















9TH FEBRUARY, 1968.

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Last week we referred in these columns to a few matters in which, in our opinion, the Government had let down the people and should take active steps to improve. We are glad this week to find the Prime Minister is concerned very much with these matters and is determined to set them right. His message on Independence Day broadcast on Independence Day was quite characteristic of Mr. Dudley Senanayake, not dependent on vote-catching slogans, but full of sound reason and realism. First, in very clear words he explained the reasons for the present economic crisis for the country is facing. Chief among them are the sharp reduction of income received from tea and rubber, and the rising cost of rice in the world market. He said: "We are unable to buy even one measure of rice for a pound of rubber," whereas in the past we could buy 100 measures. And the cost of rice has increased from £30 a ton in 1965 to £50 in 1967. As he stressed, this is a fact which all of us must acknowledge. Therefore, the production of rice in the country should receive the highest priority. Mr. Senanayake was happy at the response the Government has so far had to its appeal for increased production. In the last two years the target set for it has been exceeded. He is confident that, if the response continues to be favourable, the target of producing of seventy-five per cent of our rice requirements by 1970 will be reached without difficulty. His appeal, hence, is to the people to work hard to make this possible.

His second appeal to the people is to practise austerity, which is so necessary at this critical stage in the country's history, and to cut down all unnecessary expenditures. The Government expects to pass legislation towards this end, and he felt sure that every one would give full co-operation in this matter. It must be agreed that we as a people are prone to spending lavishly on several non-essential matters. In most cases we do so for the sake of winning cheap popularity or as status symbols. As has often been pointed out by several persons, the sums of money spent on weddings and funerals are a good portion of them, sheer waste. In such a situation as this sacrifices are inevitable.

Thirdly, the emphasis the Prime Minister placed on the need for unity in the country is most welcome. He rose to great heights indeed when he said: "In the past what we have sown is not paddy but enmity and hatred. The nation became divided. In such an environment, no development is possible. It is by ensuring the just rights of all, whether they belong to the major or minor communities, and our united efforts that we can go forward to improve our lot and emerge into the sunshine of prosperity". We are glad that Mr. Dudley Senanayake has given public utterance to this most needed emphasis. Both the majority community and the minorities need this reminder. They also must welcome what he said recently at a meeting held in the Kalmunai electorate in support of the E. P. candidate in the current by-election: "Democracy does not merely elect representatives to Parliament for every term. It is a guarantee of rights to every individual. This means a duty to safeguard and protect the minority by the majority. If a minority is denied its rights by the majority, then it is not democracy but a dictatorship. The National Government is fighting to maintain the true way of democratic life through which we can pull out this country that was plunged into poverty, poverty and ruin by

IMPRESSIONS of the 11th. Biennial Session of the Synod of The Church of South India.

By I. P. THEGRATHNAM. I The meetings were held in the Stanes High School, Coimbatore, from the 13th. to the 18th. of January, 1968. The first sitting began at 4-30 p.m. on Friday, the 13th. After the opening devotions by Sovak S. Selvaratnam, who officiated as Chaplain of the Synod throughout the five days, the Hon'y. General Secretary, Dr. (Mrs.) Renuka Somasekhar, made a brief but lucid statement concerning the programme and procedure to be followed. This set the pace and tone for the meetings and it was evident within the first one hour that this session was going to be different from its predecessors.

The Moderator, the Most Rev. P. Solomon, delivered his address which was noteworthy for its directness, simplicity and humility. He welcomed three new Bishops to the Synod - the Rt. Rev. V. William of South Kerala, the Rt. Rev. T. S. Joseph, Asst. Bishop of Madhya Kerala and the Rt. Rev. H. D. L. Abraham, Asst. Bishop of Mysore. The Moderator briefly surveyed the work done during the last biennium referring in particular to Inter-Church Relations in South India, Co-operation in Theological Training, C. S. I. Related Missions in the West, C. S. I. Overseas Mission and the Supplement to the Book of Common Worship. He also referred to the theme selected for meditation during the meetings - "Ministries of the Church in its neighbourhood". The Church is the servant people of the Servant Lord. Men and women, clerical and lay - all are needed to fulfil the Church's mission. The traditional patterns of service like medical and educational work may not be relevant to the present day. The Church should be mindful of its special ministry to rural, urban and industrial societies. The Church should involve itself in the total life of the locality sharing the joys and sorrows of its neighbourhood.

Business Meetings The business meetings then started. The Moderator was flanked on one side by the Deputy Moderator, Bishop Leslie Newbigin, and on the other by the General Secretary, Dr. (Mrs.) Somasekhar. The team was equal to any situation. The nimble mind of Bishop Newbigin led the Synod out of many constitutional tangles. The statesmanship of Mrs. Somasekhar cleared the air every time it tended to become non-involvement in crucial issues. But the Deputy Moderator and the General Secretary were wide awake reminding the Synod of its high calling and keeping it within the framework of general policy.

Overseas Visitors There were about 200 people at the meetings - Bishops, Clerical and Lay Delegates, Fraternal Delegates, Overseas Visitors and Observers. The Overseas Visitors included a galaxy of Secretaries of Mission Boards and Societies from the United Kingdom, America and Australia. A representative of the World Council of Churches was also present. Coming from different parts of the world they could not all converge at Coimbatore on the first day. There were plane delays and other mishaps. The Rev. Telfer Mook arrived only on the third day having been delayed first at New Delhi and then getting involved in a train collision between Madras and Coimbatore. He looked tired and preoccupied. Perhaps there were problems to be solved in South India.

Innovations There were a few important and interesting innovations at the the racist rule of the previous regime during its period of nine years. It is hoped that the Government will not permit any thing to deter it from this course its leader has set before it, and will not hesitate, even a bit, to translate such a healthy policy as this into action.

Synod this time. First was the appointment of a Chaplain to lead all the devotions, thus ensuring a unity of thought and spirit. Next was the selection of a theme for the meetings: "Ministries of the Church in its neighbourhood." All the talks and sermons and Bible Studies and meditations led again and again to the same theme. There were three Bible Studies, each of an hour's duration, on three days conducted by Bishop Guanaadason. Printed notes of the Studies had been distributed earlier and this was imaginative. The Bishop selected the Book of Jonah for study. Without a scrap of notes the Bishop talked and expounded with well-chosen words and well-rounded sentences the hidden meanings of the story. The talk read like a book. It flowed like a gentle stream. There was humour, anecdote and, above all, reference to practical problems in every day church life. Again and again the study led to the question, "Which is the Church's neighbourhood?" The studies were so instructive and inspiring that in the end, at the unanimous request of the members, it was decided to print and publish not merely the notes but the entire talks for the benefit of all.

Total Participation Another innovation was the grouping of the delegates into fourteen Commissions, each with a Chairman, a Secretary and a Reasonable Person. These Commissions were to study the reports of the various Synod Boards and Committees for the last biennium and bring forward recommendations to the Plenary Meeting. The recommendations, when accepted by the full meeting would form the bases for the work of the different Committees during the next biennium. The reports of the Synod Standing Committees had been sent to every delegate some weeks prior to the Synod Meeting and the delegates were asked to inform the Secretary of their preferences as to the Commissions in which they wished to serve. At Registration time the delegates were given each a dossier containing all the working papers. The Commissions to which they had been assigned were also indicated.

Almost the whole of the second day was set aside for the deliberations of the Commissions. They met in groups three or four during the day aggregating to over five hours. The Secretaries were asked to lead in their reports at the start of the next morning. These were then duplicated and placed in the hands of the members for discussion at the Plenary Meeting on the following day. Each Secretary presented the recommendations briefly explaining them and answering questions. The recommendations were then discussed and decisions taken. In the past, reports of Synod Boards and Committees were presented direct to the Plenary Meeting. They were discussed amidst much confusion and ad hoc decisions taken. A few stalwarts dominated the meeting and the rank and file felt either shy or diffident to speak. By the new procedure the average member felt free and confident in smaller groups. He also felt that he was contributing something towards the deliberations of the Synod. It was total participation.

Synod Board of Mission and Evangelism One of the items that attracted much attention was the Missionary Exhibition organised by the Synod Board of Mission. The findings and recommendations of the Report, called 'Renewal and Advances', published in 1964 had given a great impetus to the Diocesan Boards of Mission with the result that intense evangelistic work is now being done by several dioceses. Special work is done among the backward tribal people in the Coimbatore Diocese, the coastal settlers in Madhya Kerala in spite of opposition from the Communists, and among the hill tribes in the Kanyakumari Diocese. Also there is concentration of work among Muslims in a number of dioceses. A feature in modern India is the rise of City and Industrial Missions. The work of the Parkal and Nirmal missions was recommended that

these missions should not remain the responsibility of some dioceses only but should be the concern of the entire Synod. The Exhibition sought to convey through graphs, charts, pictures, objects, specimens, etc., an idea of the tremendous work that is being done by the Home Missions and the Overseas Mission. There were the clothes worn by the hill tribes, the jewelry of the coastal seafarers, the utensils they used and the herbs of the medicine man who treated them with or without effect. To thousands of fortunate people the Gospel of Our Lord comes as refreshing and satisfying news.

Overseas Mission The Rev. and Mrs. Paul Manickam, our missionaries in Thailand, who are now on furlough in India, were also present at the Synod. Mr. Manickam has been a very sick man, paying a heavy toll for his difficult work and hard life. It was obvious that he bore the marks of pain and yet he spoke joyfully of his work among the leprosy students at the Christian Service Centre and his missionary journeys with them in his Landrover, eating their food and sleeping with them under the same roof. He is pastor of about ten leprosy groups in the country. The work includes annual revival meetings, house visits, preaching at worship services and administering the sacraments. Summer evangelistic campaigns are held in distant provinces using religious dramas, movie pictures, personal testimony, distribution of leaflets and the sale of Bible portions. Mr. Manickam has prepared 40 monthly Bible study lessons in Thai. 2600 copies of 12 pages each are printed every month. He has also written a book of 100 sermons in Thai for various seasons and occasions. Significant work has also been done by the translation of the C. S. I. Liturgy into Thai.

Mr. Manickam is looking forward hopefully to returning to Thailand in order to continue his good work. But there are serious difficulties. One is the anxiety about his health. The other is the greatly enhanced cost of the work in Thailand owing to the devaluation of the Indian currency on the one hand and the increased cost of living in Thailand on the other. A third is the difficulty of transmitting the money. The budget has increased from Rs. 6000/- per annum to Rs. 26000/- The Synod Executive has consented to vote Rs. 6000/- of the excess. It is hoped to make up the balance of Rs. 4000/- by requesting the dioceses for increased contributions. The share of the Jaffna Diocese has been raised from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1200/-. Let us hope that the Jaffna Diocese will give this amount and give it cheerfully. A giving Church is a living Church. When a Church lives for others, it receives new life from the Lord of the Church. It is time that we outgrow the habit of confining our responsibility for evangelism to the boundaries of the local church or to our own diocese, and instead join with others in obedience to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord. Shall we give and give generously?

The C. S. I. is also supporting four Papuan ministerial candidates in their Theological training in order that they may continue the work that the late Rev. Satya Joseph, our first missionary of revered memory, started in Papua. An appeal was received during the 1966 Synod for a sum of Rs. 3000/- towards the cost of a motorised canoe. This appeal was sent out to the children and youth of the C. S. I. who collected Rs. 6000/-. A sum of Rs 1000/- being the cost of a memorial stone to be placed over the grave of the Rev. Satya Joseph, was also sent.

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE-SEMINAR OF TAMIL STUDIES

By A. SHANMUGATHASAN, (Lecturer, Collegiate Department, Jaffna College.)

After a break on Sunday the 8th. Monday morning brought the delegates back to the Centenary Auditorium. Prof. K. A. Keller, University of Louisiana, presided over the morning Plenary Session. Incidentally Prof. Keller, who can converse well in Tamil, had translated one of the Sangam Classics *Thirumurai* into French. The first paper to be presented that morning was on "Landmarks in the History of Tamil Literature" by Dr. V. I. Subramaniam, Professor and Head of the Department of Linguistics, University of Kerala. He said "Consequent on the revival of interest in the history and culture of Tamilnad accelerated by the attainment of Independence and by the exposure of the Tamils to similar attempts in other languages, a few noteworthy landmarks relevant to the history of literature have been brought to light in recent years". He continued to say that the history of a literature is not merely an attempt to date literature but also to trace the development of genre, metre, society and thought.

The second paper, which was commented by the Chairman as an interesting one, was on "Problems of Official Translations" presented by Mrs. Maheswari Balakrishnan from CEYLON. She brought out some genuine difficulties over translations. She convinced the participants of the necessity for a Bureau of Translation under the auspices of I. A. T. R. and the uniformity in the selection of equivalents. There was a lively discussion over her paper. She referred to newspapers using *தந்திர* for resignation, *தந்திர* for readiness, *தந்திர* for cancel etc. and said "The newspapers have the power to popularise these inaccurate and inelegant words among the semi literate people. A competent body such as the I. A. T. R. should, therefore, devise ways and means of cleansing the language of these unsavoury elements." Mr. N. Parthasarathy, a Journalist from Madras, challenged her statement about the newspapers. Before Mrs. Balakrishnan could answer him, another delegate from Tamilnad answered Mr. Parthasarathy by referring to many 'inaccurate and inelegant' words from the Tamilnad newspapers. By the way, the Government of Madras is now planning to introduce the study of Science through the medium of Tamil at the University level. At this juncture Mrs. Balakrishnan's suggestions regarding translations were well received by the people of Tamilnad, including the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Mr. Neduncheelianay.

After the First International Tamil Conference held in Kula Lumpur, the late Dr. M. R. Manickam made the concrete suggestion that more importance should be given to Tamil in a Tamil Seminar instead of a foreign language. Some other scholars also fervently hoped that in future Conferences both English and Tamil would be given equal prominence. But at the Madras Centenary Auditorium delegates were free to comment and ask questions in Tamil over a paper presented in English. On the first day of the Conference, Prof. Jean Fillozat had to seek the help of the Rev. Fr. Theanayagam for translation of some questions that were asked in Tamil. The organisers of the Second International Tamil Conference allotted an entire Morning Session to papers in Tamil. At the Group Sessions, there was a separate group where papers submitted in Tamil were read and discussed. The writer of this article read a paper on "Dramatic and popular usage" in one of those group sessions on the 6th January.

Tuesday, the 9th morning, was devoted to Tamil Papers. Prof. P. P. Moenakshyandaram, Vice-Chancellor, Madurai University, occupied the chair. A few non-Tamil speaking delegates who could follow the proceedings in Tamil were seen in the Conference Hall. Prof. M. Varadarajan spoke on "சொல்வகாரம்" and L. P. Kr.

Ramanathan Chettiyar read his paper on "சொல்வகாரம்" (Solvakarum). These two Professors spoke in Tamil fluently and created a good impression as speakers. Many delegates participated in the discussions. The last serious session of the Conference was on Wednesday, the 10th. Dr. S. M. Katro, who submitted a paper on "Organisation of an International Institute of Tamil Studies", did not attend the Conference to present the paper in person. There was a change in our original programme for that morning. Since Dr. Katro was absent, they planned to utilise the time for a summing up speech by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madras, Mr. C. N. Annadurai. Therefore, Mr. K. Senthuran, whose paper was scheduled to read at 11-15 a.m., spoke on "The Future of Tamil" at 9-15 a.m. The Hon'ble Mr. C. N. Annadurai spoke in English for about an hour.

Apart from the Plenary and Group sessions, I should mention here about the Structured Panels where a select group of scholars took part in debate on important, specified subjects. Sessions of the Structured Panels were held in the evenings at the Centenary Auditorium. On the 5th the subject for discussion was "Comparative Studies in Medicine with special reference to the Tamil Siddha System". Dr. Retnaveela Subramaniam was the Chairman and about eight scholars participated in the discussions. On the 6th Dr. Kamil Zvelebil was the Chairman and Dr. C. H. Thomas was the initiator of the discussions on "On Language Stability and on the Formal vs. Informal Dichotomy in Tamil"; Dr. J. R. Marr, Dr. R. E. Asher, Dr. M. Andronov, Mr. M. Shanmugam, Mr. A. Subbiah and Prof. V. I. Subramaniam took chief part in the discussions.

On the 8th evening there was an interesting discussion "On Musical Systems" under the Chairmanship of an eminent musician, Prof. M. M. Dandapani Desikar. Reputed musicians like Mr. M. P. Somasundaram, Prof. Ramanathan, Mr. Dharmaparam Swaminathan etc., and scholars in music took part.

The last session of the Structured Panels was held on the 9th evening. The Hon'ble Thiru V. R. Neduncheelian, Minister of Education, occupied the chair. The subject on which a lively discussion took place was "Translation from and into Tamil and Coining Terms". The discussion leader was Justice M. Ananthaswarayan, Chief Justice, High Court, Madras.

At 11-30 a.m. on the 11th there was a Summing-up Session at the Children's Theatre, Government Estate, Madras. Dr. Smiti Kumar Chatterji was the Chairman. One delegate from each country was allowed to speak. Justice Dr. H. W. Thambiiah, the leader of the Ceylon delegation, thanked the conveners of the Conference. The academic side of the Conference came to a happy close after the Chief Minister's Farewell banquet that night.

The organisers of the Conference arranged a Cultural Tour to the places of interest like Chidambaram, Thiruvannamalai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Thiruvallur, Thiruchirappalli. The sleeping accommodation and dining facilities were left to the delegates on the night of January 11. The people and the governing body of every town showed their hospitality and generosity by entertaining the delegates. Civic Receptions were given to the delegates in each town. The organisers had made all arrangements for the delegates to visit the important places of interest. Since a day was allotted to each town, we had to rush to each place. Though it was a tiresome journey, we enjoyed the Cultural Tour very much. The special train returned to the Madras Bench Station on the morning of January 13. From the 18th onwards most of the foreign delegates, who attended the Second International Conference-Seminar of Tamil Studies, started bidding good-byes.