

# Saturday Review

## SRI LANKA

Vol. 5 No. 19

31st May 1986

### TRENCHES OR GRAVES?

Trenches are being dug in the premises of the SATURDAY REVIEW office to ensure the security of the staff in case of any renewed aerial bombardment of Jaffna.

The trenches will be six feet by two feet.

One trench will be reserved for the female staff. It will be fitted with toilet facilities and a fan.

The trenches will be a quick means of "exit" if what appears to be the inevitable occurs.

# THE NOOSE TIGHTENS

Remember "Operation North Star", the headline in the SATURDAY REVIEW of 14th December 1985?

We predicted that after the Security Forces finish their "flushing out" operations in the Eastern Province, they will shift their attention to the North, particularly Jaffna district.

Well, they have shifted their attention to Jaffna district.

We have even experienced aerial bombing and strafing of Jaffna town itself (on 19th and 20th May).

What more is in store?

We do not know. We are also digging trenches in our office premises.

Another Lebanon. We do not know.

All we know is that some Go-

vernment leaders in Colombo have been making ominous statements.

When will the war game, which has resulted in the loss of thousands of civilian lives, end?

We cannot predict, because we do not know the designs of either side.

But war games make life short, nasty and brutish. No gains.

All losses.

Is it going to be Dutugemunu and Elara all over again? Once was enough. Twice would be catastrophic.

The vultures (foreign forces) are already up in the sky. To gobble up ALL Sri Lanka.

Heaven help Sri Lanka.

## ISLANDERS ON VERGE OF STARVATION

Rs. 25,000/- has been released from the SATURDAY REVIEW EDITOR'S REFUGEE RELIEF FUND for emergency food aid to the people of Kayts, Velanai and other islands off the Jaffna mainland who are on the verge of starvation following the disruption of transport through the Pannai causeway after the military operations in the area which began on 16th May.

Supplies will be routed up to Araly by lorries and thereafter by boats as a culvert at the end of the causeway has been blasted to prevent further military penetration.

The SR aid will be channelled through the Government Agent of Jaffna, Mr. M. Panchalingam.

Mr. S. Sivathasan, Deputy Director of Planning on behalf of the G.A., has acknowledged receipt of our contribution by letter dated 29th May, in which he has stated:

"I thank you most sincerely for the donation of Rs. 25,000 you

have made for providing relief in Kayts, Velanai and Delft. This money will be utilised for providing assistance to the families who are most adversely affected by the recent incidents. The three A.G.A.s in charge of the areas have been instructed to size up the problem personally and to furnish a report to me".

### MORE SINHALESE CIVILIANS KILLED

Twenty Sinhalese persons, including women and little children were killed at Mahadivulwewa, near Anuradhapura, in the North Central Province, on 25th May in a "Tamil terrorist attack".

Forty houses were reportedly burnt.

There are reported to be about 340 farming families settled in the area (designated as the Mahadivulwewa-Stage II-under the Mahaweli Project.

Most of them have fled their houses and taken refuge in the

jungles, according to reports reaching Jaffna.

The dead at Mahadivulwewa (according to "The Island" of 27th May) were G. H. Somaratne, Sujeeva Perera (12) Niranjala Hewage (3), J. K. Piyadarshana (4), N.G. Priyantha Kumar (4), Rumesh Hewage (9) A.M.S. Aruna Bandara (1), I.R.M. Ranmenike (55), T. D. Seneviratne (24), K. K. Chandrawathie Menike (22), K. M. Ramyalatha (20), A. M. Ramyalatha Mumar (15), K. Wasantha Kumara (9) K. Canagarajah (50), K.H.K. Santha Kumara (10), U. D. Karunawathie (30), K.S.K. Sooriyakumara (17), Priyadarshini (13), Podi Menike (28), and L. G. Albert (40).

### 3 SHOT DEAD AT KALKUDAH

Two Muslim traders and a Sinhalese driver were killed on the spot and three other Muslims injured allegedly by firing by Commandos at Kalkudah on the night of 27th May.

The affected persons were reportedly going by car in search

of some persons who had stolen goods from their shop when they were fired at. Those killed were: Banda (35); Saleem (25) and Ismail (45).

Anzar (26); Hoosain (26) and Saleem (35) were seriously injured.

### HELL FIRE

When soldiers stationed in the Police Quarters at Pannai tried to come along Koddady and Pannai Roads on 28th May militants started attacking them and they turned back.

About the same time there was shelling and firing from the Jaffna Fort towards the town and the surrounding areas.

Shells and bullets fell at Vannarponnai, Gurunagar, David Road K.K.S. Junction, Chapel Street and 3rd Cross Street.

Six persons including a Muslim and his wife and three children were injured.

Damage was caused to two houses at Chapel Street and two other houses at 3rd Cross Street and a boutique at Vannarponnai.

On 29th night also the town was shelled-nine people were injured.

Release ALL Political detenus in Sri Lanka jails



## Saturday Review SRI LANKA

No. 118, 4th Cross Street,  
P. O. Box 122  
JAFFNA.

Telegrams: SATVIEW

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Subscription Rates inclusive  
of local postage and foreign  
Air Mail Rate

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### Advertising Rates

Contracts — Rs. 20/- per  
col. centimetre  
Casual — Rs. 25/- per  
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# NOT THE NEWS

## PRESS CONFERENCE:

In the same manner that those sitting at desks in Colombo are able to give the proceedings of the current war, in distant parts of the country. We are hereby giving a report of Press Conference held in Colombo.

**Government Spokesman:** Reports of bombings in Jaffna and killings of civilians elsewhere are totally false and malicious.

**Question:** How is it that residents in Valvettiturai and its environs heard sixteen huge explosions?

**Spokesman:** The soldiers were celebrating Vesak a little early at the VVT camps by firing crackers!

**Question:** But we also heard that fifty houses got damaged and some civilians got killed?

**Spokesman:** Two years ago when the Navy shelled Valvettiturai some malicious B.B.C. correspondent made similar allegations. But our gallant High Commissioner in London replied to the BBC explaining that the people in Valvettiturai live in cadjan huts and use bottle lamps and that it was very likely that those bottle lamps got overturned and set the huts on fire. I believe that the same thing may have happened again.

**Question:** But we have been told that there is no kerosene-oil in

Jaffna for lighting and that the people are using illegal tappings from the mains.

**Spokesman:** Well, that creates a problem. I will check up with the Island's omnipresent war correspondent.

**Question:** We have been told that several shops in the Jaffna Town Centre have been gutted by aerial bombing.

**Spokesman:** Don't you know these businessmen, they were trying to claim insurance by burning their shops.

**Question:** But we have been told that the Insurance Corporation doesn't honour claims in Jaffna.

**Spokesman:** That is not my problem, next question please?

**Question:** You have said that six civilians were killed during the aerial bombing and that they were all terrorists. How do you know?

**Spokesman:** According to the Law of Karma every person born in this miserable island is a terrorist.

**Question:** Why did your helicopters strafe the Jaffna hospital?

**Spokesman:** We have been told that the Jaffna Hospital is full of psychiatric patients in need of shock therapy. Being short of equipment the hospital authorities requested our help. So we thought a little firing from helicopters will do the trick.

## MORE REFUGEES

More Tamil refugees have begun to pour into Jaffna following the recent "offensive" operations started by the Security Forces in Alankerny and Periyapullumalai.

At Periyapullumalai, following the attack on the Army Camp by militants of the EPRLF, thousands of Tamil people have lost their houses in "reprisal" attacks by the Security Forces.

The statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the entrance to the Holy Rosary Church was damaged by the Security Forces.

## SR Editor's Refugee Relief Fund

### LIST OF DONORS

Mr. S. R. Jeyarajah	Rs. 150.00
Mr. Christopher S. Sabaratnam	100.00
Miss. C. Ariyaratnam	200.00
Wellwisher	1,050.00
Mr. P. Aravinthakumar	1,000.00
Wellwisher	1,000.00
Mr. R. Somalingam	30.00
Anonymous (Australia)	2,000.00

The contribution of Rs. 22,000 acknowledged in the SR of 5th April as coming from Mr. M. Ragunathan of Botswana should read as: Wellwishers of Botswana. Rs. 22,000.

## The Media Scene

Mr. R. Kandasamy and Mr. Benjamin Rajaratnam the Colombo correspondents of the Jaffna-based Tamil daily Eelanadu, and several others were taken into custody under the Prevention of Terrorism Act on May.

The reported charges that they had attempted to transmit "subversive literature" to their head office in a bus.

What is 'Subversive' usually depends on which side of the fence one is on and which Government is in power legally or otherwise.

If journalists who in the course of their professional duties possess, transmit and material that come into their hands are to be taken into custody under the draconian PTA and even be subjected to harassment and torture then it would be a sad day for Sri Lanka.

There is a Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association based in Colombo. What has it done about the arrests?

There is also supposed to be a Northern Province Journalists' Association. Why is it so silent?

Have we reached a stage in Sri Lanka when journalists do not care about what happens to their colleagues?

At the time of writing this reports have come that Mr. Benjamin Rajaratnam is released.

Mr. Kandasamy is now reportedly in the Boosa Camp in Galle. Heaven help him.

## FPA Training

Recently the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka successfully completed the selection and training of thirtyfive village level bodies to function on the grass root level action committees constituted in seven villages to implement the Community Based Integrated Rural Family Health Programme during the year 1986/1987. In addition 150 village level volunteers have been trained to function as Field Volunteers. The training programme was for three days to a batch of forty volunteers which included Maternal and Child health, Conception and Contraception, Communication and Surveying techniques.

The ultimate objective of this training is to equip the volunteers with the required skills, knowledge and attitude to improve the socio-economic status of every family that are allocated to them. Under this programme the rural masses

will be educated to understand and appreciate the necessity of adopting Planned Parenthood and not merely to inform them about the different methods of contraceptions.

The Association intends to conduct Dental clinics, Worm treatment, Mothers' seminars, Shramadanams, Youth programmes etc., in the respective project areas. In addition it has also a well-knit plan to supplement and complement the services of the Health Department.

Associated with the training programmes were Dr. R. Theivendran, A. D. H. O., Tellipallai, Prof. V. Ganeshalingam, Chairman, District Action Committee, Jaffna, FPA., Mr. K. Vaideeswaran, Health Educator, Jaffna Mrs. S. Tharmaratnam, Secretary, District Action Committee and Mr. A. S. Puveendran, District Project Officer, Jaffna.



# Sarath's Legacy

The tragic and untimely death of Sarath Mutettuwagama removes from the political scene, the one solitary figure that stood valiantly for Justice and Fairplay, against the evil forces of tyranny and oppression. The Tamil people almost in their entirety recognised him as a reliable friend—one who would never let them down even though he was opposed by the entirety of the present House of Representatives.

In many ways the life of Sarath Mutettuwagama was exactly similar to the life of the founders of the left movement like Dr. S. A. Wickramasinghe, Dr. N. M. Perera, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva and Mr. Leslie Gunawardene although they were a generation old. All these people were born into very affluent homes. The education they received was calculated to fit them properly into the upper strata of society — yet they disclaimed these values of the upper strata, and chose to struggle for the creation of new values, defined the entirety of their environment. This

however is not the main reason why the Tamil people liked men like Sarath Mutettuwagama and the other older leaders. The Tamil people liked them because they always stood above and apart from communal politics. As Sinhalese leaders, they did not think that the interest of Sinhalese people were best served by denying to the Tamil people their legitimate rights as most other leaders did. On the contrary they realised that the aspirations of the Sinhala and Tamil people were not contradictory but on the other hand complimentary. They felt that by conceding the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil people, the position of the Sinhala people will not be weakened but strengthened. That is why Sarath Mutettuwagama fought tooth and nail inside the House of Representatives, against the repressive policies of the present Government, and consistently urged the rulers to stop killing the Tamils and starting talking to them not as rulers and conquerors but as fellow occupants of the same island. Indeed the very best thing Sarath Mutettuwagama did before he died was to address a gathering of youth in Ratnapura and tell them that the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka cannot be solved without the friendly help of India.

In one way however Sarath Mutettuwagama's life differs from those of his predecessors. All those leaders lived their full lives and died only when they were past their seventies. Unfortunately Sarath died in the prime of life and just when the country was beginning to recognise him as a leader capable of leading it out of its present mess. Although he died young his political career spans over a period of almost three decades.

He came to the limelight in the latter part of the fifties as a member of the Kuruwita Village Council. In the election of March 1960, when he was not yet 25 he contested the Ratnapura seat as the candidate of the C. P. On that occasion there was no agreement between the parties opposed to the UNP and Sarath came second to the UNP Candidate. In the election that

followed in July 1960 with an agreement between the parties opposed to the UNP, he should have been allowed to contest the Ratnapura seat — but due to the intransigence and family bandyism of the SLFP leader he was prevented from contesting the Ratnapura seat in July 1960 and again in March 1965. But for the opposition of the SLFP leader Sarath would have been in parliament from 1960 onwards.

Sarath Mutettuwagama is well known to the Jaffna Public. He is one of the few Sinhalese who can come to this part of the country and be among friends and he has done so on numerous occasions. The people of Jaffna deeply mourn his loss—but we had hopes that just as the first generation of left leaders were replaced by another, so also the place left vacant by the sad and early demise of Sarath Mutettuwagama will be filled by an equally capable leader.

—I. R. Ariaratnam

## SALUTE TO SARATH

Sarath Mutettuwagama was a great son of Sri Lanka, who died long before he could reveal his true potential.

He belonged to a rare species in Sri Lanka, a species which is going fast extinct. He belonged to the human species.

That is why he could stand and speak, loud and clear, in Parliament and outside, on behalf of the down-trodden and oppressed, to whatever race they belonged.

He was above race, creed and caste and even nationality. He was a true internationalist.

In Parliament, his was the lone voice on behalf of the oppressed people of the North, and East especially after the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution deprived the Tamil people of representation in an assembly that is supposed to represent all the people of Sri Lanka.

I have lost a friend. The Tamil people have lost a great friend. The Sinhalese people have also lost a great friend.

Sarath came from gem country. He was a gem of a man. A rare gem.

— Gamini Navaratne

### EELAM REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATION (EROS)

A spokesman of EROS in a message has stated that the Tamils in Sri Lanka have lost a true Sinhalese friend. He was the only person who openly spoke that the Tamils have been denied of their rights and are being deceived even now.

He opposed the inhuman acts of the security personnel and the imposition of a military solution to the ethnic problem. He even opposed the Emergency Laws and the Prevention of Terrorism Act with

his might and mainly in Parliament and voted against the continuation of the Emergency.

### LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM (LTTE)

Mr. V. Prabaharan, leader of the LTTE, has in a message stated that the untimely and tragic death of Sarath Mutettuwagama in a motor accident is a serious blow to the Tamils because he was their true friend. He was the lone voice fighting for the fundamental rights of the Tamils in Parliament.

We are deeply shocked and grieved to hear of his death. Sarath Mutettuwagama used the forum of Parliament to fight for the workers and echo the grievances of the Tamil-speaking people.

His demise has created a void among the Sinhalese and Tamils which cannot be filled.

### SRI LANKA COMMUNIST PARTY (LEFT)

We, the Sri Lanka Communist Party (Left) were deeply shocked to learn the sudden and untimely

death of Comrade Sarath Mutettuwagama, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, respected comrade of the working class and a trusted friend of the Tamil speaking people. Comrade Sarath's bitter loss at a time of acute political and economic crisis facing Sri Lanka is indeed irreparable.

## VESAK IN JAFFNA

For the first time in many years Vesak was observed in at least one place in Jaffna on 24th May.

This was at the Hindu Home that is the temporary residence of the Editor of SATURDAY REVIEW.

In the presence of his friends the Editor lit 21 coconut oil lamps in humble homage to the Buddha, one of the greatest sons of India and the Light of Asia, with the fervant prayer that peace be restored to his troubled land before long.



# March '86

**1.3.86 - Vavunativu** - Special Task Force personnel shot at farmers working in a field and fishermen in the lagoon, killing four innocent civilians and injuring several. Five youths were also arrested. One of those killed was a Tamil Journalist.

**1.3.86 - Trincomalee** - Police and Security Force personnel surrounded the Bazaar area and arrest over seventy five including young girls. They were removed to St. Joseph School and detained till evening.

**2.3.86 - Pampaimadu** - Five Army personnel were killed and eight injured when their vehicle hit a land-mine. People fled from the area. Security Forces who had come back the same night set several houses ablaze. Several civilians were also arrested.

**2.3.86 - Kaithady** - Security Forces blasted the bridge on Kaithady Road to compel all traffic to pass by their camp along the shorter road. Government press release stated that terrorists had blasted the bridge. When civilians voluntarily tried to repair the bridge and make it passable for traffic Air Force helicopters attacked those repairing the bridge injuring four persons.

**2.3.86 - Navatkudah** - Special Task Force personnel shot at fishermen killing two and injuring three others.

**2.3.86 - Kilinochchi** - A mother of four, on her way home from the market was forced into scrub jungle by two Army men and raped. She was hospitalized at Kilinochchi and later transferred to the Jaffna Hospital.

**2.3.86 - Iranamadu** - An arrested youth taken by the Security Forces to point out the camps of militants was shot dead.

**2.3.86 - Maradana** - Police arrested twenty three Tamil youths from lodging houses.

**3.3.86 - Nainativu** - A Navy boat was hit by a mine in which five Navy men were killed. In reprisals, five innocent civilians were shot dead; the body of one being thrown into a shop and set alight and another thrown into the sea and subsequently washed ashore. Jewellery and cash were also looted from some houses. A woman was taken to her home and all her items of jewellery were robbed and she was shot at. A Holy shrine of the Hindus - Naga-pooshani Amman Temple - was looted and the main entrance was partially burnt. Several temple Chariots were set alight and fully burnt. Several youths were arrested.

**3.3.86 - Karadippoku** - A 40 year old farmer fleeing on seeing Security Forces was shot dead.

**3.3.86 - Kanagarayankulam** - A father taking his sick child to the hospital on his bicycle was shot dead by Security Forces.

**4.3.86 - Vilatikulam (Vavuniya)** - Two bomber air-crafts dropped several bombs causing destruction to twelve houses.

**4.3.86 - Parappukadanthan (Manar)** - The Maha Vidyalyam was fully destroyed and a house adjoining the school suffered damage when bombs were dropped from planes.

**4.3.86 - Batticaloa** - Police Commandos shot at motor cyclists killing three.

From 1st January this year up to the end of March, according to our statistics — needless to say, checked and re-checked — 763 Tamils have been killed, 521 wounded and 67 'disappeared'. 5013 Tamils have been arrested and 1113 Tamils released by the Security Forces.

We document below the incidents in the North and East in March.

The total number of persons killed in March is 215. Over 1,875 were arrested.

**March - Peithalai (Kalkudah)** - After a mine attack fifteen civilians were arrested; only one was released. Three bodies of those arrested were found floating. The whereabouts of the remaining eleven are not known.

**5.3.86 - Kannaddi (Vavuniya)** - Security Forces on foot in night shot at random injuring several. Eight houses and a shop were set ablaze. 80 families fled as refugees.

**6.3.86 - Kanniya** - 6 of the same family including a 65 year old blind man and a child of 4 years were cut to death with razor blades by Home Guards.

**6.3.86 - Thamarakerny (Batticaloa)** - The Special Task Force personnel. While searching for a wanted youth in a house, ordered another youth (a Government employee) to run away and shot him. His dead body was dragged away by them to the Camp. The dead body was later released on appeals made by the Citizens' Committee.

**6.3.86 - Mulankavil (Vavuniya)** - Bombed by three bomber-air-crafts causing extensive damage.

**6.3.86 - Parayanalankulam (Vavuniya)** - Security Forces shot at a couple employed at a farm killing the wife and causing serious injuries to the husband. A cyclist was also shot dead. A passenger

van was stopped - the women were chased away and 9 males were arrested. Three girls detained over-night at the Camp and were raped. Houses and shops were looted and burnt.

**March-Ayithiamalai (Batticaloa)** - Government communique: 3 motor cyclists who attempted to throw hand grenades were shot dead.

**8.3.86 - Achchelu** - Workers in chillie farm fired at from a helicopter; one killed and several injured.

**9.3.86 - Kalmunai** - Security Forces shot, and killed three.

**March - Navithanveli (Sammanthurai)** - Security Forces rounded

up the village. Two motor cyclists shot dead; 7 arrested.

**9.3.86 - Mandur** - Security Forces shot and killed two and removed the bodies to the Army Camp.

**10.3.86 - Araiampathi** - An attempt by militants to kidnap a Sinhalese businessman failed. Later Security Forces who arrived shot killing two.

**March - Kalmunai** - Eight youths were arrested by Security Forces on indications by 'hooded' man.

**10.3.86 - Ayithiamalai** - Security Forces during search operations killed a youth and arrested 15.

**11.3.86 - Myliddy** - 53 families living near Palaly by Air Port - Army Camp ordered by Security Forces to quit within 48 hours.

**12.3.86 - Valveti (Valvettiturai)** - From 6.30 a.m. three bombers and three helicopters dropped bombs and attack for 45 minutes killing an aged couple and a 12 year old child. 4 houses were also fully destroyed.

**12.3.86 - Thuraineelavanai** - Special Task Force personnel surrounded village at 5 a.m. during the search operations four people were killed and fifteen were arrested.

**13.3.86 - Myliddy** - Two helicopters mounted with guns opened fire killing four - 2 children aged 1 year and 5 years, a young woman and a youth on vacation from overseas. Five were injured, of whom two were women and another an 8 year old child. One of the women injured lost her left eye and the 1 year old child she had in her arms is shot dead.

**14.3.86 - Pandiruppu** - Home Guards shot 2 cyclists 4 persons were also arrested.

**14.3.86 - Paranthan** - Security Forces who arrived in trucks and private vehicles shot dead a youth. Several were arrested.

**14.3.86 - Talaimannar** - Of forty Sri Lankan refugees returning from Rameshwaram in five boats, thirty two were arrested by Navy personnel; eight escaped and returned to Rameshwaram.

**15.3.86 - Batticaloa** - Security Forces arrested sixteen persons.

**16.3.86 - Unnichchai** - Security Forces who arrived in a private lorry arrested 46 persons. One who tried to escape was shot dead.

**16.3.86 - Kilinochchi** - 10 workers in a tractor who were proceeding to a farm to harvest paddy and another youth working in a paddy field were shot dead by firing from a helicopter. Several were injured. The dead bodies were removed by the Security Forces.

**16.3.86 - Mallikativu** - Five Muslim farmers while returning home in carts with their produce stopped by Army personnel and shot dead as they walk up with hands raised.

**16.3.86 - Vavuniya** - Security Forces in civvies travelling with passengers in a bus shot at random injuring three persons.

**16.3.86 - Palali** - A 53 year old man was shot dead by the Security Forces.

**17.3.86 - Navatkuli** - A fifteen year old youth employed in a glass factory was shot dead at the gates of the factory by Security Forces.

**17.3.86 - Natpiddimunai** - Two businessmen were shot dead by Security Forces.

**March 86 - Myliddy, Urani, Palaly** - Due to the mass exodus of residents following intermittent aerial attacks, education of about 3,000 students was affected.

**18.3.86 - Murasumoddai** - A Serviceman is killed in a confrontation with militants. In reprisals, Security Forces fired on farmers threshing paddy killing 4 and injuring several. Later shells were also fired from the Army Camp injuring two women, and causing damage to several houses.

**19.3.86 - Iiddimurithan, Nedunkerny** - About 300 Servicemen in black uniforms surrounded the village in night and indulged in a spate of murder, arson and looting which left 16 dead and 35 houses burnt. Seven of the dead bodies were removed by the Servicemen along with fourteen arrested persons. Among those killed were a woman and a sixty year old man. Two charred bodies were found in a burnt shop. Several were injured.

**20.3.86 - Batticaloa** - Security Forces arrested about 500 persons irrespective of age and sex, and all were removed to the Army Camp. Later in the evening all except for 10, were released.



# 'WHO' Afraid of International Opinion?

21.3.86 - **Jaffna** - Shells fired from the Jaffna Army Fort hit Koddady area killing a young woman and a one year old child. Of twenty four injured, mostly all were women and children. Several houses were also damaged.

21.3.86 - **Navatkuli** - A one year old child and a Seventy six year man were among the 5 injured by shells fired from the Army Camp.

21.3.86 - **Kayts** - For about an hour from 5.30 a. m. coastal areas were subjected to air, land and sea attacks. Helicopters mounted with guns were used for the aerial attack. One was killed and several were injured. Several houses also suffered damages.

21.3.86 - **Batticaloa** - Security Forces arrested 300 during search operations.

21.3.86 - **Puthukudiruppu** - Security Forces in a search operation killed eight. A newly married couple, the wife being employed as a Sub-Post Mistress was among those killed.

21.3.86 - **Thondamannaru** - 2 devotees in the precincts, of the Selva Sannathy Temple were killed by shells fired from the Army Camp.

24.3.86 - **Thondamannaru** - 2 devotees in the precincts of the Selva Sannathy Temple were killed by shells fired from the Army Camp for the second time in two days.

Temple poojas suspended, indefinitely.

24.3.86 - **Valvettiturai** - A 69 year old person was shot dead by Security Forces firing from the Army Camp.

24.3.86 - **Mannar** - Security Forces fired on passengers waiting at the bus-stand in the early hours, seriously injuring 2. Another was reported to have been removed by Army personnel.

24.3.86 - **Navatkuli** - Security Forces fired from the Army camp injuring a 74 year old person.

March 86 - **Thampalakamam** - Security Forces fired on farmers harvesting paddy, killing 2 brothers and a 45 year old man. 2 were seriously injured. Several were arrested.

March '86 - **Sampaltivu** - Security Forces surrounded the village and fired, killing 2. They also arrested 18 persons.

25.3.86 - **Vavuniya** - Seven Policemen suffered injuries in a mine attack. Later, Policemen on the rampage shot, and killed a woman - a mother of 7 children. 3 businessmen and a deformed beggar and several were injured. Four large shops were also set alight. Later a dead body was recovered from one of the burnt shops bringing the total number of civilians killed to 6. The Policemen then ordered back to barracks. The Security Forces who had come out in search operations arrest about 10 persons.

25.3.86 - **Thampalai** - Security Forces fired at random injuring 2 aged persons. House-hold items of 5 houses were also smashed up.

26.3.86 - **Kadduwan, Tellippalai, Erlalai, Palaly** areas subjected to aerial attack from helicopters for about 4 hours. One was, killed 16 were injured. 15 houses were also damaged.

26.3.86 - **Talaimannar** - On the high seas, Navy patrol opened fired at boat killing 8; 2 escaped to India.

20.3.86 - **Nedunkerny** - 18 were arrested by the Security Forces; the arrest of 6 persons among them is now denied.

23.3.86 - **Kallady, Batticaloa** - A 35 year old man shot by Home Guards succumbs to his injuries later.

24.3.86 - **Pandirippu** - Jeevarajah, a mason on his way to work was arrested by Special Task Forces personnel and assaulted severely when he attempted to escape.

24.3.86 - **Talaimannar** - 26 fishermen fleeing to India in 4 boats due to the ban on fishing arrested by Navy personnel.

25.3.86 - **Kaddaiparichchan** - Security Forces shot dead a farmer and burn his body.

25.3.86 - **Puthunagar (Amparai)** - Security Forces during a search operation, not finding the chief occupant arrested his 9 year old son as a hostage. The mother appealed to the Member of Parliament for his release.

25.3.86 - **Vavuniya** - T. Vasanthakumar (24) a father of 3, arrested by the Security Forces near the Government Hospital on 20th March. When inquiries made by his wife, she was informed by the Security Forces that he had been released on 21st March. His whereabouts are still not known.

26.3.86 - **Kaddaiparichchan** - 4 married women were raped by the Security Forces (their husbands were chased away) while the children of the women wailed in fear.

27.3.86 - **Point Pedro** - Rev. Fr. Sagayathan was repeatedly shot at and injured by the Security Forces firing from the Army Camp in spite of his Priest's garb and his getting off his motor-bike and appealing with hands raised.

27.3.86 - **Eravur** - Security Forces fired at workers in paddy field causing injuries to 3, two were arrested.

27.3.86 - **Vasavilan** - Security Forces fired from a helicopter on a passenger van injuring 3 persons.

27.3.86 - **Paranthan** - Security Forces who arrived in a lorry fired on motor cyclists 1 was killed and another escaped.

27.3.86 - **Kilinochchi** - Paddy harvested from 10 acres and ready for threshing was set alight by Security Forces.

**'Five Muslim farmers while returning home were shot dead by Security Forces.'**

27.3.86 - **Palaly** - Thangarasa an employee of the Electricity Board and father of 6 was shot dead. His dead body was thrown on the road. 4 others were also injured in random firing.

28.3.86 - **Karaitivu** - Security Forces who arrived in the early hours of the day arrested about 300 persons.

28.3.86 - **Point Pedro** - A 60 year old man who went to see his house evacuated a few days earlier for fear of Army firing, was shot dead by Security Forces.

March '86 - **Vantharumoolai** - Police Commandos opened fire at a tractor killing two. Others escaped.

28.3.86 - **Elephant Pass** - Security Forces boarded a bus with passengers and alighted at the Kilinochchi Army Camp: the passengers had used as a cover.

29.3.86 - **Vasavilan** - Helicopter fired at motor cyclists killing one. The other escaped. The helicopter returned again and fired on people transferring the dead body into a van. The van and 2 houses and a shop in the vicinity suffered damages.

**Amparai** - The arrest of M. Ganeshan made some days ago by the Police of Central Camp is now denied.

29.3.86 - **Vavuniya** - A girl passenger in a bus cried out when she saw her brother was assaulted mercilessly by the Security Forces at the Check Point. They were both detained by the Security Forces.

29.3.86 **Eravur** - Security Forces fired on persons fleeing in fear, killing 2. A tractor was also set alight.

30.3.86 - **Kadduwan** - Security Forces set alight a rice mill, the employees having been assaulted and ordered out. Paddy, machinery and buildings worth several lakhs were destroyed. 10 houses in the vicinity were also destroyed. The reason given by the Security Forces being that these buildings were within 1000 meters of the Palaly Army Camp.

30.3.86 - **Palaly** - Security Forces demolished houses and huts in areas around the Army Camp: bombs and Bulldozers were used for the operation.

30.3.86 - **Murasumoddai** - Security Forces set alight several heaps of Paddy ready for threshing.

30.3.86 - **Kayts** - Navy fired shells and bombed areas near the Bazaar and Parithiaddaippu causing damage to several buildings.

31.3.86 - **Kaluwankerny, Vantharumoolai** - 2 Special Task Force personnel and 2 militant youths were killed in a direct clash. Later Special Task Force arrived in a bus with passengers and engaged in search operations, lasting about 4 hours. 2 houses were set a light. Later the bus with the passengers had been released.

31.3.86 - **Thandavenveli, Batticaloa** - The Church of Our Lady of Sorrows was surrounded and searched by Special Task Force personnel when early Mass was in progress, causing fear, and tension to the worshippers.

**Fifty three families living near the Palaly Air Port were ordered by Security Forces to quit within 48 hours.**

31.3.86 - **Murasumoddai** - A cyclist was shot dead by Security Forces travelling in a lorry. About 150 bags of paddy in a store were set alight and another 150 bags had been removed by them.

March '86 - **Vavuniya** - The Area around Sivan Temple was searched by Security Forces during which 3 were shot dead and several were severely assaulted. Many irrespective of age and sex were removed to the Army Camp and released after questioning.



# HONEY, VINEGAR, FLIES

Editor  
SATURDAY REVIEW

In the "SATURDAY REVIEW" of the 15th instant, page 4, there was a thought-provoking article about Napoleon and others who were in "pursuit of greatness" and their final demise. This great Emperor Napoleon, whilst in exile in St. Helena, is said to have lamented thus:—"Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I founded great empires, but upon what does the creation of our genius depend? Upon force! Christ alone founded his Empire on love and to this very day, millions would die for him." The ambitious emperor Asoka who was in "pursuit of greatness", had listened to Buddha's preaching and became "Dharma Asoka." Who will deny that up to the 5th of June, 1956, all the citizens of this beautiful country had lived in perfect harmony?

The Army, Navy and Air Force were ornaments to this sovereign state and they had very little to do with the public. The Police Service was very well disciplined and efficient. The Medical Service and the Police Service were the foremost institution where the public would rush to for relief. The Police Service attracted the youths, who, with the knowledge of English, became proficient in various branches of Police work including Law and Scientific investigations. They were truly guardians of the law, protectors of person and property as well as Peace Officers. Though there is crime and there are criminals all over the world, yet in a civilised country like ours, the Police were quite capable of tackling them without any others' help. The public respected and co-operated. A Police Officer could go alone anywhere and return safely after doing his job of work. In the North and East, as anywhere else, the youths were only mindful about their education, future progress and self-respect. They would warmly welcome the policemen in tournaments. But alas! gradually the sense of discipline and duty in the Police service started to corrode. Beginning with the neglect of duty on 5th June, 1956, the Policemen alienated themselves from the people, by their conduct in Jaffna on 10th January, 1974 and thereafter some policemen were brought in for special duties and their adventures culminated

in arson and looting and such was the "special work", they had done.

The people lost their confidence in the State machinery when their request for impartial inquiries were ignored by the People's Government.

## LETTERS

The youths who had seen a lot of injustice and whose future progress had been curbed and blunted by various Acts in Education and Employment, seem to have thought of a new way of life to enjoy the fruits of independence. Youth is the blossom of life. By now many thousands have lost their lives? How many thousands are languishing in jails? On the other hand, how many Service personnel—some good and some inhuman, had died? What a serious disadvantage the exodus of efficient employees and intelligent persons had caused? When English was the Official Language, the Government Servants did deal with non-English speaking people in the indigenous language. There was a time when holiday-makers and Pilgrims came in special buses and trains from the South to the North and vice-versa. How pleasing it was to share one another's hospitality! The Judges, Government Agents and other dignitaries know more about the cordiality of the people here than the politicians who had sowed the seeds of communal hatred the harvest of which is now being reaped.

How long will it take and how much will it cost to restore the wanton destruction caused to the people as well as public and private property? I wonder if there is anyone in the U.N.P. or S.L.F.P who had witnessed the grand receptions accorded by the people of the Jaffna District to the first two Prime Ministers of this country! Is it not the partiality in the administration that has caused the estrangement? The indisciplined Home Guards and the so-called Security men with firearms etc. can only destroy life and property. They can do nothing to bring peace and amity. It has been said: "Put a beggar on a horse and he would ride to destruction".

In those days, for causing the death of one man, a Commission of Inquiry was ordered. But now, no one in authority seems to be worried about the killing of innocent people whether women, children or old people. I know the Sinhalese people and I am certain that no true Buddhist who shuns even the killing of a tiny insect, will condone the horrible tortures, killings and burnings. The historians, the scholars and those who have preserved their traditions, know that the Sinhalese, and the Tamils, their customs, culture and social habits, names and language (vocabulary) have a close relationship.

The President should be like a father to all and not to a selected section. He has the power and some experienced elderly Ministers. All hope he will resurrect the country without delay, from the present doom.

An ounce of sugar or a spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a barrel of vinegar. There are some for whom there is more fun in pointing out the splinter in others eyes than in picking the mote out of their own.

Ilavalai

Peter Selvadurai

## BETTER ENGLISH, PLEASE

Editor  
SATURDAY REVIEW

Readers of the recent issues of the newspapers would have noticed therein a few words which purists and grammarians would call bad English but which Eric Partridge would call "abusage".

Two of these "errors" have come from India. I think it was Mr. Bhandari who used the word "normalcy" to mean normal or average. The correct word is "normality". This is a very common mistake. The other word too has come from India. In the Indian response to Colombo's March first statement the Indian note, as reported in the 'Daily News' says, (I am quoting only the relevant portion) "it appears to the Government of India that there is an attempt to find an 'alibi' for the failure to engage in constructive negotiations". The word "alibi" a borrowing from Latin, 'elsewhere', and has been made popularly the detective novel. But nowadays the word is often used to denote "excuse". Since usage is becoming the criterion

of correct use the writer of the Indian reply might paradoxically claim an 'alibi' on the score of usage.

Another word that one encounters used wrongly nowadays is 'impersonate'. This word means 'to imitate a well known figure' say, like Charlie Chaplain, or to take the part of a character in a play. It is used innocuously merely to denote entertainment. But often it is wrongly used in place of 'personate' which word means 'to claim to be another person really with intent to deceive for wrongful purposes' as in the example, 'He personated his friend in the examination and was caught and punished.' Here in Ceylon 'impersonate' is used instead of 'personate' probably because the police and the insurance people may have started using it and it has come to stay.

Again 'Third World' really means the unaligned Powers but the phrase is freely used as a synonym for what are sometimes described as the undeveloped countries.

Since usage is becoming the criterion of good English anyone who criticises 'usage' is open to the charge that he loved his grammar 'not wisely, but too well'.

Jaffna

S.M. Asaipillai.

## ANOTHER MONK

Editor  
SATURDAY REVIEW

While reading the article entitled "The Monk's Story", with you have so kindly published with the sole objective of bringing about, even at this late stage, a good understanding between the two communities that are at strife today purely because of the machinations of power-hungry politicians, I am constrained to seek your help to place on record the deep gratitude of the Tamil community, to yet another monk, the Ven. Premananda Dharmakeerthi Thero of the Buddhist Vihare of Nainativu, who according to the editorial of the Eelanadu of 10th March 1986, prevented several innocent Tamils of that Island being slaughtered, by prevailing on the would-be assailants to kill him before slaying the harmless citizens of that area.

It is saintly priests like him, who can save the country today by practising Metta and Maitreya and propagating thus the Buddha Dhamma.

Jaffna

S.Sinnathamby



# GETTING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE

by Rajan Hoole

It was way back in 1964 when the night mail from Talai-Mannar to Fort got derailed at Mirigama resulting in the deaths of several persons—mainly Tamils of Indian origin. We were then students preparing for our O. Levels in a school in the hills, distinguished by having been founded by the great philanthropist and educationist—the late Dr. R.L. Hayman, working closely with the late canon A.J. Foster. Two boys in our class, twin brothers, were heard remarking about the accident, 'it matters little. Those who died were just Tamils.' Another of my classmates, Dallas Wijesinghe, retorted in very passionate terms, 'this was a most evil thing to say. It hardly matters who died. Were they all not human beings?' The strength of his anti-communalism was such as to make me slightly ashamed. Such sentiments which were quite common then have alas been on the wane and have reached such low levels as to bring us to the point of mutual extinction.

An error from which a healthy respect for truth and justice should have saved us has now been made. The use of terror as a weapon has been accepted by both sides in the present conflict. Describing the use of terror by the Security Forces in the Eastern Province, Tavleen Singh writes in the India Today of 15th March:

'So brutal and reprehensible has been the crack down and reprisals on the terrified Tamils that all they can do now is unemotionally list out the litany of the dead.' The Tamil militants have retaliated in kind. In this drama the actors have been forced to throw away their scripts as the play went out of control, leaving behind a blind frenzy. The situation in the country can be described thus: The perception of truth has become partisan and hysterical. Many writing in the Colombo papers use adjectives such as inhuman and dastardly to describe those who placed bombs in the CTO and at Katunayake, while being blind to the actions of their Security Forces and the aerial attacks in Tamil areas where nearly all victims were non-combatant civilians. For the Tamils, their differences have led to bitter propaganda campaigns that have deepened differences and prejudices. The need for unity is not uppermost in their minds. Both sides seem to have lost sight of the fact that the outside world may choose to see them as incorrigibly quarrelsome parties who are best ignored.

A respect for the rule of the law and the common decencies has taken a severe beating on both sides. The beating to death of a Tamil employee by his fellows at the CTO is a case in the point. Security Forces or mobs can kill or humiliate anyone in any part of the country without restraint. Had the Tamils taken steps to keep their house in order in such matters, many of our problems could have been avoided.

Little attention is paid to the general welfare of the civilian population, and there is a trend towards putting up with blatant hypocrisy. We see Minister's so assiduous about their own safety urging young recruits from rural areas to go to war—a war which no one wants. One minister told a Sunday paper about his family's anxiety when he goes to Jaffna—by air that is, to a well protected base. The minister has shown little sign of appreciating that others too have anxieties.

In place of co-operation between communities, there is a desire to cynically use others for temporary objectives. We have the spectre of the Sri Lankan army going on the

rampage against Muslims in Colombo, and using Muslims to bash Tamils in the East. The Tamils too have their share of the blame. One sympathetic Muslim academic from the East told me that, 'in 1984 there was a good chance of Tamil Muslim co-operation. And then Tamil boys made mistakes'.

This leaves us Tamils faced with several moral issues. We are in a climate where the government has cut off our communication with the outside world and is subjecting us to terror bombing and strafing from the air where the intended victims are none other than civilians. We have no alternative, but to appeal to international opinion that has saved us in the past. Some have suggested even appealing directly to the Sinhalese people. The only grounds on which we can do so are moral grounds. For this to be effective, we ourselves must be seen as moral.

Our appeals will be treated with respect and will evoke a sympathetic chord only if we are seen as being interested in truth and justice for its own sake. We need to be concerned with the lives and happiness of ordinary Sinhalese people as much as we are with our own. When terror used as a weapon in our name affects the lives and happiness of ordinary Sinhalese people, for us to be silent on this whilst listing out our own complaints will make it look as though we are manipulating truth and justice for shadowy ends. Indeed, the government is making good use of the resulting indifference of international opinion.

Tamils have to the man respected and held in deep affection the late Sarath Mutettuwagama. He stood up courageously for common human values without the taint of communalism. To the credit of the Sinhalese people, he received a hearing from them with the notable exception of the police and UNP hoodlums. If we had one leader of this calibre, the Tamils would not have reached this state. At this moment of danger we Tamils deserve no less. The people must cease to be clients and audiences. The freedom of speech is not a gift or a right, it is meant to be exercised.

Sarath Mutettuwagama and others like him would have often faced the accusation, 'what right had they to speak for the Tamils when Sinhalese soldiers are dying?' Our reply would have been that Sarath and the others cared for these Sinhalese youth in a deeper sense than those who sent them to war for immoral

(Continued on page 8)

## ODD ODES

*Oh, the sweet music  
of gun blasts.  
I cannot sleep  
until I hear them.  
That some may have gone  
into permanent sleep  
is not my concern.  
I am alive  
to hear the gun blasts.  
The bullet  
fashioned with high-tec  
is a better ornament  
than a bracelet.  
The military industrialists  
must be laughing all the way  
as they carry their billions  
to the banks.  
People are killed  
who cares?  
For people must die  
for others to survive  
enjoy and prosper.  
So life goes on.  
It has been so down the ages.  
It will be so  
in the present  
and the future.  
In Samsara's Karmic cycle,  
let us meet again  
to kill each other.*

—ANON

## Amicable Settlement

The failure on the part of the Courts and Police to function properly in the North prompted peace-loving people to obtain the services of elders and knowledgeable people to organise Conciliation Boards or Peace Committees at village levels and settle disputes among people.

One such dispute had been amicably settled by the Point-Pedro Conciliation Board. The officiating Priest of the Maruthady Vairavar Temple sued the Trustees of the Kurumanal Kandasamy Temple which is within the same land alleging obstruction to conduct of festivals etc., in the District Court of Point Pedro in 1980. After six long years of waiting and considering the present situation the Priest brought the matter before the Point-Pedro Conciliation Board seeking early settlement.

The contending parties were summoned for an inquiry and both parties produced one and the same identical deed as the base of their claim.

It was agreed that (1) steps would be constructed near the said boundary wall by the Trustees of the Kandasamy Temple to faci-

litate carrying the idol of Vairavar Swamy during festival Times (2) the Veethi on the South of the Vairavar Temple will be used for all purposes connected with the Festivals of the Vairavar Kovil and (3) the Trustees of the Kandasamy Temple will provide all facilities to use the Veethi for all religious functions of the Vairavar Temple.

## NEW TELECOM CENTRE

Mack Travels and Communications Centre (MCT) was ceremonially opened to members of the public on 5th May at No. 8, 1st Lane, Point Pedro Road, Jaffna.

The chief guest on this occasion was the retired High Court Judge, Mr. J. J. Aseervatham, who lit the traditional oil lamp. While congratulating the Board of Directors of the Company for providing such a boon to the public in the North, he said that such a service was essential and a commendable one as many people in Sri Lanka and especially in the North are living in many scattered regions of the world.

The Centre is housed in a spacious two-storeyed building with all modern conveniences, including rest rooms for the public.



# Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

## MORE DAMN LIES

During visiting hours the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW, accompanied by a Director of the company, inspected the damage caused to the Jaffna General Hospital by aerial strafing on 19th May (as reported in the SR of 24th May).

There is enough testimony to prove that a helicopter did the da-

mage, not a "misfired terrorist rocket", as claimed in official circles.

We invite representatives of the Colombo-based media to visit Jaffna and see things for themselves instead of publishing this damn lies that emanate from official sources.

## Getting...

(Continued from page 7)

ends. Likewise any Tamil who speaks can be asked, 'what right have you to disagree with the militants?' -meaning presumably with whatever faction is then dominant. Our reply is: Thousands of Tamil civilians have been victims of this war. We are mindful of the great sacrifices made by the militants. These can ultimately be meaningful only if we get our principles right. When the means we adopt destroy and obliterate our ends to the extent that they influence the highly questionable manner in which we settle internal differences, things have gone far enough. The dignity of the people and of the values they stand for is a matter for them, and them alone.

## "NO" BY INDIA

Mr. P. Chidamparam, India's Minister for Personnel, is reported to have told pressmen in Madras on 29th May that India would not allow Commonwealth mediation in the Sri Lankan ethnic crisis.

on 22nd May we request you to make an on-the-spot investigation into these attacks so that the record can be put straight."

# VVT - The Facts

A senior Joint Operations Command spokesman in Colombo was quoted in "The Island" of 27th May as saying: "We have to be factual. So the correct information of incidents (in the North) takes time to come down the line. Citizens committees obviously need the publicity and they can say whatever they want with no responsibility to anyone."

We would be happy to publish the JOC's reply to the following excerpts from a letter sent by the Valvettiturai Citizens Committee to the Government Agent of Jaffna, with a copy to President Jayewardene:

"We wish to confirm the verbal report made to you by one of our Joint Secretaries, Mr. Kumarasamy along with the members of the Jaffna Citizens Committee on 21st May.

Attack on 19-5-86. Two houses located on the Point Pedro - Valvettiturai coastal road near the Polikandy Post - office were completely destroyed by bombs drop-

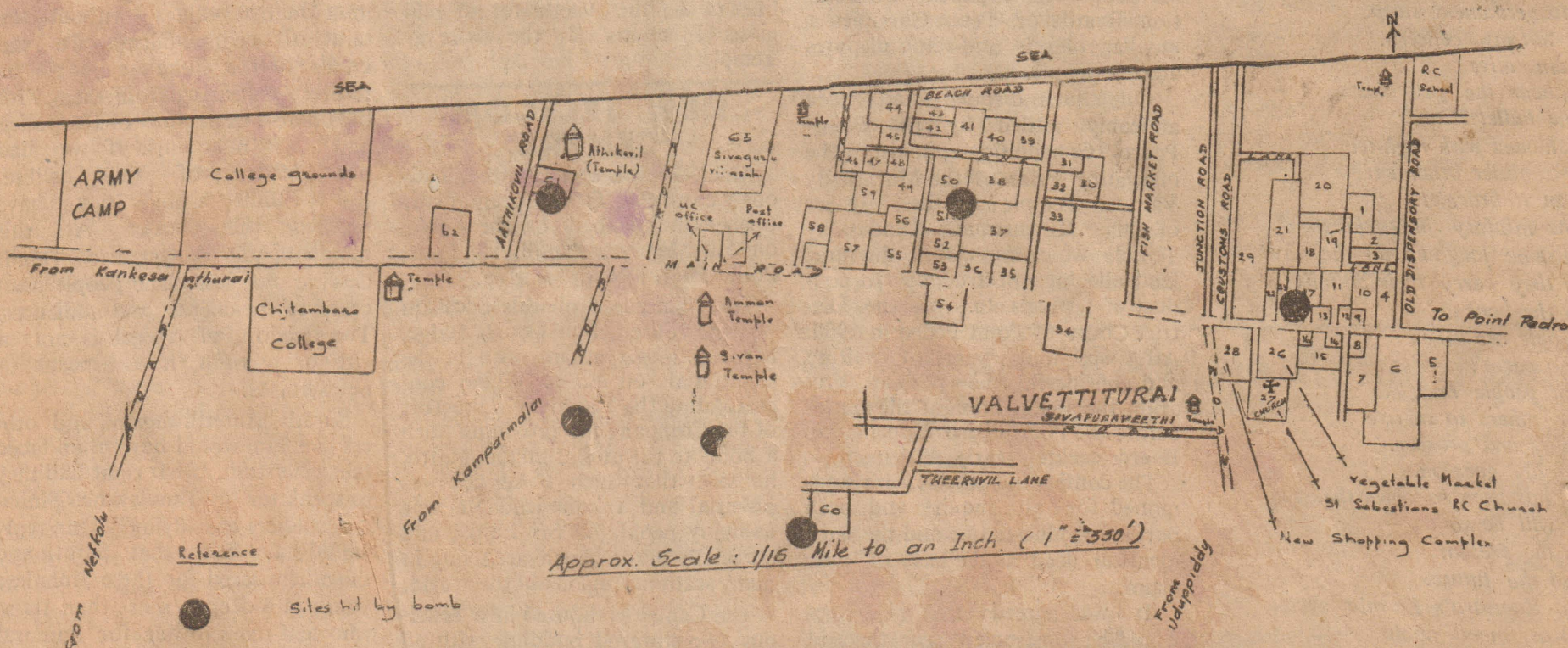
ped by two light aircraft at about 2 p.m. on 19-5-86. The occupants of these two houses ran out of their houses on seeing the aircraft circling above. However, one goat left behind in one of the houses was killed. This aerial attack was followed by shelling from gun-boats anchored off the Valvettiturai coast from 6.30 p.m. for about two hours. Several houses were damaged by this shelling. There was also mortar shelling from the Valvettiturai Army Camp throughout the day.

Attack on 20-5-86. There was naval shelling by gun-boats anchored off the Valvettiturai coast from about 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A woman was seriously injured during this attack and was admitted to the local hospital. She was later transferred to the Jaffna General Hospital. A number of other persons were also injured and were treated at the local hospital. In the evening a light aircraft was seen circling the sky above Valvettiturai 10 to 15 times.

There was mortar shelling at intervals during the day from the Valvettiturai Army Camp.

Attack on 21-5-86. For nearly half an hour from about 6.15 a.m. three light aircraft dropped about 20 to 30 bombs on the thickly populated areas of Valvettiturai proper. During the course of this attack about 40 to 50 houses and buildings were damaged, 10 of these badly. The Peoples Bank, Valvettiturai, is housed in one of the buildings badly damaged. This attack was followed by continuous machine-gun firing from five helicopters for about one hour. During this attack, a large number of buildings and houses were damaged. A 14-year old girl was seriously injured and was admitted to the hospital at Point Pedro.

"The Government has denied these attacks. The denial was made in the 9 p.m. English news telecast by the S.L.B.C. the night of 21st May and the 6-30 a.m. Tamil news broadcast by the S.L.B.C.



The sketch above shows the sites that were affected by the aerial attacks