

**TAMIL VOICE
INTERNATIONAL**

TVI

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**AN APPEAL TO
SOLDIERS OCCUPYING
TAMIL EELAM**



Even though a pawn in the hands of State terrorism, the atrocities and murders that you commit in Tamil Eelam leave permanent scars in the hearts of the Tamil people.

Do not die labouring for the loathsome lies of our rulers. Do not lose your integrity and your humanity, so that they may prosper.

It is only when you are on the side of the oppressed can we speak the language of friendship. It is only then you will understand the depth of our struggle for liberation.

YOUR VOICE

THE WONDERFUL HALF-HAND OF THE IPKF

By Appan, Jaffna

According to a Sri Lankan paper, *Lanka Guardian* of Aug.1, General Sundarji (one time Sunthararajan?) is reported to have said that the IPKF had to fight with **"one- and-a-half hands tied behind our back."** But in mid-May, when *India Today* asked him, "In Operation Pawan, shouldn't you have asked for more time to go in, as Maneckshaw did in 1971?", the General's reply was, **"In 1971, you had a choice about the timing. Operation Pawan was not just a military operation, but a politico-military operation. After all, the operation was military as well."**

What did this balance half-a-hand do? The half-hand dynamited the printing machines of the *Eela Murasu and the Murasoli* dailies on the night of Oct.9, 1987. From 10th Oct. onwards it used its heavy guns at random, and the BBC correspondent called it *"inaccurate artillery"*, though Mark Tully who was in Palaly on a *conducted tour* saw nothing untoward. Mark Tully, a Rajiv groupie, may receive another decoration from the Queen, but at what a price honest journalism? *This half-hand got Sinhalese helicopters to strafe civilians, shell their homes, it drove tanks over rail tracks and productive vegetable gardens to avoid land mines along roads. It shot innocent civilians in their homes and bunkers, erasing entire families in the process; raped maidens, middle-aged women (even pregnant), and grannies. It ordered people to rush to refugee camps and looted their houses and shops. It decimated the entire fleet of buses at the Kondavil Depot, shot into each and every computer at the Jaffna University, imposed a non-stop curfew ranging from 15 days to months. This half-hand is yet brutalising the civilians of North-Eastern Lanka. After cordon off and search, the Indian forces herded the people into centres for "spotting" by their Tamil mercenaries. The people had to squat for hours in the hot sun. Recently at Kopay, while the oppressors had 'Fanta', a bucket of water brought*

for the civilians was snatched and poured out. Said the Indian sentry, "You people like to fast, now come along, fast." Can Gen.Sundarji deny all the above? Will the Indians allow independent organisations like the International Red Cross to comment on the above? North-Eastern Sri Lanka has been thrown down flat, and is being trampled by the Indian, excepting perhaps in places like Niththikai-Kulam!

According to *Aside*, the Magazine of Madras, dated Sept.16-30, 1988, a high official of the Government of India, who had worked closely with Rajiv till recently, had said in a private conversation, **"Rajiv Gandhi is a Bhasmaasura. Anything he touches, he destroys; and now he is touching his own head."** Probably true; because the wailings of our dying babies, children, boys and girls, men and women and grandpas and grannies have to be answered in the name of the beloved GOD above!

"Erlai Alutha Kanneer Kooriya Vaalokkum" and "Thikkattvarkku Theivamey Thunai" are Tamil proverbs, which mean that God is the only help for the helpless.

JAFFNA MAN : INDOMITABLE IN SPIRIT THOUGH TIRED

C.V.Nathan, Kollupitiya

I have just returned from Jaffna after attending the Nallur festival and after seeing for myself the extensive damage to my property there and the destruction all around it.

The one thing that strikes anyone who goes there after the military offensives, two in 1987 alone, is the resilience of the Jaffna man who has taken a sound beating mentally and physically, economically bankrupted and deprived of his home and possessions in the place of his birth, and yet remains indomitable in spirit though tired. His silent suffering is adequate compensation and contribution to the struggle in hand. They are behind the Tamil Resistance, not behind some of the disgruntled breakaway groups anyway. These groups are a disgrace to the community. Open highway rob-

bery is being committed by the TELO and what is left of 'THREE-STAR', some functioning under the very nose of the IPKF. Despite all this, moderate intelligent opinion is for a renegotiated solution with India. The Accord has flopped in the eyes of the people and mere assurances from India are not being taken seriously after their diplomatic debacle in letting the 14 LTTE cadres die and little being done to halt the Government-sponsored 'West Bank' style settlements.

The LTTE says it has lost faith in India and is prepared to discuss with any Sri Lankan party seeking a solution, presumably the SLFP.

In my view, this is crass madness. They want to succeed where the Tamil politicians, including the TULF, have miserably failed over the past 30 years. It is the Indian presence that has been largely responsible for the change of heart and certainly it is under duress that Tamil equality is being conceded in certain spheres and will vanish when the bogey is removed. So the current Tamil opinion is that India must stay long enough to make any political solution meaningful: any geo-political advantage she may derive is part of the package she is entitled to for her intervention and for the larger interests of her security.

The situation down South is chaotic and is almost the same as what the Centre had to face with the LTTE in the North from 1985. But the JVP's effort is a far cry from the dedicated resolve of the Tamil militants fired by genuine grievances involving fundamental freedom.

"INDIA, WITH ALL THY FAULTS, I LOVE THEE STILL"

By K.K.Karikalan, London E6

You may be right in condemning the atrocities perpetrated by the Indian forces in Tamil Eelam. But at the same time I would like to tell the people of Tamil Eelam and your readers that **Indian Government is not synonymous with Indian people**, though in terms of constitutional law one

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INDIA'S GOEBBELSIAN PROPAGANDA

Mr P Chidambaram, India's Union Minister of Internal Security who was involved in the final round of negotiations with the Government of Sri Lanka has accused **"the United States, Pakistan and Britain of trying to divide Sri Lanka, and destabilize the island, by undermining the Peace Accord"** - (*Lanka Guardian*, 15 August 1988). This is a statement from a responsible minister which comes out of the blue and is entirely without foundation. The Indian Prime Minister, for his part, has stated **"that the LTTE have gone back many a time on their promises."** International opinion is only too aware of Mr Gandhi's questionable role and the behaviour of his Peace Keeping Force. **Mr Gandhi is no longer the mediator but the ally of President JR and is partnering him in the genocidal attacks on the people of Tamil Eelam.**

The crude propaganda machine of the Indian Government and its unreliable R.A.W. agents who choose not to understand the aspirations of the people of Tamil Eelam. They think that peace and a permanent settlement is a question of surrendering "700 pieces of weaponry"! This is incredible naivete.

Minister S.Thondaman, the Sri Lanka Indian Tamil leader in President J.R's cabinet, showed greater lucidity in his thinking on the Tamil problem when, in an interview to *Sunday Times*, he remarked that **"India did not understand the true aspirations of the Tamils and found that it had to use the IPKF against the very people whose interests it came to protect."**

What is more disturbing is firstly the use of the diabolic Indian State-propaganda machine to defame and discredit a people who are fighting against fearful odds with their back to the wall. All India Radio and those Indian journalists who are blessed with favours by the Gandhi government spread the foulest falsehoods of atrocities alleged to be committed by our fighting forces. The LTTE has come out openly and condemned the recent taking of innocent blood. The obscene deed was obviously perpetrated by agents - provocateur of either the Indian or Sri Lanka government or by both. The world is told that this is one more instance of the LTTE's brutalising methods. **What the world must know is that we, the people of Tamil Eelam, and our soldiers on the battle field are fighting for a just cause. We believe, in keeping with our civilised tradition, in a righteous war. The raping of women, the torture of people and the slaughter of innocents are the specialities of Rajiv Gandhi's IPKF and President JR's army, in particular his Special Task Force.**

Secondly, President JR's Franco-style fascist terror State has pulled off a fraudulent bloodless electoral coup in most of the elections to the North-Eastern Provincial Council. Three Tamil groupings of miniscule proportions who are under the benign protection of "Mother India" were the only ones to submit nomination papers. They were returned "uncontested." To the world this is the triumph of democracy. But those who have eyes to see and ears to hear know that elections such as these cannot be won by sleight of hand or by a whispering campaign. **Sooner than later the entire facade of the paper-thin provincial councils will crumble. The question of Tamil Eelam cannot be decided in such an obfuscated manner.**

Thirdly, the fourth largest standing army in the world, with its IPKF in Tamil Eelam, seeks to blunder its way into what it hopes will be the peace and quiet of the graveyard. Its brutalities and violations of human rights are gradually being uncovered. Indian officers have been summoned before Sri Lanka's courts of justice. They have, notwithstanding Mr Dixit's abrasive interventions on the question of Indian soldiers falling within the jurisdiction of Sri Lanka's judicial system, been requested to file answers to habeas corpus applications. The Gandhi government endeavours to conceal the atrocities of the Indian army of occupation. Whilst at the same time, massacres of innocent people are engineered and the Indian Goebbelsian machine puts out information that these mindless killings are the work of the LTTE. **By now the U.N Sub-Commission on Human Rights and other agencies have become aware**

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TAMIL VOICE International

எப்பொருள் யார் யார் வாங்க கேட்கிறோம் அப்பொருள்

மெய்ப்பொருள் காண்பதற்கு

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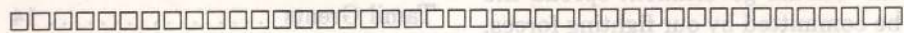
EDITORIAL

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of the evil machinations of the two guilty governments.

Lastly, we conclude on an optimistic note. **Not all Indians believe in Gandhi's wicked war. Tamil Nadu loathes this war against their fellow compatriots in Tamil Eelam. The National Front, a coalition of political parties with Mr. V.P.Singh, India's Mr.Clean himself, as one of its leaders, declared that the N.F. "is deeply concerned about the attitude of the Government of India which has led to the tragic situation in Sri Lanka." The N.F. wants an immediate cease-fire and calls for negotiations "with the LTTE and others" so as to bring about "a satisfactory solution and a durable Accord."**

We caution Mr Gandhi, his government and his spy agency R.A.W., to see reason, and abandon their Goebbels-style propaganda (they have in any case discredited themselves in the eyes of the Non-Aligned Movement and in the entire context of respect for human rights), give up their dirty war, desist from falling prey to President JR's Machiavellian calculations, declare a cease-fire without any time limit and enter into rational discussions with the people of Tamil Eelam. The only way for India to win back her confidence with Tamil Eelam is to re-commence negotiations with its accredited leaders. Indian-style Goebbels propaganda, in our view, will not be accepted by a world which has already had evidence of Indian violations of human rights in Tamil Eelam which have been carefully documented by human rights organisations of proven integrity.



YOUR VOICE

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may mean the other. **Do condemn the Indian Government whenever they are found guilty of transgression; but please be discreet and discriminate. Do not condemn India.** Whatever the present Tigers may now have to say against the Indian Government, it would be the height of ingratitude if the Tigers forget that it is India that fed and nurtured the ideals and hopes of the LTTE. Without India Tigers could not be what they are today. **Even today, Tigers, in my opinion, will not be able to perform as they now are doing, except for the encouragement and support they continue to receive in great measure from the people of India. I bow my head to the relentless campaigns and rallies organised by stalwarts like Gopalsamy and Nedumaran.**

We Tamils now condemn India. Would you for a moment imagine the plight of the Eelam Tamils, if another power had entered Sri Lanka in place of India? If any other power had stepped on the soil of Sri Lanka, the Tamils of Eelam would be exter-

minated. India is not particularly against the Tamils. Understandably it has its own face-saving, selfish interests; and selfishness is blind. In the process of 'safeguarding' their self-interests, the Tamils are marauded. **They are, to put in legal jargon, not committing murder; it is culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Therefore they deserve a more lenient punishment than the one 'TVI' appears to mete out.**

[Editor's note: We wish to reiterate that neither TVI nor Eelam Tamils oppose or work against the interests of our Indian brothers and sisters. We are not anti-India. We love and adore India. It is the oppressors that we oppose wherever they come from.]

'THIRUKKURAL' - AN APPRECIATION S.Nagendra, East Ham

I have been closely following the articles on Thirukkural appearing regularly in your Journal, written by Mr.S.Sriskandarajah. **The rendering is really marvellous.**

When one reads the Kural verses direct from the book, one is not deeply impressed, in that, it just remains a piece of expert advice to be followed, but eventually melts away into oblivion after some time. But when one reads the treatise on each Kural as it appears in your Journal, by the mere treatment of it, the writer compels the reader to get absorbed in it.

His way of explaining each verse by using simple expressions enables even a child to understand its meaning. The impact it would create on the young mind is great; and that is the writer's purpose also, I believe. The author's selection of suitable anecdotes to support his exposition of each Kural is evident proof that he is well and widely read. His knowledge of our great epics like the Mahabaratham and Ramayanam and other books on religion and ethics seems to be his forte. Not only does this writer inspire his readers to study Thirukkural but also he harnesses their interest in getting them to read the Mahabaratham and the Ramayanam as well.

Unfortunately, the present generation is not interested in studying or at least reading these epics. It is a pity that the present day school curriculum also does not allow these stories or excerpts from them to be taught in schools nor are the elders in a position to compel them to take interest in these great epics. They simply ignore the epic stories as mere fairy tales and do not realise the real value of the lesson or moral they could gather by reading the incidents and episodes buried in those seemingly light tales.

Thirukkural is the Tamil man's treasure, a great boon to him. This book has been translated into 34 of the world's major languages which shows how valuable this Thirukkural is to mankind. It should be interesting to note that Thirukkural would appeal to all religions alike as it does not specify any particular religion or God.

It will be appreciated if he could extend his contribution to other topics as well - for instance, on epics like Mahabaratham or Ramayanam.

SKELETONS IN THE CUPBOARD

By M.K.Eelaventhan

What Kittu requested in his letter was that they be tried forthwith or set free and allowed to join their comrades in Eelam and not for India to make use of his letter to startle them at 3 a.m. in the Central Prison, handcuff them and to whisk them away in armed police vans to the Airport base and flown. This was deportation without legal documents while in custody. There was no release and no freedom for the LTTE to leave as they wished. This is as much an abuse as detaining them under the National Security Act without cause.

The backing given by India to EPRLF, TELO and ENDLF only confirms the popular belief that they were the notorious 'Three-Stars' brought by Indian Peace Keeping Force to track down the LTTE who were fighting and dying for the Eelam cause. This appears a repeat of the Bhinderawala fiasco - a premeditated conspiracy to wipe out the LTTE and install the yes group, a common political manoeuvre adopted by imperialistic countries.

The sincerity, genuineness, the strength and integrity of India in protecting the Eelam Tamil and finding a lasting solution will be put to test when Mr.Premadasa becomes President of Sri Lanka and orders the IPKF to quit long before they had accomplished their task of implementing the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement, come what may. There is no doubt that within weeks of the IPKF withdrawal the new President, be it Mr.Premadasa or Mrs.Bandaranaike, will begin to undo what India appears to have achieved in some measure beginning with the dismemberment of the North and East of Sri Lanka, the traditional homeland of the Eelam Tamils.

Time will prove to India that Tamil Eelam is the only solution for peace in the region.

BOYCOTT ELECTION AND DEFEAT BETRAYERS

TELF has appealed to Mr.Amirthalingam, the TULF leader and other relics of Eelam politics to retire into private life instead of misleading the

Eelam Tamil people into further destruction and disillusionment. **The diabolical and despicable attitude of the TULF has been explicitly shown by their refusing to face the people or the electoral process and by asking the Eelam Tamils to participate in the imposed electoral process. Their double standard is in total contradiction of their holy heritage under the political stewardship of S.J.V.Chelvanayagam. They have become virtual sell-outs, licking the boots of the forces assisting oppression.**

Tamil political history abounds with treacherous traitors and the 1988 incarnation of this unholy tradition are these baseless, policyless opportunists and betrayers picked out from the post-1983 hatcheries in Madras, who have decided to contest the elections and give credence to an electoral process designed and masterminded to perpetuate the Sinhala overlordship over Tamils.

TELF has appealed to the Tamil people to continue the struggle for liberation and reject any attempt, including that of the present election stunt by the oppressors, to blunt the onward march towards total liberation. **Tamil people should boycott the elections and project to the international community and communicate to our progeny that we should live or die as free people.**

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID RAISES VOICE FOR EELAM TAMILS

(Copy of the letter addressed to the 40th session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and Human Rights, by Russell Rollason, Executive Director, ACFOA)

The Australian Council for Overseas Aid, a co-ordinating body for some 85 Australian non-government organisations, active in overseas aid and development, remains deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. We deeply regret the continuing conflict in Sri Lanka and the immense human suffering in that country.

In July 1987, ACFOA cautiously welcomed the signing of the Indo - Sri Lanka Peace Accord. We held hopes that the violence had ended and a negotiated settlement would be achieved. **Subsequently we have felt a sense of betrayal at the brutality of the Indian Peace Keeping Force on their drive into**

Tamil areas. The continued occupation of parts of Sri Lanka by Indian troops is a grave matter and demands greater international concern and action.

We urge you to investigate the report of continuing widespread disappearances, detention without trial and extra judicial killings. We understand that you have received documentary evidence from Amnesty International and The World Federation of Tamils.

May we encourage your Sub-Commission in its work and urge you to take whatever steps available to cause a ceasefire and arrange a negotiated settlement in Sri Lanka.

EUROPEAN LEADERS IGNORE

Anton Balasingam, spokesman for the LTTE, on a short stop-over in Paris, told journalists that European leaders "don't take into account atrocities committed by Indian troops and how our people have been suffering for 40 years".

He denied reports that the Tigers had massacred 45 Sinhalese civilians a few days ago and dealt in drugs to raise funds. [Courtesy 'The Sunday Observer' (Colombo) Oct. 16, 1988].

THIRUKKURAL

By S.Sriskandarajah

எழுதுங்கால் கோல்காணக் கண்ணேபோல் கொண்கண்
பழிகாணேன் கண்ட விடத்து.

**"Ezhuthunkaal Koal Kaanaa Kanney Poal Konkan
Pazhi Kaanein Kanda Idaththu"** - Transliteration

**Like the eyes that see not the pencil that paints the eyebrows, I cannot see my
husband's fault just when I meet him** - Translation

This is the 1285th Kural and occurs in the third part of the **Thirukkural**, namely, the part dealing with **"Kaamam"** which may be translated as love or affection between a male and a female. As this Kural could be best understood and appreciated in a contextual situation, let me explain it by unfolding the scene and setting.

A girl had started courtship with a boy friend of equal standing and compatible temperament with the connivance of her foster mother who was worldly-wise. The lovers used to meet at prearranged venues and times without the knowledge of the natural parents. Once it so happened that the boy friend for some reason or other could not meet his girl friend at the appointed time and place. The girl who was thoroughly disappointed by the unpunctuality of the boy and became furious beyond control started swearing in the presence of her foster mother. The foster mother who realised the heart pangs of the girl started consoling her by saying that there must have been some good reason for the failure of the boy to turn up as promised and that she should quietly explain the embarrassment and frustration caused by such an irresponsible act of the boy when they meet again, which would be soon. The anger and anguish of the girl were such that she could not be comforted or pacified and she started recalling the various instances when he had let her down like that and swore that she would not set eyes on that "cheat" and "humbug" when he comes the next time, and pledged to repay tit for tat.

A few days passed and the love-torn girl received a message to the effect that the boy had planned to meet her at a certain place and time. The very mention of the boy sent an electrical

impulse that coursed through her whole body to make her feel supremely ecstatic. Even so, she feigned as though the message had no effect on her and she appeared apathetic.

The day came and the minute arrived and the girl's heart was thirsting and hungering to rush to the rendezvous. But she pretended to be busy otherwise. As the foster mother feared that a failure to keep the appointment could lead to further complications, she hurried to the girl's apartment and reminded her of the appointment and exhorted her to keep it. The girl put on a practised long face and proceeded 'reluctantly' along with the foster mother to the venue where the boy was waiting with a heavy heart laden with amorous feelings.

No sooner the girl set her eyes on the boy than all her pretensions melted away and she bloomed like a morning lotus and beamed like the radiant sun.

The foster mother who anticipated some untoward things to happen was taken aback. She, who feared a serious altercation to ensue, could not believe her eyes. Not having the mind to stand there and dampen their pleasure like a wet blanket, she departed leaving the couple to themselves.

The girl, after giving full vent to her pent up passions and feelings, returned to her apartment surreptitiously though she saw the foster mother on the way. The foster mother, who was sagacious but well-meaningly naughty, followed the girl into her apartment and chuckled. The meaning of the chuckle was obvious. Still the girl asked what the cause for it was. The foster mother spoke thus, "I can't understand the behaviour of love-struck girls like you. It was only

the other day you called that boy names and swore at him; but today what happened when you saw him? You didn't even ask him why he disappointed you on the last occasion. You simply ran into him and clung on to him like a climber twining round an espalier. Is this your resolve?"

The girl blushed and bluffed her way through intelligently by offering the tenor and purport of the above Kural. I said bluff, yet I was wrong. It is not bluff; it is a fact.

The lover spoke thus: "My dear, let me explain my situation. You and I use an eyebrow pencil to adorn our brows. Before we begin to paint our eyebrows, the pencil is there and we are able to see the pencil clearly. But the moment we lift the pencil and take it close to our eyebrow we cease to see the pencil and in fact we don't see the pencil because the concentration goes elsewhere. Then our concentration is on the eyebrow and not on the pencil. Similarly when my boy friend is away from me I see his faults and lapses clear and magnified. But when he is close to me, even as how we cease to see the pencil when it is near the brow, I forget his faults and blemishes. Such is the nature of love and my partiality for my lover. When I see him I do not see any faults. But when I do not see him I see nothing but faults."

Let us cast aside this romantic story for a moment and concentrate on the lesson this Kural tries to teach us. **The mistakes of those who are far and alien to us appear to be big and glaring. But the mistakes of those who are near and dear are not caught by our eyes, mental and physical.** This is the natural tendency of an ordinary human being. **We must guard ourselves against selfishness which makes us blind and refuses to see even that which is obvious.**

Fearlessness:

"Fearlessness connotes freedom from all external fear - fear of disease, bodily injury or death; of dispossession; of losing one's nearest and dearest; of losing reputation; or giving offence; and so on".

Mahatma Gandhi.

IN JAFFNA, THEY SEE NO WAY OUT

By Qadri Ismail

In the Senior Common Room at Jaffna University, someone said he expected a bloodbath. Everyone round the table agreed. Another lecturer burst in. "Two youths have been shot dead outside the hospital." Silence. I expected someone to say, "I told you so." There was more silence. I looked at their faces. They could all have been watching one of Alfred Hitchcock's better movies.

Once more, the people of Jaffna are going through hell. They cannot understand why.

Nobody in Jaffna wants Provincial Council elections. I spoke to around sixty people in two days and all of them said they were not going to vote. If the ballot boxes were brought to their doors, they said they would spoil the papers (though some were scared that the count would be tampered with). They did not want elections for two simple reasons. Firstly, exercising the franchise is utterly meaningless in the middle of a war. Even if the result is a government being elected, it would not be able to function in the face of LTTE disruption.

Secondly, the people of Jaffna want the governments of India and Sri Lanka to create conditions such that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam would contest the elections. They do not accept the recent ceasefire as a bona fide exercise; they do not care what the compromise is; they don't care if the Tigers are allowed to keep all their weapons; they don't care that they have been terrorised in the past; **they want the Tigers to be accommodated. It was startling to hear even bitter (private) critics of them state with certainty that if an election were held now, the LTTE would win comfortably in Jaffna.**

Explanation: The best explanation of this came from someone intimately involved with Tamil politics for about two decades. "The ordinary Tamil civilian has been hammered for the last thirty years", he said, "When non-violent protest was used, we were hammered. When the boys took to arms, we were hammered, first by

the Sri Lankan army, now by the IPKF. In all this time, only the LTTE stood up for the Tamils. We are a very proud people. Today, the only thing we have to be proud about is the LTTE."

In the Senior Common Room at Jaffna University, they read Henry Kissinger and laughed, almost choking with bile. The papers arrive in Jaffna late in the afternoon and they were reading Sunday's paper on Monday morning. One of them had a quote from the former United States Secretary of State to the effect that the super-powers will accept India being the boss of South Asia. "That talks of geo-political realities" said a social scientist, referring to Dr. Kissinger. "To us it means broken bones."

The University Science Teachers' Association (USTA) had taken up with the Indian authorities, "**seemingly calculated and indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population by members of the IPKF in the aftermath of incidents for which ordinary civilians can in no way be responsible.**" In one episode, on August 23, at Inuvil, all men, regardless of age, passing through the junction more than 24 hours after an LTTE grenade killed an Indian soldier, were systematically beaten. The USTA statement quoted the Indian Town Commandant's blithe public reaction to this: "**Assaults on civilians cannot be avoided when IPKF personnel are subject to attack.**" (*Brigadier Kahlon refused to speak to the 'Sunday Times'; so we don't have the Indian version*)

I saw myself, following the killing of a jawan in Jaffna town, a youth being assaulted by the IPKF. He had been held at a sentry point around seven in the morning, presumably for travelling without an identity card. He was kept standing in the sun with his hands on his head and beaten every time his hands slipped off. When I saw him, at 3 p.m., this was still going on. **No wonder the Jaffna Tamils feel a profound sense of alienation from the IPKF.**

Alienation: However, it must be

noted that their sense of alienation from the Sinhalese, from Sri Lanka, is even greater. It is actually India - or a section of the Indian establishment - that wants the North-Eastern P.C. election to be held soon, because they feel this will give them greater bargaining power over the next anti-agreement, (whoever is President) administration. But the Jaffna Tamils think that following - from their point of view - the intentional failure of the interim government last year, the provoked suicide of the thirteen guerillas and the colonisation of Welioya, Colombo is now thrusting on them an election nobody has asked for. Therefore, while they will at the drop of a *thosai* relate an unpleasant experience with the IPKF, they will say in the same breath that they do not want the Indian army to leave. The thought of the Sri Lanka army coming back makes them feel even more insecure.

It is immeasurably saddening to be in Jaffna now. Before the accord, however bad things may have been for them, they would say, "If things get worse, India will come and save us." Now the Indians have come, and only made things even worse. **Nobody can see a way out. Eelam Revolutionary Organisation spokesman, V.Balakumar, looked very grim. "May be it is too late now. The hope for peace is shattered. But there is one chance that can be taken. India should genuinely ask the LTTE to come for talks. If they can lift the proscription on the JVP, why not Tigers?"** He said with angry dejection, "There are ego problems on both sides."

Mr. Balakumar felt that the Tigers were still willing to negotiate; and took the release last week of two Indian captives by the guerillas as an indication of this. But, he went on, the more you wait and the more you push the Tigers, the more rigid they would get. He pointed out that during the recent ceasefire, Velupillai Prabhakaran and Gajendran Mahendrarajah had refused to see any emissaries.

The LTTE's position was enunciated by Mr. Sivanandarajah, Secretary to

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THE COMEDY OF A TRAGEDY

Dr.K.James

It must be said in fairness to India's New Moghuls in New Delhi that they seem to have a method even in their madness. Having failed to win their war against the Tamil Tigers in the North and East of Sri Lanka, to save face India must win at least a few battles. One hopes that the Tigers would understand their predicament and should have no qualms in providing an honourable exit to South Asia's 'Regional Super Power'. However, India's leaders, in their wisdom, are hell bent on making things more difficult for others as well as themselves.

Rajiv Gandhi is not the first of this 'dynasty' to rule India, but would certainly be the last, unless a 'Roman' someday stakes claim to the crown of Imperial India. India itself has a great long history and heritage, which transcends mortals some of whom have from time to time usurped power.

The young Prime Minister variously described the Accord which he signed with Sri Lanka's ageing President Jayewardene as the 'Accord of the century', 'unique and unprec-

edented'. There has been no other accord in modern history which was entered into between two nations to serve the mutual interests of two individuals. It is a tragedy that many more Sri Lankans have died after this 'peace' accord was signed than in the preceding four years of conflict. The destruction in Sri Lanka has been on an unprecedented scale, both for the Tamils and the Sinhalese, all in the name of a discredited accord, not for the benefit of the Tamils or the Sinhalese, not even for the Indians, but for the benefit of two individuals Rajiv and J.R. **The Sinhalese assert that this is a betrayal of Sri Lanka's sovereignty, whereas the Tamils claim that this is a 'Charter of Servility'.** Because of this accord today there is no peace in Sri Lanka. It has caused more agony and anguish to a whole nation of people. It therefore has to be 'unique and unprecedented'.

The comedy of this whole tragedy is being unfolded with the announcement of the forthcoming presidential elections in Sri Lanka. Jayewardene who has cun-

ningly resorted to every trick in the book to stay in power by rigged referenda, constitutional amendments, presidential decrees, and many more, has finally run out of time and ideas. Alas, the 'Old Fox' is unable to learn new tricks. So the day of reckoning has come closer. Both presidential nominees - the incumbent Prime Minister Premadasa, and the Opposition Leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike - have come out publicly that they would annul this Accord if they are elected to power, and will see that the Indians start packing their baggage. What an interesting scenario! At the same time, the IPKF is going about its business of enforcing a sham election in the Tamil province of Sri Lanka.

With the presence of a very large Indian force, whose numbers are not officially known even to Colombo, New Delhi is intent on enforcing an election on a besieged civilian population. That is Democracy, Indian style! What the Tamils in these provinces want first is peace and normalcy, and not to have imposed on them New Delhi's chosen groups and their candidates.

The curious part is that the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka himself has declared that this Accord should be abrogated and furthermore he is seeking the mandate of the Sinhalese people to do just that. If you ask the Indians what this is all about, they reply that they are implementing the Accord. The question is, which Accord, and for whose benefit? That is political management, Indian style!

Rajiv Gandhi's India is in an absolute mess in Sri Lanka. India first went in as a 'mediator', then became the 'guarantor', later the 'underwriter', and now the 'implementor'. And, at this rate they will soon become the 'undertaker'. What the enlightened Indians, patriots and Indian intelligentsia must realise is that whilst destroying Sri Lanka, India is slowly destroying itself. India's standing in the world is fast eroding and its leadership is becoming a target for ridicule, both within and more importantly in the outside world. This downward slide must be arrested now. The only way for Indians is to wake up and speak out with their conscience loud and clear.

They see no way out

continued from page 7

the Jaffna Citizens Committee: Release Kittu and start talks with him, they will eventually progress to negotiations with the Tigers leader. His position was that Mr.Prabaharan had already "accepted" the accord when he assented to the September 28 agreement, so there were no "impossible" demands to be negotiated.

Actually, if Mr.Prabaharan is serious, he would have to do better than this. Surely he must realise that New Delhi would give up a lot (including the EPRLF) to accommodate him. He must also realise that he should welcome elections, instead of being pathologically frightened of them, because he would win them. By offering to negotiate personally by offering to surrender all weapons (which he could legally get back for his Provincial Police) and contest elections, he would get the control over the North-East that he wants; he would also bring peace to his people, which they surely deserve after all this.

Difficult choice: With Tigers obduracy, India has a difficult choice. It looks almost definite at the time of this writing that PC polls will be postponed; but the nominations have

been gone through. This will inevitably result in the Tigers, as is their carnivorous wont, attempting to kill the candidates, or their supporters. ("Such traitors cannot be forgiven", says the latest Tigers statement). This has already begun. One EPRLF and one TELO member were killed in Jaffna this week. The EPRLF, if their performance in Batticaloa is anything to go by, is bound to retaliate (provided the IPKF helps). Civilians, caught helplessly in the middle, will die. Last week, they were quite openly terrified at the prospect. One has to be there to feel this misery.

An angry Jaffna Tamil population cannot help the Indian geo-political enterprise in any way. If India insists on going through with this process, rather than cancelling the nominations and continuing to pressure the LTTE, it will only make things worse for itself, only hasten an ignominious departure. If they insist, the least it can do for the Jaffna people in the interim is to build new morgues at the hospitals. [By courtesy - 'The Sunday Times' (Colombo) - Oct. 9, 1988]

MEDIA REPORT

An election nobody wants ?

Sri Lanka's Tamils fear that the forthcoming elections in the north and the east will result in a bloodbath

Suppose they held an election and nobody came. A very real possibility in Sri Lanka today as it gears up for the provincial council polls in the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern provinces. Nominations for these elections, the holding of which is a vital step towards fulfilling the Indo-Sri Lankan accord, is slated to open on 3 October and close on 10 October. But, at the time of writing, none of the Tamil groups has come forward to openly nominate candidates for the polls.

Opposition to the elections by the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has put the other Tamil groups in a bind. To take part in the polls without the LTTE's participation (or approval) could mean doing so at the risk of life. Their problem has only been heightened by the immense pressure India is putting on them through High Commissioner J.N. Dixit to participate.

did nothing to convince the LTTE to surrender its arms and support the progress of the accord. "We want the election postponed," he told 'Sunday'. "If the governments of Sri Lanka and India go ahead with the polls, there will be a certain bloodbath."

The militant groups have also expressed similar views. Of them, only the pro-LTTE Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS) has declined to register itself as a political party. The other groups - like PLOTE, ENDLF, EPDP, EPRLF and TELO- are too scared and too ill-equipped to tackle the Tigers, especially in the northern peninsula, where Prabaharan's writ runs.

Said a senior member of the EPRLF, Varadaraja Perumal, in a recent interview: "We have not been able to function openly for two years. And now we have just two weeks to prepare for elections." He went on to claim that his group was being pushed into participating in the polls by Delhi and Colombo.

the EPRLF has already supplied a list of probable candidates to Dixit on the condition that it is not made public until the last day of nominations. And despite its official opposition to the polls, the TULF has been sending feelers to its members in order to compile a list of willing candidates. "The idea is that if the election is held on schedule, we will be prepared," a senior TULF leader told 'Sunday' on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, the IPKF has been promising to provide "overall security" for conducting the elections. Says the force's commander Lt Gen. A.S. Kalkat: "Isolated cases of someone trying to coerce or threaten may take place, but the IPKF will be there to reassure the public." The IPKF will be mainly concerned with manning the area in the immediate vicinity of the poll booths and also patrolling the approach roads to them.

As the island prepares itself for what could easily be a bloody election, there is speculation as to why the Indian government is so keen on pressing for it, despite the obvious obstacles. One theory is that New Delhi wants the provincial councils set up before the presidential elections in Lanka. The fear is that a government opposed to the accord may come to power, dishonour the accord and tell the IPKF to go home. This would make the Indian involvement in Lanka over the past year appear futile and ridiculous. Even if the ruling United National Party is voted back to power, its presidential candidate, Ranasinghe Premadasa, is unlikely to allow the IPKF to stay on for as long as India would like.

Whatever the truth, the election is not going to be peaceful unless the LTTE is brought around. There is not much time for that now and if New Delhi persists in going ahead without the Tigers' approval, then the ensuing violence may undermine the worth of seeing the north and the east returned to the democratic process. [By courtesy of "SUNDAY" (New Delhi) of October 9-15, 1988]



IPKF commander A.S.Kalkat (left): promising 'overall security' for the polls

Even the non-militant Tamil United Liberation Front has expressed serious reservations about the move to hold elections in the existing violent situation. As secretary general Appa-pillai Amirthalingam points out, even the recent ten-day cease-fire declared by the Indian Peace Keeping Force

One strategy that is being worked out for the north - possibly at the behest of Dixit - is to get some of the Tamil groups to informally suggest candidates for the polls. It is reliably learnt that the TULF and the EPRLF are working towards a seat-sharing arrangement in the region. Apparently,

NEW CHALLENGES FOR RAJIV -

Mervyn de Silva

Was President JR a victim of the Presidency? Did the UNP leader become a casualty of the system he created? There was no serious legal obstacle to his seeking a third term, if he was inclined that way. The two-term limitation could have been removed with a two-third majority. Some feared that the Supreme Court might argue that such an amendment did affect the franchise and therefore required a referendum. Legal arguments notwithstanding, JR's final decision to nominate another party man was primarily a political decision.

JR is also a party man. He did not wish it to be said that the party had lost because of him. The assumption here is that the current mood was more anti-JR than anti-UNP. So the 'party man' in JR made the supreme sacrifice.

Yet, he was also the victim of his own invention. By centralising power in the presidency, he also concentrated all anti-regime anger. The focus of authority in the new authoritarian structure became quite logically the focal point of all oppositional hostility.

If Prime Minister Premadasa became his nominee, it was not only because he was No.2. The other serious aspirants were also casualties and victims of policy and events. **The National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali was the principal casualty of the 'War That Wasn't Won', while Lands Minister Dissanayake was the victim of the Peace Accord that brought no peace.**

And peace still eludes the Peace-Keeping Force. The five-day ceasefire, extended twice, has at last ended, with the Tigers still playing for time stipulating conditions that nobody takes seriously any more. In fact, the Tigers themselves are running out of 'conditions' for negotiations. Not that this is difficult to understand given the predicament in which they have placed themselves, and have been placed by events over which they no longer have control - e.g. elections in Sri Lanka with the possibility of a change of government,

and elections in Tamil Nadu once Mr.Gandhi withdraws Presidential rule. Nor can they possibly participate in the Provincial polls for that means surrendering of arms. Nor can they permit the polls to acquire the slightest credibility.

So, while the Tigers are playing for time - a new political situation in Tamil Nadu, and perhaps later in Delhi itself - Mr.Gandhi has lost his patience. Old routines like 'Talk to Prabakaran at the highest level', 'Extend the ceasefire indefinitely', 'Release X, Y or Z', have not impressed or fooled Gandhi, which doesn't mean that the Indian Prime Minister sees things going his way. Not at all. In fact, the nomination of Prime Minister Premadasa as candidate for Presidency presents an entirely new problem for India.

India's Sri Lanka policy-makers have another messy problem on their plate. And it is none other than President, J.R.Jayewardene, Rajiv Gandhi's co-signatory to the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord, who has done the serving.

He has picked Prime Minister R. Premadasa, the most powerful conscientious objector to the pact, as his successor when some of the vital provisions of the agreement still remain unfulfilled, and presidential elections are barely hundred days away. On September 16 the United National Party's Working Committee, (all nominees of the President), unanimously chose the 64 year old Prime Minister as its candidate. **Mr.Jayewardene himself nominated Mr.Premadasa while the motion was jointly seconded by Lands Minister Gamini Dissanayake and National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali. Nobody missed the political significance of this unusual procedure.**

Opposite views

The two younger men were the only other aspirants. Not only are they natural contenders for party leadership but represent contrary views on the peace accord. Mr.Dissanayake was intimately associated with the secret negotiations which led to the

July 1987 Accord, and remained, along with Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel, its most outspoken defender. The National Security Minister on the other hand had staked his career on a military victory against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. When Operation Liberation, the final offensive, was launched in early 1987, Mr.de Mel nicknamed Mr. Athulathmudali "the poor man's McNamara."

With India's "benign intervention" - the air drop of food supplies over Jaffna - **Mr.Jayewardene read New Delhi's signal correctly and called off the operation, denying Mr.Athulathmudali the political rewards of a military success.**

Since then Mr.Athulathmudali, still holding on to his National Security portfolio, found himself blamed by the Indian authorities, generally off-the-record, for placing many a road-block on the path to peace. The Indian press went further and even suggested sabotage.

Forced Unity

President Jayewardene's selection of seconders, with the approval, no doubt, of Premadasa, was nothing less than a shotgun wedding of rival contenders and opposing tendencies to the Peace Accord. The public demonstration of party unity does not however settle the crucially important issue of the party's official stance on the accord in the presidential campaign.

Mr.Premadasa will be surely tempted to take an anti-Accord, and therefore anti-India, 'line'. To do so, he must more than distance himself from Mr.Jayewardene, especially because his challenger, Mrs.Sirimavo Bandaranaike, will also be attacking the accord. Her main target will be the merger of the North and East, which remains the most emotional issue for Sinhalese who identify 'the traditional homeland' concept with a separate Tamil kingdom. She will also call for the withdrawal, probably 'phased', of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force. She will talk of negotiations with New Delhi, but for the need for friendship with

REACH A FAIR AGREEMENT, URGE THE MAURITIAN TAMILS

At a meeting held at the Draupadai Amman Kovil Mandabam, Port Louis, Mauritius, on Thursday 29th September 1988, attended by 62 people among whom 21 were representatives of various Tamil Organisations and three represented the Organisation Fraternelle, Groupe Lataniers and Komite Moris Losean Indien, the following was agreed upon unanimously:-

1. **This Assembly affirms its solidarity with the Tamils of Sri Lanka in their struggle to win back their rightful homeland;**
2. **This Assembly vigorously deplores and condemns the strategy adopted by the Indian Government to put down the Tamils in their endeavour to protect adequately their people and to lay claim for their rightful heritage;**
3. **This Assembly views with great**

concern the perplexities of the policy of the Government of India to restore peace in Sri Lanka;

4. **This Assembly notes with regret the abuse of power by the Indian Armed Forces in the process of pursuing their objectives, enforcing their sinister authority on an already weakened party in the conflict;**

5. **This Assembly further observes with no less interest the harassment caused to Tamils in Jaffna by the Indian Armed forces and expresses in unequivocal terms its bitterness and contempt for the repressive measures taken by the Government of India against Tamils it sought to protect;**

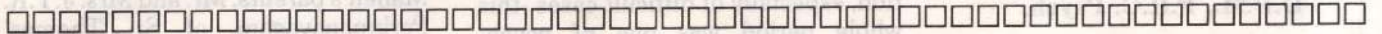
6. **This Assembly resolves:**
(a) **that the Indian Armed Forces be made to conform strictly to the agreement signed on July 29, 1987,**

so far as the establishment of peace and order is concerned and in all justification be not allowed to act arbitrarily beyond this.

(b) **that any decision to be reached henceforth about the future political involvement of Tamils should be in consultation with and approved by representatives of militants fighting for the liberty and self respect of their people, principally the LTTE.**

(c) **that two representatives of the United Nations be called upon and given the right of survey in the procedures to be adopted for the implementation of any fair agreement to be concluded between the parties.**

M.SANGEELEE.
L.VENKATASAMY.
M.THANCANAMOOTOO.



India founded on a return to Bandaranaikist non-alignment.

In substance, however, the public debate will take the form of each candidate striving to outbid the other on an anti-Accord line, with the propagandist fury rising as the day of decision approaches. This is hardly a situation that marks a success for New Delhi's diplomacy. What it does emphasise is how recklessly India over-estimated its power of persuasion vis-a-vis the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan regime, while remaining wilfully blind to the obvious - that Sri Lanka is a democracy. Whatever its recent dictatorial deformities, it was a functioning democracy that permitted the possibility of a change in government.

Flawed

This is yet another reason why the facile Afghanistan analogy was fundamentally flawed. If India intervened because it perceived, as Defence Minister K.C.Pant argues, a security threat on its southern flank, New Delhi should have known that it could not possibly undertake to protect a repentant Jayewardene regime. The Vietnam parallel looks less

flawed, since India is a vibrant democracy, with as combatively vigorous a press as the American.

What is happening in Sri Lanka's North and East and what the IPKF is doing may not appear on Doordharshan but the press reportage is steadily casting doubts on the IPKF's claims of "pacification." What would happen if such reportage and editorial questioning of the rationale of the IPKF's stay alter Indian public opinion? What, more crucially, if there is a change of regime in Tamil Nadu, if not in New Delhi itself? India's Sri Lanka policy will be a shambles.

What went wrong of course was the time-table, itself based on an exaggerated assessment of the Indian capacity to deliver the LTTE. The Tigers are still fighting, at least up to the recent unilateral IPKF ceasefire. In Sinhalese eyes the point is that Mr.Prabaharan is still alive, a fact understood to mean that India does not really wish to kill or even capture him.

Poser

Why not? That is the commonest question in the Sri Lanka press and it

does reflect opinion from Mr.Premadasa and Mrs.Bandaranaike to the man in the street. The educated guess is that New Delhi does not wish to destroy the LTTE, the principal tool of its coercive diplomacy, more so with the post-Jayewardene political situation so uncertain.

Mr.Premadasa, an accomplished orator, is a master of innuendo. He fired his first shot only 24 hours after his nomination. On September 17, President Jayewardene's birthday, the new Supreme Court complex constructed by the Chinese, was formally opened and the magnificent building, he said, had a lesson for all. "It was an example of how powerful countries could win the hearts and minds of people in small nations through genuine friendship and generosity, not by flexing of muscles and aggressive threats", he said.

Mr.Premadasa was in Japan when the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord was negotiated. He left China soon after he became the right-wing UNP's first "man of the people" candidate for the highest office. [Courtesy - 'Lanka Guardian' - October 1, 1988]

OBITUARY

A.J.D.N.SELVADURAI

A.J.D.N.SELVADURAI died in Colombo on 24th Sept 88. He was a son of the late Mr Nevins Selvadurai of Vannarponnai, distinguished Principal of Jaffna Hindu College founded by his father Sithamparapillai.

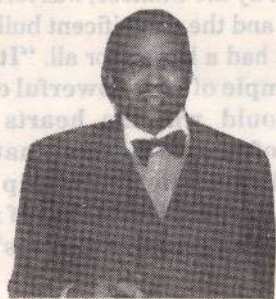
Mr Selvadurai was a popular lawyer practising at Hulftsdorf and was a famous all-round sportsman of his time. He was the first winner of the Wilton Bartleet Challenge cup for Athletics, jointly with the late Osmond de Silva. He also played cricket for Ceylon against Hasset's Australian Services Team which included Keith Miller. Apart from Athletics and cricket he also played top class tennis and won the National Doubles title with the late F.C.de Saram.

He belonged to a large and gifted family and leaves behind two brothers D.J.N. Selvadurai and B.S.N.Selvadurai.

MAHEN PERINPANAYAGAM D.P.M., F.R.C. Psych.

In the death of Dr. M.S. Perinpanayagam not only the country of his adoption but also we who followed him here have lost an outstanding personality and a caring friend and counsellor.

After obtaining his MBBS in Colombo in 1953 he came to England the following year "for further training" but stayed on to inspire and to train hundreds of doctors in his chosen field of Psychiatry till his premature death at the age of 60 on October 12. His funeral took place in Bromley on October 21.



Dr. Douglas Brough, D.P.M., F.R.C. Psych, a fellow consultant of Dr. Perinpanayagam and a friend of over three decades, speaking in St. Marks Church before a very large gathering of mourners, paid handsome tribute

to Mahen for his unique qualities of head and heart. In the course of his address, he said: "We first met more than 30 years ago when we were both fairly recently qualified. Mahen quickly revealed in those early days the personality and character that were to make him a first class doctor and consultant. He was a man with formidable energy and infectious enthusiasm which endeared him to his patients and friends. He, more than anyone else that I have known, succeeded in squeezing the activities which should have taken two days into one.

These characteristics were considerably helped and moulded by his period of training in the York Clinic, Guys Hospital, St. Olaves and the Bexley Group of Hospitals. The York Clinic ethos in the 1960's, of which Mahen was an essential part with David Stafford Clark and John Fleminger, was particularly helpful to him with its emphasis on comparatively short term treatment and rehabilitation, especially of difficult cases - this whole period was one of psychiatric enlightenment in the mid 1960's which stood him in good stead for the rest of his professional life.

There is no doubt that he took the experience of this training to his consultant work at Stone House Hospital, Dartford, where he was, to quote one of his colleagues "unique amongst us for his energy and enthusiasm". In order to accommodate all his work at Stone House, Mableton, and also at the local Borstal, his days started early and finished late.

This is not to say that he did not equally enjoy his leisure hours. Many colleagues and friends will remember him as a delightful companion with a natural charm and never-ending generosity.

His love of music found expression in the playing of many musical instruments and he was always keen to learn more, but most will remember him with his accordion. I remember, in particular, the Christmas carols at Stone House where every ward was visited and the appreciation was obvious to see, after which the music was continued until the early hours of the following morning.

Mahen lived a full life. He developed post graduate education at Stone House. He was a founder member of

the University of Surrey Primary M.R.C. Psych course, which still flourishes.

His colleagues and I remember him as a patient and sympathetic teacher, whose generosity and help will be remembered by many junior doctors, especially from Mahen's home country of Sri Lanka. He was humble enough to listen and take on board any useful suggestions.

Mahen spent the last part of his professional life in Guernsey where I went to visit him several times. He brought the same qualities of a high standard of care, energy and enthusiasm to this work also. He bore his protracted illness with great courage and fortitude."

To his widow, Pushpam, and daughter, Jasmine, as well as to his brothers Gnani and Sounthy who live in this country, and Selvendi in Colombo, we offer not only our deep sympathy but also the love and gratitude of a people who were privileged to know him. Mahen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.T.R. Perinpanayagam, of St. Thomas' Prep. School, Kollupitiya died not very long ago, full of honours and fondly remembered. His only sister, Swarnam, died last year in Australia.

PROF. MILROY PAUL

The death occurred at the General Hospital, Colombo, on Oct.8, of Dr. Milroy Paul, the eminent Tamil surgeon. He was 88. He leaves four sons and a daughter.

Dr. Paul was the eldest son of the late S.C. Paul and the father of Mr. Wakely Paul, presently in the States. He was a Master of Surgery of the University of London, FRCS (Eng), MRCP (Lond) and the first Professor of Surgery of the Ceylon Medical College and later the University of Ceylon (Sri Lanka). He was thrice elected Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He was the first Sri Lankan to achieve this honour.

"A doctor is an instrument of love, compassion and service; and if he or she is not able to give all this, then the person concerned should give up being a doctor".

Mother Teresa

MADURAI CONFERENCE REPRIMANDS INDIAN GOVT.

People of Madurai, Tamil Nadu, recently congregated at Madurai Regal Theatre to participate in a conference organised to roundly condemn the arrest of two hundred Tamil Eelam fighters all over India.

At the end of the conference, which was presided over by P. Nedumaaran, leader of Tamil Nadu Kamraj Congress, and where several speakers, including K.Veeramany (General Secretary Dravida Kazhagam), R. Chezhiyan (President of Tamil Nadu Janata Party), P.Maniyarasan (State Organizer of Indian Marxist Communist Party), Balraj (Indian People's Front), Marimuttu (Madurai District Secretary, AIADMK - Janaki faction), spoke, the following resolutions were passed:-



Resolution: 1

This Conference vehemently condemns the unreasonable detention under National Security Act, of the 200 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam who were recuperating and receiving treatment in India after having sought refuge as a result of the assault and aggression of the Indian army in Tamil Eelam.

The arrest and detention of the cadres of the LTTE, who were legally and in a restrained manner engaged in propaganda activities only, without giving cause for any complaint relating to sabotage or anti-social activities, is nothing but a clear case of human rights violation. This Conference calls upon all the democratic institutions to raise their voice ag-

ainst the fascist trend of the Indian Government which has taken into custody the Eelam Tamils who took refuge in India.

This Conference demands that the Indian Government should forthwith release all the Tamil Tigers without any conditions whatsoever.

Resolution 2

During the past 5 years, many Tamils have been arrested for alleged involvement in multifarious robberies, murders and related anti-social activities. Though these Tamils had been charged with the aforesaid offences, so far no one knows as to what happened to the cases that had been filed against them. It is still a mystery. These incidents have been magnified and a strong propaganda has been launched undermining the Tamil Eelam liberation movement and damaging the interests of the Eelam Tamils. This propaganda has been set in motion and given acceleration with a view to dimming and diminishing the feelings of brotherhood and ethnic affinity that are shown by the Tamil Nadu Tamils towards the Eelam Tamils.

It has come to light at various stages that there is a close link between RAW and those who are involved in the aforesaid offences. There is also the allegation that these anti-social elements engage in such criminal acts in India and in Eelam only with the connivance and co-operation of the RAW. Our earlier requests made to the government of India demanding that a Supreme Court Justice be appointed to head an Inquiry to investigate the aforesaid incidents have fallen on deaf ears. Hence this Conference resolves to appoint an independent Commission of Inquiry comprising impartial and fair-minded men to inquire into the alleged incidents so as to find out the truth and to expose the background of these 'accused men who have not been brought to book'.

Resolution 3

Certain newspapers in India calculatingly blame the Tamil Eelam Tigers for all the murders and robberies that

are committed by some anti-social elements of Tamil Nadu. When, in point of fact, those incidents have no connection at all with the Tamil Liberation movement, such false charges have the effect of damaging the good name of the Tamil Tigers.

The leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has time and again declared that the Tamil Tigers have no connection either directly or indirectly with these anti-social activities. The LTTE continues to be a well-disciplined organisation following a path of principled policies. When that is the case, it is unfair to implicate them in anti-social acts of crime committed by some unprincipled and disgruntled elements. We therefore call upon the papers concerned to refrain from slinging mud on the blameless LTTE.

Resolution 4

The Indian armed forces have prevented the representatives of the Red Cross Society from entering the Tamil areas where the Tamils who have been wantonly attacked by the Indian forces are crying for medical help and relief. Indian army continues to refuse permission for Indian and foreign journalists to enter the stricken areas of Tamil Eelam. Indian army allows only those journalists who are prepared to report the army version of the situation. Even these 'favoured' journalists are not shown the worst stricken areas.

In fine, this Conference vehemently condemns the situation in Sri Lanka wherein the fundamental rights have been brazenly violated and democracy has given way to dictatorship. This conference demands that the Red Cross Society be allowed into the Tamil Eelam areas to render medical help to the wounded and to offer relief to all those who are in dire need of them.

Indian and foreign reporters should be freely admitted into the inhumanly devastated areas of Tamil Eelam so that the international community will be able to realize the harrowing havoc that has been wrought by the reckless Indian army.

TAMIL GREATS

By Ranjithan, Oman

C V RAMAN - SCIENTIST

(FIRST ASIAN NOBEL LAUREATE IN SCIENCE - PHYSICS)

The golden era of Physics which began in 1895 with the discovery of X-rays, also gave birth to two of the greatest intellectual achievements of all time. They were the *'Theory of Relativity'* and the *'Quantum Theory'*. One of the earliest experimental proofs in support of the latter was provided by the discovery of an optical phenomenon by Sir C V Raman in 1928, since then called the *'Raman Effect'*.

In 1930, C.V Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for this discovery and became the first Asian scientist ever to receive the prize. With the development of the laser, *'Raman Laser Spectroscopy'* became a powerful and widely used tool in the hands of the modern chemist in the analysis of the structure of various molecules.

Venkata Raman was born the son of Chandrasekhara Iyer on 7 November 1888 at Thiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. His father was a Physics Professor in Andhra Pradesh. Raman had his university education at Presidency College, Madras where he obtained both a B.A and an M.A with first class, the latter at the age of only 18 and with record marks. While still a student at Presidency College he published his first scientific paper in the *'Philosophical Magazine'* a respected professional science journal, on a topic in Optics.

The natural choice for such a talented and original minded youth of India in the early decades of this century would have been to proceed to Europe for further studies. Medical advice precluded Raman from undertaking the long voyage and he was left with the option of a career in India with the Finance Department of the British Colonial Administration as an Assistant Accountant General on the basis of a country-wide competitive examination in which he stood first. He was posted to Calcutta.

Despite the bright prospects his career in Finance was thought to provide -- he was expected to end up one day as the Adviser in Finance to the Viceroy of India - his thoughts were entirely dominated by science. The absence of a laboratory would have frustrated any other young person of his inclinations. But, Raman unde-



Late C.V.Raman

Died 21st November 1970
aged 82 years

terred, 'experimented' on the musical instruments available in an Indian home such as the Violin and the Indian musical drum and poured forth a series of papers and monographs which contributed to the foundation of the 'physics' of musical instruments. While in Calcutta, Raman stumbled upon the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science which was then defunct but had some sort of a laboratory with rudimentary facilities which he frequented in his spare time to conduct his experiments.

When Sir Ashtosh Mukerjee, the newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University began looking for a Physics professor, Raman was his natural choice. Statutes had to be altered to permit the appointment of one without 'foreign education' and Raman had to leave a job with much better remuneration to become a relatively low paid academic.

The wisdom of Sir Astosh's decision to appoint a 'Finance Department Official' as Professor of Physics was vindicated. Within a year of his appointment Raman became a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), a very prestigious scientific honour. In another six years he became a Noble Laureate. Together with the mathematical prodigy S.Ramanujan and the physiologist J.C.Bose, Raman put India firmly on the scientific map of

the world.

Soon after his Nobel Prize, Raman moved from Calcutta to Bangalore to the Indian Institute of Science where he extended his influence by research in Physics to cover further areas such as X-ray crystallography, solid state physics etc. The Indian Institute of Science under his influence, became an internationally recognised centre for scientific research. Later on he formed his own independent research institute at Bangalore.

During his career in research Raman published over a thousand scientific papers alone and in collaboration, trained several younger Indian scientists and set a high example for others to emulate. Among his famous students were K.S.Krishnan (FRS), G.N. Ramachandran (FRS) and V.Sarabhai who was independent India's Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and founder of its Space Programme. Raman was also founder President of the Indian Academy of Sciences.

Besides being an FRS and a Nobel Laureate, he was an Associate of the Paris Academy of Sciences, and of the Academy of Science of USSR and Member of several other prestigious bodies. He was also awarded the Hughes Medal of the Royal Society, Franklin Medal of USA and Matteucci Medal of Rome.

Raman was not only a great scientist, he was also a bold critic. He once remarked **"Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal to bury one of his favourite women, the Government of India builds national laboratories to bury scientific instruments."** He was also not very happy with the Indian scientists working in foreign countries as he said they were often made to work on the crumbs thrown at them rather than allowed to work on the central issues of science.

When Raman died on 21 November 1970 at the age of 82 an admirer lamented **"The brightest star in the Indian scientific firmament is no more."** Despite colossal sums invested in scientific research, independent India is yet to find one of comparable brightness.

TIGERS' CONTRIBUTION CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED

The contribution and sacrifice made by the Tigers in the freedom fight for Tamil Eelam cannot be underestimated, said Mr. Rasanayagam, head of the Citizens' Committee of Omanthai in Vavuniya district. He added that the Indian government should therefore negotiate with them and arrive at a permanent settlement. The persons who left the oppressed Tamils in the lurch at a time of disaster and sought asylum in India for their own personal safety can have no voice in the future administration of the Tamil homeland. Conditions are not conducive for elections now in Tamil areas, he said.

TAMILS CANNOT BE DECEIVED ANY MORE

At a meeting convened to commemorate the anniversary of Thileepan's death, Mr. Mahadeva said that the Tamils should ever be on the alert against vain promises by the government, as earlier successive governments had made promises just to win over the Tamils for election purposes which were never fulfilled later.

HOLD REFERENDUM IN THE SOUTH, NOT IN THE EAST

The Tamils should decide whether to live peacefully with the Sinhalese; and the Muslims have to opt whether they can live amicably with the Tamils, said Dr. Vickramabahu Karunaratne, General Secretary of the NLSSP, speaking at the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress H.Q.

The administration of the North and East should be worked out in such a manner that both the communities, Tamils and Muslims, will live in peace and harmony. The provincial boundaries must be re-laid to enable such an administration to function properly. While people in the Sinhalese provinces have already started complaining about the inadequacy of devolution of powers to their respective provincial councils, it is meaningless to expect the Tamils to agree to accept the same P.C. for the North and East. It is therefore pointless holding a referendum in the East, whereas, in fact, a referendum should

essentially be held in the South where the Sinhalese and Muslims live in the same areas. He also stressed that one community has no authority to refuse the right of self-determination of another community, which, in that case, has all the right to fight for self-preservation.

LTTE DENY MAHAOYA KILLINGS

The Political Committee of the Batticaloa-Amparai Branch of the LTTE has categorically denied that it has any connection with the recent killings of the villagers in the Central Camp Colony in Maha-Oya area; and they resent the accusation implicating them as responsible for the killings.

EELAM NEWS

STATUE ERECTED FOR MARTYR THILEEPAN

A statue in memory of the late Thileepan, who sacrificed his life for the cause of Tamil Eelam, was ceremonially unveiled by Mr. V.C. Vigneswaran, father of the late Johnny, another martyr, and Mr. Rasiah, father of Thileepan. Shri Paramasaarya Swamy of Nallur Aatheenam, Rev. Fr. Joseph, Mowlavi Sathakathulla and ex-Municipal Commissioner, Mr. C.V.K. Sivagnanam spoke.

TAMILS SEEK POLICE PROTECTION

Over two hundred Tamils and Muslims in Pulmoddai area have sought refuge in nearby Police Stations following harassment by the IPKF. According to a Police officer, increasing numbers of Tamils are beginning to arrive at the Police Station seeking protection.

TAMIL GROUP TO JOIN THE ALLIANCE

The Democratic People's Liberation Front, which is the political wing of the PLOTE, has had discussions with the eight-party alliance of the South, at which it had put forward its

demands for Tamil rights.

SIVAGNAM ESCAPES

Mr. C.V.K. Sivagnanam, the Municipal Commissioner, luckily escaped unhurt from gun shots aimed at him by an unidentified young man when Mr. Sivagnanam was in his office. The employees of the Municipality staged a protest by way of a day's successful strike.

PC ELECTIONS IN NORTH-EAST

EPRLF candidates have been declared elected to 19 seats in Jaffna and 5 seats in Mannar. This Front will contest in the PC elections on November 19 in Trincomalee and Batticaloa.

The Districts of Mullaitivu, Vavuniya and Kilinochchi are being represented by the ENDLF with 12 seats.

UNP and Muslim Congress are contesting in Batticaloa, Amparai and Trincomalee Districts.

According to the latest report EPRLF will withdraw its nominations in the Amparai District to enable Sinhalese and Muslim candidates from UNP and SLMC to win a fair number of seats in this district.

UNP CANDIDATE SHOT DEAD

G. Thillaiampalam, UNP candidate for the P.C. elections in Batticaloa District, has been shot dead at Kaluwanchikkudi.

UNP TO CAMPAIGN IN N & E

UNP has decided to launch a massive propaganda campaign in the Northern and Eastern Province for the Presidential election to be held in December. UNP Chairman, Ranjan Wijeratne, has been picked to lead the campaign in the Northern Province, and the Home Affairs Minister, K.W. Devanayagam, will lead in the Eastern Province.

ROAD BLOCK DEMONSTRATION

It is reported that Vaithilingam Paramanathan (Sothy), a prominent citizen of Myliddy, was pulled out of his house at 10-45 p.m. on Oct. 1, by a group and shot dead. People of Myliddy demonstrated against the

killing allegedly by the IPKF hirelings by blocking the Keerimalai-Point Pedro Road. IPKF intervened and undertook to ensure non-recurrence of similar incidents, and to inquire into it. They also expressed their condolence to Sothy's family and the people of Myliddy.

4 KILLED BY IPKF

Four people including a woman were killed by IPKF on the Mullaitivu-Alampil Road on Oct.5. It is said that they were pulled out from their houses by uniformed men and shot dead. This is said to have happened immediately after a confrontation between the IPKF and the LTTE.

LTTE SUPPORTERS IN THENMARACHCHI

Several supporters of the LTTE in Thenmarachchi have been taken into custody by the IPKF and are being assaulted and tortured.

CONSCRIPTION BY EPRLF

All ex-members of the EPRLF are being forced to join the EPRLF at the point of gun, says a report.

EPRLF CAMP DESTROYED

An EPRLF camp situated between two IPKF camps in Chavakachcheri was completely destroyed on October 20, by the Black Tigers when they managed to place explosives inside the building. All members of EPRLF present at the time are reported to have been killed.

IPKF - LTTE CONFRONTATION INTENSIFIES

It is reported at the time of going to press, that fighting has resumed between LTTE and IPKF at various places in Eelam and that the LTTE camps are being bombed from helicopters. Details of casualties are not known.

KITTU UNDER PEOPLES' PROTECTION

Latest reports received indicate that the Eelam people are providing protection to Kittu by surrounding in large numbers the house in which Kittu is in after he was released by the IPKF.

THREE TAMIL PARTIES HEADED FOR 'VICTORY'

Three Tamil militant groups have captured all the seats for the five northern districts of Sri Lanka in the

North-Eastern Provincial Council with the active connivance of the IPKF and obvious collusion between New Delhi and Colombo.

They are the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation who have entered into a no-contest poll arrangement.

Theirs were the only candidates fielded till October 10, the last day of the filing of nominations, and have all been declared elected unopposed.

In the council elections, the poll will now take place only in the three eas-

tern districts of Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Amparai. Here the ruling United National Party and the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress filed their nominations for 35 of the 71 seats.

An independent group has also filed nomination in Trincomalee district which has 14 seats. However, the identity of people behind the group was not immediately known. [Courtesy-India Weekly - 14-20, Oct. 1988]

SRI LANKA KILLINGS

Gunmen in military uniforms have killed six people in eastern Sri Lanka, an army spokesman said yesterday. [Courtesy - The Guardian - Oct.18, 1988]

LESSONS FROM CHILE

By Sunday

Last month saw another victory for democracy. After 15 years, the people of Chile were given a free vote to exercise their right to choose. Augusto Pinochet throughout his bloody reign had demonstrated - as had the likes of Stalin, Hitler and Idi Amin - that nothing mattered to a dictator except his continued stay in power. Then, by a combination of internal and external pressure, he had to finally succumb to the will of his people. But the future remains unclear. Though morally Pinochet is obliged to relinquish power immediately, under the terms of the referendum he can remain for another 14 months. Even then whether he will step down remains a matter of speculation.

The forthcoming Presidential elections in Sri Lanka in December will decide the future of that country. There are two candidates: Prime Minister Premadasa and Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike who has the support of an eight-party alliance. Most of these opposition parties are recent creations with little political history and with little common ground. To wit, the SIFP, JVP, ELJP and the MEP are resolutely opposed to the Accord and the Provincial councils. The Tamil Congress by comparison has gone on record asking for more concessions for the Tamil people under the Accord, and the Democratic Workers' Congress has also stated its support for the Accord; the Muslim Congress and the Liberal Party have contested the Provincial council elections. The JVP's commitment to violence is underlined by Mrs Bandaranaike's statement that should she come to power, the JVP would surrender its arms. Not surprisingly, the alliance has not as yet issued a

manifesto.

As for the Prime Minister, he would do well to remember that the people of Chile decided that, even if Pinochet had given Chile economic prosperity, they valued freedom much more. *In Sri Lanka, the newly created "National Students' Centre" claiming to represent four million students in schools, technical colleges and universities is agitating for social and economic reforms, most notably the restoration of democratic freedoms.* Under the present Government, the poorer sections of the community have suffered. There was a time when those who did not have enough to eat were given rations, those that could not afford private doctors were given medical care by the state, and education was free for all.

There is yet another lesson from Chile. A member of the multi-national panel that monitored the referendum was Neelan Tiruchelvam who was there in his capacity as an internationally recognised constitutional expert. The opposition in Sri Lanka had earlier asked for the international monitoring of the Sri Lankan Presidential elections. The government, though initially lukewarm, is now suggesting the same. Whatever the motivations on either side, the Sri Lankan voter and the international community will have more confidence in the electoral process if all those who wish to observe the elections are allowed to do so without hindrance. **The implications are that the coming elections may be the bloodiest yet; the presence of outsiders may perhaps lessen this. Justice must not only be done, but must be seen to be done.**

SRI LANKA NEWS

NOMINATIONS TO P.C.

Over half of the 71 north-east provincial council seats will now be awarded to minor Tamil groups, as they were the only ones to field candidates in this month's elections. The Indian government wants the provincial council elections to proceed because it feels that once all eight councils are in place it will be more difficult to dismember the accord after December's presidential election. The Tigers will disrupt the election and will almost certainly attempt to assassinate candidates whether they stand or are appointed to the seats, says a report.

COMPULSORY VOTING

The Sri Lankan government is exploring the possibility of introducing compulsory voting at elections to ensure that all voters exercise their voting rights. There are fears that the JVP may try to disrupt the presidential polls as they did at the P.C. elections. The government is also exploring the desirability of inviting an international observer team to witness the presidential election.

POLICE WANT TO RETAIN H.W.

The Police has asked the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence to retain Dr.H.W.Jayewardene, Q.C., to appear for the police in a fundamental rights case to be filed by the Police in view of the Bar Association's recent resolution not to appear for the police.

GOVT. TALKS WITH JVP IN SUSPENSE

Reliable sources from Colombo said that the killing of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Minister Lionel Jayatillake was a clear indication that the JVP would not come forward for the proposed third round of talks with the government. The government delegation was led by Ravi Jayewardene, son of President Jayewardene, and his national security adviser. His inclusion in the delegation was to convince the JVP leadership that the government was seriously trying to resolve the problem.

UNP MANIFESTO

Several thousand delegates attended the Convention of the UNP at the Sugathathasa Stadium on October 9. At this special convention the Party

released its manifesto drafted by a Committee headed by Prime Minister, R.Premadasa.

The main thrust of the P.M's program will be the eradication of poverty through job openings for all the unemployed and the school-leavers. The million-houses program would be carried out so that homelessness would soon disappear. The policies of the Open Economy would be further strengthened to attract foreign investors. The main policy to be followed would be 'hatred towards none'. Efforts would be made to talk to all those forces which are now conducting a campaign of violence against the government. There would be absolutely no discrimination against any nationality, religion or groups professing opposing views and ideas, declares the manifesto.

VADAMARADCHI BUTCHERS DECORATED

Over 12,000 security forces and police personnel were awarded the 'Vadamardchy Operation Medal' on October 10 for participating in and supporting the campaign against Tamil militants in the north from 26 May to 11 June, 1987. In addition, several civilian volunteers, the National Security Minister, Mr.Lalith Athulathmudali, and Defence Secretary, Mr. D.S.Attygalle, also received the medal.

It is the first time that a military campaign medal has been awarded to civilians in Sri Lanka. Service personnel who died in the operation were awarded the medal posthumously.

The Vadamardchy Operation, which was carried out in two phases from May 26 to June 2 and June 6 to June 11, 1987, led to the massacre of hundreds of civilians, but only a handful of Tamil fighters, the Tigers.

SEND INDIAN TROOPS HOME : BANDARANAIKE

Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the opposition candidate for December's presidential election, says "President Jayewardene did not consult parliament or the people before signing the pact. It is bitterly opposed by the Sinhalese and has been rejected by the Tigers. I shall negotiate directly with all the Tamil parties, without involving another country in our domestic problems" and that if elec-

ted she will abrogate the Accord and order the IPKF out of Sri Lanka. "The IPKF will have to go as quickly as possible. We don't need them here", she is reported to have said. "They were brought here to establish peace and to take over the arms of the terrorists. If they had maintained peace and taken those arms, then there would be no problem, but it hasn't happened".

She was vague about whether she would scrap it, but added that India had nothing to fear from her. Her stance against the accord has hardened in recent weeks, but she had reportedly assured Mani Dixit, the Indian High Commissioner, that she does not want to jeopardise Indo-Sri Lankan relations. However, she said she was totally opposed to the creation of provincial councils throughout the island - the main pillar of the Accord.

Mrs.Bandaranaike further said that the LTTE have completely rejected the councils despite the Indians trying to talk to them through their intelligence services. "Now 95 per cent of the Sinhalese are against it; the Muslims are opposed to it, and even most of the Tamils. So what is the purpose of these councils?", she asked.

She also feared that the government would rig the December poll. Mrs. Bandaranaike has still not spelt out what she would do to satisfy the Tamil Tigers' demand for a separate homeland. One proposal she had discussed is the possibility of creating three large provinces - a north-east, a central, and a south-west province - but she is reportedly reluctant to devolve even the autonomous powers given to the existing provinces, such as law and order.

93,000 TAMILS MISSING!

Immigration officials in Colombo say that around 93,000 Tamils living in up-country, who are entitled to Sri Lankan citizenship, have 'shifted' from their original places of residence and therefore cannot be traced. The department has requested Trade Unions to assist them to locate these missing Tamils.

JVP KILLING SPREE CONTINUES

The killing spree by the JVP continues despite the recent amnesty announced

by the Government. A prominent member of the UNP Central Committee is one of the latest victims.

INDIA DOES NOT WANT TAMIL PROBLEM RESOLVED

Anura Bandaranaike is reported to have said that he "did not think India wants the (Tamil) problem settled. I think, they are dragging their feet a great deal". He added "We want to give them (Tamils) a lot more devolution". But he did not spell out what this would mean in practical terms.

1,000 ARMED MEN TO PROTECT SINHALA COLONISTS

The army will deploy around one thousand men from the army volunteer regiment in the northern and eastern provinces to protect the newly planted sinhalese colonists, army commander, Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe, is reported to have said. Colonists fear for their lives following the announcement of provincial council elections for the north-eastern province. The volunteer regiment is expected to move very shortly to the vulnerable areas.

PREMADASA FOR WITHDRAWAL OF INDIAN TROOPS

The Presidential Candidate of the ruling United National Party, Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, said that he would ensure withdrawal of the Indian Peace Keeping Force from the country if elected to the highest office.

Addressing a special convention of the party in Colombo, he said that India too was anxious to withdraw her troops - sent to Sri Lanka under a pact to end ethnic unrest - at the earliest possible date or at the request of the President of Sri Lanka.

Premadasa also gave a pledge to replace the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord signed last year with a **friendship treaty with "greater reciprocity from India" and in keeping with "the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unitary character of Sri Lanka."**

On his reservations about the Accord, Premadasa said the timing of the signing of the Accord was "not opportune" since it came immediately after "India had violated our air-space by forcibly dropping food parcels" in the north-eastern part of the island.

He was referring to India's effort to provide aid to thousands of suffering Tamils in Sri Lanka who could not get food or medicines due to prolonged blockade by Sri Lankan forces.

SIRIMAVO PARLEYING WITH ROHANA ?

The Opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party was reported to have had several rounds of discussion with the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna aimed at forming a "patriotic united front" to challenge the ruling UNP in the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.

A.M.Karunaratne, Assistant Secretary of the SLFP, was quoted by an independent Sinhala daily 'Divayana' as saying that the talks veered round issues of national integrity, Indo-Lanka Accord and the presence of the IPKF. This is the first public statement by the SLFP about its talks with the JVP.

The newspaper quoted Karunaratne as saying that **the SLFP "did not consider JVP an extremist group" and it was "the government which called the JVP extremist."**

JVP has conducted a campaign of murder in the south, killing hundreds of government supporters in the last few months.

Divayana also quoted Karunaratne as saying that the talks, organised at the behest of some Buddhist monks, discussed some practical problems, such as putting up a common candidate under a common symbol.

While the JVP in a recent statement favoured a common candidate for the forthcoming presidential elections, the SLFP leader, Mrs.Sirimavo Bandaranaike, had been against giving up her party symbol and colour while approving the move for common candidates.

Mrs.Bandaranaike has been nominated by her party as the presidential candidate against prime minister Ranasinghe Premadasa of the ruling party.

The presidential election is scheduled for December and the parliamentary elections for early next year.

SLFP ACCUSED OF ENCOURAGING TERRORISM

President Jayewardene has accused the dominant opposition SLFP of encouraging terrorism by aligning with the extremist JVP and asserted

that his ruling UNP would never compromise and give in to terrorism.

In an obvious reference to the move for the formation of an eight-party common opposition front by the SLFP with the JVP as one of its constituents, the president said that without the support of the SLFP the JVP terrorism would not last long.

[What a hollow claim! Repeated anti-Tamil pogroms and naked uninhibited brutality by Sri Lankan and mercenary forces have characterised the eleven years of UNP rule! - Ed.]

PROSECUTION AGAINST IPKF

The Court of Appeal on September 23, began contempt proceedings against IPKF Vavuniya commander Brig. Manjith Singh after his failure to respond to several court summonses. Habeas corpus petitioner S Paramesvaran alleges that her brother Kenga, a Refugee Rehabilitation Fund volunteer, was arrested on April 5, and taken to Vavuniya IPKF camp.

DANCE DEBUT IN CANADA

The Bharata Natya Arange-tram of Ahila, daughter of Mr & Mrs K. Balasubramaniam and a student of Gita Yogendra a talented exponent of Bharata Natya and Kuchupudi, was held at the Cedabrae Collegiate Institute Auditorium in Toronto, on August 27, 1988, under the distinguished patronage of Mr. Murad Velshi, M.P. for Don Mills, and Mrs Velshi.



The art loving, colourful Asian community filled the hall and encouraged the dancer who was at her best. The vocalist was Ambika Thamotheeram. For the first time a full Sri Lankan ensemble was in action for a Bharata Natya Arange-tram in Canada.

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LATE NEWS

CURFEW IN COLOMBO

Strict 18 hours curfew was imposed in and around Colombo on October 25 to prevent a day of protest called by the JVP and the troops instructed to shoot on sight any one violating the curfew order which in effect closed down the city, with shops and offices shut and roads deserted.

The curfew followed a bomb attack on a city office of the UNP. Eight party members were killed and 42 injured. Government blamed the JVP.

There were no reports of disruption in the capital while it was imposed but in the central parts of the island, police used tear gas and baton charged thousands of anti-government demonstrators. In Madawachchiya, police were called to disperse nearly 3000 Sinhalese protesters who demanded the government's resignation. In the province of Uva about 5000 people staged a march.

The curfew was extended in the southern parts of the country and several other districts, after lifting it in Colombo. Mr Jayewardene has conceded to the Buddhist Sangha to dissolve parliament and appoint a care-taker government, provided JVP gives up violence.

SIVANANDASUNDARAM MURDERED IPKF RESPONSIBLE

Mr Sivanandasundaram, the president of the Tamil Eelam People's Forum, was shot dead by EPRLF militants in front of IPKF soldiers at a military check point. The incident took place on October 21, around 3 p.m. at Vallai junction in the Jaffna peninsula. Mr Sivanandasundaram (aged 65) was one of the LTTE candidates for the aborted interim administration, who has been campaigning against human rights violations and other atrocities committed by the Indian troops. On the day of the murder, Mr Sivanandasundaram attended the anniversary meeting of the martyred hero and former regional commander of Trincomalee Mr. Santhosam.

In a statement issued by LTTE from

its headquarters in Jaffna, it paid tribute to Mr Sivanandasundaram as **"a champion of the Tamil cause who courageously opposed the repressive methods of the Indian army of occupation."** The political Committee blamed the EPRLF militants as "a gang of criminals who have no concern for the plight of the people but acting as agents of the aggressive Indian army."

NORTH AND EAST P.C. ELECTIONS

1. Jaffna and Mannar Districts - EPRLF declared elected (uncontested):	24
2. Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi - ENDLF and TELO declared elected (uncontested):	12
3. Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Amparai - UNP,SLMC, EPRLF and another independent group: (elections to be held)	35
Total seats	71

IPKF has managed to stage a coup to show the world that at least one of New Delhi's infamous accords has produced results. But every one knows the truth except, probably, Rajiv !]

CITIZENSHIP FOR "STATELESS"

The Sri Lankan government has approved a bill to grant immediate citizenship to all "stateless" persons of Indian origin, believed to be around 233,000. The bill is expected to be passed by parliament in November.

The cabinet decision followed a threat by the Rural Industries Development Minister, S.Thondaman, to retire from politics if the problem is not resolved immediately.

LEFT NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENCY

The Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP), one of the constituents of USA, has announced Mr Vasudeva Nanayakkara as its nominee for the presidential election. Mr Nanayak-

kara said that he would offer the people a left alternative and make sure that socialism as a factor in Sri Lanka politics was preserved.

MORE HOME GUARDS FOR N & E

More Sinhalese soldiers are to be moved to Sinhala villages in the Eastern Province, according to a Joint Operation Command spokesman. The spokesman said that additional Home-Guards would also be deployed with troop reinforcements to protect Sinhala villagers.

Already in the Madawachchi area some of the villagers had been armed by the government. Deputy Inspector General of Police for Anuradhapura Range is reported to have said that 500 home-guards would be armed in the Madawachchi area and the villagers too would be armed.

ELECTION ON DEC, 19

In response to a call by opposition leaders who met President Jayewardene on October 21, the Sri Lankan Government has announced that the date for the presidential election would be December 19.

IPKF GEARS FOR POLLS

Five thousand IPKF troops and 350 army vehicles have been deployed in Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Amparai districts to maintain security during North-East Provincial Council election scheduled for November 19, IPKF sources reported. Arrangements have also been made to establish an IPKF camp at each centre in these districts, the sources added.

DETENUES TO BE FREED?

The Ministry of Defence has decided to expedite the release of detainees against whom no charge would be preferred and to file indictment or complaints against those who are to be charged.

VIOLENCE NOT BY JVP!

Prime Minister, Premadasa, accused that "... it is clear that the JVP has not been involved in the violence as a recognised political party and it is the other seven parties that are responsible for the violence" when addressing a rally at Nuwara Eliya.