in high esteem, having his translation of the book 'Harischandra' together with 'Thirukural' and the Holy Bible for me-

ditation, by her bed-side table. The Maharani of Tanjore also sought his advice on many an occasion. A barrister-at-law, he had twelve languages at his command. He was the maternal uncle of Sirs Ponnampalam and Arunachalam Ramanathan, national figures with international reputation.

Mary Patridge in 1903. He was later transferred to the Colombo Museum from the Mineralogical Department.

He made extensive tours on bullock cart to remote villages and country sides and together with Mineral Survey, he was also interested in village art and technology. During his time, he discover-

by

Victoria Joseph

Ananda was unfortunate not to enjoy the companionship of his father as he lost his father quite young and had to be taken to England by his mother at the age of two. Later he graduated from the University of London in Geology and Botany.

He joined the first Department of Mineralogical Survey of Ceylon as its first Director, when he came out with his first wife Ethel

ed the radio-active mineral thorianite. He was awarded the D.Sc. by the University of London for geological work - Contributions to the Geology of Ceylon. He also published in 1905 'Some Kandyan Crafts'. He soon resigned his Directorship of the Mineralogical Survey in Ceylon and went over to England where he procured for himself his own press. In

(Continued on page 9)

Our Contributors Slug it Out; Seconds Out

Discord On Accord

Almost the whole world has acclaimed the Indo-Sri Lankan pact as one that opens a new era of peace for Asia. It is a big gain for India as it makes Sri Lanka safe for India. For the Sri Lankan President and his Government it is a victory as it provides for military help from India in case such help is warranted by internal strife such as AS RIOTING, coup, etc. The signatories to this Pact are the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and the Sri Lankan President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene. Moreover, Sri Lanka has now been saved from division.

But the Pact affects a third party, the Tamils to solve whose ethnic problem this Pact was chiefly intended and yet no signatory has signed on its behalf. The fact remains that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi flew to Colombo and signed the pact without the prior consent of the LTTE and EROS. It is only after his return to New Delhi he tried to persuade the LTTE leader, Mr. V. Prabhakaran to accept the Accord. Despite this persuasion Prabhakaran said at the Suthumalai Meeting: "... We have no other way except to co-operate in this matter with India. Let us offer it... I trust the Indian Prime Minister and I have faith in his assurances".

The Pact is, no doubt, a skeleton; it has to acquire its flesh and blood in the process of implementation. Without conceding, on principle, that the Accord is a sufficient answer to the aspirations of the Tamils, let us all co-operate with India in its implementation which, if satisfactory can help avoid future communal bickerings. It is, therefore, necessary that all concerned should know the feelings of the Tamils regarding the meagre provisions of the Pact.

Para 2.2 of the Pact provides; "The Northern and Eastern as now constituted, will form the one administrative unit, having one elected Provincial Council, Such unit will have one Governor, Chief Minister and one Board of Ministers".

This Provincial Council, though salutary, will have its life only for about one year after which its continuance will have to be decided at a referendum.

On a proper assessment of opinion among the Tamils of the North and East, it could be found that they are not in favour of a referendum and that they could be linked forthwith as one administrative unit dispensing with the requirement of a referendum and state such amalgamation is a must for organising a united security force to provide for their protection in their Provinces. They feel strongly that an amalgamation could be effected on the lines of the people of Hyderabad and Andhra Pradesh have become linked on the basis of Telugu language, their mother tongue, as their language of administration, education and communication. To effect such an amalgamation no referendum is necessary.

If the Lankan Government genuinely seeks a peaceful and lasting solution to the

tional to an acceptance of the proposals negotiated from 4.5.1986 to 19.12.1986" the Lankan Government might claim the right to exclude Amparai district from the Eastern Province at any subsequent time—subsequent to the holding of the referendum. The Government might want the Amparai district also to remain as part of the Eastern Province to enable the Sinhala voters to vote against the linkage. This is a very tricky provision. While the Tamils are strongly opposed to the holding of the referendum, they are compelled to state, on principle, it is totally wrong and undemocratic for the Sinhalese to vote at the referendum which seeks to assess the support of the Tamils and Muslims either for or against the linkage of the two Provinces.

Accord Affables



Pix: Courtesy Eelanadu

Tamil problem, why should they seek to complicate and make it unworkable by providing for referendum which the Tamils consider as malicious?

There are some provisions that require clarity. One of them i.e. para 2.15 reads: "These proposals are conditional to an acceptance of proposals negotiated from 4.5.1986 to 19.12.1986".

The Dec.19 proposals provide for separating the Amparai district from the Eastern Province and refer to the remaining portion of the Eastern Province as "the New Eastern Province". But in the proposals embodied in the Pact there is no reference to the New Eastern Province and it reads as "The Northern and Eastern Provinces as now constituted will form one administrative unit....." (see para 2.2).

It is not clear whether the Lankan Government has abandoned its claim for separating the Amparai district.

Under the provision: "These proposals are condi-

Upto 1947, the year of Independence, the Northern Province had just 2000 (two thousand) Sinhalese only and in Batticaloa and Trincomalee the inhabitants were predominantly Tamil-speaking. 1947 must be reckoned with in the matter of determining the size of the ethnic groups of people in these areas. It is vital to note that the Lankan Government has a mischievous aim to create mixed areas which will enable the majority race to elbow out or destroy the minority Tamil race, just as they were able to do by creating riots in the South which led to the slaughter of thousands of Tamils and the exodus of the remaining Tamils from the South.

The Pact is silent in the matter of colonisation. The colonists in the Eastern Province who were settled in the Eastern Province after 1947 must be removed to their places of origin; otherwise the same pattern of slaughter and exodus of Tamils will occur. The Tamils then the world and India

in particular to come to their rescue and save their traditional territory by implementing the Pact liberally, vigilantly and justly.

There is no provision in the Pact for the proposed, "one elected Provincial Council to take steps for providing its own security. There is no meaning in the two Provinces becoming one administrative unit unless they have the power to provide that security. The power becomes again centralised when the Pact provides as follows: (para 2.10) "The Government of Sri Lanka will utilise for the purpose of law enforcement and maintenance of security in the Northern and Eastern Provinces the same organisations and mechanisms of Government as are used in the rest of the country."

According to this clause, one elected Provincial Council for the Tamils will also be treated in the same way as the other Provinces without any power to provide its own Home Guards or police force for their protection. This denies the right of self determination for the Tamils and the whole Tamil problem rebounds.

The Pact refers to the army and other security personnel being confined to the barracks consequent to the cessation of hostilities and handing over of arms, but there is no provision for the withdrawal of the armed forces from the Tamil areas for which the Tamils have shed so much of blood. When peace is disturbed and the Tamils' rights are denied who will return the arms to the Tamil militants who had given protection to the Tamil people? Let not the whole thing turn out to be a breach of trust!

There is no doubt that this skeleton-Pact will have a quick death unless it acquires its flesh and blood in quick time by way of a speedy implementation.

The Tamils trust India and Rajiv Gandhi and have faith in his solemn assurances. They are the only hope for the Tamils of Sri Lanka who have suffered so much and lost so much!

—S. Ponniah.

As a Christian body concerned with and working for Justice and Peace in our society, we hereby express our great relief and satisfaction at the agreement that

was reached between the Governments of Sri Lanka and India leading to a complete ceasefire. We hope that it will lead to a permanent just peace guaranteeing to the Tamils their freedom, equality, security, ethnicity and a permanent homeland.

We have always been focussing attention on the injustices towards the Tamils and calling for a just solution to same. We are also conscious that the Tamils had tried for about 3 decades through non-violent means to win back their lost rights but the politicians failed to arrive at a timely just solution. In the resultant state of desperation the Tamil youth saw no choice but to take up arms which contributed much to bring about this settlement.

Our thanks are due to the Tamil militants for their sense of determination, devotedness, sincerity and sacrifice towards this cause supported in several ways by the Tamil community here and abroad to whom too we are grateful. We thank the militants specially for deciding to lay down arms trusting India, the mediator and transferring to them the responsibility to provide for the safety of the Tamils. We appeal to all groups to surrender all arms and call on them to concentrate now on assisting the community to rebuild all that was destroyed in morals, education, economy, amenities etc. We on our part assure them that we will help and induce others to contribute in every way possible towards their speedy and honourable absorption and rehabilitation into our society. We appeal also to the world at large and to the Tamil community in particular to help rebuild our homeland.

Finally, we appeal to all citizens on either side and to all members of all militant groups to be truly reconciled and forgiving, to treat each other as brethren of one large family and to contribute to rebuilding a flourishing and exemplary Sri Lanka with a deep sense of true Patriotism.

—Jaffna Diocesan Justice, Peace And Development Commission

The Jayewardene - Gandhi Accord, purporting to inaugurate a settlement of the Tamil National problem, is the outcome of a conspiracy between the Jayewardene

(Continued on page 8)

JAFFNA DISTRICT

RE - DISTRIBUTING POPULATION: SOME STRATEGIC ASPECTS

The Jaffna District which was bifurcated in 1983 is left with an area of approximately 1036 sq. k.m. The present district is confined to the Peninsula. In the Jaffna District except few areas such as Delft and Vadamaradchy East all other areas are relatively developed and have intensive and complex land use pattern. Subsidiary food crop cultivation based on well irrigation and fishing are the major primary economic activities in the District. Light industries and tertiary activities also play an important role in the economic function of the urban places and non-farm villages. In the recent years the district has received a sizeable remittances, goods and services from abroad. The entire district except few areas, looks like an urbanized area.

POPULATION

The population of the District (present area) according to the 1981 census was 738 thousand. The population of the district has been increasing rapidly since the 1970's. In addition to the natural growth, the communal unrest in Sri Lanka since 1981 has been the major contributory factor for the rapid population growth in the district. Nearly fifty thousand people have moved to the district after the 1983 communal violence in the country. But the migration trend reversed after 1984. A considerable exodus has also taken place between April 1984 and July 1987.

The density of population of the Jaffna District was 682 persons per sq.k.m. in 1981. The density of population varies within the District and this variation could be identified at A.G.A. divisional level. All the divisions in the Valigamam region have high density of population due to the urban places and large intensive agricultural village. Islands Vadamaradchchi and Thenmaradchchi divisions have moderate density of population.

The distribution of the population in this region shows the highest concentration in the Valigamam region. The Valigamam region (including Greater Jaffna) covers an area of 325 sq. k.m. had 461723 persons in 1981. This region has sixty three percent of the District population in 1981. The Greater Jaffna (Nallur and Jaffna A.G.A. divisions) has a population of 159,100 in an area of 46 sp.k.m. Outside the Valigamam region population concentration is found around Point Pedro, Chavakachcheri, Nellyyady and Valvettiturai. The sparsely populated areas in the district are as follows: (i) Rocky area of North Eastern part of the Valigamam Region. (ii) Kapoothu-Anthantidal and Karanavai low-lying areas on either side of Vadamaradchchi Region. (iii) Navatkuli-Kerativu stretch of the Western Thenmaradchchy (iv) Eastern Thenmaradchchy (v) Eastern Vadamaradchchy (vi) Delft.

value in the District, which affect economic activities. To solve or to minimise the land hunger of the District we may have to adopt the following strategies to meet the ever increasing demand for land.

- (i) Land settlement and industries which demand large acreage should be discouraged in the district.
- (ii) Use the available land more economically within the existing pattern of land uses.
- (iii) Evolve a rational land-use pattern for the Jaffna District.

lai spit which is clear to the Jaffna town could be used to develop for residential purpose. Already a large squatter population moved into the area. (i) i e Pumpuhar, Vasanthapuram)

- (iii) Alkaline coastal areas. These lands come under water during rainy season and mainly found in the Islands, Kallundai, Navatkuli, Kerativu and Varany. The Alkaline areas closer to Jaffna town could be used for settlements after raising their height by filling

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- (iv) Make use of the marginal lands mainly for residential and industrial purposes.
- (v) Reclamation of rocky areas for agricultural uses and marshy areas for other uses.
- (vi) Major population re-distribution activities in order to ease the population pressure on the red soil area of Valigamam.

In the absence of large extent of developable land there is no prospect for developing agriculture on an extensive scale in the Jaffna District. However, there are three types of marginal lands which could be utilized for non-agricultural and agricultural purposes if properly developed.

- (i) Rocky waste lands in the Valigamam and Vadamaradchy areas. Nearly 10,000 acres could be developed in the Peninsula. After de-rocking, these lands could be used for Agriculture if filled with earth transported from other areas.
- (ii) Sandy tracts of Eastern Vadamaradchy and Ariyalai spit. These lands could be used for coconut, cashew cultivation and residential purposes. Ariya-

with earth. Pipe borne water is essential for the sustenance of settlements on these lands.

The following strategies could be adopted in regard to the population re-distribution in the district.

POPULATION RE-DISTRIBUTION

- (i) Policies to be evolved to reduce the population pressure in the Jaffna District. Mainly through out migration to the other parts of the country.
- (ii) Encouragements to be given to the people of the Jaffna District to move out to the land settlement schemes on the mainland. This programme will help the agro-based population and land-lease peasants to continue their traditional agricultural occupation in the mainland. The migration of Jaffna peasants to the mainland will help the people engaged in other occupations in the District to get employment in the tertiary sector in the mainland.
- (iii) Policies to be evolved to develop and populate the under developed areas within the Jaffna District. The

Eastern Vadamaradchy and Eastern Thenmaradchy should be given special preference in the location of industries, institutions and housing schemes. Non-farm settlements could be developed in the above areas.

- (iv) A new township could be developed in Kodikamam to accommodate a modest population of 20,000. This town could function as a second administrative centre for the Jaffna District and an important service centre for the Thenmaradchy and Vadamaradchy regions. The under developed land in and around Kodikamam, Varani areas could be utilized.

(v) Efforts should be made to develop the existing small towns to accommodate more population. Pipe-borne water supply and drainage system are essential for the vertical and horizontal growth of the towns. Kankesanthurai, Point-Pedro, Chavakachcheri, Kayts, Valvettiturai, Manipay Chankanai, Nellyyady and Pandatharippu have to be developed for this purpose. The growth of small towns could attract the non farm population from the rural areas. This projected migration pattern will help to preserve agricultural lands in the rural areas of the district especially in the Valigamam red soil area.

(vi) Jaffna town should be encouraged to spread along the coastal area towards eastwards and westwards. The alkaline and low lying lands could be utilized for residential purposes. Navatkuli, Kallundai and Allaipiddy are good locations for the development of satellite towns. Already there are several industries located at Navatkuli. Within the Jaffna town intensive residential land use should be encouraged through the Vertical growth of buildings. By opening new roads the lands which have not been utilized hitherto could

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Table 1

Density of Population by A.G.A. Division—1981

A.G.A. Division	Area	Population	Persons Per Sq.km.
1. Delft	45.35	5,608	123
2. Island South	91.53	38,411	419
3. Island North	52.23	37,583	719
4. Jaffna	12.58	73,253	5,823
5. Nallur	33.66	86,222	2,562
6. Valigamam South-West	48.44	56,657	1,169
7. Valigamam West	43.08	47,620	1,105
8. Valigamam South	28.69	54,762	1,908
9. Valigamam North	54.25	72,448	1,355
10. Valigamam East	104.36	73,143	700
11. Thenmaradchchi	233.55	71,543	306
12. Vadamaradchchi South & West	71.36	54,117	758
13. Vadamaradchchi North & East	217.73	67,294	309

Table I shows the total population and density of the District by A.G.A. Division. Population pressure and scarcity of land are the main reasons for the high land

EXODUS

When life has us in a tight corner, one of the questions we might ask is, "What and what do we need to face, and what can we do about them once the hostile confrontation is over?"

Men with great responsibilities have frequently used this approach to solve giant problems they need to face. So let us also think of one of our thorniest problems.

Migratory drift and re-settlement of the Tamil speaking people is, I think, the thorniest of all our problems.

It is impossible to say exactly when the drift and the displacement began. But roughly speaking, the recent events as from 1983 led to the panic migration of the Tamils to areas considered safe.

REFUGEE PROBLEM

For many centuries, the refugee phenomenon was a corollary of religious and racial intolerance. Entire ethno-religious entities were uprooted in an effort to settle them in safe areas and enforce territorial re-alignment. More than 50,000 Jewish refugees from Yemen were transported to Israel in 1949-50. The partition of the Indian Subcontinent in 1947 resulted in the two-way flight of 18,000,000 Hindus from Pakistan and Muslims from India—the greatest population transfer in history.

Similarly the problem of internal or national refugees is also equally important and the misery of such men, women and children is equally real and urgent. First things first: and this should be considered first. The effort of the administrative bodies should be on the re-settlement and integration of the refugees when there can be no more talk about the return of the refugees to their previous homes.

The refugees should also co-operate. They should be ready and willing. "Do you

Jaffna Dis....

(Continued from page 6)

be put into use. Further older parts of the town can be utilized for putting up residential units on modern lines to accommodate more number of people than at present.

If the above suggestions are implemented the population pressure on the peninsula could be minimised to a greater extent and the mainland also could benefit by the shift of population from the peninsula.

intend to go about all your lives with the word "refugee" inscribed on your foreheads?" Jawaharlal Nehru admonished India's new citizens.

Human beings behave better, feel more purposeful, have better mental health during emergency situations, such as war time, when they have a common purpose. Statistics show that there is less crime and less suicide during financial depressions, when people face a greater challenge.

DRIFT THORNIEST PROBLEM

Yes, it must be true, because, Tamils too, obviously dilapidated people, snuggle into each other, now live an excellently harmonious life. But this cannot be for ever. Refugees re-settling in places with a way of life different from their own have always faced problems of adaptation.

As things are, re-settlement of the refugees and re-location of new settlements cannot begin with a blue-print at hand. People have different reasons for not being ready and willing to venture into new settlements. How long will they take to get ready and be willing? It is different in different cases. A mood-shift cannot be expected too soon. But without waiting for the change-of-mind of the refugees, a "Shadow Planning Commission" should soon be mooted to study and later to guide the re-location of new settlements.

REGIONAL PLANNING

With the administrative changes that are in the offing, the lay-out of the regional scenery is going to change. To be prudent in the use of scarce resources, to avoid duplication of efforts, there must be clarity and unity of the planning objectives. Once there is complete commitment of the political leadership to the objectives, the willingness of the people to change their abodes and mode of life will be there for the mere asking and the people will undertake sacrifices to reach the common goal.

Town and Country Planning means physical planning for efficient and aesthetic use of land, re-habilitation of displaced persons or re-location of new settlements for displaced persons on other sites, establishment of new towns, construction of industrial centres, development of satellite areas and re-organization of transportation systems to meet changed needs.

Subnational regional planning was formerly regarded

as a part of city planning. In recent years, however, the region has emerged as a fundamental planning unit as planners increasingly recognize that regions often have peculiar characteristics and economic problems which need special considerations.

by

Mallika Rajaratnam

Decentralization, even of planning, is the prevailing administrative fashion throughout the world. Even decentralized production is in vogue now. Immobility of labour, desirable for the reason that it can easily be found, is counteracted by the difficulty for the workers of finding inexpensive housing. Therefore labour will have to remain mobile. But this geographical mobility (unlike 'social mobility') is an enemy of any sort of high, stable civilization. The situation has made Dennis Gabor (innovations) to suggest as advisable against social crisis decentralization of production.

In this century the Cinema Radio, and Television have gone a very long way towards demolishing the privilege of any one place, (usually the city), in entertainment. Even international sports events can be enjoyed on the television screens almost as much as by being present without the discomforts which are unavoidable when spectators are crowded. So much so, even entertainment is decentralized.

EKISTICS

Ekistics is the term introduced by the eminent Greek architect C.A. Doxiadis for the "Problems and Science of Human Settlement." When human beings are settled in a new location, problems of many kinds will come on the way. There are many social, economic and political considerations which should be carefully studied when choosing location of settlement of people. The current trend in location for human settlements, with flexible location requirements, is to gravitate towards historic locations.

Proximity to a historic location is obviously desirable if

in expensive. But, one must remember that it is just as important to move people around easily is search of habitable areas as it is to move around historical sites. It is very difficult in the early stages to assess what the total cost of a project to review the viability of setting up a new base and revised scheme of vehicular movements will be. We must innovate from a combination of experience, native shre-

wdness, genius of locality, the principles and systems we learned from projects in other regions and other countries.

The difference in the magnitude of potential human interaction will always have an effect on new settlements.

Man Proposes...

From the time the wily Englishman granted independence to Ceylon—expecting the Sinhalese and Tamils to fight among themselves—there certainly was dissension between the two communities. The result was the frequent riots in 1956, 1958, 1962, 1977, 1983 and ultimately the civil strife which has now ended with Indo-Sri Lankan Accord.

The National Security Minister and the President on several occasions threatened to wipe out the Tamil militants but at every turn their attempts were thwarted.

The last attempt was 'Operation Liberation' of Vadamardchy masterminded by the National Security Minis-

In historic old settlements of small size and low density (little community) people live in "primary groups" and experience "Primary contacts"—that is, human interaction is 'face to face' and encompasses virtually all spheres of activity. In the little community interpersonal relations are intimate and often are based on sentiment and emotion.

In contrast, in the society characterized by constant arrival of large number of migrants, people characteristically live in "Secondary groups" and have "Secondary contacts"—that is, contacts tend to be segmental—in that people interact only at that point where their life paths intersect. It is the contact typified by the relation between physician and patient, lawyer and client, grocer and customer, etc. In this situation human relations seldom are based on sentiment and emotion but rather on utility.

It follows, then, that increased size and density of migrant population, especially if accompanied by heterogeneity, diminishes the power informal of social controls. Informal social controls, effected largely through the play of folk ways and the mores, gives way to increased formal control—the control of law, police, courts, jails, regulations, and orders. The breakdown in informal social controls is in large measure responsible for increased personal disorganization as manifest in juvenile delinquency, crime prostitution, alcoholism, suicide, mental disease and social unrest. Formal controls have by no means proved as efficacious as the informal in regulating human behaviour. The adjustment problems of the newcomers have to be considered in detail when refugees are settled in new areas.

by

R. Ratnarajah

ter and his able Generals to liberate Vadamardchy from the hold of the militants and to consolidate their position and establish civil administration. The National Security Minister succeeded in gaining a foothold by completely destroying Vadamardchy and having under his control a land mass devoid of buildings and people. It was another 'Hiroshima'. When the National Security Minister and his Generals flew over Vadamardchy and saw the sight, they were probably happy and satisfied that they had destroyed the Tamils and their land.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 5)

regime and Rajiv Gandhi to disrupt the struggle of the Tamil people for their liberation from the Sinhala bourgeois oppression they have suffered for several decades now. In conspiracy with Jayewardene, Rajiv Gandhi has transported 3000 Indian troops to force the Tamil militants to end the armed struggle, and to force them to surrender their arms to the Jayewardene regime.

This Jayewardene-Gandhi Accord is without the consent of the Tamils engaged in the Liberation Struggle. For Jayewardene, this accord with Gandhi is helping him to disarm and defeat the Tamil Liberation struggle that has been heroically waged by the Tamil militants with the sacrifice of the lives of thousands of their best fighters, and the killing of thousands of innocent Tamils by the Sinhala armed forces.

For Gandhi, the accord has given India the image of a hegemonic role in the South Asian Region, and has elevated the standing of the Gandhi regime in relation to U.S. imperialism. And, incidentally, Gandhi has got rid of the problem of the 100,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees presently in South India regardless of their future fate in Sri Lanka.

Jayewardene's offer of so-called regional autonomy through a Provincial Council to the Tamils of the North and East is a fraud. Although the Jayewardene-Gandhi accord has been signed, and the militants are being forced to give up their arms, there is not even a draft document of the Provincial Council that will show the devolution of power. Tamils will not get any measure of autonomy for their region that could be called real. The anti Tamil and discriminatory policies of Jayewardene has never changed. Jayewardene and his Cabinet of Ministers, his UNP Parliamentary group and his party remain as anti-Tamil and Sinhala chauvinist as ever before.

The most objectionable and dangerous aspect of the Accord is the provision for the stationing of Indian troops in Sri Lanka. These Indian troops are stationed in the North not for the protection of the Tamils but for the disruption of the Tamil Liberation Struggle and to prop up the hated Jayewardene regime. This means that the Indian troops are in Sri Lanka to protect Jayewardene and his regime, when the workers and toilers throughout the country, sooner or later, launch struggle to overthrow it.

What is more, this Gandhi-Jayewardene alliance to keep

Accord Sows Discord

the Indian armed forces in Sri Lanka as a "Peace-keeping Force" has opened the door for U.S. imperialism to send its armed forces to help militarily the Jayewardene regime, or any other bourgeois regime in the coming anti-capitalist revolutionary struggles.

Recent events have shown that the Sinhala bourgeois and petty-bourgeois opposition forces that have embarked on a struggle against the Government, is virulently anti-Tamil in character. These forces are using the genuine class hatred of the working class and toilers among the Sinhala people, against the oppressive Jayewardene regime to strengthen their Sinhala chauvinist forces.

Sections of the Tamil masses in the Northern and Eastern provinces could well be happy that the Sinhala armed forces have moved out of some of the Army Camps in the North. In any event, such a moving out can only be temporary. On the other hand, the Indian troops are not at all the friends of the Tamils in the North. They are in the North to help Jayewardene and to prop up his Government.

— Revolutionary Marxists

We welcome the prospect of a political solution of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka based on the Accord of 29th July 1987 entered into by the Governments of Sri Lanka and India. We feel strongly that the Accord provides a just framework for a fair and lasting solution though it is in the nature of any compromise that some will continue to have their various reservations.

A variety of causes have combined to push the major ethnic groups inhabiting this country into a situation of conflict. Sri Lankans of all communities have individually and collectively suffered deprivation of their human rights in the course of this conflict.

There is a sad history to agreements between Sri Lankan Governments and the Tamil people. This history cannot and should not be repeated. All concerned must implement in good faith, conscious that the future of a united Sri Lanka lies entirely in its successful implementation. We appeal to all citizens to accept the accord and work towards the creation of a united Sri Lankan society in which all ethnic groups, while possessing their own identities, can find a transcending unity.

The peaceful resolution of the ethnic conflict on the basis of the recent Accord should also enable us to focus more clearly on some other problems of our society which have matured and assumed grave proportions in its shadow, such as the erosion of democratic and civil rights including the right to free and fair parliamentary elections at regular intervals.

We should nevertheless be conscious that a continued inability to be sensitive to and solve problems in our own society could become a weakness fatal to Sri Lanka's existence as a free and independent nation.

Prof. Ediriweera Sarachandra, Prof. Gananath Obeyesekere, Prof. Carlo Fonseka, Prof. Vijiya Kumar, Prof. A. Liyanagamage, Prof. Valentine Daniel, Prof. Osmund Jayaratna, Prof. H.L. Senviratna, Lester James Pieris, H.A.I. Goonetilleke, Radhika Coomaraswamy, Hector Abhayawardhana, Rev. Paul Caspersz, Suriya Wickremasinghe, Sunil Bastian, Bernard Silva, Charles Abeysekera, Laksiri Fernando, Jayaratna Maliyagoda, Reggie Siriwardena, Bertie Gajameragedera, Kumari Jayewardena, Desmond Fernando, Newton Gunasinghe, Rev. Yohan Devananda, S. Sandrasegaram.

The Accord, though unsatisfactory in some aspects, is to be welcomed. It affords a breathing space in which an acceptable solution could be hammered out. This can only be done by discussion between the real opponents—the Government and the people of the North and East. The first requisite therefore is to ascertain the true representatives of the North and East. This can ONLY be done by immediately holding elections for ALL the Parliamentary seats in the North & East.

Neither the TULF nor the three UNP MPs of the East are in any way representative of true CURRENT political opinion in these areas. A new generation has arisen which has sacrificed much and suffered much. This generation MUST be afforded the opportunity to be heard in the Power Centre. Else there will be no lasting peace. Now that the Indian Peace Force is in position in the North and East, free and fair elections can be held without fear of disruption.

The Government must not try to merely buy time by

fobbing off the youth of the North and East with offers of Chief Ministerships whilst Parliamentary representation for these areas continues to remain in the hands of the old, decrepit, Colombo-dominated TULF and the outdated and nominated MPs of the East.

Therefore the first and foremost requisite is elections for ALL the Parliamentary seats in the North and East. Such elections must be held on the old electoral laws. Since 1983 the youth of the North and East have had neither the opportunity nor the inclination to build up political party machinery. They have been fighting for survival. If their aspirations are denied expression at the very outset by insistence on party registration and cut-off points, they may well abjure the Parliamentary process altogether. Allow them to contest even as Independents: this may enable the smaller militant groups to secure representation in specific areas.

Once these elections have been held and the vexed question of union or otherwise of the North and East determined between the Government and the new Members of Parliament for these areas, then the Devolution Proposals should be put forward before all the people for discussion and comment before being voted upon in Parliament. It is a pity that only one weekend newspaper (SATURDAY REVIEW) thought it worthwhile to publish these proposals. As the Devolution Proposals affect all the Provinces, it is imperative that all citizens be afforded the opportunity to study and comment on them. These proposals must therefore be given full and free publicity in all three languages. Intelligent political comment is not a prerogative of Members of Parliament alone.

—Ambalavanar Ratnam

We acclaim unreservedly the objectives of the Agreement which are :- i. the "nurturing, intensifying and strengthening of the traditional friendship of Sri Lanka and India", ii. the resolution of the "ethnic conflict" and the consequent violence and, iii. the ensuring of the "safety, well-being and prosperity of people belonging to all communities in Sri Lanka".

The Agreement aptly recognises that the achievement of objectives (ii) and (iii) involves simultaneously the preservation of "the unity

sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka" and the preservation of "Sri Lanka's character as a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious plural society, in which all citizens can live in equality, safety and harmony, and prosper and fulfil their aspirations". We especially welcome the inclusion of the concept of equality, since it is axiomatic that democratic state may not have favourites among its citizens, whether in groups or as individuals.

We welcome warmly the terms in which a rational realistic assessment of the vexed question of the "Tamil Homelands" has been formulated and the recognition that "each ethnic group has a distinct cultural and linguistic identity which has to be carefully nurtured".

We are convinced that, if Provincial Councils had been established before the Tamil United Liberation Front was organised, or even immediately after the 1977 General Election, on the lines of the aborted Bandaranaike Chelvanayakam Pact, the traumatic experience of the succeeding years could have been averted, and that without need for Indian intervention. We are firmly convinced, however, that in the situation of impasse into which the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Militants had brought themselves, the terms of the Agreement signed on 29th July '87 including the procedures set out for their implementation, with a view to the achievement of the declared objectives, are the best that could be hoped for.

The initial aggregation of the North and East, in particular, has facilitated the conclusions of the Agreement. Without conceding Eelam, it has yet secured to those who had vigorously and continuously sought, the aggregation of the North and East and immediate linkage of these two Provinces while making its continuance at or after the end of a year dependent on democratic option by the East at a Referendum. It will be open equally to supporters and opponents of aggregation to influence the option democratically, while the conduct of the Referendum itself will be impartially monitored, with Indian observers invited to be present.

The according of official status to the Tamil Language removes a major impediment to the restoration of cordial relations between Sinhalese and Tamils, providing the latter with the assurance of recognition of their being fully equal with the Sinhalese citizens of Sri Lanka. The recognition simultaneously

(Continued on page 10)

THE KEY to lasting peace in Sri Lanka lies not only in the Tamil heartland of the north and east: far less in New Delhi. It is to be found in the south of the country, among the bewildered outraged and fearful - Sinhalese majority.

After the first explosion of anger against the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord of July 29, the south has been relatively calm. Attention inside and outside the country has understandably focused on the north, and the dramatic spectacle of thousands of Indian troops overseeing the surrender of arms by the Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

To be sure, there are still questions to be answered about how many guns are actually being handed over, and whether the Tamils and their various private armies will remain on friendly terms with their "liberators." In the longer term, there is no assurance the Tamils will accept limited self-Government in the north and east. But even these matters are of secondary importance. The main issue is even if the peace accord holds, will the Sinhalese people stand for it?

The optimistic view is that the country is recovering from the first shock of the accord. The curfew has been progressively relaxed, without dire results. The known dissidents in the Cabinet, notably Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, are maintaining a decent silence. Most people, it is said, are interested more in peace and prosperity than in pride and politics.

Some are even prepared to say as much, but there are many others who wail about the loss of sovereignty, fulminate against the Indian

Man...

(Continued from page 7)

They little thought that 'Man proposes and God disposes'. Within a few weeks Nelliadi Army Camp was blasted and several army personnel were blown up and the army had no peace as the militants were attacking them from all directions. To wreck vengeance the Security Forces destroyed Educational Institutions, houses and innocent civilians. Then the Indian army stepped in and now the Security Forces are transferred to the South where the politicians who sowed the seeds of hatred against the Tamils are in danger of losing their lives.

The whirl wind has started blowing and the Sinhalese politicians now know what it is to sow the wind of hatred. They will be hunted and destroyed by their own people,

Derek Brown Reports From Colombo

THE POWDER KEG

"invaders," and bitterly condemn the treachery of President Junius Jayewardene. The more ardent critics swear that the armed forces will soon-mutiny, and that the people will rise. They are enraged by the televised pictures of Indian troops swarming over the Jaffna peninsula, and the humiliating sight of two Indian frigates lying just off Colombo. They complain of mass oppression by the Government, and they promise retribution.

Which view has more supporters, is even more difficult than usual to establish. The press is no help. Part state owned, and almost uniformly supine, it is now strictly censored as well. A month ago the papers were full of ranting abuse of India for supporting the Tamil terrorists, there is now a fawning praise of President Jayewardene's statesmanship. There are lengthy extracts from foreign newspaper editorials favouring the accord. There is no dissidence in the letters columns, and little hint of unrest in the news

pages. Cartoonists have achieved the startling feat of becoming even less funny and pertinent than before.

The state television service has dutifully shown all the pictures fit to broadcast: terrorists giving up guns: a lengthy leading article from the New York Times, the President and his national security minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, ticking off the people who damaged Government property.

There is, however, no censorship of the foreign press, and no shortage of popular resentment belying the bland Government line. The walls of Colombo seem all to tell the same tale: Scrawls of squiggly Sinhalese, almost always featuring the Roman initials "JR" which makes even hardened taxi drivers giggle. "That is very bad language, Sir. It says the President will soon be dead, Sir, and some other things about him as well."

Criticism in Sri Lanka is a dicey business these days. The Government itself says that 500 people have been rounded up on suspicion of stirring up anti-accord vio-

lence. Opponents put the figure at least 2,000, and say they are the victims of a systematic campaign of repression. One of the few opposition figures prepared to speak out loud is Dinesh Gunawardena, the sole MP of the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, or Peoples United Front.

It is a Left-leaning nationalist party, affiliated to the Mother-land Protection Front, which, with 29 political and religious component organisations, claims to represent the Buddhist Sinhalese majority.

Mr. Gunawardena is bitterly opposed to the accord, and incensed by President Jayewardene's failure to inform, let alone consult, the people.

"The accord is not going to preserve the territorial integrity of our country, as he claims. It is an attempt to set up a federal state, which will eventually disintegrate... The Tigers have clearly stated that their struggle for Eelam (an independent state) will continue. This accord is a platform for Eelam: a victory for Indian militarism without a war," he said.

Mr. Gunawardena claims that the ruling United National Party, which effectively outnumbered the Parliamentary opposition by 14 to one, is so deeply divided that President Jayewardene cannot count on the two-thirds majority necessary for ratification. (The President, indeed, has openly acknowledged this, in his repeated threat to dissolve parliament if it fails to do his bidding).

"If there is an open, democratic vote, the majority would be against the accord", said Mr. Gunawardena. But there had been so much intimidation and so many inducements, that such a vote was impossible.

Intimidation has been a two way process. One MP was shot dead by enraged Sinhalese two days after the accord was signed. Others had their property attacked and burned, and were threatened that revenge would be taken on their families if they supported the pact. Many MPs have been given special police powers to arrest trouble makers and hire bodyguards, and some are said to be using these powers with some enthusiasm against their opponents.

For opposition members and other critics, the Government line has been a shade more subtle. Mr. Gunawardena said he had been kept under a virtual house arrest for several days, by a local police inspector, one Lucky Dias, who simply stopped him at gunpoint whenever he tried to leave. Constituents trying to reach him—his telephone has been mysteriously out of order for some time—have been arrested.

Still, Mr. Gunawardena is able and willing to speak. Others are not so lucky, like the two leading militant Buddhist priests in Colombo, Madulawa Sobitha and Muthewana Ananda. They were present at the protest meeting by the Bo-tree in Pettah marketplace, the day before the accord was signed, which the police broke up with teargas and gunfire. Ever since the 24 hours of rioting which followed, they have been confined to their temples under heavy guard.

The Government is probably right to feel threatened by the fire-breathing monks, who are identified closely with the narrower sort of Sinhalese-Buddhist fervour. There could be a more alarming challenge from the Janatha Primukthi Peramuna, or People's Liberation Front, which is said even by official spokesmen to be a dangerous insurrectionary force.

Even in the censored newspapers, there are now regular accounts of licensed arms being seized from their owners in the south. The JVP is known to have amassed a fair amount of firepower in raids on military arms stores, with the help of cadres who have infiltrated the army and, it is feared, the police.

The slogans of the JVP are everywhere mingled with the scatalogical attacks by graffiti on the President. The movement is said to be strongly represented among the 16,000 students who have been at a loose end since their universities were closed after anti-Government violence in May.

Sitting atop this powder-keg, the President displays breath-taking sangfroid, or some would say arrogance. When he was asked why Sinhalese people were rioting 12 days ago, he had a ready answer: "ignorance." He has since explained that the frigates he can see from the Presidential residence are there to rescue him if necessary.

It may have been an example of the President's notoriously pawky sense of humour. An awful lot of people here, though, would love to see the back of the frigates, and of their President

A. K. Coomaraswamy's

(Continued from page 4)

1908 he published *Medieval Sinhalese Art*

The years between 1911-1916 were years of great labour and fruitful results, when his time was spent in India, England and Indonesia. In India, he traversed a lot of land, visiting old palaces, temples and traditional art centres. His intimate friend was Rabindranath Tagore. In fact he built up his own art collections. These years led him to write the monumental book *Indian and Indonesian Art* and also a fine work on Indian Music and Dance—*The Mirror of Gesture*. The Erotic Art he found in the Temples were to him the very Soul and Culture of India. Art is beauty of the soul expressed in music, poetry, sculpture, painting, drawing and the like. The animated soul finds expression in various works of art—The Atma is caught within the Rupa). Here was a genius, as art historian a cardinal figure, who was interpreting the cultural confrontation between the East and West.

In the same year 1917, he went with his second wife, Ratna Devi to Boston when he was unsuccessful in his attempt for the Professorship of Indian art and Culture at the Benares Hindu University. At Boston, he acquired the valuable friendship of Denham Waldo Ross who bought up his art collections and gifted them to the Boston Museum Fine Arts. Later Coomarasamy became the Curator of this Section of Asian Art. He held office till his death on 9th September 1947 in his Boston Home. His wife Dona Luisa Rubenstein, his daughter and son Dr. Rama Coomaraswamy carried out his last wishes of scattering his ashes in the rivers of India and Sri Lanka.

His writings about 1,000 items in all range over the visual arts, literature, religion metaphysics and sociology,

S. Durai Raja Singam of Malaysia has shared his extensive knowledge of Coomaraswamy's writings.

The Geological Society of Sri Lanka too commemorated the memory of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy by inaugurating an annual Ananda Coomaraswamy Memorial on 22nd August, 1987.

Editor
SATURDAY REVIEW

It appears that you have shown great concern over the Jaffna Municipality Office Complex being shifted to the new building coming up in Nallur. You also seem to have been unduly "disturbed" over King Sankilian's palace and other buildings that have been turned into garages and "whatnots".

It is true that many Municipal dwellers fled their homes during the war torn days seeking temporary shelter elsewhere. It is also equally true that these ratepayers, though living many miles away from the town, took it in their stride to attend to their business at the makeshift Municipal office, not the old one 'housed' in the Town Hall. Now that they have all returned to their abodes, they continue to attend to their business at the Municipal Office without much ado.

If the Municipal Office were housed in the Town Hall, it goes without saying that it would be more, "easily accessible" to those living in close proximity than to those residing farther away on the outer fringes of the Municipal boundary. The opposite would hold true if the Municipal Office were shifted to a spot on the outer fringes of the Municipal boundary.

Accord...

(Continued from page 8)

of English as an official language establishes a link language, and will assist the educational advancement of all Sri Lankans and facilitate development of an international awareness and promote effective participation at the national level in matters of global interest. These are steps necessary in achieving a pluralist society and forging a truly Sri Lankan identity.

The Agreement provides for the surrender of arms by the Tamil Militants and simultaneously for the withdrawal of Sri Lankan troops to their original bases. The achievement of this objective has been made possible by the guarantee of the security of the people of the North and East by the presence of Indian troops. We regret a situation had developed in which it had become necessary for foreign troops to be stationed on our soil. We urge that people of Sri Lanka and the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure the well-being and security of the effected areas in the North and East so that the presence of foreign troops becomes no longer necessary.

JAFFNA MUNICIPALITY

So "freely accessible" is a relative pithy expression and it should be judged by the ratepayer's proximity to the Municipal Office.

You also seem to have shown an uncanny interest in the preservation of historic landmarks. In this context, you seem to have requested the Municipal Commissioner to strictly observe the Antiquities Ordinance. Let the Antiquities Ordinance look after itself, Mr. Editor, and may, the Municipal Commissioner be permitted to go ahead with the scheme to shift the Jaffna Municipality Complex to Nallur. The ratepayers would not I am sure, grudge such a move.

Victor S. Kiruparaj

Note by Editor: What makes you think, Mr. Kiruparaj, that you can speak for all the ratepayers? Whose mouthpiece are you anyway?

Release Them

Editor
SATURDAY REVIEW

Herewith I am sending a copy of a letter appealing to the Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka to mediate in obtaining the release of two persons taken

The resolution of the ethnic conflict in this manner brings home to us the fact that our country is part of a larger geo-political region and civilization with all its implications.

In these circumstances we earnestly appeal to all parties and individuals to support the Agreement, and urge Parliament to proceed speedily to enactment of the Bill to establish Provincial Councils with appropriate devolution of powers and provision for the aggregation and disaggregation of Provinces as envisaged, enabling the holding of elections, to Provincial Councils by the end of December 1987. These elections, we urge, should be held at the same time for all Provinces, and not for the North the East alone. The success of these new political structures will depend on the fair allocation of national resources to all Provinces.

We strongly urge, that there should be a speedy return to normalcy with the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and all other 'emergency' type legislation and abandonment of administrative procedures savouring of 'Emergency', with release of persons held in custody under them, who may be charged under the Penal Code and

by the LTTE in February 1987 in Morawewa, Thiriyaya, in Trincomalee District. We thank you for publishing the appeal for the release of the same persons in an ear-

LETTERS

ier issue of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Sonath Fernando
Moderator Devasarana
and Ka / Peace Committee

Your Excellency

This is to request your kind mediation in obtaining the release of two persons from Kurunegala district who were taken in by the militants on 27th February 1987.

Mr. S. A. Anura Siriwardene and Mr. L. G. Mahindadasa Silva of Bamunagedara, Kurunegala, were among the four persons so arrested, while they were travelling in a lorry with two others engaged in transporting coconuts for sale.

These two persons were the driver and the helper of the lorry and the lorry had been hired by two others for the above purpose.

During the last few months various attempts were

according to the Code of Criminal Procedure, for any offence they may be considered to have committed.

We note that the objective of "nurturing, intensifying and strengthening the traditional friendship of Sri Lanka and India" is, in the Agreement and in its Annexure, sought to be achieved through reciprocal provisions relating to the security of the two countries. In the context of Indo-Sri Lankan regional and global realities we fully support these provisions.

For peace to be truly established an immense task of education, reconciliation and healing remains to be accomplished. That task demands the most intensive, continuous, conscientious efforts of Religious Organisations, Government and Local Government Authorities and non-Government Organisations. We urge that they should all accord the highest priority to this task and concert their efforts to its accomplishment.

—Commission For Justice And Peace, National Christian Council.

More views on the Accord will appear in the next issue.

— Editor Koddady

made to search for them and get them released. Among those who worked for their release were the Citizens Committee for National Harmony in Trincomalee, Ven. Siyambalagaswewa Wimalasara Thero, the President of the Wannipeace Foundation, Vavuniya and others. Although these attempts did not succeed, the relatives believe that these two persons are still alive and are held by the militant group.

On the information obtained so far, they have been taken by the LTTE in Trincomalee.

The Kurunegala Peace Committee, to which we are attached, has been working for a number of years to create public opinion for a peace-

ful settlement through negotiations and are very happy that the war has ended. We are grateful to you and your Government for the role that you played in bringing about a settlement, which was extremely valuable.

We would be most grateful to you if you would use your good offices in obtaining their release through the links that have been established between your Peace Keeping Force and the militants.

The release of these persons would be a valuable step towards the re-establishment of mutual understanding and good will between the militant groups, the Tamil people and the Sinhala people, particularly those in our area.

Dr. Ariyawansa Ranasinghe
(Secretary, Kurunegala Peace Comm.)

PARENTS' PROTESTS

A demonstration of about 10,000 people comprising parents of the detainees who

are at Boosa and other camps, was organised in Batticaloa district. They were requesting the release of those detained at the camps, in accordance with the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord.

APPRECIATION

Mr. Jacob Peiris

The death occurred of Mr. Jacob Peiris on 25th August. The icy cold hands of death snatched away a simple, hard-working man from our midst. He had been a bookshop owner in town for over twenty years. His love for work was great and he always worked with undoubted enthusiasm. He had great concern for others. His courteous manners had been very impressive, which drew men and women to his door.

I saw men and women weeping at his funeral. This was ample testimony to the affection they had for him though he earned a living on books and newspapers.

He yearned to introduce the reading habit to the people of the Town. He always reminded me of the shepherd in Wordsworth's poem "Michael. He himself was an avid reader and used to discuss matters with others, whenever he found himself free. The convenience of others had been his prime concern and he worked unceasingly till death claimed his life.

His death has created a void in all of us who knew him well and loved him dearly. Memories of him will always linger in our hearts. He leaves behind his wife and three children.

R. Velupillai

A direct telephone link between India and Sri Lanka was inaugurated by the Indian Prime Minister making the first call to President Jayewardene from New Delhi on 24th August. The ethnic issue and its attendant problems had put a stop to the earlier link. Mr. Gandhi in his conversation stated this was one more step towards creating better understanding between the two countries.

The steamer service between Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu and Mannar will commence from January next year. A boat capable of carrying nearly 100 passengers will be pressed into service and will make the trip between the two ports within 4 hours.

There has been disappointment over the one lakh kilos of sugar donated by the Indian Government for people affected by military activity. These arrangements had been for distribution through the various outlets of the multi-purpose co-operatives. Many of the people were crest-fallen when they were told that no sugar was available in stock.

FOR THE RECORD

16.8.87 :- "Problems in our region can be solved in friendship and co-operation without the involvement of Super-Powers" stated Rajiv Gandhi in an interview with the B.B.C., "and the Accord between Sri Lanka and India is a case in point." He added that the agreement is being presently worked out in a satisfactory manner.

Two hundred and eight Tamil Youths were released in Batticaloa. They had been detained in the Army Camps at Urany, Kiran, Kalavanchikudi and Akkaraippattu.

17.8.87:- A Seminar held at the Kailasapathy Auditorium of the Jaffna University roundly condemned the India - Sri Lankan Accord. Prof. K. Sivathamby declared that the agreement had made a dent in the unity that had hitherto existed among the Tamil-speaking which does not augur well for their future. The Tamil Nadu Government will not compel the Tamil refugees in South India to leave according to Finance Minister, Mr. Nedunchehian. The State will, however, assist the refugees in every way, if they so desired.

21.8.87.- Mudiyanse Tennekoon, who was released from custody by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), has in a letter addressed to Premier Rajiv Gandhi indicated that steps should be taken to rehabilitate the youth so that they could take their place in the national main stream. It is imperative that employment and housing should loom large in this rehabilitation agenda.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have in a Press release stated that as from 20.8.87 there would be no levy on goods and commodities in the Jaffna peninsula. As a result of this decision, prices of cigarettes liquor and other commodities in daily use have come down. Prices charged on commodities are in accordance with the prices charged by the Co-operatives in the Peninsula.

Railway sources stated that as from 21.8.87 the Yarldevi will proceed up to Kodikamam. The schedule indicates that the Yarldevi will leave Colombo Fort at 5.45 a.m. and arrive at Kodikamam at 1.10 p.m. At the same time a train will leave Kodikamam at 9.35 a.m. and arrive at Colombo Fort at 6.35 p.m. It is expected that the Yarldevi will run

up to Jaffna within a fortnight.

The Palaly Airport is being prepared to permit the landing of heavy aircraft by the Indian Peace Keeping Forces. As a result it is likely that some schools in the neighbourhood may not be able to function.

Finance Minister, Ronnie de Mel in an interview to the BBC stated that Tuesday's bomb blast in Parliament was an 'Inside Job'. As for the Indo - Sri Lanka Accord, he stated that as far as he was aware the Peace Accord was popular with the people of the country. He added that Tuesday's incident (18.8.87) had only strengthened his resolve to work for peace.

22.8.87:- According to a plan found with the Sri Lankan Army at Harbour View Hotel at Kaukasanthurai, 10,480 land mine have been buried by them in and around the camp at the hotel. Steps are being taken both by the Sri Lankan Army and the Indian Peace keeping force to have them diffused.

Hundreds of persons took part in a protest march at Mullaitivu August against the settling of Sinhalese residents at Kokilai and Nayaru fishing centres with the protection of the Sri Lankan Army.

Those Tamil refugees who had been driven out of their home in Kokilai, Kokuthediewai, Kennamaravadi, Karunatkerney and Nayaru joined the procession, which reached the camp of the Indian peace-keeping force and handed over a petition setting out their grievances to its Commander.

Six hundred commercial establishments have been extensively damaged by the shelling and bombing in the Jaffna town, according to the Shopkeepers' Association. The damage has been estimated at Rs. 40 million. Rs. 7,000 was given as compensation by Major General H. Singh to the wife of Ramalingam, a driver in the C.T.B., who was killed in an accident involving an Indian Army jeep.

24.8.87:- The incidents at Kokaddicholai in Batticaloa that took place early this year which resulted in the destruction of the prawn factory by soldiers of the Special Task Force and the killing of some of its employees, has led to the parent organisation claiming damages to the

extent of dollars 40 lakhs from the Sri Lankan Government.

Mr. J. N. Dixit, High Commissioner from India in Sri Lanka has stated in a release that there need not be a time factor for the surrender of arms by the militants. He added that the militants were in the process of voluntarily giving up their arms and equipment as required by the Accord. There was no need for the Indian Peace Corps to go in search for them.

A press release by the Department of Examinations stated that an analysis of Advanced Level results taken for the past 10 years indicated that, on average Hartley College, Point Pedro, in the Jaffna District, and Visakha Vidyalaya, in Colombo, came first.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful militant group, have indicated that they would surrender their arms but would adopt a Gandhian philosophy to win their demands. In the meantime, the Deputy Leader of the LTTE, Mahendrarajah, popularly known as 'Mahattaya' has stated that Sinhalese would be always welcome in the North and East but they were opposed to state-sponsored colonisation.

At Trincomalee, Pulendran popularly known as 'Amman' said that the LTTE cadres would take part in the political process after watching the performance of the interim administration the Government planned to set up in the North and East.

26-8-87: Rajan chief spokesman for the National Democratic Liberation Front of Tamil Eelam an umbrella organisation which consists of militants of groups other than the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—in an interview to the Tamil daily stated that in keeping with the assurance given to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi they would surrender their arms at Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Batticaloa and Trincomalee within a few days. He added that the Indian Peace Keeping Forces was now there to maintain peace and safeguard the independence of the Tamil-speaking people but it would be the unity among the militant groups in the future that would finally send back the Indian troops.

The ban on fishing in the high seas imposed on the fishermen in the North by

the Sri Lankan Government during the ethnic disturbances, has been lifted. They have since been permitted to use high-powered boats for their purposes which too was not allowed to them during the ban. It will be recalled that for a considerable period of time, the fishermen and their families underwent considerable financial loss and immense hardship due to the operation of the ban.

Citizens' Committees in Kokulai, Kokuthuduvei, Kavettukerni, Othiamalai, Patikuruppu and Periyakulam in Mullaitivu District have complained that though people who had left their homes due to the harassment of Sri Lankan Security Forces, wished to return to their homes their return was being frustrated by the Forces who have still not been replaced by the Indian Peace Keeping Force. Further Sinhalese fishermen who are now being settled in these places, are provided with arms.

Arrangements are being made by the Government to send back the Sinhalese people who were stationed in the North and East either in employment or in business but left in the early seventies due to ethnic troubles. Sinhalese schools are to be re-established and Buddhist vihares to be repaired or re-constituted.

The former Chief incumbent of the Tissa Vihare at Kankesanthurai has arrived to re-open the Vihare for religious ceremonies. The Vihare was closed by the Army authorities and a mini-camp was established. Rev. Thelgoda Padumsiri Thero also visited the Maviddapuram Temple to see for himself the acts of vandalism perpetrated by Security personnel. The Venerable Thero remarked that the people in the South were totally unaware of the atrocities of the forces.

Five more storeys will be added to the Jaffna General Hospital. This construction work which was held up due to the troubles, is expected to be completed by December.

27-7-87:- The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in a release have accused the Indian Peace Keeping Forces of partiality. The release says that in a confrontation between the militants of the TELO group and the LTTE at Mannar at a spot between Elupakadavai and Velankulam, the LTTE who, were with the Indian Forces

were fired upon, The Indian forces who arrested the TELO group released them with their arms after investigations

Mr. Vamadeva, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Transport expressed the hope that the Train service now running up to Kodikamam will be extended to Jaffna by the 1st of September. He stated that 65,000 sleepers were necessary to put the rail tracks at operation level in the North and East. He added that the 14 mile stretch of rail track between Kodikamam and Jaffna required about 9,000 sleepers. Once the track has been repaired 4 trains will run daily between Jaffna and Colombo.

About 200 detainees who were released from Boosa, staged a fast at Trincomalee requesting the release of the remaining detainees at Boosa. On the intervention of the Indian Peace Force and on an assurance given by them, the fast was abandoned.

A Police station was temporarily set up on 25th August at the Jaffna Hospital. Inspector S. Sellathurai will be the officer-in charge. Entries can be made there in respect of accidents, murder, burglary and the like. In the mean time reports say that the cadre of Tamil policemen is not sufficient to carry out traffic operations. It is also mentioned that this traffic cadre will be supplemented by Indian policemen who will perform traffic duties. The temporary set up of the Police Station will continue until the repairs to the former Police Station are completed.

Three Sinhalese were arrested and remanded in connection with the killing of Arumugam who is stated to have been shot dead while hoisting the 'Tiger' flag in Trincomalee district on 23rd August. A confrontation between Sinhala and Tamil groups which indulged in stone-throwing was averted by the intervention of the Indian Peace Keeping Force who brought the situation under control by firing shots in the air. 3 persons were reportedly injured and a house belonging to a Tamil at Madathady Junction was set on fire.

There was tension in the Trincomalee district and the Commander of the Indian Peace Keeping Force to reported to have gone is Trincomalee on the 26th to take suitable action and ensure Peace. He had visited the injured at Hospital and met the Government Agent, Mr. Rupasinghe and the Citizens' Committee and assured them that calm would be restored. Associated with him in the discussions was Major General H. Singh.

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

Where Have The Boats Gone?

At least 15 boats from Gurunagar fishing off Mannar have disappeared since October 1986.

These boats and their crews were 'captured' by the Sri Lankan Navy and handed over to the Armed Forces at Mannar.

The crews were released from the Mannar Thallady Camp. Rs. 50/- was reportedly paid for the release of each detenu.

But the boat owners are still waiting for their boats: they seem to have gone 'missing'.

Among the missing boats are 32 ft. boats fitted with Lister engines. The combined value of each boat and engine is about Rs. 1 lakh. The nylon nets cost about half a lakh.

One boat owner told the SATURDAY REVIEW he had paid ready cash for his boat and engine: no bank rolling for him.

The second type of missing boat is a plastic one fitted with an outboard motor. It valued round about Rs. 62,000/-, together with the nets.

The vallams which are missing are each worth, together with the nets, about Rs. 25000/-.

Convocation

The University of Jaffna will hold its annual Convocation today (Saturday, 29th August).

LADY RAMANATHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Prof P.. Chandrasegaram, Head, Dept, of Education, University of Jaffna will deliver the Lady Lilavati Ramanathan Memorial Lecture (1987) on Monday 31st August) at 3 p.m. in the Kailasapathy Auditorium.

SIR P. RAMANATHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Prof. S. Pathmanathan of the Dept. of History, University of Jaffna, will deliver the Sir Ponnampalam Ramanathan Memorial Lecture (1987) tomorrow (Sunday, 30th August) at 3p.m. in the Kailasapathy Auditorium.

Statistics Tell Part Of The Bloody Tale

Nearly one lakh families in the Jaffna District took heavy body blows as the Armed Forces went on the rampage during the four year period 1983-1987.

The number of registered deaths is 2548.

1759 persons are 'missing' 2873 disabled and 11,750 injured.

The total loss of property is estimated at Rs.7 billion.

The Govt. Agent, Jaffna, has drawn up plans for rehabilitation and compensation.

Applications for compensation will have to be made on special official forms.

The deadline is 2nd September.

Here's the breakdown.

For the period 1.1.83-10.8.87

1. Total number of affected families ..	88,000
2. Number of families whose movable property was damaged ..	60,241
3. The number seeking economic rehabilitation ..	40,034
4. Total value of loss ..	7,382,373,245

The figure is made up as follows:

i. Residential Property

a. Immovable ..	1,878,695,388
b. Movable ..	2,001,522,335
ii. Commercial Property	
a. Immovable ..	1,447,325,624
b. Movable ..	1,568,006,621
iii. Livestock ..	135,295,407
iv. Vehicles ..	139,591,940
v. Fishing ..	211,935,930
5. Number of registered deaths	2548
6. Number of missing persons	1759
7. Number of disabled persons	2873
8. Number of injured persons	11750
9. Number of houses completely damaged ..	24,737
10. Number of houses partly damaged ..	27,876
11. Number of commercial property completely damaged	8,085
12. Number of commercial property partly damaged ..	2,908
13. Number of Temples and Churches damaged ..	398
14. Estimated cost of reconstruction of Temples and Churches	97,991,354
15. Number of vehicles destroyed or damaged	1,301
16. Number of Motor cycles & scooters dest. ..	1,361
17 Losses sustained by 57 departments and Corporations	1,372,794,284
18. Losses incurred by 34 Co-operatives	96,153,462

Religious dignitaries, leading intellectuals and prominent citizens have appealed for unity to achieve Justice and Peace.

The signatories represent a cross-section of people in the South of Sri Lanka, from where the document emerged.

The statement was signed before the Peace Accord of 29th July 1987.

Excerpts :

Let us all face realistically the situation we are in. There is a tragic conflict in our country. The spirit of hatred and cruelty is increasing. People are dying. Property is being destroyed. Morals are disintegrating. There may be temporary gains from time to time on either side. But there is no end of the conflict in sight. The situation is aggravated by international complications. There is a prospect of unending conflict and unending misery. Many

people are desperate and say that nothing can be done to stop it.

In such a difficult and complex situation, we need to come together and pool our resources — the best in our religious, cultural, social and political resources, which are so rich and varied — and find a way of stopping the slaughter.

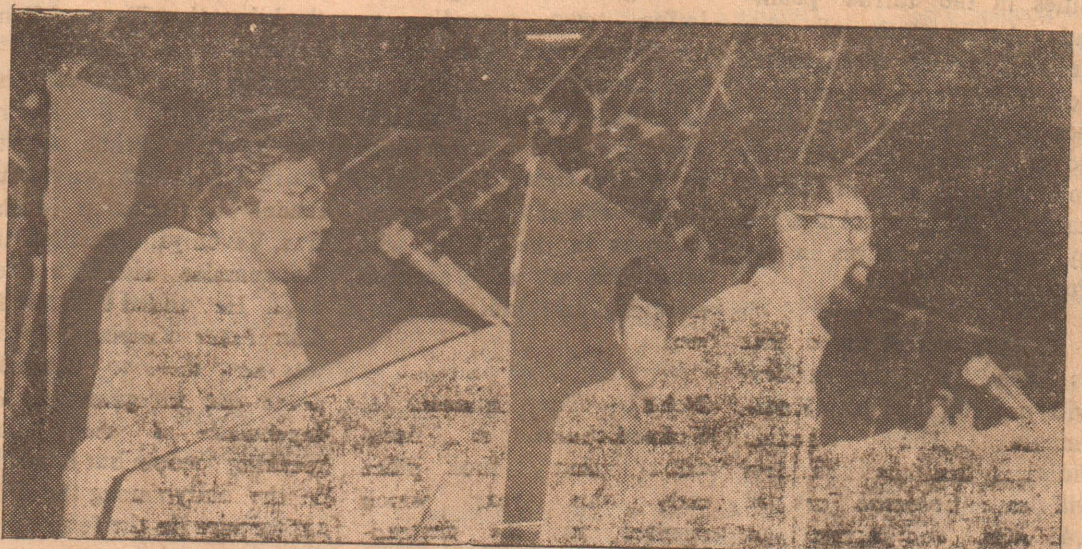
Let us be determined that none — whether as individuals or parties — should seek political or any other gain — over as against others — in resolving this conflict. Let the victory belong to the people as a whole especially those on both sides who have suffered and made sacrifices.

Let us come together to save Sri Lanka and her peoples from ruin. Let us get together to work out a

settlement. Let us all be prepared to acknowledge the rights of one another, even at cost to ourselves, for the common good.

We appeal to all those in authority as well as to all in Sri Lanka.

the peoples of this country to make a supreme effort, in this grave hour of crisis, to come together with unflinching determination and hope to bring peace and thus enable creative progress



Thelepan and Kasianandan of (LTTE) delivering a speech at a memorial meeting of late Sivakumaran held at Urumpirai.