

HOT SPRING

Vol. 8

23rd May 1993

No. 32

Each One Must Fight....

Every position must be held to the last man. There must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall, and believing in the justice of our cause, Each one of us must fight on to the end.

First Earl Douglas Haig.

Psychologically Affected Persons Require Urgent Assistance—

Norwegian Psychiatrist Tells Pressmen in Jaffna

"The symptoms detected on persons affected by the on-going war who are mentally affected are complicated. The minds of the people are affected due to their living under traumatic circumstances. They require assistance on the basis of socio-mental health in addition to other assistance such as in agriculture and trade. FORUT proposes to inaugurate a project for this purpose", so said Dr. Harold Repeyescord.

The Chief Psychiatric Expert of a leading Psychiatric Clinic in Norway, Dr. Harold Repeyescord, who has come on a short visit to Jaffna and is presently examining children who have been psychologically affected, speaking at a Press Conference held on the evening of May 17th, further said:-

"People affected by the war have experienced several tragedies. Families have lost their wage-earners. Many more have got displaced. The war has affected all strata of society. Since the war is continuing, the number of afflictions too will increase. In countries like Iraq, peace has returned following the war but here the war is continuing and as such there is likelihood for cases of mental afflictions too.

"I have inspected camps set up for displaced in Point Pedro area. Conditions prevailing there are deplorable. Residential facilities are not satisfactory. Sanitary and health conditions are not properly maintained. Camps have been set up in open places, where one cannot take cover under any shade. It is very difficult to live under such circumstances. Private family life too stands affected. Such deplorable conditions do not prevail anywhere else in the world, even in refugee camps found in war-ravaged countries.

"I have visited Camps and Towns affected by the war and am collecting statistics. In pursuance of my present

mission, I propose to visit Jaffna again next July. I am approaching the people with the assistance of local persons who maintain constant contact with them. Visiting temples, practising yoga-sana and other devotions too will provide assistance towards mental rehabilitation".

When asked about the aspect of their programme sequence, he stated that their European experience would not suit the local conditions here.

He also said that those affected psychologically could not be rehabilitated by being given drugs. They required to be assisted to regain the faculties of the mind. It was proposed to

train local experts who would undertake this exercise.

He also said that education in Vadamaradchy area, where he undertook his studies, was very badly affected. Teachers were not able to prepare their lessons and impart

education because of the war conditions, concluded Dr. Harold.

THEY WIN MEDALS

The Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR) awarded medals to the best producers of sweet toddy in connections with the Production Week.

The following persons won the award for this year:-

1. K. Yogendiram - 1st Prize - Gold Medal.
2. P. Manickasingham - 2nd Prize - Silver Medal.
3. M. Vimalarasa - 3rd Prize - Bronze Medal.

Convoy of Army Vehicles Rushed Towards Elephant Pass from Kaddaikadu

A convoy of military vehicles was seen by residents closeby on the morning of Thursday, May 20th, proceeding towards Yakachchi and Elephant Pass army camps from Kaddaikadu Vettilai-kerni army camp through Mandalai Mavilankai thottam.

As the convoy comprised heavy military vehicles as

well, it created a noise on the way.

Simultaneously, intermittent gunfire too was heard in Mandalai and Mavilankai thottam. Artillery shells too were fired in the interval.

Naval gun boats were also observed in the coastal water off Point Pedro East.

Colombo - Cause of Ruination

"It is the Colombo rule that has ruined the Kandyan areas. I am a Kandyan, there are no two words about it."

- Mr. W. P. B. Dissanayake, former UNP Chief Minister of the Central Province and likely Chief Minister in the new Central Province Council - Quoted in Sunday Times - 2nd May, 1993.

Six Tamils Arrested in Batticaloa

Six Tamils were arrested by the Sri Lankan soldiers at Pandariyaveli in the Batticaloa District on Monday May 10. The arrested persons were taken to the Sri Lankan Army Camp.

Those arrested include two teachers. The arrested persons are from the villages of Pandariyaveli and Makiladitivu.

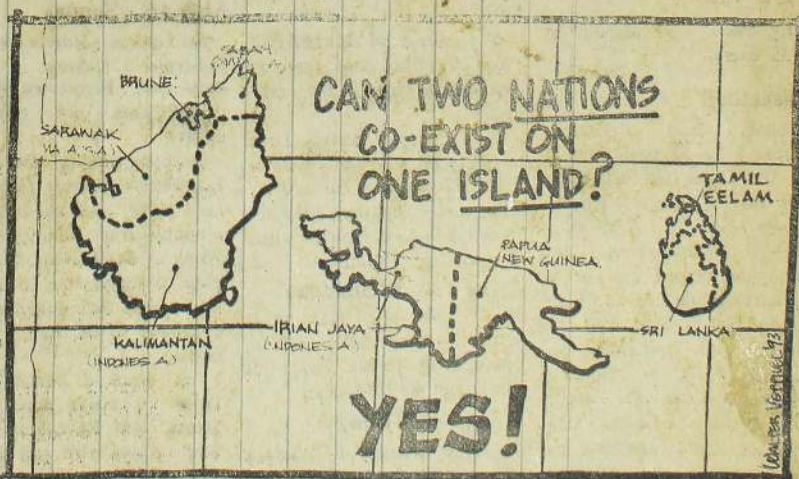
No further news has been received in respect of the arrested persons.

"This is Our Country" - Video Film

A Video film "This is our Country" produced by the Arts and Cultural Section of the Liberation Tigers of Mullaitivu District was released on Saturday, May 22nd, at Kailasapathy Auditorium of the Jaffna University.

The Head of the Arts and Cultural Section of the Mullaitivu District, Mr. S. Sankar presided. The traditional oil lamp was lit by Selvarajah, Special Commander, Jaffna District of the LTTE and Miss Jena, Special Commander of the LTTE Women's Front. Puthuvai Ratnadurai, Chief of the Arts and Cultural Section of the LTTE delivered the inaugural address. Professor Sanmugasadas obtained the first copy of

the Video Film. Professor Sivathamby, Mrs. Kokila Mahendira and S. Pathmanathan delivered talks in appreciation of the Video Film.



New Globalisation strangles Ceylon

The Social Science Union of the University of Jaffna held a meeting on 12.05.93 at the Kailasapathy Hall. The Guest Speaker was Mr. M. Thirunavukkarasu, a past lecturer of the same University.

Mr. Thirunavukkarasu spoke on 'The Current political situation in Ceylon'. The main theme of his speech was that Ceylon, like any other Third World Country is being strangled by the New Globalisation policy that is in operation to-day.

EXECUTIVE PRESIDENTSHIP

He said that in order to satisfy Western Capitalist countries, J. R. Jayewardene brought in a new constitution with a system of executive presidentship in whose hands all the executive powers were concentrated. That is, the Executive President holds a concentrated power base on the administrative and legislative machinery of the country through a system of proportional representation whereby the power and individuality of the member of parliament is taken away and is substituted by the dictates of the political party in power. It was meant to boost a one-party rule. Under J. R. the military and goonda units expanded and became more powerful and reflected the power basis of the President. In the sphere of administration a new, dedicated and powerful bureaucracy was set up. These two units, viz. the military and bureaucracy, have expanded and

become more powerful in the sense that anyone becoming the President could carry on the Government without much effort. J. R. or Premadasa or Sirimavo, irrespective of whoever comes to power, the state machinery of the new constitution will go on without any hindrance.

LIBERALISATION

Mr. Thirunavukkarasu identified this Executive Presidential Constitution with the liberalisation of the economy and the establishment of an open market economy. The speaker continuing his tirade on the new constitution said that in order to build up this new constitution and the military and the bureaucracy to satisfy the wishes of the western capitalist world, the Sinhala elites made use of the ethnic problem to strengthen and make more powerful these various sections of state machinery. They showed to the world and the Sinhalese that they are strengthening the army and bureaucracy and making such constitutional adjustments in order to defeat the 'separatist' Tamils.

DRACONIAN SYSTEM

But, in fact, they were doing these in order to bolster up their undemocratic and autocratic power basis with ulterior motives. The

powers that are, as a matter of fact, do not want to settle or solve the ethnic problem. In any event, without settling or solving the ethnic problem, there will be no peace in Sri Lanka. As far as Tamils are concerned, they have suffered much and they are out to establish a state of their own. Their suffering is a fact and they have learnt to live with it and are hoping for a better future. But is this the same with Sri Lanka? Definitely not. Without settling and solving the Tamil problem, they cannot have peace and they will have to continue to face and pay for all they have helped to create in the form of a Draconian system of government.

RETRIEVING DEMOCRACY

Mr. Thirunavukkarasu further stated that late Mr. Athulathmudali and Gamage Disanayake had by their public utterances proved that the present constitution and government is autocratic and undemocratic. But in the same breath they said that they were now fighting to 'retrieve' democracy. Where they genuine in what they stated? In fact, they were also responsible for the setting up of the present constitution and the market economy that is in vogue. We all remember Mr. Athulathmudali's main and prominent role in depri-

ng Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranayake's civic rights. This is nothing but political hypocrisy. They are proffering their new slogan only for the purpose of coming to power and not with any genuine intention of altering the present set-up. Mr. Thirunavukkarasu went on to say that even though the late Mr. Premadasa had a humble and common origin, he excelled in marginalising the top elites of the Sinhala society by making the best use of the powerful and well-trained bureaucratic machinery.

His policy was not to bring about a common man's government but he too was strengthening the bureaucratic set-up of the elite society. He, through his policy of throwing the crumbs and bones to the ordinary people, was actually hoodwinking them, e.g. schemes like Janasaviya and the opening of garment factories. In the correct perspective, he cannot be said to have benefited the ordinary man.

NO PEACE

The speaker addressing further said that late Mr. Premadasa had talks with the Tigers who were not satisfied with the Provincial Council set-up, created by the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. Logical conclusion to this is that he should have offered some-

thing more substantial to them. Did he do it? No. He did not even place before the country a better or an alternate solution to the ethnic problem. In this context, the Tamils cannot trust any Sinhalese party to give them a better deal. But as far as the Sinhalese too are concerned, without solving this delicate problems of the Tamils, they cannot have peace.

Mr. Thirunavukkarasu, in conclusion, summarising his speech, said that on the whole politics in Ceylon during the last fifteen years is a politics of failure by the UNP, which it was carrying on in the interest of foreign capital. This foreign capital has assumed the status of new globalisation. He described the politics of Ceylon, as low intensity democracy attempting to satisfy the economic of a low intensity capitalism, based on authoritarianism.

The lecture by Mr. Thirunavukkarasu was of a high academic nature probably because the majority in the audience were from the University. After all, having been once a lecturer, the speaker must have expected his audience to keep abreast with the modern social, economic and political trends.

—ESTY

NEWS IN BRIEF

May 10 - Monday

Sri Lanka Navy attacks fishermen in the sea off Point Pedro. Three fishermen, V. Arulthas, Mathews Simeonpillai and S. Kumar severely assaulted. Three boats fired at and engines thrown into the sea by Sri Lankan Navy. The Sri Lankan Navy also fired shells at other fishermen in the sea.

May 11 - Tuesday

Artillery shell attack from Elephant Pass and Kattakadu Army Camps directed towards adjoining residential areas. Heavy firing at Karukaitivu.

S. L. Army at Mandaitivu fires 50 calibre guns towards the Jaffna coast in the evening.

S. L. Army at Palaly fires artillery shells towards Vailalai and Pathamenni. An elderly woman, Poopathy Ammah, received serious injuries when a shell hit her house.

May 12 - Wednesday

S. L. Army at Karainagar fires artillery shells. All exploded in paddy fields at Ponnalai and Moolai.

May 14 - Friday

Heavy artillery shell attack from Elephant Pass and

Kattakadu from S. L. Army Camp directed towards adjoining villages. No damages reported.

May 15 - Saturday

Heavy shell attack from Karainagar S. L. Army Camp towards Ponnalai. An old woman Nagammah (80) of Moolai sustained severe injuries and admitted to Jaffna Hospital. A fisherman named M. Ampikapathy (50) sustained injuries when a 50 calibre bullet fired from Karainagar hit him in the Ponnalai sea, where he was fishing.

May 16 - Sunday

Sri Lankan soldiers fired at fishermen fishing in Ponnalai sea. Fishermen abandoned work and returned home.

A young woman Miss Mary Jasinth Alphonso (23) lost her left leg, when she tread on a booby trap laid by S. L. Army at Periyavilan. She had gone to Periyavilan to see her house, she abandoned at the approach of the S. L. Army earlier.

Sri Lankan Naval boats fired 50 calibre guns. Shell attack from Poonakari camp and cannon fire gun boats. No damages reported.

TRO's Re - Settlement Schemes

Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) has found permanent homes in the Kilinochchi District for 456 persons belonging to 98 families who were displaced from their homes in Mathagal and Chulipuram as a result of the Sri Lankan military operations in Valikamam West and who were staying in make-shift camps outside their villages.

Cottages are being constructed for these families and already all basic amenities have been made available to

them to pursue their vocation which is fishing.

Another 231 displaced families also from Valikamam West who were living in temples, churches have been settled at Kachchai.

Twenty five percent of the cost of building temporary shelters for these families amounting to Rs. 303,187/50 has been borne by the TRO. In addition the TRO has constructed 10 lavatories and is engaged in providing other amenities such as primary schools etc.

Work Shop on Upliftment of Rural Economy at Kilinochchi

A workshop and seminar on upliftment of self-sufficient rural economy was held between 27.2.93 and 5.3.93 at the Agricultural Faculty Hall of the Jaffna University.

The workshop was sponsored by the Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR).

One hundred and fifty selected persons from amongst Village Producers' Societies, Rural Development

Societies, Community Centres and Rehabilitation Organisations participated at the seminar and workshop.

The participants were divided into eight committees. The Committees identified about 150 social development projects. The projects submitted by these committees are currently being reviewed by the TEEDOR.

Specialists in various fields also addressed the participants at the seminar.

SPORTS

Cricket

Centralities (Chocs.) beat Jolly Stars by 49 runs in the 40 over Cricket Match played at the Jaffna Hindu College grounds over the week end for the Jolly stars trophy.

Scores:- Centralites 240 in 39.2 overs.

Jolly Stars: 191 all out in 35 overs.

Basketball

Shabra beat Particians (Golds) by 53 points to 31 in the Cager finals played at the Jaffna Campus Courts. Shabra led 18-07 at lemons. Shanthikaran and Thayalan played well for the winners, while Rex and Fernando played well for the losers. This tournament was organised by the Mid town Rotoract Club. Mr. Panchangam was the Chief Guest. Johnia (Reds) beat Centralites (Chocs.) to get third place.

Nutritional Status of the

Most children of Jaffna have never seen a hill or a waterfall or even a river but they have always enjoyed a higher nutritional status when compared to the rest of the country.

The Sri Lanka Nutritional survey of 1975/76 carried out by the US Department of Health Education and Welfare in co-operation with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health and other NGO's showed that the pre-school children of Jaffna enjoyed a better nutritional status than the children in the rest of the country. According to the survey only 3.7% of the pre-school children in Jaffna were acutely malnourished, while the average for Sri Lanka was 6.6%. Some areas like Galle, Batticaloa, Ratnapura and Kandy had over 8% of the pre-school children malnourished.

It was probably on the face of these findings that improvement to Child-Care Services in Jaffna were overlooked in preference to other areas. Even the marketing of 'Thripasha' was not carried out in Jaffna, while it was freely available on the shelves of grocery stores in the south.

DETERIORATION OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH STATUS

With the gradual neglect of the services to the children of Jaffna, during the past decade, the Health status of the children has deteriorated. Recently the situation has become acute with restriction of food items, drugs and even 'Thripasha' and vaccines for children and pregnant mothers. Another contributory factor is the on-going military action with frequent bombing and shelling which has pushed the children out of their homes into refugee camps where they have to compete with the elders for their food. It is estimated in a joint publication by the Government of Sri Lanka and the UNICEF (Children and women in Sri Lanka 1991, p 94-95) that 45.8% of the population in the North and East are displaced. This amounts to 340,000 child refugees.

It has been documented by S. A. Meegama and others that during the famine of 1971 the death rate increased, and when age-specific death rates were analysed, the most affected were children and the aged. In Jaffna today one in twenty children born, do not live to celebrate its first birthday.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Studies carried out by the author and others in the Health area of MOH Kopay in 1982 revealed that the estimated Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was between 35.4 and 50.0, although the figures given by the Department of Census and Statistics for Jaffna for the same period was 18. Recent studies in the University field project area (Kokuvil - Kondavil), showed that the IMR was 42.9. The University project area has relatively better health care than the rest of the Jaffna peninsula, and one would expect a higher IMR for the entire Jaffna district. Incidentally, the IMR for Jaffna quoted in the Annual Health Bulletin 1990 for 1986 is 16.6.

The studies quoted above showed that the low IMR quoted in State Publications was due to poor registration. It was found in the former study that a third of the infants die without being admitted to a hospital and most of them are not registered. Even among the hospital deaths only half are registered. This is likely to be true not only in Jaffna but in districts like Trincomalee, Moneragala, Vavuniya and Polonnaruwa where the Health Ministry claims to have the lowest IMR.

As in most Asian countries, children in Jaffna too, die of diarrhoeas and Acute Respiratory Infections precipitated by malnutrition. But the difference is that in these countries concerted effort is put in by the health authorities to prevent such deaths, while here deaths are brought about by restriction on drugs, and infant food on the one hand, and reduced training of grassroot level health workers such as Family Health Workers, Public Health Inspectors and Assistant Medical Officers (formerly called AMPS) on the other. No AMOs were admitted for training in Jaffna since 1987, and only a small number of Family Health Workers are being trained annually, by the state, in the Tamil medium.

Those of us who work in child-care clinics have recently noted an increase in the number of malnourished children attending these clinics. We are frequently seeing children with marasmus, Kwashiorkor, severe

Vitamin A deficiency and anaemia which we have rarely seen before.

SURVEY IN REFUGEE CAMPS

In February 1992, the SCF (UK) carried out a survey of children living in a refugee camp (at Ketpali)

Children of Jaffna

maintained by them. 332 children were examined and 6.8% were found to be below the expected weight for height, which is an indication of acute or recent malnutrition. Although it may be argued that this figure is better than the figures for Ethiopia or some other famine stricken third

world country, it should be noted that the corresponding figure in 1975/76 was 3.7% - almost half of what it is today. The nutritional status of children in most other parts of the same country have improved, while that of the children in Jaffna has deteriorated.

In October 1991, the Medical Officer of Health, Jaffna carried out a nutritional survey of children 1-4 years old living in the 12 refugee camps within the municipality. He examined 644 children and found that 73% were below the minimum weight expected for that age (below the third centile in the growth chart). In October 1992, he has repeated the above survey among pre-school children in the western sector of the Jaffna Municipality and found that 58% of these children were undernourished, while the Family Health Bureau in its Annual report for 1990 claims that the comparable figure for Sri Lanka is 34.7%. In what a pitiful state are these children of Jaffna!

ANTE NATAL MALNUTRITION

Recent studies in Jaffna also show that the nutrition of the child is being affected even before it is born. A study jointly carried out by the SCF (UK) and the Jaffna branch of the Sri Lanka Red Cross at the General Hospital Jaffna, showed an increase in the birth of low birth weight babies (below 2500 grms), 23% of the babies born

during the period Oct-Dec 1991 were low birth weight. The comparable figure for babies born during the same period in 1989 (when the ground situation was better) was 19% showing a statistically significant difference. It appears that this trend had started much earlier. According to the annual report of the Family Health Bureau the percentage of low birth weight babies born in the Jaffna district in 1988

was 15.9%. There had been a 21% increase in the birth of low birth weight babies between 1989 and 1991.

MALNUTRITION IN GENERAL

An interesting study was carried out by a Family Health Worker (FHW) in the Manipay Health area (Chankanai). She estimated the nutritional status of the children (1-4 years old) in two refugee camps and a village in her area using the mid-arm circumference as a measure. She found that 60% of those in the village and 74.5% of those in the refugee camps were malnourished. This study indicates that malnutrition among children has also crept into the villages where

We are guilty of many errors and faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children; neglecting the fountain of life.

Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, and his senses are being developed.

To him we cannot answer 'Tomorrow' His name is TODAY.

If we do not intervene today, posterity is certain to blame US.

Pre-School facilities by TRO

Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) has introduced pre-school facilities in camps for displaced persons and also in some backward rural areas with the view to raise the educational level among the children in these camps and backward areas.

According to the TRO's Quarterly Newsletter FUTURE for July to September

children have not been displaced.

The main source of animal proteins for the children of Jaffna are eggs and fish. With restriction of poultry food and the difficulty in transporting this fragile commodity, the price of eggs has gone up beyond the reach of many parents. Fishing around the Jaffna peninsula is severely restricted due to the present war. The quantity of fish needed, (calculated on the consumption in 1989) is 6600 metric tons. The total catch in 1991 was 1094 metric tons which is 16.6% of the need. It is no wonder that malnutrition has set in!

The nutritional status of the children in Jaffna is acute. Denying supply of nutritional food to children, is a violation of fundamental rights and the state should take urgent steps to rectify this situation. Children do not have trade unions or political representation to voice their plight. It is, we elders, who have to intervene and arrest this downward trend. We cannot wait until the situation reaches the state in Somalia or Ethiopia. If we wait, it will be a monstrous task to bring back the children to their original state.

In the words of Gabriella Mistral, the Nobel Prize winner poet from Chile:

1993 the TRO has expended a sum of Rs. 80,000/- on payment of emoluments to teachers and maintenance

TRO's Pre-Schools are being run in four districts as follows:-

Jaffna	- 37
Vavunia	- 07
Kilinochchi	- 17
Mullaitivu	- 10

The TRO also conducts seminars for the pre-school teachers every second Saturday of each month.

Day-Light Robbery at Army Occupied Town

A day-light robbery of a big sum of money is reported to have taken place at gun point within the Vavunia town area which is under army occupation.

An employee of a local cinema theatre in the Vavunia

town was carrying with him a sum of Rs 19,000/- to pay entertainment tax to the Vavunia Urban Council, when the incident took place. He was relieved of the money at gun point by an unidentified gunman.

HOT SPRING

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OLD SONG - NEW SINGER

A new President has assumed office in Sri Lanka.

It is inevitable that any new incumbent in office has to say something about the Tamil Eelam War of Independence which is termed in Colombo as the North East War. And so His Excellency D. B. Wijetunge too has opened his mouth on the subject.

He raised some hopes when he said that anybody who would help in promoting talks between the LTTE and government of Sri Lanka, deserve gratitude.

The LTTE responded positively, when its spokesman Mr. Lawrence Thilakar re-iterated that the LTTE was always willing to enter into talks and called upon the Government to create the necessary atmosphere for peace talks. Mr. Thilakar's call could only mean the cessation of hostilities and the lifting of the economic blockade.

President D. B. Wijetunge who started off by extending a world-wide expression of gratitude to anybody who could promote talks, began to falter, when he said that he was awaiting the recommendations of the Parliamentary Select Committee and the LTTE should be disarmed. As a matter of fact, he told the Voice of America that no talks were possible with the LTTE so long as Mr. Pirabakaran remained the leader, thus renegading from what he said earlier that he should have talks with Mr. Pirabakaran direct.

Mr. Wijetunge also enacted the drama of pretence which his predecessor, Mr. Premadasa, was enacting through out the term of his office by saying that there was no 'ethnic' problem in Sri Lanka but that it was only a 'terrorist' problem.

A dramatist does not succeed when he tries to fool the people. So also Mr. Wijetunge's lofty expression of gratitude to anybody who could help promote 'talks' was immediately betrayed by no one other than himself to be only a pretence of his government to show the world that it was willing to talk out that the LTTE was 'intransigent'.

Mr. Weeraratne is sufficiently old and experienced, he ought to know by experience that the greatest impediment to peace and prosperity in the Island is the Sinhala - Tamil conflict. This conflict can only be ended by a willingness to identify the causes of the conflict and end them once and for all.

We may reiterate that the fundamental cause for the conflict is the unitary state which keeps the Tamils under perpetual subjugation under the Sinhalese. Therefore it would be useless, pretending that the conflict in the island is not based on the ethnicity of the different peoples living in it. He cannot escape by calling the Tamil freedom fighters 'terrorists' because the Tamils took up arms only to end the Sinhala Government's terrorism. Nor will Mr. Wijetunge serve his people and his country by procrastinating the issue by kicking the ball into the court of the Parliamentary Select Committee. The Tamils are fully aware that it is this Parliament which is the powerful instrument in the hands of the Sinhalese to extend their rule over the Tamils.

All self-contradictory statements which Mr. Wijetunge has made in regard to the Tamil war of Independence only show that Mr. Wijetunge and his government would continue the same old policy followed by the earlier governments. This is further evidenced by the large scale bombings by the Sri Lankan Air Force in many parts of Tamil Eelam territory, after Mr. Wijetunge assumed office. It would be sweet words and foul deeds. The song is the same old one. Only there is a new singer now.

LTTE SETS UP:

Department of Registration of Motor Vehicles

The LTTE has set-up a new Department of Registration of Motor vehicles in Tamil Eelam which is now functioning.

The LTTE informed the public by a Press Communique that a new department has been set-up separately for registration of motor vehicles in Tamil Eelam. All persons who are in possession of motor vehicles of any description are required to have their vehicles registered. Persons having their registration books issued by the Commissioner of Motor Traffic in Colombo and persons who do not have such books are required to make their applications to the Department of Registration of Motor Vehicles in Tamil Eelam to have their vehicles registered with the Department.

The applications for registration of all motor vehicles have to be made in the appropriate forms available at the Department and obtainable on paying a fee of Rs. 2/-.

In course of time the Department will issue Registration Books to those in possession of motor vehicles within Tamil Eelam. Already a large number of persons have sent in their applications for registration of their motor vehicles.

ASHRAMAM STUDENT AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

Master S. Ramesh, a student of Hartley College, Point Pedro was awarded the Sri-SaradaDevi Scholarship worth Rs. 12,000/- at a function held on May 5, Wednesday, at the Sri Ramakrishna Sevashramam, Point Pedro.

S. Ramesh is an inmate of the Sri Ramakrishna Sevashramam and the scholarship was awarded by the Ashram to S. Ramesh in view of his performance at the G.C.E. (O/L) examination. He got 7 distinctions.

S. Ramesh also received a reward of Rs. 5000/- on his coming fourth in the order of merit in the Vadamardachy area at a public examination held in Jaffna.

JAFFNA PUBLIC LIBRARY HOW IT WAS!

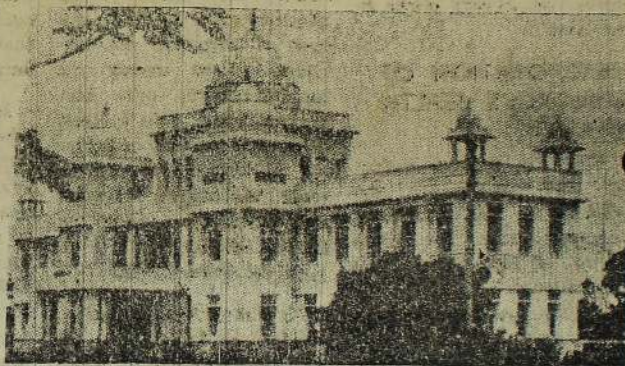
The Jaffna Public Library is seen as it stood before it was burnt down by the Sinhala Sri Lankan Police 12 years ago on 1.6.1981.

Both the first and second Executive Presidents knew who and who orchestrated the act of vandalism as they subsequently indicated.

But none of them thought to repair the damage - not even the first Executive President Mr. J. R. Jayawardhene

who promised to make good the loss after an assessment of the loss at Rs 10.2

million was made by a Presidential Commission - the Lionel Fernando Commission.



Arson at Pesalai in Mannar- Fear Drives Refugees out of Camps

Several incidents of arson are reported to have taken place in areas under Sri Lankan Army control at Pesalai in the Mannar District. Shops belonging to the Tamils have been thus destroyed by fire.

According to reports there is a tension prevailing among the displaced Tamils residing at Pesalai due to destruction caused to properties belonging to Tamils by arson.

Several Tamil families who were accommodated in refugee camps specially set up for displaced persons, have deserted those camps and have taken refuge at Pesalai Fatimah Vidyalayam. They

New Era Publications, 'Lakshmi Building' Dutch Road, Kalviyankadu, Jaffna.

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Starts

23-05-93 (Saturday, Sunday)

25-05-93 (Tuesday, Thursday)

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS:-

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37, CLOCK TOWER ROAD, JAFFNA

(B/I)