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Statement from the Council for National Unity and Welfare

By S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM

(Hony. Secretary Council for National Unity and Welfare)

Sri Lanka today occupies an honoured place in the comity of Nations. It has regained its National Independence after a considerable lapse of time and has set itself on the path of progress towards Democratic Socialism through constitutional methods. One of the chief instruments for this happy state of affairs has been the Press of our country. If there have been imperfections, it is in the nature of things. No institution and no people are free from imperfections; and imperfections are cured or rectified by a friendly approach, constructive criticism, mutual accommodation and dialogues based on harmony and good will.

The situation in Sri Lanka requires harmonious and urgent collaboration by all concerned, Parliament, Government, the Press, the Administration and all sections of the people. Newspapers and other media of communication are an essential feature of the modern world. A free and independent Press is part of the democratic process. It is an agency through which the people communicate their views and aspirations to Parliament and Government, and vice versa.

In such a position, the Press has a grave responsibility. It can fulfil its obligations adequately only by retaining a high sense of its mission.

Parliament, Government and the Press all exist to serve the nation. While there will always be occasions when this or that newspaper feels itself in duty bound to criticise the Government in power, the best results are obtained if the Press exercises its right restraint. In most developing countries; the task of any government is difficult enough. In a country like Sri Lanka, composed of different

racess and creeds, the task is rendered still more difficult. One of the fundamental requisites of Democracy is the recognition of the people's duty and right to propagate differing and contrary views. But, it is of the utmost importance that on the one hand the Press should act responsibly when criticising and that Government should be tolerant of adverse opinions. Such an understanding is indispensable for democratic progress. There are newspapers, as there are political parties, to reflect and represent various shades of opinion; and newspapers must not be condemned for differences of opinion or policy provided they conduct themselves in a restrained way without prejudice to the safety and security of the state. The country does not belong exclusively to any single section of the public, but to all citizens. It is the function of the Press to help to achieve this basic national unity. Whatever our politics, there is no nobler task than building a united nation. Ceylon is blessed with many resources which should make this possible.

It is good for our people to learn from the experience of other countries, adapting what is beneficial and rejecting what is not; and there is much that we can create for ourselves. For our purpose, for instance, the ideals of Non-violence or Ahimsa in Thought, Speech, and Writing is something we must strive earnestly for.

The Council for National Unity and Welfare earnestly urges the leaders of all political parties, Members of Parliament, all citizens and the Press to observe the utmost restraint in all matters, on all occasions, to try to put into practice the virtues of Loving, Kindness and

REVIEWED NEWS

And Again The Angering Floods

Hardly has the wound inflicted a few weeks by the terrific disaster in the Highlands been partially healed, than a more distressing calamity has been inflicted in that area.

Earthships did the damage first and now the roaring floods have again caused further damage. Transport services that resumed running only a few days ago have again been suspended.

The irony of fate is that arid parts of the Island continue to bear a severe drought while the wet zone has gone wild with floods. Thus the damage to crops and cattle and therefore to the people is spread all over the Island.

Compassion enjoined by all religions, to avoid giving, saying or doing things that might create or accentuate divisions, to so act as to strengthen the country's National Unity. That unity derives its sustenance for good-will, harmony and co-operative effort, and these alone will preserve Sri Lanka.

We respectfully appeal to Parliament, Government and the Press to endeavour, each in its sphere, to create a friendly atmosphere at all times so as to enable all to give their best in the services of the country in these days of stress. We feel that there is still room for the creation of such an atmosphere. If the Middle Path so characteristic of the culture and civilization of our country and of its age-long genius is to be preserved and strengthened, the pursuit of a policy of collaboration and accommodation based on the principle of one for all and all for one is urgently required, and is indeed indispensable for the country's welfare and happiness.

It remains to be stated that what has been said of (Over to page 6)

GURU KULAM TO BE RE-ORGANIZED

Classes To Be Conducted In Yarl Nagar

At the Annual Meeting of the Bhramins Sangam which was held at the Nallai Thirugana Sambanthar Aatheenam Maha Sannithanam Sri La Sri Swaminatha Thesika Paramacharya Swamigal in his benedictory address expressed the hope that positive and constructive work in the matter of preserving the Guru Kulam would be taken and that heed should not be paid to whispering tongues who often poisoned truth.

Bhrathisada Pooshanam Siva Sri Kailayanatha Kurukkal in his presidential address observed that it was a happy augury for religion and religious practice that Bhramin Youth should be taking due interest in the efforts to set up a central organization for such spiritual service and added that

adverse or unfavourable comments or criticism should be ignored and a genuine effort should be made to do spade work in re-establishing the Guru Kulam and helping the Saiva Public have the benefits of a well trained clergy.

Senthamil Selvi Thangammah Appakutty called for greater efforts on the part of the Bhramins to be able to impress on the public the dignity of the clergy by strict adherence to and full observation of all the commandments of the Vedas and Siva Agamas. Selvi Thangammah speaking further congratulated the Bhramin Youth on their energetic efforts to create enthusiasm among the priests and the people in the service of Saiva Practice.

THE SACRED SPORTS OF SIVA

V. SUBRAMANIAM
Saiva-Pulavaa

Continued from last issue

While the description was being given, the horses raised a dust which ascended through the atmosphere to Swarkalegam. The chief proceeded to name the different countries whence the different kinds of animals came and the import and advantages of different colours among them; winding up the whole detail as it had been begun, by stating, that these were purchased with the king's money, through the agency of his excellent Minister Vathavuran.

The chief then delivered one horse into the king's own hand; and had all the rest given up, excepting only the one on which He himself was seated, being Nandi in disguise; he then paid his

respect to the king and disappeared with all his subordinates. The king commanded his minister to be released and honoured. The Lord returned to the Madura Temple and related this diversion to the Goddess who was much astonished.

ஏனை மந்திரமும் தத்தம்
இப்புக புரவி பார்த்த
மா நகரமும் தத்தம்
மனைபுக பரியின் பாகர்
ஆனவர் தாரும், கோயிலடைந்து
தம்வினையாட்டுவனாக
யின்னெனும் கண்ணினுட்டு
விளம்பினர் இருந்தார் அன்றே.

The Minister on being released came to his dwelling. When attendants were gone, he retired to a private place, and addressing God said,

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THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

அங்கமும் ஆகம வேதமது ஒதினும்
எங்கள் பிரான் எழுத்து ஒன்றில் இருப்பது
சங்கை செட்டு அவ்வெழுத்து ஒன்றையும் சாதித்தால்
அங்கரை சேர்ந்த அருங்கல மாமே.

You may recite the Vedas, Agamas and other scriptures. But our Lord resides in one incomparable letter (the first letter of the Sri Panchaksharam). If you practise (constantly contemplate on) that one letter without faltering, then you will certainly reach your goal like the well-directed ship that duly reaches its cherished haven.



திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

நமச்சிவாயவே ஞானமும் கவியும்
நமச்சிவாயவே நானறி விச்சையும்
நமச்சிவாயவே நாதவிந் நேத்துமே
நமச்சிவாயவே நன்னெறி காட்டுமே.

திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1974

TRYING SITUATION

The reports of frequent earth-slips in the up country and the continuing drought in the dry areas call for immediate attention of the Authorities and the people in the matter of taking adequate precaution to prevent more distress. Abnormal conditions of altered nature are existing in almost every country. Pakistan for instance is experiencing the worst effects of recurring floods. The devastation that follows makes the economic conditions deteriorate more and more.

The world is in great distress owing to several causes. Humanity is face to face with a humiliating challenge. Consequently all beings are in danger of decline. The situation is most trying.

Manliness requires that the challenge must be met on all fronts. The power of understanding and ability to gather knowledge place man on the advantageous position of invoking the aid of the Almighty by the one and only method known to him, namely, prayer.

Penance goes with prayer. In other words man has to be austere to the very infinitesimal precision for the purpose of acquiring spiritual courage to survive tribulations and trials. Natural resources have to be conserved, preserved and conditioned in order that the maximum benefit might be made available for staving off starvation. A total war against waste has to be waged in all directions.

The World Economic outlook has been carefully surveyed by the International Monetary Fund and the observation has been made that the prospect for the present is very adverse. Every effort must be made in every direction to reduce expenditure to the barest minimum.

Organizers of public functions do not seem to understand the exact implication of such entertainments in the context of the economy of the country as a whole. Printing of notices in large quantities and luxurious form, is one particular item which can be so arranged as to effect considerable savings. Decorations can be easily dispensed with. It is a pity that plantain trees in their first stage of growth and young coconuts are used lavishly at a time when these articles of food are needed most for consumption. Let us all try to be economical in this trying situation.

LASTING VALUE OF LIBRARIES

BY ARUL TYAGARAJAH

(Vice-President, Colombo Vivekananda Society)

All lovers of books, particularly books on Saivism and Saiva Siddhanta will be immensely pleased to read the edifying editorial on the 'Lasting Value of Libraries' appearing in the 'Hindu Organ' of August 9th 1974. Mudaliyar C. Muttutamy has taken lot of pains to collect such valuable books during his life time and has read and preserved them. Not only the Saiva Paripalana Sabha, but also the Saivaites in this country should be grateful to Mudaliyar for taking a wise decision to part with his precious possession during his life time and donate it to the Premier Saiva Institution. His noble act is worthy of emulation.

This writer has had the privilege of knowing the Mudaliyar for over 35 years while he was working at Colombo. Mudaliyar was very closely associated with the religious activities of the Vivekananda Society and was regularly attending the religious and literary classes organised by the Society. He always used to carry some valuable books in his hands along with him, and was a source of inspiration to younger people like us then.

The Mudaliyar has deep veneration and love for the great Sri-La-Sri Arumuga Navalar, scholar, reformer, savant and saint, on whose ideals the Saiva Paripalana Sabha has been built up. When I was functioning as head of the Talks and Religious section of the Tamil Service of Ceylon Broadcasting Corporation, I used to see that special programmes were arranged to commemorate annually the Gurupannai of Navalar Peruman. On one occasion I had the pleasure of inviting Mudaliyar Muttutamy to give a talk on

Navalar. Mudaliyar's talk revealed his deep study and research he has done on Navalar Peruman.

Mudaliyar has contributed in no small measure to build up the public Library of Jaffna while he was a Municipal Council Member and thereafter. Late Mr. S. R. Ranganathan Professor of Library Science of the University of Delhi used to say that "Books should always be put to right use" I had some occasion to discuss with him on this matter when he came to Radio Ceylon in 1954 to record some talks and an interview on behalf of the Jaffna Public Library Movement.

It is hoped that the Saiva Paripalana Sabha would properly index these books and put them to right use. This is one of the ways of honouring Mudaliyar Muttutamy for his noble gesture.

Statement from...

(From page 5)

the Press applies with equal weight to all public utterances, speeches, on the radio and in publications of all kinds.

Resolutions

1. The Council for National Unity and welfare greatly appreciates the action of the Government and the President of the Republic of Sri Lanka in relieving Mr. Fred de Silva, a Journalist, his sentence.

2. Friendly understanding between Parliament, Government and the Press in any country is a very desirable goal. Having this ideal in mind, the Council for National Unity and Welfare ventures to ap

India's Example

For the second time Bharat has elected a leader of the Muslim minority community to be its fifth President and that by an overwhelming majority Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, the New President has received the warmest congratulations from all over the world.

The Sacred...

(From page 5)

"It is true that horses have been brought to the satisfaction of the Pandian; but that I may have no more trouble of this sort, change my mortal form." The day now departed and the moon and stars appeared, when God by an exertion of His power again changed the horses which were tied in rows, into their own form of jackals. These now said, one to another, "we who delight in the sound of funeral instruments, and wailings of mourners, have been all day made to bear burdens and have been flogged with whips; we find not here crabs nor shell-fish, on which we are wont to feast, but gram and grass which we desire not; it is better to break our cords, and retire to our native woods, where we shall have none of these annoyances."

They accordingly, broke their fastening and proceeding to prey on the entrails of some dead horses of the old stud., they raised a great cry which brought the keepers; on whose approach some of the jackals, clambered over the walls, some passed through the windows, and some out through the drains; while a few, being old and infirm, remained trembling at the approach of the keepers. There was now a barking of dogs and cry of awakened birds; the whole town became disturbed and everywhere jackals were visible; which, by the morning, had escaped to the forest.

(To be continued)

வாழ்வுக்கு வழி காட்டும் வேளாண் கர்த்தவியின்
கோல் முறை அரசு செய்க குறைவினா துயில்கள் வாழ்க
நான்மறை யறங்க வேளாண் நற்றவம் வேளாண் மல்க
மேன்மைகொள் ளைவநீதி விளங்குக உலக மேல்மலர்

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF R. N. SIVAPILLAI

pal both to the Government and to the Independent Newspapers Ltd., (the Group of Newspapers including the Dawasa, Sun, Thirupathi and allied publications) to arrive at a solution of differences and to effect an amicable settlement in the interests of Sri Lanka.