

HOT SPRING

ACCEPT REALITY

"Differences born of racial, religious or linguistic heritage are never solved by ignoring them, much less by suppressing the people concerned through the denial of their language and other rights. A people who cherish a linguistic heritage dating back to several thousands of years inherit an environment which has to be recognized and accepted."

-S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, Q. C.

5 S. L. POLICEMEN RELEASED

Government Agrees to Lift Economic Embargo

Five Policemen of the 38 policemen who were held prisoners of war by the LTTE, were officially released on Tuesday, June 22nd and handed over to the ICRC. The released men together with their relations left for Colombo from Point Pedro harbour.

Brig. Ananda Weerasekera who met LTTE representative on June 18 as Govt's emissary left for Colombo on Sunday, June 2, presumably with the LTTE's conditions for release of the prisoners. He returned to Jaffna again on Monday June 21. After discussions with the LTTE, it was announced that the Government had decided to accept the conditions laid down by the LTTE.

Thereafter, Brig. Ananda Weerasekera and LTTE representatives met the fasting policemen on Tuesday, June 22. Both Brig. Ananda Weerasekera and Dr. Anton Balasingham addressed the policemen.

Dr. Anton Balasingham said that the LTTE had decided to release them and

that from that moment onwards the LTTE would not regard them as Prisoners of War.

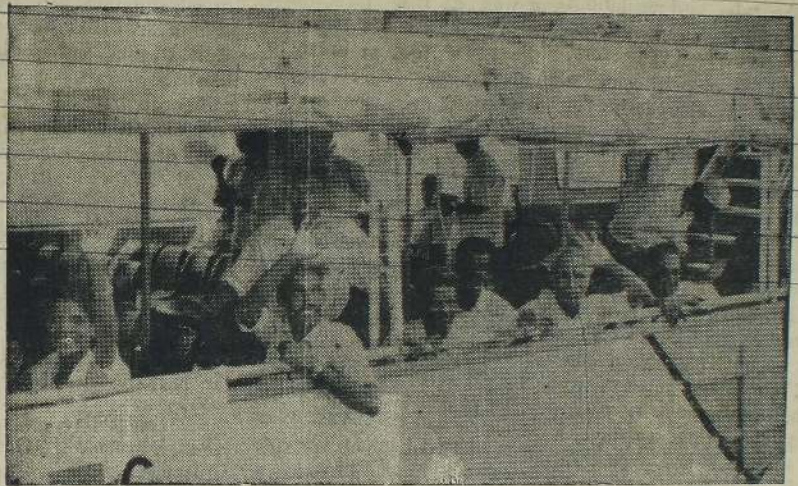
Brig. Ananda Weerasekera said that the Government readily consented to the LTTE terms and that quick action was being taken in Colombo to send the commodities on which the ban had been lifted. Brig. Weerasekera further said that the government would honour its promise and send the goods.

The LTTE agreed to release the men in its custody in batches. The first batch of five were released on that day itself and they started for their homes with ICRC escort.

The items of commodities which have been agreed

to be exempted from ban include petrol, diesel, kerosene oil and other fuel, including co-conut oil small transistors, all drugs, and medicines, stationery, manure, bicycles, box of matches, and materials for school children.

ADIEU WITH ALL SMILES



Picture of the Policemen and their relations taken at Point Pedro harbour when they boarded the ship to Colombo on June 22 after 5 Policemen were released by the LTTE consequent to the agreement reached between the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka.

"We sincerely hope that your release will help to initiate a peace process in which negotiations can take place". So said Dr. Anton Balasingham of the LTTE when he addressed the fasting armed personnel of

Initiation of Peace Process Hopeful

Dr. Anton Balasingham tells fasting men

the Sri Lankan government on the eve of announcing the agreement reached between the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka in regard

to the release of the Prisoners of War.

Brigadier Ananda Weerasekera spoke on behalf of the Sri Lankan Government.

In his speech Dr. Anton Balasingham said.

"The LTTE has decided to openly declare that you are no more prisoners of war.

You have undertaken a non-violent struggle based on the principle of *Ahimsa* and *dharma* according to Buddhist principles. We highly respect the mode of your struggle. We sincerely believe that struggle by the mode of *ahimsa* is the most powerful spiritual weapon for the freedom of a people. We have had a very long history of conducting non-violent struggles based on the principles of *Ahimsa*. It was the rejection of both this *Ahimsa* principle and non-

violent struggles that finally led to the armed struggle.

Your fast unto death struggle has not only helped your own freedom but it has also helped our people in a way. They are now able to get some of the banned commodities that are essential for life here. So along with the Government of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the Tamil people, we call upon you to give up your fasting. Both the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE have agreed on certain aspects, the implementation of which might take some time but you are all now free.

You may wonder why the LTTE has delayed this process. You should appreciate that it is because we should

(Continued on Page 4)



Sri Lanka P.O.W.'s and Eelam

Exchanging Prisoners of War between two warring nations, is a time honoured practice. In the same way, Tamil Eelam was prepared to exchange the 38 Sinhalese policemen and an army man who were taken prisoners by the LTTE in exchange for those in custody with the Sri Lankan Government and whose list of names the LTTE wanted. Sri Lanka Government refused to give a list of those in custody with them. Without knowing the details of persons who were in custody, the LTTE could not decide whom they wanted to be released in exchange. But the Sri Lanka Government was not prepared to accede to this request. This is an infringement of the rules and regulations pertaining to the exchange of Prisoners of War. Therefore, the LTTE in an attempt to show its genuine desire for peace and negotiation and taking into consideration the plight of the ordinary Tamils, who have been suffering for several years because of the economic blockade placed on Tamil Eelam, asked the Government in the alternative, to revoke the economic sanction placed on Tamil Eelam. Through this demand, they were also attempting to have a smooth and peaceful state of affairs that would be conducive for political negotiation.

False Propaganda

The Sri Lankan Government had neglected its warriors who were taken into custody three years ago, without taking any meaningful steps to obtain their release. The Government

SPORTS

Basket ball

Centralites (Chocs.) beat University of Jaffna in the Cager Finals by 38 points to 22.

The match was played at the Campus Courts. The Centralites led 20 - 12 at half time. Dr. Sivabalan was the Chief Guest. Messrs. T. Ganesh and Vigneswaralingam officiated.

Cricket

Jaffna University beat Shabra by 5 wickets in the 40 over K.C.C.C Tournament played at Kokkuvil. Scores:- Shabra - 219 all out in 35 overs.

J/University 220 for 5 in 37 overs.

does not show the same interest is the welfare of its army' personnel as it does in recruiting them. It is said that the request made on behalf of the prisoners by their next-of-kin were not heeded. The Goodwill mission of Rt-Rev. Bishop Kenneth Fernando in this connection was ridiculed. It is only after the prisoners declared that they were going to stage a hunger strike that the Government began to get interested. The Government even tried to twist the news about the intended hunger strike. They used the mass media to belittle the hunger strike and said that

S. THIAGARAJAH

it was a ruse perpetrated by the Tigers. The leader of the EPDP too, in order to curry favour once again with the Government, issued a statement that the prisoners were being persuaded to go on hunger strike under threat from the Tigers.

Even foreign media was sought to propagate this false propaganda. But ultimately truth prevailed, with the coming of the relations of the prisoners who were on hunger strike with the assistance of the ICRC. Why was the Sri Lankan Government not keen in getting the prisoners released? The Government is actually pursuing a military line rather than coming to a political solution through negotiation. Was the Government hoping to enact a startling 'Entebbe' type of striking force action to release the prisoners? They very well know that their army cannot do this. But this also reveals that the Government is weak and cannot dare go against the army which has become very colossal and powerful.

Crucial Situation

The Government is well aware that the hunger strike of the Prisoners of War, has created an embarrassing situation, as far as it is concerned. Its attempt to prevent the coming of the relations of the prisoners had failed. The relations had come to Jaffna. They have become aware of the actual situation prevailing in Jaffna. There is no question of prisoners shamming. Their condition was deteriorating. Knowing that it had to face a barrage of opposition in the South, and also aware that even the opposition parties who too

were not keen about the affairs of the prisoners as well as for a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem, would use this opportunity to tarnish the image of the Government, hurriedly sent Brigadier Ananda Weerasekera as the accredited Agent of President Wijetunge himself. Even though he was supposed to be all powerful to negotiate, his performance was that of a passive listener. No doubt, he would have conveyed the actual ground situation regarding Prisoners of War, the attitude of their relations who were still in Jaffna, having been given permission to stay a little longer on humanitarian grounds by the national leader of Tamil Eelam and also the determination of the Tamil people to withstand any amount of pressure to win their right. Whatever it was, a crucial situation had arisen for the Sri Lankan Government. It used the media to twist once again the situation in order to hood-wink the Sinhalese. It said the Tigers were demanding the withdrawal of the Economic sanctions in order to further continue the war against Sri Lanka. This shows that the Government was not willing to negotiate in order to get their prisoners released and also indicated their desire for military option.

But things had gone beyond control and the Government was forced to accept the terms of the Tigers. Brigadier Ananda Weerasekera had flown back bringing with him the decision of the Government to allow the

inflow of the controlled and prohibited articles to the North and East. The letter of consent had been signed by General Hamil'on Wanasinghe. The change of heart, no doubt, is due to the pressures exerted by the Army, and also to keep the morale of the armed forces who are keenly watching developments. As the situation has come into the open, the Government and the J.O.C (Joint operation Command) had to do something to secure the release of the captured policemen and the army man. Otherwise, it would demoralise the ordinary soldier who is already dissatisfied and is on the brink of desertion. Whatever it is, the Government had to give in. It could not have, with all its false versions about the situation and twisting of facts, succeeded in getting its men out. The acceptance of the terms by the Government is no doubt a progress. But how the government is going to react in the future regarding the major issues facing Tamil Eelam and Sri

Lanka is a thing we have to wait and see.

The Sinhalese government imposed the economic sanctions on Tamil Eelam thinking it could alienate the Tamils from the LTTE. Even after three years, people are still with the LTTE and have withstood all the hardships imposed on them. This clearly shows that the Sri Lankan government's attempt to alienate the Tamil people from the freedom struggle has miserably failed as a political weapon.

Anyhow, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have shown to the world that they respect the principles of Ahimsa by giving weight to the hunger strike of the Sri Lankan captives. This is in contrast to the dastardly action of the Indian government which while paying lip - service to Mahathma Gandhi and his principles of Ahimsa, allowed our martyrs, Phileepar and Poopathy Ammah to die. India cannot erase this slur.

NEWS IN BRIEF

June 12th Saturday

Artillery shell attack from Mandaitivu S. L. Army camp directed towards Ariyalai East. Shells exploded in uninhabited areas.

Midnight search in some parts of Batticaloa town by Sri Lankan Police.

June 18th Friday

Sri Lankan Navy at Karainagar fires at fishermen at work in Satkotai sea. One fishing boat damaged. The engine also was thrown into

the sea. Three fishermen, S. Vinodhan, S. Moothathamby and Uktin were subjected to assault.

Sri Lankan Army who came to the village of Ural near Arippu in the Mannar District arrested ten villagers and took them along with them back to Arippu where the Sri Lankan forces had come the previous day.

June 19th Saturday

Sri Lankan Army at Karainagar fires at fishermen at work in the Ponnalai sea.

NO APPOINTMENT EVEN AFTER WAITING FOR OVER AN YEAR

Over one hundred candidates from Jaffna District who passed the competitive examination for appointment to the clerical service in April 1992 have not been given appointments for over one year now, though there are vacancies to be filled.

A competitive examination to recruit clerical officers for vacancies in the Jaffna District was held in February, 1992. Three hundred and four candidates were selected for appointment and their names published as early as April 1992.

It is learnt that only 200 of the selected candidates have so far been given appointments. The other 104 have now waited for a long period of over one year to receive their appointment letters. It is also learnt

that the vacancies have now risen to 400 but even the 104 selected as early as April 1992 have not been called to fill vacancies.

In desperation the candidates still awaiting appoint-

ment on the basis of the results published in April 1992 have appealed to the Minister of Public Administration in Colombo seeking early appointment to the vacancies.

Two Tamils Shot Dead

Two Tamils were shot dead and eighteen others were arrested by the Sri Lankan Army at Batticaloa.

News from Batticaloa states that on Sunday, June 13 at 3-00 p. m. Sri Lankan Army men surrounded the village of Vattavan in the Batticaloa District and arrested twenty villagers there. The Sri Lankan Army shot and killed at the spot two of the twenty persons who were arrested.

The victims were both married men with children. They have been identified as Marian Vijayan and Kandiah Jeevan, both of Vattavan, Valaichenai in the Batticaloa District. The other eighteen arrested persons were taken by the Army to the Usan Eetham Sri Lankan Army camp. No further news about the eighteen persons has been received.

Infra - structure and

Infra - structure is very essential for economic development of a country. It is pertinent to note that the building up of the infra-structure of Tamil Eelam is being done by Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation. From the time, the War of Independence for Tamil Eelam commenced, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam showed great interest in the economic planning of our motherland. This embryo Research Institute has now blossomed into the Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR).

When one thinks about economic development, one should primarily interest himself with infra - structure. Everyone who intends to develop new ventures, should show interest in the infra - structures that go hand in hand with that project. Here it would be interesting to note that the Britishers before establishing the big plantations in Ceylon, launched the building of highways to Colombo and Kandy.

In order to achieve permanent independence for our homeland of Tamil Eelam, we should retrieve all our places that are lawfully belonging to us and at the same time we should also lay the foundations of our economic structures. Therefore the infra - structures which have been destroyed to prevent a self-reliant and unhampered economic development, should be re-moulded

to modern changes. It is with this in mind that the infra - structure of Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation is functioning.

Recent military onslaughts and the economic sanctions imposed on Tamil Eelam by the Sri Lankan Government, prevented the procurement of materials for the build-up of the infra - structure. This along with natural disasters

compel the re - construction of urgent and essential infra-structures. When structural re-construction meets with obstruction, it results not only in immediate inconvenience but also poses difficulties in the long-run. For instance, if timely re-construction work is not effected to tanks and canals, cultivation in the Vanni District will be completely affected and in turn increase the sourness of the underground water in the Jaffna District. Such conditions would tend to shake the economic base of Tamil Eelam.

In order to prevent such adverse impacts, the infra-structure section is engaged as far as possible in continuous re-construction work, using the available resources.

Many people do not realise that infra - structural facilities are closely linked and related to a society's healthy life, economic uplift

and happiness. It is thought that infra - structural facilities are created for the self-fish use of governments. The social impact of infra-structural set-up can be stated as follows:-

1. People of a particular district could establish standard industrial projects only if there are good roads, electricity facilities and telecommunication net work;

2. Infra - structural facilities determine welfare facilities of the people;

3. Imbalances caused by nature could not be balanced, if drains, irrigation systems and tanks are not attended properly by a society. Infra-structure facilities are necessary to keep in good condition trees, fauna and flora. If there are no proper

dikes and tanks that prevent floods, beneficial trees will get destroyed and soil erosion will take place. As a result, plants will not grow luxuriantly.

As far as cultivation in Tamil Eelam is concerned, the land is the main factor. In order to cultivate it, the other factor that is connected to it, are irrigational facilities. In order to develop the land, water and labour become very essential. In the present context where technological factors are denied for the develop-

Hence, water resources should be maintained properly and kept in good stead. Population increase and the connected requirements tax the resources of under-ground water when water taken out from the ground and if not replaced once again under-ground, it will tend to become saline. Tanks contribute a great deal, as far as North Tamil Eelam is concerned, in providing irrigation for purpose of cultivation and in the maintenance of under-ground water. Even though

Re-construction of Tanks

ment of land, if we fail to focus our attention to maintain and safeguard our land and water resources, we will have to face the consequences that will arise in the future.

Here, water is not only restricted to activities of cultivation but also is the basis for human density.

these tanks vary from small irrigation tanks, intermediate tanks and large ones, all these become important as geo-economic factors, which determine the extent of cultivable land and the density of population.

Excerpts from a TEEDOR publication.

UN Secretary - General's Views

"No country in the world violating Human Rights should be allowed to take cover behind Sovereignty of the

State", said Bhutros Ghali the Secretary - General of the United Nations, while inaugurating the Vienna In-

ternational Conference on Human Rights which began on Monday, June 14th in Austria.

Five thousand delegates from one hundred and eighty countries participated at the Conference which was to prepare a new draft Charter giving importance to Abolition of Racial Discrimination, Prevention of Torture and Granting due Place to Women.

The Conference also has requested the UN to appoint a Commissioner to monitor Human Rights all over the world.

TEEDOR GIFTS GOATS

The Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR) gifted goats to 20 persons in Ootruppalam in Kilinochchi to enable the recipients to rear them.

The TEEDOR has selected 50 persons below poverty line in Kilinochchi. These persons are from Chelvana-gar in Kilinochchi South and from the villages of Ootruppalam and Ellukadu in Kilinochchi West.

The selectees from Ootruppalam received their gifts on June 19 and they have been given necessary instru-

ctions and training in running dairy farms.

The construction of sheds for goats in the other two villages, is currently being carried out by the selectees with the assistance of TEEDOR. They will also be given goats free when the work on the sheds are completed, says press note issued by TEEDOR.

JAFFNA HOSPITAL FACES ACUTE SHORTAGE OF DRUGS

It is reported that the Jaffna Hospital is experiencing a severe shortage in urgently required life-saving drugs.

Patients visiting the medical clinics and the Out-door Patients' Dispensary are told by the hospital authorities that they do not have life-

saving drugs or even ordinary pills such as Vitamin B Complex and Multi - vitamins.

The report further adds that the Government Central Dispensaries in the District too are facing an acute shortage of urgently needed essential drugs.

Tamil Detainees in Colombo undertake fast

In its news broadcast on Thursday June 17th, Radio Veritas, Philippines reported that about 190 Tamil civilians who have been under detention for a long time by the Sri Lankan Police under the Prevention of Terrorism Act without judi-

cial inquiry, have started a hunger strike from that day.

According to the Sri Lankan Police, these hunger strikers demand that they be released immediately or be brought to trial. The Sri Lankan Police suspect them to be members of the LTTE.

Waste Paper in Mail Bag

After a lapse of several weeks only 750 mail bags were brought to Jaffna by the cargo vessel 'Kumari' which reached Point Pedro last week.

To the great astonishment of the local Postal Authorities, one of the sealed mail bags sent from Colombo, was found to contain mere waste papers. The said mail bag addressed to the Central Post Office, Jaffna, did not contain any items of mail whatsoever.

Now, the authorities of the Central Post Office have officially lodged their objection against such misconduct.

The Postal Authorities in Colombo, however do not seem to worry about either maintaining normal services to the North or pay any heed whatsoever regarding the tampering of foreign letters addressed to recipients in the North despite assurances given earlier by the

former Defence Secretary, Gen. Cyril Ranatunge that letters would not be tampered by the J. O. C. and that delays in sending letters to the North would be avoided.

Aerial Bombing:

Parish Priest Injured

Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed Periyapandivirichchan in Mannar at three different times on the same day. The Church there was damaged and the parish priest, Fr. Benedict was injured.

The news in this connection from Mannar stated that on Thursday, June 17, at 9-45 a.m. two Puccara planes of the Sri Lankan Air force dropped six bombs in Periyapandivirichchan.

The Church of Periyapandivirichchan was damaged. The parish priest Rev. Fr. Benedict also suffered injuries.

Again at 12-15 p. m. two puccara planes dropped four bombs in the area.

At 4-30 p. m. two bombers again dropped four bombs. On the same day at 2-30 p. m. two bombers dropped four bombs in Parappukadanthan area also in the Mannar District.

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An Opportunity for Re-thinking

Let us hope that the recent agreement reached between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam on the one hand and the Government of Sri Lanka on the other is the forerunner to future prospects for the resolution of the continuing conflict in a peaceful way which would enable the two peoples inhabiting the island to co-exist with freedom and dignity.

When we look up to the future hopefully we are encouraged at the resolution of conflicts in a peaceful way in other parts of the world and we have no doubt that these events should also encourage the Sinhala political leaders to come to a peaceful and amicable settlement with the Eelam Tamils.

Malaysia and Singapore each became independent without shedding one drop of blood. So too Czech and Slavakia achieved their independence and sovereignty peacefully. Ethiopia and Eritrea became free states peacefully even though they had shed blood earlier. Even the different republics which constituted the great and powerful super-power, the U.S.S.R., have become independent and sovereign without unnecessary war and destruction. These examples should inspire all concerned in this island too, to follow the same peaceful method.

Also it is appropriate to appreciate the fact that there are many islands with two or more independent states around the globe.

These examples should encourage Sinhalese leaders to recognise the aspirations of the Eelam Tamils without unnecessary destruction being caused either to the Sinhalese nation or to the Tamil nation.

After all the Tamil Eelam demand is for independence. It is not directed against the Sinhalese nation nor do Eelam Tamils cast any covetous eye on any part of Sinhala Rata. The Sinhalese too worked for independence from Britain. It does not mean that they were anti-British. In fact all countries which broke off the chain of bondage from their imperial and colonial masters continue to maintain very friendly ties after independence with their former rulers.

Why should not Sinhala Rata and Tamil Eelam be peaceful and friendly neighbours?

We would earnestly appeal to the Sinhalese leaders and people to look at the Eelam Tamil demand in its correct perspective.

The Sinhalese chauvinistic leaders decitizenised and disenfranchised the Tamil plantation workers in 1949 and after about 40 years in 1987 again restored their citizenship and voting rights.

In 1956 they made Sinhala the only official language and after 30 years made Tamil also an official language.

Sinhala colonisation of Tamil areas is being carried out brazenly and stealthily even today though the Sinhala leaders agreed not to do so even in writing. The Bandaranaike - Chelvanayakam Pact and the Dudley Senanayake - Chelvanayakam Pact testify to Sinhala leaders' undertaking.

Why do you continue to betray your own promises? Will it not be more irksome and burdensome to find alternate accommodation for a larger number when decolonisation is undertaken - as it has to be.

Since independence Eelam Tamils have consistently expressed their desire to be the arbiters of their own destiny. No Sinhala government had the mandate of the Eelam Tamils to justify its rule over Tamil Eelam.

These are matters that should receive earnest consideration of the Sinhala leaders at a time when there seems to be a chance to build on the opportunities that have arisen.

The right thing must be done at the right moment without allowing the opportunity to slip away.

Fast neither forced nor engineered

- Says P. O. W

"Nobody forced us to undertake a fast. We began the fast on our own volition because we were tired of waiting on mere hopes of obtaining our release as promised by the Government." - So said P. S. Bandara, a Police Prisoner of War who was in LTTE custody to our reporters who interviewed him and his mother, on Wednesday June 23 in Jaffna.

Our reporters met the mother and son and talked to both. They were seated side by side.

Mrs. W. G. Balamenike, the mother of Bandara, told our reporters that Bandara was her 5th child. She had not seen her son for over three years.

Only in about January 1991, i.e. seven months after the war broke out and her son was arrested she came to know that her son was alive but she did not know his whereabouts. She first came to know the information about her son through the ICRC.

Balamenike said that she had been trying ever since then to see her son and also pressing the authorities and the ICRC to obtain her son's release.

She had sent her elder son to meet the Inspector General of Police in person. Even he had told him that they would try to get the prisoners released through ICRC:

Treated well

Bandara said that the LTTE looked after all their needs - food, medicine etc. and that they were treated well.

In April 1992 a group of Buddhist priests came to Jaffna and saw them. Bandara said and added that they too told them that they could obtain their release and they were trying for it. But it did not happen.

Balamenike said that her elder son went to meet Rev. Madampagama Assigi Thero in Colombo. She is from Gampola and in view of her age and domestic responsibilities, she cannot undertake journeys quite often.

They had to meet a number of people in Colombo and her elder son always went out on these errands.

Bandara said that the Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Kenneth Fernando also saw those who were held in custody. In fact he was able to obtain the release of two persons who were with them. He also said that the Bishop promised to obtain their release through negotiation between Government and LTTE. But so far as he was

aware the Bishop could not meet President Premadasa, after his return from Jaffna.

Balamenike said that she was receiving letters from her son while he was in custody. She also said that from about the beginning of 1991 her son's salaries were paid by Government directly to the parents in Gampola regularly. They also received the arrears of salaries for about six months along with the first payment.

Tired of awaiting

It was as a result of being tired of waiting for long, hoping to obtain release as promised by Government, that they started the fast said Bandara. Bandara also said they wrote to their homes about their fast. Balamenike confirmed that she received a letter from her son about their intended fast.

When questioned by our reporters whether anyone persuaded them to launch on the fast he denied it. He said it was utterly false for the EPDP leader, Douglas Devananda, to have said that the LTTE forced them to undertake the fast. There is no truth at all in that statement, he asserted.

Balamenike said that the receipt of the news of the intended fast, naturally upset her. She and other parents again moved earnestly to obtain the release of their children.

Again they received the usual reply that the Government was trying to obtain the release. The Defence Secretary, Walter Fernando, had told a parent requesting her to write to her son to give up the fast and that the Government would try to obtain the release of the prisoners.

Fasting did it all

She added that it was the fast that threw the way open

for them to visit their children. All their previous attempts to go to Jaffna did not succeed as the Government did not give them permission to do so.

Bandara said that they decided to fast for seven days but take water. If nothing happened during this period they decided to continue the fast even without water.

On 18th June his mother came. Relations of the other prisoners also came. On the following day June 19, Brig. Ananda Weerasekera also came and saw them. They told him their decision. He wanted two days time to report to Government and return with its message. So we decided to go on for two more days taking water. Otherwise we would have suspended taking even water after the seventh day of our fast, he added.

On June 21 about 8-00 p.m. Brig. Ananda Weerasekera came and told us that the Government had agreed to lift the economic blockade on the Tamil people and the LTTE had agreed to release them. So we gave up our fast, he said. He added that they were all happy that they were obtaining their release. He said he would like to thank the LTTE for protecting them for three years giving them all their needs and would pray that the Tamil people in the Northeast get all their requirements and live happily.

Balamenike said that the parents of the prisoners were well looked after in Jaffna. They are getting good food and other requirements. "Apata bulath vitath dhenewa" - We are being given even betel to chew - an inveterate habit especially among the older folk - she said gleefully.

Pests attack Lime trees

Says TEEDOR

A press-note issued by the Agriculture Environment-

Initiation of...

(Continuation from Page 1) look into the plight of our people who are subjected to enormous suffering due to the economic embargo.

We sincerely hope that your release will help to initiate a peace process in which negotiations can take place. We hope that in the near future some positive developments will take place which will lead to harmony.

Monitored from the voice of Tigers, Broadcasting.

tal Protection Division of the Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR) states that a certain variety of pests are found to attack lime trees consequent to the rains in May, this year.

The Pressnote further states that the pests attack will adversely affect fruit bearing of lime trees and advises owners of plants to spray the pesticides to protect their plants.

New Era Publications,
Luckshmi building, Dutch Rd.,
Kalviyankadu.