

# Saturday Review

## SRI LANKA

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18th July 1987

# The Unkindest Cut

*A doubtful friend is worse than a certain enemy.*  
—AESOP

When Prime Minister R. Premadasa visited Pakistan at the end of March this year he was given red-carpet treatment.

Buoyed up by this welcome, the Prime Minister did not stint his praises.

At a dinner hosted by Pakistan President General Zia Ul Haq in Islamabad, the Prime Minister even dragged in Destiny: "Pakistan and Sri Lanka, it seems, have been destined to be good friends. Ever since the dawn of liberty after long years of colonial rule we have stood shoulder to shoulder. From the time of your great founding father of the nation to these present days of Your Excellency, we in Sri Lanka have found in Pakistan a staunch friend and loyal ally. All our great leaders including His Excellency President Jayewardene have warmly reciprocated this friendly feeling. It is in time of trouble that the strong links of friendship are truly tested. I know for certain that both Pakistan and Sri Lanka have passed this stern test".

But what did this 'staunch friend and loyal ally' who has passed the 'stern test' do in Malaysia?

At the recent Lawasia Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital, Sri Lanka found, much to its dismay, that it was in a minority of one.

A 32-strong Sri Lankan delegation tabled a resolution censuring India for violating Sri Lanka's air space by dropping relief supplies in the Jaffna Peninsula recently.

Sri Lanka was the only country voting for its own censure motion. Singapore abstained. All the other countries—including Pakistan!—voted against. They went further and described India's air-drop as a humanitarian act.

(Incidentally, the Colombo media—at least the provincial editions—gave skimpy coverage to the Conference. Even the reports that did appear (in The Island, for instance) made no reference whatsoever to Sri Lanka's resolution or the rebuff it met with. If Lanka's resolution had been passed, it would have been a different story altogether.)

When will Sri Lanka's parvenu politicians realise that international relations and foreign policy are not extensions of parish pump and pork barrel politics?

Friendless Sri Lanka's rulers would do well to chew and digest the words of the British statesman who said "Britain has no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests".

## 12-Hour Power Cuts Hit Jaffna Hospital

The Director of the General Hospital (Teaching) Jaffna, Dr. C. S. Nachinarkivian, has sent the following protest to the Electrical Engineer Chunnakam:

I am surprised to see your letter of 13th July 1987 following my discussions with you. You have stated that you are unable to provide electricity for G.H. (T) Jaffna through the available special lines when there is a general electrical supply interruption sometimes extending to twelve hours continuously.

In fact almost five years back when a situation of this nature existed, due to power cuts over shorter periods of time, arrangements were made at the highest level involving Ministries of Health, Energy, S.L.E.B., and it was agreed that during the power cuts electrical supply to the G.H. (T) Jaffna will be maintained by working the Chunnakam Power Station to save the lives of patients

Reflecting on Pakistan's unkind cut would be as good a starting point as any for those politicians aspiring to join the big-time league.

Pakistan acted in the way it did at Malaysia for perfectly good reasons: it was in her own self-interest not to needlessly antagonise her neighbour, India.

Friendship—whether between individuals or nations—is, as La Rochefoucauld observed "a species of commerce out of which self-love always expects to gain something."

Foreign relations should not be left in the hands of persons who think that just because they are bosom pals of the village thug, they can take on anyone in the neighbourhood.

by providing un-interrupted supply of electricity.

But I am sorry to say that on Sunday the 12th July 1987 there was a power failure for twelve hours from 6-00 a.m. to 6-00 p.m. and on Monday 13th too the power failure was for almost twelve hours from 6-00 a.m. to 6-00 p.m. extending far beyond "the normal working hours of the majority of the staff." We could not take X-rays on patients who needed urgent X-ray (we normally do one hundred X-ray examinations per day), and do important laboratory examinations in the Path. Lab. (we normally do one thousand lab tests per day during the day time). Patients and staff were exposed to a very un-healthy working situation during this extremely hot weather of the year without the fans or air-conditioners. Electrical suckers, Ventilators and other

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## Gutsy Schoolmarm

Don't believe what the SATURDAY REVIEW says about the Army.

This was Brigadier Fred Rupasinghe's earnest advice to school-teachers of Vadamarachchi in Pt. Pedro, some weeks after Operation Liberation had 'liberated' the souls of several luckless people of the area.

Addressing his captive 'class', the Brigadier told them schools are to be re-opened and the forces would cooperate in the smooth running of the schools.

Asked for an assurance that students will not be detained, the Brigadier replied that any student who is arrested will be released within 48 hours.

A lady teacher stood up and exclaimed: "Give us an assurance that schoolboys will not be arrested whether in schools, on the streets, in playing fields or in their homes. If not, we are not sending our children to school."

Her 'class-mates' clapped and whistled appreciatively.

The gallant Brigadier seems to have had no more luck schooling the school-marms than he had disciplining his troops.

## Mullaitivu Man-hunt

Several youths were shot dead, hundreds detained, and schools and temples damaged when Security Forces mounted a massive search operation in Mullaitivu in the early hours of Wednesday (15th July), according to reports reaching Jaffna.

Two low-flying helicopters strafed the area while the man-hunt was on.

The Forces used women and farmers as 'human shields' during the search operation.

The Army met with stiff resistance from the Tiger and Eros militants, the reports add.

Thousands of villagers have fled their homes and sought refuge in neighbouring villages.

## More Sarongs, Please

The University of Jaffna Refugees Rehabilitation Organisation, a student body, has appealed to individuals and traders to donate more sarongs for the use of refugees from Vadamarachchi.

This week the Organisation launched a drive throughout Jaffna to collect clothes and relief supplies for the refugees. The public response was tremendous, student sources say.

## Restore Normalcy

—Northern Principals

The Northern Province Principals Union has appealed to the Minister of Education to restore normalcy in Northern schools.

In its memorandum, the Union pinpoints the indiscriminate arrest of innocent school students, the destruction of school buildings and the conversion of schools into military camps and refugee camps.

"Consequently, we find it difficult to run our schools smoothly" the memorandum states.

(The full text of the memorandum will appear in the next issue — Ed.)



## Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

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## PM's Opposition Role

In a move that demonstrated the superfluities and ambiguities of the Sri Lankan constitution, Prime Minister Premadasa demanded at a meeting of the UNP Parliamentary group, that Indian food aid should be landed at Colombo, instead of in KKS, and then transported to Jaffna. Answering defensively, National Security Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali said that the food was landed at KKS harbour and is subject to checks by Sri Lankan officials: One wonders what happens to collective cabinet responsibility, for decisions taken—in this case the landing of food at KKS.

## THANKSGIVING

### Novena to St. Jude:

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and treasured throughout the world now and for ever. Sacred, Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

St. Jude help of the helpless, pray for us.

St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us.

Thank you Jesus.

Thank you St. Jude

Say this prayer 9 times a day for 9 days. It has never been known to fail.

# VADAMARACHCHI FRONT THE SECOND EXODUS

(by a special  
correspondent)

The army suffered a major reverse at Nelliady on the night of Sunday 5th July. On the afternoon of 6th July, a scribe wrote on a notice board at Manipay, 'Historic Achievement'. A group of persons huddled together and gaped as details followed. Such scenes were commonplace throughout Jaffna, outside Vadamarachchi. The burning question on Monday was, what was the extent of the damage suffered by the army? By Monday evening refugees from Nelliady and environs began arriving in Jaffna on foot. On Tuesday the attention began shifting from the army, as people began asking what happened to the folk at Nelliady, as those with connections in Vadamarachchi started taking alarm. By Wednesday the latter question overshadowed the first as ad hoc refugee camps were set up from Varani to Kodikamam. Thus goes the cycle of elation and depression becoming more pronounced on the side of depression and misery, as people increasingly despair of the prospects for settled life.

From the time of the attack the population at Nelliady and Karaveddy were subject to a barrage of indiscriminate shelling from the army at Nelliady, was joined in by artillery from other camps. People broke curfew simply to get away from the shell blasts around them, and several were shot as they ran into soldiers. The shelling was of no avail where the militants were concerned, and one hardly knows why the civilians were being punished. The Sri Lankan army and the Government have demonstrated once again that they are not fit to be trusted with the lives of citizens. They lack the capacity to win over the civilians or to win the war. They do not seem to be able to lose it either.

The number of civilians killed in this bout of violence will run into several tens. People who are getting away generally do not know what is happening more than half a mile away.

According to diocesan sources, a shell fell on St. Anthony's church

Karaveddy, killing 5 people who were taking refuge. Thamu Master, a retired teacher from Karaveddy, was shot dead by soldiers when he went to retrieve some jewellery from his home.

### EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS

Mr. and Mrs. Ariaratnam from the Methodist parish at Vathiri in Nelliady, saw about 100 boys of school-going age from that area being taken away shortly after the incident of 5th July. Mr. Ariaratnam spoke to the soldiers to the effect that these boys were innocent and that nothing will be gained by taking them. The soldiers replied that they were so angry after the incident that they simply felt like kicking these boys. These boys had been rounded up from Thevaraiyaly School, where the soldiers had said, "We ask the people, where is Kotiya (Tiger), where is Prabhakaran and they say don't know, don't know". Mr. Ariaratnam persisted in his plea and the soldiers agreed to take the boys a few yards for their protection and then release them. This was done.

Mr. & Mrs. Ariaratnam had left home early on Wednesday on 9th July with a large group, holding a white flag. They had walked across Vallaiveli upto Puttur and had taken a bus to Jaffna. Many came across in this manner leaving the old behind. Unable to bear the shelling, the old too followed later, on tractors, bicycle bars and on foot. Helicopters flew low over them, but did not cause harm.

Mr. N., a teacher from Vathiri, said that he simply had to leave with his family as the shelling was getting dangerous. His elderly uncle and aunt, together with an elderly lady visiting them were killed as a shell struck a mango tree, spraying shrapnel into their house.

Mr. N. had shortly before the incident been to Galle harbour, to see a nephew detained after 'Operation Liberation.' Out of the 2400 youths taken to Galle all except 200 have been released, his nephew among those not released. These 200 have been kept back on indications given by masked informants. Mr. N. said that those who were brought out to meet visitors could hardly walk properly, indicating that they had been badly treated and even tortured. He had 5 minutes to meet his nephew, closely watched by eavesdropping security personnel.

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## SR Editor's Refugee Fund

We wish to acknowledge with thanks the following further contributions to the SATURDAY REVIEW EDITOR'S REFUGEE RELIEF FUND:

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## SOUTH

After a long hibernation, Sri Lanka's Opposition parties in the south have begun to stir.

It is too late in the day, some would say; never the less welcome others would say, in the context of the developing situation in the country.

The 'Wily Old Fox', as President Jayewardene has been described in. Some foreign media, has played so many 'tricks' on the people in the past ten years, in the name of democracy etc.

It is time somebody, a Sinhala Lion - or Lioness - took him on, and called his bluff. The Tigers alone can't do it.

The way ex-Prime Minister Mrs. Bandaranaike spoke at the Press Conference at the SLFP head quarters on 25th June, she is ready, willing and able to do the needful.

Another Mrs. Aquino? Against a 'Marcos' backed by sinister forces in the west?

The South is in turmoil. There is no doubt about it. Our authorities are no less than the Government Media Centre and Lankapuwath operating from Colombo. The reports they put out paint a grim picture of the fate awaiting the Sinhalese people, with the J V P (PLF), of 1971 notoriety also raising its ugly head again.

To hell with the Tamil people. They are not, according to some Government spokesmen, part of Sri Lanka: their rightful place is in India!

Basically, the problems in both the North and the South are cause and effect of Socio-economic factors.

While the strategy of the 'Open Economy' adopted by the Government in 1977 has opened up wonderful opportunities of making money to many Sri Lankan's both Sinhalese and Tamils, thousands upon thousands of others in both the North and the South have not progressed far beyond pre-Independence days.

Certainly, there has been development of an unprecedented order since the right wing, pro-west UNP came to power in 1977.

Development of Certain Politicians whose images and bank balances (including in Switzerland, some say) have been puffed up even beyond their own expectations.

Development of a local Mafia with international connections which can even dictate or distort Government's policies.

# OPPOSITION PARTIES STIR

Development of the worst sort of corruption, crime and cruelty unheard before.

Development of the country as a whole? No.

Visit the North (that is beyond Vauniya) Ye Lords of the Earth of Sri Lanka based in the South and see the havoc caused by insensible forces, insensible to human values, insensible to reason, insensible to any damn thing except their own power and glory.

A country which would be a

paradise has become a hell-hole - thanks to the mis-guided policies of the UNP Government.

And the Opposition parties have contributed and are still contributing to the situation by their inane policies.

Mrs. Bandaranaike has again begun to draw crowds. (Vijaya Kumaranatunge of the SLMP is keeping a very low profile now).

Elections are not going to solve Sri Lanka's ills. Not Local Govern-

ment elections all over the South and Parliamentary by elections in the Northern and Eastern Provinces as called by Jayewardene, nor a national election as called by Mrs. Bandaranaike.

What the country needs at this hour are sane in people. But how many of them have we in Sri Lanka today? People with heads on their shoulders?

What we have is a set of buffoons everywhere who are messing up the works in grandstyle.

Worse are the lesser buffoons on all sides who continue to have faith in them.

Surely, there must be end to this buffoonery - if Sri Lanka is to survive.

—GAMINI NAVARATNE

## WELIKADE — MEA CULPA

Our issue of, said that... Tamil prisoners had been killed in an incident at the Welikade prison soon after the Colombo bomb explosion on 21 April. Our report was based on some radio reports which we were unable to cross check at that time as Jaffna is without a telephone service, thanks to the Government. We do not have telephone contact even within Jaffna. Only the GA has a communication link with the army. We have sometimes used stories where we had felt that the credibility of the source and the probability of the event are of a high order, where cross checks were not possible. But we have endeavoured to correct ourselves when the truth turned out to be otherwise.

We can now confirm that there was an incident at Welikade. But the situation was saved by the timely action of Superintendent Jansz. In the event seven prisoners were injured, of whom six were Sinhalese and one was Tamil.

### JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS FALL

While we welcome criticism, we also reserve the right to criticise others in the interests of journalistic standards. We give some instances where professional standards have been unacceptably low.

1. The Island of 29th June carries an item on the top of the front page with the headline: "Without India's backing Tamil Terrorists would never have had a leg to stand on - Times of India." Such a display is meant to convey the impression that the headlines reflect the editorial policy of the Times

of India. On reading the small print one gathers that the quotation is from a letter to the Editor of the Times of India by Mr. Dalal from Bombay, taking issue with the Times editorial of 5th June. The letter is said to have been monitored by Lankapuwath.

Every decent newspaper serving a democratic society gives airing to all kinds of views, however controversial. To identify any one of these views with editorial policy is cheating.



ing of a cheap kind. This may perhaps result from a habit of mind in Sri Lanka, and happily not in India, where papers only air views not too divergent from the prevailing ideology.

2. The Weekend of 7th June carries a report with the startling headline, 'INDIA'S GLOBAL FIFTH COLUMN'. Reading, below one finds an innocuous piece by S. Muttiah of Madras, circulated by Gemini News, giving an account of Indian emigration during the British Colonial period. There is not the slightest hint that these people of Indian origin are bisloyal to their new homes. By choosing such provocative headlines, the Weekend has sought to direct the ire of its readers towards the Estate Tamils and more

indirectly towards all Tamils. This may lead to killing the goose that lays our golden eggs.

3. The Sunday Island of 22nd March carried the apiece 'A taste of Tiger PR in the North' where Lucien Rajakarunayake reports on a visit to Jaffna. Earlier in the article he refers to the 'alleged attack' on 7th March, where the SATURDAY REVIEW quoting hospital sources had reported 17 civilians had been killed and 50 admitted with injuries when the army at the Fort shelled Windsor theatre junction. Another shell damaged the hospital. At the end of the piece Rajakarunayake laments, "There was one promise Mr. Raheem did not keep. He said he would show us 28 persons injured still in hospital after the 7th March attack. But with a man who does so much for the foreign press, what is a little slip like that?"

By this Rajakarunayake seeks to throw doubt on the actual occurrence of the tragedy. The National Security Minister himself accepted this in a BBC interview with Juliet Ricks on 20th March, well before the paper went into print.

What is even worse is that the writer has ignored basic professionalism in performing his job. He has been to Hotel Gnanam, apparently had time for the 'Island's best Chinese Rolls with Mutton stuffing' at Hotel Rolex and had half an hour to stroll around the Jaffna bazaar. All this around the perimeter of Jaffna hospital! Yet he could not pop in and spend five minutes to ask the Medical Superintendent if the casualties from the 'alleged attack' were real. It is indeed a poor excuse for Mr. Rajakarunayake

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# Destabilisation Threat

The term 'destabilisation' has come to acquire a certain connotation when used by politicians, academics and mediamen in India. It has come to mean that certain other nations are making efforts to unsettle political processes and institutions in this country with a view to weakening the polity and to generating adverse impact on our unity and integrity.

Certain sections of our politicians, academics and mediamen challenge the premise that this country is being subjected to such a process of destabilisation and charge those who propound the view with attempting to divert the attention of the people away from their own policy failures, corruption and ineptitude. Certain governments, which feel that the charge is directed at them, indignantly demand proof.

The concept of "destabilisation" acquires a coherent meaning if the international system is treated as a dynamic one in which there is continuous interaction among nations, some of which leads to local stability and some to instability. In the contemporary world, industrialised nations may be said to enjoy a state of relative stability. They are internally stable as nation states and they interact among themselves in a comparative state of equilibrium. Industrialised nations fall into three categories — members of the western alliance, socialist states and neutral and nonaligned ones. Confidence-building measures have contributed to a relatively stable equilibrium in their interactions with another.

## STATE OF TURMOIL

This situation does not obtain in the developing world which is in a continuous state of turmoil caused partly by instabilities in the constituent states, partly by the disequilibrium in their interactions with one another and partly by their interactions with developed nations, especially the more powerful among them. Viewed in this perspective, destabilisation is an ever present threat in developing nations. Only the naive could assume that their evolution, consolidation and stabilisation can be turbulence-free process. The last three centuries saw the highly violent evolution of industrialised nation states. They reached a certain amount of relative stability after two world wars and under the threat of nuclear annihilation.

The Indian state is at dissonance with the international sub-system

immediately around it. India is a secular, democratic and federal state. India's neighbours have not accepted these values, with the result that these are seen as threats to their own evolution and consolidation. India, on its part, regards religious fundamentalism and authoritarianism in its neighbourhood as threats. Thus linguistic autonomy in Punjab and Tamil Nadu are seen as destabilising factors in Pakistan and Sri Lanka: the decision to grant statehood to Mizoram and Nagaland is viewed with suspicion by the Bangladeshis faced with the Chakma problem. The Chinese consider liberal democracy as spiritual pollution and we would consider the Chinese form of authoritarianism as totally unacceptable.

Despite all these differences and threat perception, the states in the region should attempt to avoid conflicts. But it is naive to think that these states can be in a state of harmony and the actions of, and developments in, one state will not have varying kinds of destabilising

by

impact on their neighbours. Actions taken by different nations in pursuit of their perceived security interests and requirements often have an adverse impact on their neighbouring polities.

Pakistan's pursuit of Islamisation and nationhood based on the two-nation theory or Lanka's attempt at subjugating the Tamils or China's pursuit of a hegemonic status in South and South-East Asia have their impact on India. Since six of India's neighbours belong to a largely Indo-centric civilisational system and all of them are India's neighbours without being each other's, they have a collective sense of grievance against India and try to emphasise their respective national identities by demarcating themselves as much as possible from India.

## U.S. OBJECTIVE

At the level of the international system, the United States, as the principal hegemonic power, attempts to preserve the status quo in its favour, and is therefore interested in countering challenges to its power through various strategies described in ancient Indian literature — the classical *Sama, Dana, Bheda, Danda* (friendship, economic aid, sowing dissensions and finally the use or threat of use of force). The U.S. as a global hegemonic power pursues these strate-

gies all over the world, including the subcontinent.

The challenges to U.S. hegemony are multifold. The military challenge comes primarily from the Soviet Union. The economic and technological challenge is posed by Japan and West Germany. The political challenge is posed by the developing world, especially the larger non-aligned nations, India among them. The U.S. has consistently striven to contain the USSR and the latter has struggled to break out of that containment. In this struggle called the cold war, two of the largest nations of the world situated close to the Soviet Union — India and China — must feature in the calculations of both.

When China was aligned with the Soviet Union, U.S. efforts were directed towards destabilising it. Long ago a U.S. official described the U.S. objective vis-a-vis China as the maintenance of continuous pressure on it till the system broke down. The U.S. strategy changed

K. Subrahmanyam

when China broke with the Soviet Union. Today the U.S. is offering limited cooperation to China in its programme of military modernisation.

The U.S. pursuit of hegemony and containment of the Soviet Union makes its policy vis-a-vis India somewhat ambivalent. It would like to see India grow stronger and become less militarily dependent on the Soviet Union. It is at the same time irritated by the political challenge developing nations — India among them — pose to the present international order. The U.S. feels that it needs the services of some of India's neighbours in its efforts to counter the Soviet challenge. As the foremost hegemonic power, it does not also want India too big for its boots.

Given these mixed and somewhat contradictory perspectives, the U.S. application of classical (*sama, dana, bheda, danda*) strategies vis-a-vis India and its neighbours has more of destabilising than stabilising effect on India's efforts, to build up a composite, pluralistic, democratic and secular nation state. India's immediate neighbours also exploit the anti-Soviet predilections of the United States, and the consequent U.S. reservations about India which, because of geo-strategic compulsions related to China,

adopts a friendly attitude towards the USSR.

It is, however, wrong to attribute to the U.S. administration a coherent and long-range policy deliberately crafted to destabilise India. The United States is such a highly complex multilayered structure that often contradictory and mutually countervailing strategies are pursued towards other nations or regions by different agencies at different levels. The secretary of state, Mr. George Schultz, described Col. Oliver North a loose cannon and the Iran-Contra hearings are exposing several other loose cannons firing in different directions. Some of them may be doing so in the direction of the subcontinent and thus contributing to the process of destabilisation.

## LACK OF WILL

The process of destabilisation is affected in a very significant way by a nation's will power or the lack of it. Destabilisation is like AIDS: if the "immunity system" breaks down in a country, it is bound to be "infected." A major component of the "immunity system" is a nation's will power as perceived by outsiders as well as its own citizens. In this respect the Indian record is less than satisfactory.

In May this year a politico-military game was played in the National Strategic Studies Centres of the National Defence University of the United States on developments in Sri Lanka. The conclusion was that India would not act. In February 1965, a similar game was played in the Institute for Defence Analyses (which is part of the Pentagon) in collaboration with strategists from Harvard University on a possible crisis in Jammu and Kashmir. The conclusion was that even if the Pakistani forces overran Kashmir, India would not muster enough courage to mount a counter attack on Lahore. The point is not that these images of India turned out to be wrong, but that India projects such an image of lack of will. This cannot but aggravate the process of continuous destabilisation to which this country, as part of the developing world, is subject.

Courtesy: *TIMES OF INDIA*,  
20th June.



## A POINT OF VIEW

by M. M. Mani

## PUSHING PEOPLE INTO BETRAYAL

I was journeying to Jaffna after a long period. The sightings of well-armed soldiers all along the way up to Elephant Pass, brought back old memories. My mind wandered, thinking of the origins of our struggle and why we were left only with Jaffna and, even that perhaps due more outside pressure.

I then remembered the young man who was brutally assaulted by a policeman in 1970 and was unable to fight through the courts. I recalled the young man who, frustrated through his inability to seek justice, climbed up to the roof of a church with a sack of stones and pelted the police who were on the other side of the roof, during an opening ceremony by Dr. N. M. Perera. I realised that it is when there is no recourse to justice, that people fight with whatever is at their disposal.

Within a short period in Jaffna, I came across several grievances that the people had and it occurred to me that I might write on

them. But I was advised that I would be a fool to do so. And even if I did, I was assured that no paper would publish it. This set my mind going again. Is it not my right to get published what I think? If not in Jaffna, then I could send it to the press in Colombo? But then would not the press in Colombo use it towards its own mischievous ends? In my frustration, I was strongly inclined to express myself in any forum that was open to me. Then I realised how even I, with all my passion for my own people, could be perceived to be against the cause, in the current climate.

It dawned on me in the same flash, why we have so many so-called traitors here. My friend, the student, who was beaten up and exhibited on questionable charges could be easily converted into one. My friend, the writer who is prohibited from writing in Tamil, is another easy

convert. My friend, the pensioner who is under constant threat of bombing because his neighbour went away to Canada leaving an empty house, is another. My friend, the businessman, whose house was taken over for the 'common good' would feel like another. My nephew, the student who is threatened with being cast out should he sit a public exam, is yet another. My friend, the community leader, whose father was removed for betraying, is yet another. My friend, the schoolmaster, who 'had' to contribute, is yet again another. My friend, the uncle, whose nephew disappeared for daring to protest; is yet another. My friend, the engineer, whose relative is no more for having had the wrong affiliation, is still one more on this endless list.

It was then clear to me how we had come to this pass. We push people into acts of betrayal. Then

we feel it necessary to cast them out and perpetuate a cycle. To avoid the creation of such traitors, we ought to provide safe channels of protest against perceived injustice from all sources. I pray to God for wisdom for our would be rulers.

## PRESIDENT ON INDIAN AID

In a speech at the anniversary celebrations of the Co-operative movement, President Jayewardene defended the Government's acceptance of Indian food aid to Jaffna. In characteristic style, he said, "do not look a gift horse in the mouth". He went on to say that the Government had however sent enough food to Jaffna, which had one of the best distribution net works run by co-operatives. This has been disrupted by terrorist activity, he said.

## PASTORAL LEADERSHIP FORGOTTEN

Here is the copy of a letter sent to the Catholic Bishops Conference of Sri Lanka by the Jaffna Diocesan Laity Council.

Your Lordships,

You are our Pastors and Guides. It is your mission to take part in the joys and sorrows of the faithful who have been entrusted to your care; and to guide them, in the light of the Gospel. It is regrettable that such pastoral leadership has been forgotten by the recent events and that a demonstration has been held which may be interpreted as being communal, in that the humanitarian act of the Indian Government to the suffering people of the North has been misconstrued as an act of aggression against the sovereignty and integrity of the Government of Sri Lanka.

"I was thirsty; and you did not give me water; I was hungry, and you did not give me food." Let this not be said of those who organized and took part in the demonstration under reference.

Perhaps, you were unaware of the cruel sufferings of the people at the hands of the Security Forces in the North and East during the recent past, which may be listed as follows:-

Cruel deaths; bombing, shelling and burning of houses, schools, temples, churches, shops and buildings; Aerial, Land and Sea attacks on villages; economic blockade resulting in the scarcity of food; Prohibition on Fishing resulting in the loss of income; Devastation of paddy fields, resulting in the decline of food production; Prohibition and restriction of the transport of persons and essential commodities; Shell attacks on Medical Institutions, and especially the Jaffna Base Hospital and the Tellippalai Hospital; and the controversial Order to close down the Jaffna Hospital; the Aerial Bombing, Helicopter Firing, Shelling and Artillery Firing from the Camps obstructed the normal life in the villages and towns, and prevented the children from attending schools.

As a result of these atrocities, many civilians died; many lost their limbs; some became insane; others became disabled; Women became the victims of rape; some became widowed; Children became orphans; Many people had to flee from their homes and take refuge in schools, temples and churches; Some priests also met with their death in this process.

We are pained at seeing that even such events have not moved you. Don't we possess the same Christian Faith? Should we become communal and be not moved at the sufferings of our brethren?

Why should the humanitarian act of the Indian Government in air-dropping food-parcels to the hungry and suffering people be an opportunity for voicing communal feelings under the guise of patriotism? If your intentions had been pure and not communal, surely there was ample opportunity to explain your stand categorically through the medium of the press?

Why should the leaders of the Catholic Church be influenced by the political leaders who thrive in spreading communal hatred and dis-

cord among the various sections of the population?

You, as leaders of the Catholic Church, have come and seen, on earlier occasions, some of the sufferings of the people at the hands of the Security Forces. We expected you to make those sufferings known to the Government and the Political Leaders of the country. But we are very disappointed.

We are at a loss to understand; and much less able to explain your conduct in this matter to the non-Christians who point an accusing finger at you, our Church Leaders.

We, therefore, cordially invite you to come and see the suffering people — men, women, and even infants who have been the victims of the atrocities of the Security Forces; Refugees who have fled their homes and villages; and also the towns and villages which have lost their usual activity and remain silent and dead.

Instead of organising demonstrations it is necessary to devise ways and means of solving the Ethnic problem that is the cause of all these evils.

We expect you to follow the saying of St. Francis of Assisi which states: "Not to seek to be consoled but to console."



# FASCISM - SRI LANKAN VARIETY

Editor  
SATURDAY REVIEW

In recent times, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has been in the habit of saying that his army is not fighting the Tamil people — but a fascist group meaning thereby the LTTE which is the main group offering resistance. He also claimed that his troops went into Vadamarachchi to 'liberate' the people. How well the people welcomed this liberation is shown by the fact that several ten thousands of people left their homes to save themselves from their 'liberators!'

Athulathmudali is using the word 'fascist' knowing that 40 years after the 2nd World War people would have forgotten how fascism grew in Europe and Japan and would remember only its external features such as concentration camps, mass killings, torture and so on. These are no doubt the worst features of fascism but these do not explain how fascism arose.

How did fascism arise in Germany — one of the most civilised countries in the world? It came, about because for quite some time even before Hitler, the idea was inculcated in the minds of the German people that they were a superior race. 'Germany above all' was the slogan — not coined by Hitler but which he intensified and thus was created the 'master race' theory. This is the main cause for the rise of fascism as the result of encouraging the idea of a superior race that should dominate others. The rise of fascism in Japan followed the same pattern. The Japanese people were made to feel that they were a cut above the others — like the Chinese, Koreans etc.

If the main ingredient in the rise of fascism is the desire of some races to dominate others, when does this feature appear in this country? Certainly not amongst the LTTE or the other militant groups. They are at best trying to defend the territory which they regard as their own. Not one of the militant groups want to dominate other races. Therefore to say that they have fascist leanings is preposterous. But are there not others who want to dominate small groups? Germany might have been a large nation wanting to dominate the world — but smaller fry may want to do the same thing with their limited resources — and the results will be the same, as we already find in our country with concentration camps, torture cells, daily killings and mutilation. Where does all this spring from?

It springs from the fact that the Sinhalese leadership has inculcated in the minds of the Sinhala people the idea that the entirety of the country belongs to them and that minority groups should be compelled to take a subordinate position.

Why are the UNP and the SLFP reluctant to accept that the North and East are the traditional homeland of the Tamil people? Talk of Muslims and Sinhalese in the East is only to hoodwink the world. Tamils have lived in these areas for thousands of years and Sinhalese have been planted there very recently. All this is done to ensure the dominance of the Sinhala race. If this isn't Fascism what else is?

Jaffna

I. R. Ariaratnam

## Govt's Main Aim

Editor  
SATURDAY REVIEW

The Tamils have learnt through bitter experience that the Government is not in the least interested in settling the ethnic problem. The main aim of the Government is to drag this issue on forever, not to settle it. Sinhala politicians have nothing else to harp on, when they go canvassing the voters.

The rulers want the militants to drop their arms. 30 years of peaceful talking never bore fruit. In this context, do the rulers seriously think the militants will agree to drop their arms and be led like lambs to the slaughter?

The Sinhala masses are being deliberately kept in the dark about the actual position by vote-catching politicians.

It's high time the genuine elements among the Sinhalese and the Government pressurise the rulers to settle this problem by granting the rights of the Tamils, so that the entire country can be saved from a tragic mess.

Jaffna

P. Thuraiayah

## Anura Can Do Better

Editor  
SATURDAY REVIEW

It appears that the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, not only reads the SATURDAY REVIEW but also takes it seriously. Hence his protest (SR, 4th July.)

That being so, he must surely have read the detailed news items about civilian casualties caused by

the activities of the Security Forces in the North and East: the SR has regularly highlighted these misdeeds, which the Colombo media either conveniently ignore or shamelessly distort.

Instead of vilifying the SR as a 'newspaper that has shamelessly and openly supported the blood-thirsty terrorist murderers,' the Leader of the Opposition would do better to raise the matter of gross violations of the human rights of the Tamils by the Security Forces, in Parliament. Or has he forgotten the role he is expected to play in Parliament.

Puttur

R. Visvalingam

## Et Tu, Ananda?

Editor  
SATURDAY REVIEW

Did you hear, what I heard over the English Service of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation on Saturday the 4th instant around 9.30 p.m.

A speech delivered by Hon. Dr. Anandatissa De Alwis Minister of

## LETTERS

State at the German Cultural Institute on 3rd instant was broadcast,

In the course of his speech (on 'News reporting etc.') he said (inter alia) this or words to this effect.

"... People in Jaffna want a Sinhalese to be GA of Jaffna. Not that Tamils are not brilliant to hold the post of GA. They have produced brilliant people. Why can't they be brilliant if they get the examination papers before-hand..."

Colombo

Xavier Sornabala

## No Tamashas

Editor  
SATURDAY REVIEW

I have read the article written by 'A Christian' on the above subject, in the SATURDAY REVIEW of 4th July 1987. The article consists of two parts, Report and comments. However I will restrict my observations to paragraph 7 and 8.

The executive committee of the Jaffna Christian Union met on 23rd May '87 to make arrangements for the Bishop's welcome. The names of the speakers were decided and accepted by the committee. So it was not possible to accommodate the 'gentlemen of eminence' to deliver his address. It may be true that he was the Secretary of the JCU when it was 'a grass roots organisation dependent on local funds'. But today the situation has changed rapidly with fresh challenges and commitments. Sir Donald

Bradman has contributed much to Cricket and led the Australian team to success. That does not mean that his admirers should request that he should be allowed to lead or play to retain or to gain the Ashes.

It is true that the Bishop had requested that there should be no 'tamashas to mark his visit.' I assure the 'Christian' that there were no tamashas and his request was honoured. The visit of a Bishop is always a happy occasion. He is the spiritual head of the Anglicans in this country. And further he is visiting his flock in the north for the first time and within a month of his consecration and enthronement. The Parish of St. James' Nallur received him rejoicingly because the Bishop was their Parish Priest for seven years. Holy Emmanuel Church, Urumpirai was renovated an year ago and the people were anxiously waiting for the Bishop to dedicate the church for worship. On his way from Urumpirai the members of St. Mary's Kopay invited him to their church and requested him to bless them. St. John the Baptist, Chundikuli celebrated the 125th anniversary of its foundation. They were so glad to have the Bishop at the service of confirmation and thanksgiving. He took part in Church services and met people. All these were simple ceremonies and people were able to show their affection, loyalty and gratitude to their shepherd. We assure the 'Christian' that we are mindful of the situation and the sufferings of our people.

When a person is Christened or Baptized, he is given a name. I hope 'A Christian' will honour and abide by the precepts of the Church.

Rev. J. Sarvananthan

Vicar, St. John the Baptist Church, Chundikuli.

Secretary, Jaffna Christian Union

Jaffna

## Welikade....

(Continued from page 3)

to blame it all on Raheem, who after all must have been born well after Rajakarunayake started his press career.

It is desultory journalism of this kind that has kept the Sinhalese misinformed and has prevented this country's most pressing problem from finding a rational solution.

SUNDAY TIMES

Finally we wish to congratulate the newly revived 'Sunday Times' on striking out along a new and constructive direction. We wish them well in staying their course against the numerous pressures that will be brought to bear on them.



# FOR THE RECORD

1.7.87: 500 Tamil youths who had been detained at Boosa were brought back by ship and released in the presence of Siyambalagaswewa Wimalasara Nayakka Thero, Chief Priest of the Vavuniya Buddhist Vihara. The Thero had been ferried by helicopter to Manthikai, Brigadier Rupasinghe was present when the youths were released. At the Thero's request, the Brigadier met influential persons of the area and discussed the incidents that had occurred in Vadamarachchi during Operation Liberation. The Brigadier also went round the Manthikai Hospital and met the patients warded there after the incidents.

1st July: 6 Tamil farmers who were ousted from their homesteads by the activities of Security Forces at Pankulam in the Trincomalee district, returned to their homes only to be shot dead by the Security Forces. In a search operation launched by the Security Forces on the same day 40 were arrested and subsequently released.

In a reprisal attack for the killing of 12 soldiers on 30th June at Munthirikaikulam by the Tiger militants, Security Forces aided and abetted by helicopters were reported to have killed a number of civilians in a search operation in the area.

Indian High Commissioner J. N. Dixit made representations to President Jayewardene about the vicious smear campaign being carried on by certain Colombo newspapers about the Indian Red Cross Officials in Jaffna.

2-7-87: National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali who left for Pakistan and America on an undisclosed mission returned on the 2nd.

120 lorries from Jaffna which left for Colombo to bring foodstuffs were diverted to Kataragama for the Gam Udaava Festival. The drivers were paid Rs. 500/- each for this unforeseen diversion and reportedly treated well.

Two army personnel—attached to the Elephant Pass Army Camps who attempted to desert by stowing themselves away in a private bus were arrested and detained at Mankulam. The would be deserters were in civils when they were detected.

2 civilians—Suman (20) Arul (20)—were injured in Kathirippai when the Valalai mini camp began shelling the area. Soon afterwards, a helicopter circled over the area and fired 50 calibre mortar shells.

## The Second...

(Continued from page 2)

Most of the time was spent in an exchange of tears. He added that the combatants had not stayed around in temples to be rounded up by the army during 'Operation Liberation'. These 200 boys were either totally innocent or had some very marginal involvement.

(To be continued)

There was a 2-hour direct confrontation between the Army and the Tigers at Uduppiddy Junction when an army convoy from Valvettiturai attempted to move towards Thondamanaru. A helicopter then strafed the area but met with ground fire. The army convoy turned back.

3 Government officers from Kondaichy Grape Farm in the Mannar District were killed on the spot when their jeep was blown up by a landmine.

3-7-87. President Jayewardene held an urgent, hush-hush meeting with Joint Forces' Chief General Cyril Ranatunge and the Coordinating Officers (Military) of the North and East.

3rd July: In a search operation undertaken by the Special Task Force at Vavunativu in the Karaimadu district a direct confrontation between Security forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) resulted in the death of 5 militants and a number of soldiers at Thandiyadi in Batticaloa district. In a similar incident at Karaveddy two militants and several soldiers were reported killed.

Firing from the sentry point at Manthikai resulted in the death of one civilian Kandiah Chandran (29) and damage to many houses. People in the area were forced to vacate their homes and seek refuge at other places in the vicinity due to aerial strafing which lasted for half an hour.

Batticaloa Citizens' Committee has lodged a complaint that 3 civilians were killed and many huts burnt in an aerial swoop at dawn at Paduvankarai in Batticaloa district.

4th July: 5 youths who were forced to flee Vadamarachchi and seek refuge at Aanadapuliyanakulam were reportedly shot dead by Security Forces from Omanhai Army camp in a search operation. These forces were reported to have moved out at night through Samamadu jungle and surrounded the village.

4th July: Sri Lankan navy personnel were reported to have arrested 7 Indian fishermen. One of them was seriously injured by firing. The Indian Foreign Ministry is reported to have contacted the Sri Lankan Government to obtain the release of the fishermen.

The Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr. Bandula Silva was reported to have been manhandled after an Aid Group meeting in the World Bank building in Paris in the first week of July. His spectacles were bashed on the ground by a group of demonstrators. Missiles were also thrown at the car of the Finance Minister, Ronnie de Mel. Sri Lanka has lodged a protest to the French Ministry over this manhandling.

At a meeting where the Regional Director of Education, parents, teachers, the Assistant Government Agent and high ranking Army officers were present, Brigadier Rupasinghe stated that students arrested in the Vadamarachchi area would be kept at Manthikai Civil Administration camp and parents would be

informed of the action taken, through the AGA. He also assured them that students would not be arrested at school or on their way to school. He said that students should not be stopped from continuing their education for there was always the possibility of their joining 'other movements'.

The Batticaloa Citizens' Committee has complained that 17 civilians were killed while attending a festival at Pillaiyar Kovil in Batticaloa district. Their bodies were reportedly burnt. Official sources denied this incident but stated that the commandos had attacked the militants and some civilians were 'caught in the crossfire'.

Hundreds of policemen, clerks and high ranking officers were summoned by special order and were required to report for work at Puloly in Vadamarachchi area. Policemen working in Jaffna and Kankasanturai were also similarly called up for duties. It is reported that Tamil Police officers would not be given uniforms or guns.

10 undergraduates including a lecturer were arrested at Kalutara on suspicion of being members of the proscribed Janata Vimukthi Peramuna. They were alleged to have been in possession of anti-government literature and documents relating to the JVP.

Two men returning home after attending a funeral were reportedly shot dead by Security Forces from Thalady camp near Uyilamkulam in the Mannar District.

5th July: 21 youths mostly from Jaffna, Chavakachcheri, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya were arrested at the nod of a masked man while travelling from Jaffna to Colombo and taken to Anuradhapura camp. The arrested youths complained of being subjected torture and 15 of them were forced to give a pint of blood each for injured army personnel. They were later given a free trip by bus to Jaffna.

7th July: Around 500 soldiers launched a search operation at about 3 a.m. at Sambaltivu area in Trincomalee District with air cover. This operation lasted for nearly 3 hours and during this period there was indiscriminate strafing and more than 10 huts were set on fire. Reports say 12 Tamil civilians including 2 students were mercilessly assaulted, shot and later burnt.

In another search operation at Sambur in Trincomalee district an army convoy surrounded the village and burnt several Houses and 3 shops. 8 civilians were reportedly killed in this operation. Among them were 2 farmers, V. Thangavelu

(34) and Thirunathan (49), a retired teacher V. Thamotherampillai and two daily paid workers T. Punniyalagam (45) and V. Linganathan (49).

8th July: Shelling from the Jaffna Fort and Navatkuli camps resulted in injury to 1 civilian.

Trustees and devotees of Thantharimalai Murugan Kovil who met to plan out their annual Festival celebration were reportedly warned: 37 of them were arrested by commandos and taken to Maha Oya camp at the 19th milepost and detained.

An army patrol at Adampan in Mannar district indiscriminately sprayed bullets killing 4 members of a family which included a pregnant woman and her husband, a child and an old woman. They were having their morning tea around 6 a.m. when they were gunned down.

9th July: From about 8.30 p.m. there was intermittent firing of shells from Palaly camp towards Kupillan, Urelu, Erlalai and other areas. There was extensive damage to cultivation. Many houses, shops and buildings were destroyed. Gunaratnam Gunarajani (21), Kanthasamy Kailarasi (18) were seriously injured. 3 dogs and goats were killed several trees were ripped apart by the shelling.

The Ministry of National Security has decided to spend Rs. 70 million to boost the cadre of homeguards and the army from 15 to 20 thousand. It has also decided to pay compensation for the families of dead soldiers.

11th July: According to the Govt. Media Centre two youths were killed by commandos of the Special Task Force at Ponnankerny in the Batticaloa District.

Firing by army personnel from Punnalikadduvan injured 2 civilians who were admitted to the Jaffna Hospital.

A child, Anton Tela, residing Mula-vai junction at Hospital Road, Jaffna was injured by army firing from the Jaffna Fort.

4 helicopters and 2 second hand bombers were officially handed over to the Commander-in-chief, Cyril Ranatunge, the Air Force Chief and the Minister of National Security at an official ceremony at Ratmalana Airport. They later flew in them to Palaly airport for a conference with other army commanders at Palaly.

12th July: A mother and child who had taken refuge at Nediakadu Pillaiyar Kovil were both victims of shells fired in by security forces Vadamarachchi. The 2 killed were Selvam's wife (30) and her 4 year old child. Others killed were by shell fire were Arunasalam (80) and Kiliar (75) a retired teacher. Many were seriously injured. While refugees were fleeing from the temple, another shell fell at Valvai-Udduppiddy junction where an eighty year old woman died of shock. Those killed were left behind, while the wounded were carried away on bicycles.



# Saturday Review

## SRI LANKA

## LOONY TALK

An international team should examine Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike's head.

This was President Jayewardene's sarcastic comment on ex-Premier Sirima's call for a team of international leaders to monitor Sri Lanka's next General Election.

The President made this comment when he addressed a UNP rally at Beliatta.

He added he would tear Mrs. Bandaranaike's arguments to shreds and throw them into the waste paper basket.

Not to be outdone, Madame Sirima has retorted that if a General Election were held now, the people would decide who should be sent to the loony-bin. She implied it wouldn't be her in any case.

A wag sagely observes: while the two leaders quarrel about who should be in the loony-bin (Angoda), the voters may decide to unceremoniously dump both of them in the dust-bin of history.

## 12-Hour...

(Continued from page 1)

life saving equipments working in the various wards came to a standstill as all these equipments need electrical energy for their functioning.

I shall thank you to take this matter up with the appropriate authorities and explain to them the necessity for electrical supply to the one and only major Hospital functioning in the North at the moment. I wish to remind you that if alternate electricity is not provided within a short time of interruption of electricity supply whether accidental or purposeful, a number of patients who would have been saved will die. I shall thank you if you would take this matter up urgently.

## CORRECTION

In our issue of 11th July 1987, the news item headlined 'Principal's Death: It's Homicide' erroneously stated "The Jaffna Magistrate who held the inquest into the death of M. Sivarasa, Principal of Veemankam M. V. returned a verdict of homicide and ordered the Police to arrest the Army personnel who shot him and produce them in Court."

The Additional Magistrate, Jaffna, Mr. V. Sithamparanathan who held the inquest, returned a verdict of homicide and instructed the Police to take further steps.

We regret the error.

— Editor

# Murder In Temples And Churches

Treachery! exclaimed a horrified visitor from the South (a Sinhalese) when he learnt last week that, after having ordered people in Vadamarachchi to take refuge in temples, churches and schools, the Army had surrounded these sanctuaries and taken away youths to be despatched to the Boosa Detention Camp.

He'd be even more horrified if he learns what happened in Vadamarachchi over the week-end.

The Army clamped down a 48-hour curfew in Vadamarachchi; its Jaffna Radio then ordered people to go to certain temples and churches, which were named.

The panic-stricken civilian population complied, hoping to escape harassment.

People from Valvettiturai and Vathiri sought refuge at Nediakadu Pillaiyar Kovil, Valvettiturai, last Saturday.

A barrage of shells fired from an Army Camp hit these refugees, killing 4 people on the spot and injuring several others.

A 30-year-old mother, her 4-year-old child, a 60-year-old retired

teacher and a 75-year-old man were the victims.

Not even the Govt. Media Centre can transform these dead civilians into 'blood-thirsty terrorists.'

The other refugees fled the temple, carrying the injured but leaving behind the dead.

As they reached the Vallai - Uduppiddy junction, shells hit them again killing 2 men on the spot. An 80-year-old woman, Kuttiammah, died of shock. 6 people, their ages ranging from 30-55, were hospitalised.

On Sunday (12th July), people from Alvai who had taken refuge at St. Xavier's Church, Thikkam were hit by shells. A 45-year-old man, his 40-year-old wife and their 8-year-old daughter died on the spot. 5 other members of the family were seriously injured.

On Tuesday evening (14th July), round about 5 p.m. a helicopter

strafed Suttipuram Ambal temple badly damaging the Mandapam. At the time there were about 2000 refugees there, most of them in the temple courtyard, sitting or lying in the shade of trees. Fortunately, reports say, these refugees weren't injured. A miracle or poor marksmanship?

The SR of 11th July gave an account of how 5 refugees at St. Anthony's Church, Karaveddy were killed by shells and how 17 devotees taking part in a temple festival in Batticaloa were gunned down by the Special Task Force.

This kind of murder and mayhem is happening far too often for it to be purely accidental. The strategy seems to be: corral the civilians in temples and churches, then shell them. Who cares if innocent civilians are killed or maimed for life?

There is a method, after all, in this seeming madness.

## Slash - And - Shoot At Karanavai

Unconfirmed reports from Vadamarachchi say that refugees from Karanavai who went back to their homes to retrieve their belongings

were either hacked to death or shot dead by Army personnel including the dreaded, black-uniformed comandos, on Monday (13th July).

Among those killed was the former Uddupiddy V. C. Vice Chairman, Mr. S. Thirunavukarasu.

Eye-witnesses say they saw 14 bodies: some of them slashed to death, some of them shot dead and others both slashed and shot dead.

Meanwhile, the Army's Jaffna Radio wants all the Vadamarachchi refugees to return to their homes and shop-keepers to keep open. The Army, it assured, would help to make things smooth for the people.

## 8th President

Mr. R. Venkatraman of Tamil Nadu has been elected the 8th President of India, by an overwhelming majority.

He was the candidate put forward by Congress (I), the ruling party.

## Postpone AL Exam —CTU

The Ceylon Teachers Union (CTU) has, on representations made by its Northern Province Branch, proposed that the GCE (AL) Examination scheduled to be held in August this year in the Jaffna District be postponed to December 1987, to give a fair chance to the affected students in the area, states a press release signed by CTU General Secretary, H.N. Fernando.

The reasons cited are: stepped up military activities in the Jaffna District including aerial bombardment and shelling; the drop in attendance; schools being unable to function due to their close proximity to Army Camps; the displacement of students; the inability to cover the syllabus due to reasons beyond the control of schools and the psychological tensions and strains the students are undergoing.

## 'Tear - Drop' At C'wealth

SRI LANKA plans to raise the issues of recent air-dropping of relief supplies by India in the Jaffna peninsula and what it called "permission to Tamil separatists to receive training in India," at the Vancouver Commonwealth summit in Canada in October.

The South African Press Association (SAPA), quoted a senior Government official in Colombo as saying that this would be despite Commonwealth rules which did not permit bilateral issues to be raised at the summit meetings.

The Colombo datelined SAPA despatch said that President Jayewardene would represent Sri Lanka at the 49-nation summit.

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