

# Saturday Review

## SRI LANKA

Vol. 2 No. 21

May 28, 1983

### C. Renganathan, Q.C. dead

We record with regret the death of MR. CHELIAH RENGANATHAN, Q.C. Mr. Renganathan passed away in Colombo in the early hours of Friday morning after a brief illness. He was 74. Mr.

Renganathan leaves a Mr. R. Srinivasan, attorney-at-law.

The funeral will be held at his Colombo residence at Vivekananda Road, Wellawatte, on Sunday.

Widespread fears of a confrontation between the armed forces and militant youths haunt the North. The barricades that have suddenly sprung up around the Gurunagar Army Camp in Jaffna have added to the public disquiet.

The Army set up these barricades along Beach Road and Old Park Road on Thursday (26 May). Tar barrels filled with sand, concrete posts and wire meshes now block the approaches to the Gurunagar Army Camp. The barricades, which have been set up about 200 yards away from the Camp, are manned by Navy and Army personnel. Machine gun posts too have been set up at the barricades.

The Gurunagar Army Camp looks now like a besieged fortress. A 30 feet high watch-tower at the camp's entrance gives sentries a clear view of

# ALERT AT ARMY CAMP

what's going on within 3 miles. Heavy wire meshes have been put up along the boundary wall.

While the Camp itself is heavily guarded, the military seems to be keeping a low profile in Jaffna.

There are few Army trucks and jeeps to be seen on the roads.

The reduced military

presence—perhaps due to the Vesak holidays—has touched off speculation that the detenus at the Gurunagar Camp have been moved out, perhaps to Panagoda.

Meanwhile, the virtual sealing-off of the Gurunagar Army Camp area (with Municipal permission) has caused a lot of inconvenience to the residents. Car-owners particularly are hit, though they have been issued special permits to use their vehicles. The barricades have almost brought public activity in the area to a standstill.

### Army men prevented Police from dousing fire

Army men not only set fire to a Bank Manager's car on 18th May at Kantharmadam; they prevented a police party from dousing the fire.

Eye-witnesses told **Saturday Review** that Army personnel obstructed police high-ups and volunteers when they attempted to put out the fire at the Bank Manager's home, with the help of a Municipal water bowser.

RASIAH SIVALINGAM, Chief Manager of the Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna states in an affidavit that 'on the 18th day of May, 1983, at about 5.30 p.m. a group of Army men in uniform came to my house and wanted to search and went off after the search without causing any damage. On the same day at about 6.30 p.m. a second group, broke the window panes and demanded kero-

sene oil. After obtaining about a quarter gallon of kerosene oil they set fire to the car which was in the portico. My wife, children and I first ran to the house of my brother-in-law, my neighbour.

"While the car and the front portion of the house was burning at about 8.30 p.m., the Police who came to put out the fire was prevented by the Army. All of us had to go to a

friend's house and when we returned in the morning the house was ransacked and jewellery worth Rs. 30,000/- had been stolen."

A group of Army men had, at gunpoint, got a box of matches from the mother of the Chief Priest and Trustee of the Sithi Vinayagar Kovil, and then proceeded to set fire to the chariot of the temple and the household articles of the

Chief Priest, PARAMESWARA KURUKKAL SOMASKANDA KURUKKAL. When the Priest returned the following morning he found furniture and books burnt, his house ransacked and the jewellery stolen. The temple chariot had also been set on fire and a valuable portion burnt.

KANDIAH NAINAR relates in his affidavit how several Army personnel in uniform walked into his compound at about 5.45 p.m., and threatened to shoot him, his wife and 2 children if they did not get out of the house. The Army personnel had then set fire to 2 mini buses and a Morris Minor car parked in his compound.

Several others too in their affidavits state they were compelled to flee their homes due to threats by Army personnel. They returned later only to find their houses ransacked, looted and burnt.

### Was Peradeniya violence stage-managed?

Did some academic high-ups stage-manage the recent assault on Tamil students at Peradeniya University as a prelude to pushing out non-Sinhala students from Peradeniya and making it a 'Sinhalese Only' University?

The suspicion that certain top people had pre-planned and manipulated the whole affair, from the defacing of sign boards to

the assault on Tamil students, has been strengthened by disclosures made at a recent meeting of the staff of the Arts Faculty.

Some staff members had disclosed that there were moves in certain influential quarters to make Peradeniya an exclusively Sinhalese University. They had also pointed out that the violence was sparked off by the deliberately provocative

acts of certain forces. They had set to work tarring off the Sinhala lettering on sign boards and putting up Eelam posters and then spread the canard that this was the handiwork of the Tamil students at Peradeniya.

The Arts Faculty staff has passed a resolution calling upon President Jayawardene to declare Peradeniya University a

multi-racial one.

Meanwhile the Tamil students who fled the Peradeniya Campus a fortnight ago are still undecided whether to go back by 30th May—the deadline set by Vice Chancellor B. L. Panditharatne. Quite a number of them feel that neither Tamil students nor staff can work any longer at Peradeniya with self-respect and dignity, let alone security.



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**JAFFNA**

**EDITOR**  
S. Sivanayagam

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# Police rowdyism in the Jaffna-Colombo train

Our news item 'POLICEMEN ATTACK PASSENGERS (SATURDAY REVIEW, 21 May) has prompted a reader to send in an eyewitness account:

"I was one of the passengers who travelled in the Colombo-bound Yarl Devi on Thursday morning (19 May). There were about 200 Policemen in civls returning to their stations after election duty and about 15 armed policemen in uniform, escorting their

colleagues. Up to Pallai there were no incidents though the Policemen (who were occupying reserved compartments) passed loud comments about "PULIS" and "KOTTIYAS" (Tigers). It was when the train stopped at Pallai that the trouble started.

Some of the policemen jumped out and hurriedly picked up stones from the railway track. As the train pulled out, they started pelting stones at the railway quarters. A stone struck a woman who was bathing at a well. She ran into the quarters screaming. When the policemen had run out of 'ammunition', they (including the uniformed cops) began their cowardly attack on the passengers, sparing neither women nor old men.

I saw one of the policemen landing a karate kick,

with his booted foot, on the cheek of an old man: he doubled up in pain. A middle-aged woman came running into our compartment, crying out she had been man-handled. They caught a young man by his beard and tugged at it before beating him up mercilessly.

Groans and moans filled the compartments. Several passengers pulled the chain but the train didn't stop. When it finally reached the Paranthan station, all the passengers jumped out and rushed to the Station Master to complain.

The S.M. detained the train for nearly one and a half hours till a police party from Kilinochchi rushed to the scene. The police party recorded statements but did not make any attempt to arrest the miscreants, though the passengers volunteered to identify the assailants.

In the meantime several youngsters had gathered at the Paranthan Railway Station. They were boiling with rage and were intent on massive, instant retaliation. The elders had to use all their powers of persuasion to restrain the youths, thus averting a potentially explosive situation. But as the train pulled out from Paranthan minus the passengers, the youths did give a fitting 'send off' to the cowardly cops, with a dose of their own medicine. The policemen had to duck under the seats and put up the shutters to avoid the barrage of stones right up to Kilinochchi."

Observe June 1  
as a black  
day, says  
T.E.L.F.

The TAMIL EELAM LIBERATION FRONT has called upon the Tamil people, both in Thamil Eelam and outside, to observe June 1st—the second anniversary of the burning of the Jaffna Public Library by Sri Lanka's State Forces—as a Day of Mourning, a Day of Protest against the violation of fundamental human rights and as a BLACK DAY symbolising cultural genocide against the Tamil Nation.

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# Remove Army from Jaffna, says Jaffna SLFP

The removal of the Army from Jaffna is one of the demands made by the SLFP Branch of the Jaffna District.

The President of the SLFP, Jaffna District, Mr. V. Rajasunderam, in a press statement issued by him says: "A reign of terror erupted again after the elections in Jaffna. This has happened ever since the UNP Government was elected to power in 1977. It happened in 1979 within the local elections, in 1981 during the District Development Council elections, in 1982 during the Presidential elections and in the referendum. In other parts of the country this reign

of terror was unleashed and in particular the victims of this diabolical and calculated acts were the Tamils. The Jaffna Tamils suffered most. These all worked to a pattern seemingly planned very much ahead and executed to perfection.

"Those responsible for the Kanthermadam incidents were the very custodians of the law in civils, hand picked, ostensibly for maintaining law and order and the security in Jaffna.

"The SLFP of Jaffna District strongly condemns these Pre-meditated acts of violence,

perpetrated on the innocent Tamils of the North with terrifying frequency.

We therefore request the Government should:-

- (1) Appoint an imperial commission to inquire into the cause of this calculated violence.
- (2) Pay Compensation to the victims of the atrocities.
- (3) Bring to book the persons involved in the committing of these offences and suitable punishment be meted out without fear or favour.
- (4) Withdraw the Army forthwith from Jaffna.
- (5) And last but not the least guard against a recurrence of incidents of this nature.

## Home Affairs Minister falls in love with Malaysia's I. S. A.

Home Affairs Minister K. W. Devanayagam (of probe Gandhiyam Fame) has paid a handsome compliment to Malaysia's Internal Security Act.

"SATURDAY REVIEW" correspondent in Kuala Lumpur writes: The NEW STRAITS TIMES of Thursday, May 12th carries the following report under a four column head line 'LANKA MINISTER PRAISES I. S. A.':-

"Malaysia's Internal Security Act is a good preventive measure for fighting terrorism, visiting Sri Lanka's Home Affairs Minister, K. W. Devanayagam, said today. He described the

ISA as very severe compared with Sri Lanka's Anti Terrorist Act and said his country could learn a few things from Malaysia in this respect.

"Under Malaysia's ISA, one could be sentenced to death for possession of firearms, but in Sri Lanka it is not so. I believe the ISA is a very good deterrent to prevent the people from engaging in terrorism", he said after calling on Acting Prime Minister and Home Minister DATUK MUSA HITAN.

Also present was the Sri Lanka High Commissioner here, Mr. G.D.E.A. Seneviratne.....

## Alleged offence in Jaffna, charged in Colombo, counsel protests

Two Jaffna youths Sellathurai Rajaji and Somasunderam Jayaprakash, the first an undergraduate of the University of Jaffna and the second a student of the Vaddukkoddai Technical College were produced before the Colombo High Court Judge on Tuesday on a charge of failing to give information about an offence under the prevention of Terrorism Act.

Counsel S. C. Chandrasenan who appeared for the youths challenged the jurisdiction of the Court in this matter. He said that since the alleged offence took place in Jaffna the matter should be properly taken up in Jaffna High Court.

The youths who were kept in detention in the Panagoda

Army Camp were transferred by the High Court Judge to Fiscal Custody while he fixed the inquiry on this preliminary objection for June 1st.

Meanwhile Mr. Chandrasenan telegraphed the Ministry of Internal Security asking that in compliance with the order of the High Court Judge these youths should be kept in Fiscal Custody and not sent back to the Army Camp. He said that he feared that they will be tortured if they are sent back to the Army Camp, and quoted the instances of how another youth Kanagakulasingham who was in Army custody had "disappeared" and how Navaratnarajah who was in Gurunagar Army Camp was discovered dead recently.

## German visitor despairs for Sri Lanka

24 May 1983

The Editor,  
Saturday Review,  
JAFFNA.

Dear Sir,

I am a visitor to your country and this is my fifth visit in twenty years and I write to express my profound regret at the turn of events in your once serene land.

As a German, I am extremely dismayed at the extremely sinister developments in this country, which reminds me sadly of my own land just five decades back - when an Austrian called Adolf Hitler took to German politics and roused the German people to near insanity with his cry of aryan purity, an emotive cry which made the Ger-

man people abandon all reason and follow this avowed paranoid (mental derangement leading to illusions of grandeur) and so set Europe and the world ablaze.

It is my fervent wish that events here will soon be curtailed by wiser counsels taking over, as otherwise, this land too, like mine will be split right down the middle with a Berlin Wall and all the attendant evils that go with such separation.

I wish you and the principles you stand for every success.

Yours truly,

Hermann Gottfried

P. S. I am seventy years and this will be my last visit to your land.

## Anonymous Post card writer claims Sri Kotha address

There is never a dull moment in reading the daily mail that reaches Saturday Review. Here is a typed postcard addressed to the Editor, Saturday Review, by name which runs:

"Be bold enough to publish this in your 'SATURDAY REVIEW'"

"Tamils Leave Sinhala Sri Lanka and go back to your Traditional Homeland - the Tamil Nadu in India. Sri Lanka is the Sinhala Nadu of the Sinhala Lions. You Bloody Tamils invaded the Sinhala Homeland of the Sinhalas and grabbed their lands, houses, jobs, property trade & commerce etc. We Sinhalas have tolerated you Tamils too much. This is the final warning - the ultimatum. Go immediately to Tamil Nadu in India or face the consequences. Thou shall be driven away - one and all. Then we Sinhalas will once again capture the lands, houses, jobs, property trade and commerce and all the rest you bloody

Tamils grabbed from us. Hurry up. Quit. Quit. Exit soon. To Tamil Nadu. Otherwise no escape for you all.

Leave all the nine provinces of the Sinhalas. This is our Sinhala Deepa. This is our Sinhala Eelam. Your Tamil Eelam is Tamil Nadu. Soon we will launch a Civil War to drive away the Tamil Menace from the whole of Sri Lanka. Mind you the Super Powers are behind us. They supply us with the strategy the arms and ammunition. Leave Sri Lanka soon. Or face the consequences.

This ultimatum is issued by the Sinhala United Liberation Front of the United National Party, 532, Galle Road, 'Sri Kota' Colombo-3

(The postcard is naturally unsigned and the postmark is indistinct. By using a post Card instead of a covered letter the author has deprived the government of 15 cents of extra revenue - Editor SR.)

## Withdraw Army, says Pt. Pedro Gramodhaya Saba

The Point Pedro Gramodhaya Saba has vehemently condemned the Sri Lanka Army's "uncivilised acts of arson, looting and thuggery" at Kantharmadam on 18th May and has called for the complete and immediate withdrawal of the armed services from the North and East.

The unanimous resolutions passed by the Saba state: "This Gramodhaya Saba condemns vehemently the actions of the Sri Lanka Army, the custodians of law and order who should ensure the safety of people's life and property, for having on Wednesday May 18, 1983 at Kantharmadam in Jaffna run riot and engaged in uncivilised acts of arson, looting and thuggery and assaulting poor innocent people causing undesirable tension and uneasy atmosphere.

"This Gramodaya Saba also feels that the armed services which are causing a sense of fear and insecurity by their atrocities day in and day out should be completely withdrawn from the North and East immediately.

"This Gramodhaya wishes to impress on the Government that the long outstanding unsettled reasonable problems of the Tamil people cannot be resolved by militarisation and that it is desirable to usher in an atmosphere of peace and security and that is expedient to find a perennial political solution".

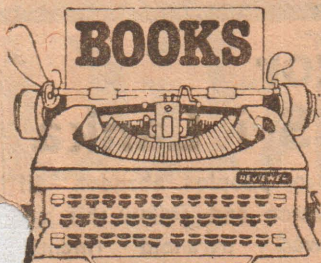
## International Institute of Regional Development

Senior Administrative Officers who successfully participated in the Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Public Administration at the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) last year have constituted an 'International Institute of Regional Development' at a conference held at the SLIDA last week. Mr. N. Kanagasuriar, former Chairman of the Palmyrah Development Board has been chosen as the Director-General of the Institute for the first three years.

A Board of Directors consisting of the following senior officers was also appointed: Mr. D. Ranasinghe, Deputy Director of Health, Mr. L. Sugunadasa, Deputy Commissioner of Ayurveda, Mr. N. G. Punchihewa, Asst. Secy. Ministry of Education, Mr. K.U.W. Amerasekera, Deputy Commissioner of Food, Mr. J. P. Dissanayake, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. J.C.J. Bandaragama, Ministry of Public Administration.



## BOOKS



# Lenin and Asia

by T. Duraisingam

LENIN AND ASIA 140 PP  
By T. Duraisingam  
Pragathi Press, 93, Maligandane Road,  
Colombo 10.

The book *Lenin and Asia*, written in English by Mr. T. Duraisingam, has been translated into Tamil and Sinhala. The aim of the author is to tell the reader about the great October Revolution of 1917 which transformed a corrupt, decadent, dictatorial Czarist empire of Russia into a modern, socialist state, about Lenin, the founder and architect of the first Socialist State and the champion of all oppressed peoples, and about the great impact and influence the October Revolution had on Asia and the national liberation movements. There are two reasons which made the author write this book. One is that Lenin is a perennial theme as the author says, and the other is that the influence Lenin and his teachings had on the Asian revolutionary and national liberation movements has not been adequately discussed in other works. The author discusses how Asia which was once the cradle of many prosperous and flourishing civilizations became colonies of European powers from the 16th century and how they exploited these Asian countries and reduced them to poverty, and how Lenin's teachings have influenced the national liberation movements. Lenin ridiculed the civilizing mission of the imperialists and supported national liberation movements in Asia and other countries, Lenin wrote: "The awakening of Asia and the beginning of the struggle for power by the advanced proletariat of Europe are a symbol of the new phase in world history that began early this century. "He supported the Iranian Revolution of 1905-1911, the Indian national movement, and the revolutions in China and Vietnam.

## Sir P. Arunachalam on the Revolution

The October Revolution of 1917 was an inspiration to the people of Asia as they began their struggle for emancipation from tribalism and feudalism, from colonialism and imperialism. Lenin wrote in 1922: "But the morrow of world history will be a day when the awakening peoples, oppressed by imperialism are finally aroused and the decisive long and hard struggle for their liberation begins". The October revolution heightened the Chinese leader, Sun

Yatsen, He used to correspond with Lenin. In India Rabinathan Tagore, Vallathol, the Malayalee poet, Subramania Bharathi, the Tamil poet, and others composed songs in celebration of the great event. The author has quoted from the writings of Tagore and Nehru to show the admiration they had for Lenin and the October Revolution. In Sri Lanka even a man like Sir P. Arunachalam, who was brought up and trained in a different climate, acknowledged the new situation created by the Victory of the revolution, led by Lenin, for the freedom movement in Sri Lanka. For this he was attacked in the local news papers, controlled by the British Colonialists who blamed him for 'drifting' into Bolshevism. Sir P. Arunachalam's reply was: "We are in very good company."

## How nationalities question solved

There are eleven chapters in the Tamil book. In chapter II the principles of Marxism-Leninism (Scientific Socialism) have been discussed. The author discusses briefly how Lenin in his famous book, "The State and Revolution" expounds Marx's theory of the state and the state as a machine for the suppression of one class by another.

In chapter VI the reader is told how Lenin solved the nationalities question and how by putting an end to the oppression of national minorities in Russia the October Revolution gave an object lesson to the whole world. In the Declaration of the Rights of the peoples of Russia the Government of Soviet Russia promulgated the following principles as the basis of its nationalities policy: the equality and sovereignty of the peoples of Russia, the right of the peoples of Russia to self-determination, including the right to secede and from an independent state, the abolition of all national and religious privileges and restrictions and the free development of the national minorities and ethnic groups inhabiting the territory of Russia. Not only did the Communist Party and the Soviet government formally reject the policy of national oppression and coercion, they granted the working people of the formerly oppressed nationalities of right to take independent decisions on questions of administration and state national construction. The cultural revolution which followed



Lenin

the political revolution brought a new civilization into being.

In one chapter, the author writes about the founding of the Communist International (Comintern) on March 4, 1919. He says that Lenin envisaged a World Federative Republic Soviet which would fight for

peace and the security of the people against militarism and aggressive imperialist war.

In the last chapter the Leninist peace policy has been discussed. The very first decree adopted by the Soviet State under the leadership of Lenin was the Decree on peace at the Second all Russia Congress. The author is emphatic that this decree had underlain Soviet foreign policy for more than 60 years. Lenin stood for peaceful co-existence of both socialist and capitalist state. The author's discussions of Lenin's Peace Policy is highly relevant in the context of present world situation which in the opinion of communists, is aggravated by aggressive imperialist forces. Today the issues of war and peace figure prominently in the confrontation between the two socio-economic systems. There is the reckless talk of a "limited nuclear war". The basic right of every human being is the right of life. It is emphatically stated that the Soviet peace programme is a continuation of the Leninist doctrine of peace and international co-

operation because socialism and peace are indivisible. The capitalist world's vexing economic problems cannot always be attributed to "Moscow's Machinations".

There are nine appendices in which the author has given relevant extracts (including the peace Decree) from Lenin's writings. These will be of great assistance to the students of Marxism-Leninism.

The author, T. Duraisingam Attorney-at-law of Colombo, is a founder member of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka. The book in Tamil is written in simple and clear style, easy for anybody to understand. Every Tamil, whether he is pro or anti-communist, should read it because it deals not only with a great man and his influence on human history but also because it reaches the essentials of Marxism-Leninism. There are not many books on Marxism-Leninism in Tamil, particularly these that deal with Lenin's influences on Asia. The author has, by writing this book, done a service to the Tamil people.

T. Subramaniam

# LETTERS

## 'In no other country do we hear of Army burning Civilian homes'

The sad and lamentable sequence of events that were enacted at Kanthermadam in Jaffna on the 18th May when polling at the Municipal elections was about to close are matters to be very much deprecated. It was only quite recently in 1981 that the serene city of Jaffna was plunged into the same turmoil and the city went up in flames causing incalculable damage to property, during the DDC Elections.

Nobody in his right senses will condone violence. The fact however remains that violence and terrorism are not a new phenomenon. They have come to stay with us and are widespread and common-place not in Sri Lanka alone but all over the world. But State violence is not the answer for the acts of a few miscreants. And the ruthless type of violence let loose on innocent people by

the armed services in Jaffna as a retaliation for the misdeeds of a few, as has happened in Jaffna, is something to be deeply deplored.

The reckless manner in which the army reacted consequent on the attack by the so-called terrorists at the Kanthermadam polling booth and the killing of an army corporal and seriously injuring another army man and a few policemen, is both shameful and dastardly and is quite unbecoming of a disciplined service.

Anywhere in the world the army is regarded as a disciplined force. And other than perhaps in Sri Lanka one does not hear of the army in any other country fighting innocent civilians, burning their homes, setting fire to shops and going on the rampage all because they could not fight back the real enemy. This type of sen-

seless behaviour does not redound to the credit of a disciplined service nor does it redound to the credit of the country's government.

Even under the gravest provocation a disciplined unit is expected to act with the greatest restraint. That is extremely vital because if a disciplined unit chooses to run amok the consequences can be disastrous. The trail of destruction, desolation and destitution that one sees in Kanthermadam is heart-rending to behold.

This Dharmista government speaks of the Lankan nation as being peace-loving and imbued with brotherly love. But the Lankan army stationed in Jaffna seems to have lacked this virtue from the very inception. It is woefully wrong for the army to exercise their hatred and savage fury on innocent people for the wrongs of some miscreants.

The sad irony of the situation is that although the behaviour of army personnel in the North is only too well known to the State authorities they still persist in sending more and more of the army to the North.

It is about time that the government which calls itself dharmista took steps to ensure that the armed services constitute a really disciplined band of men and one that the country could be proud of.

Augustine Saverimuttu

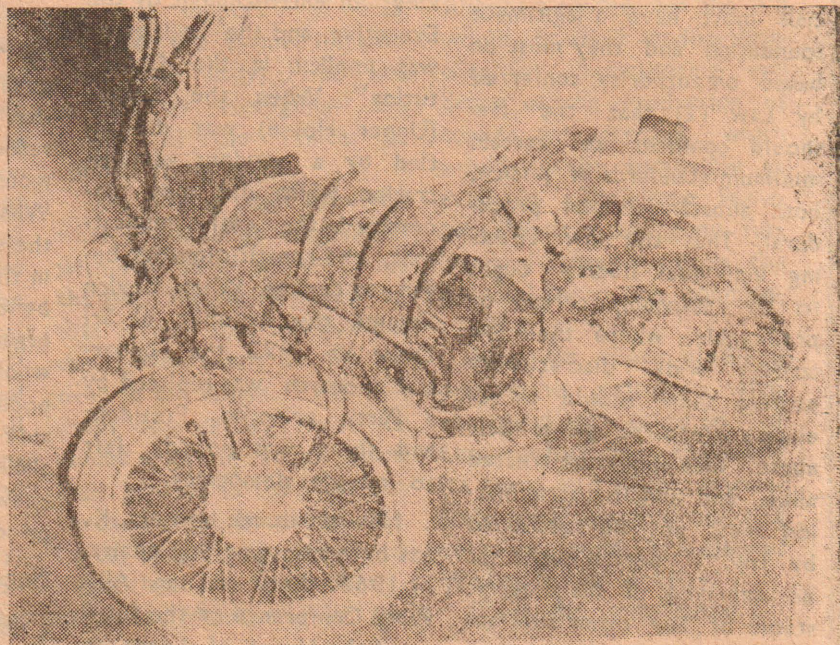
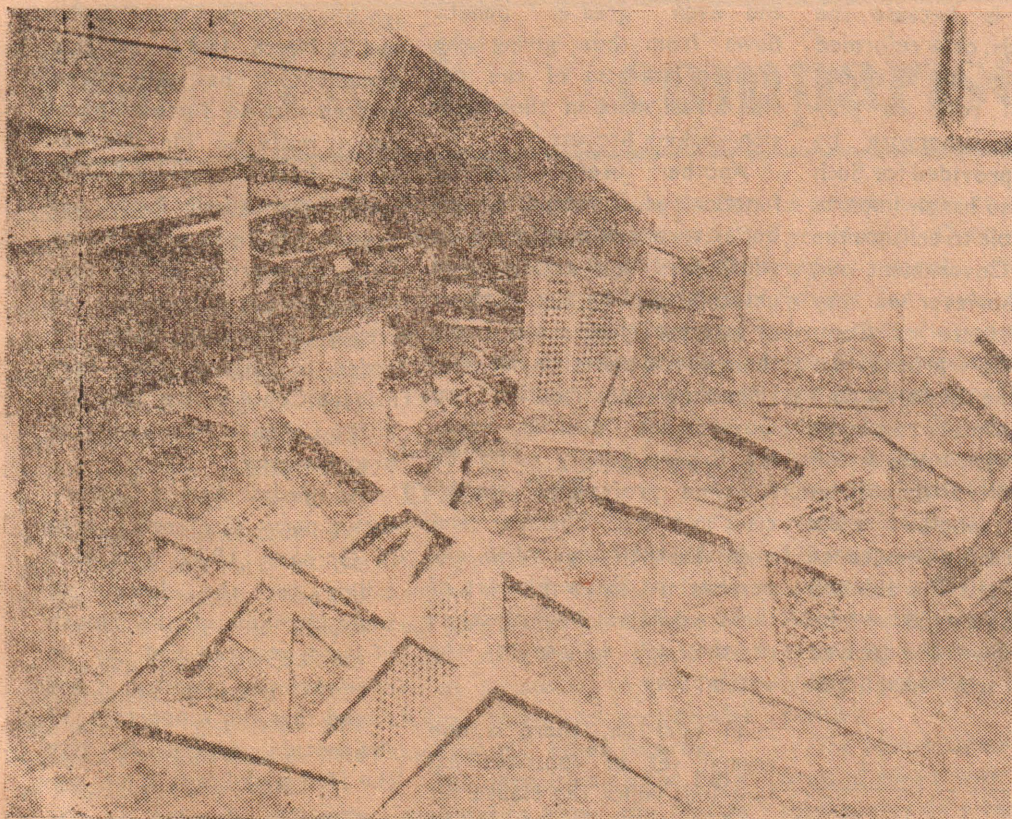
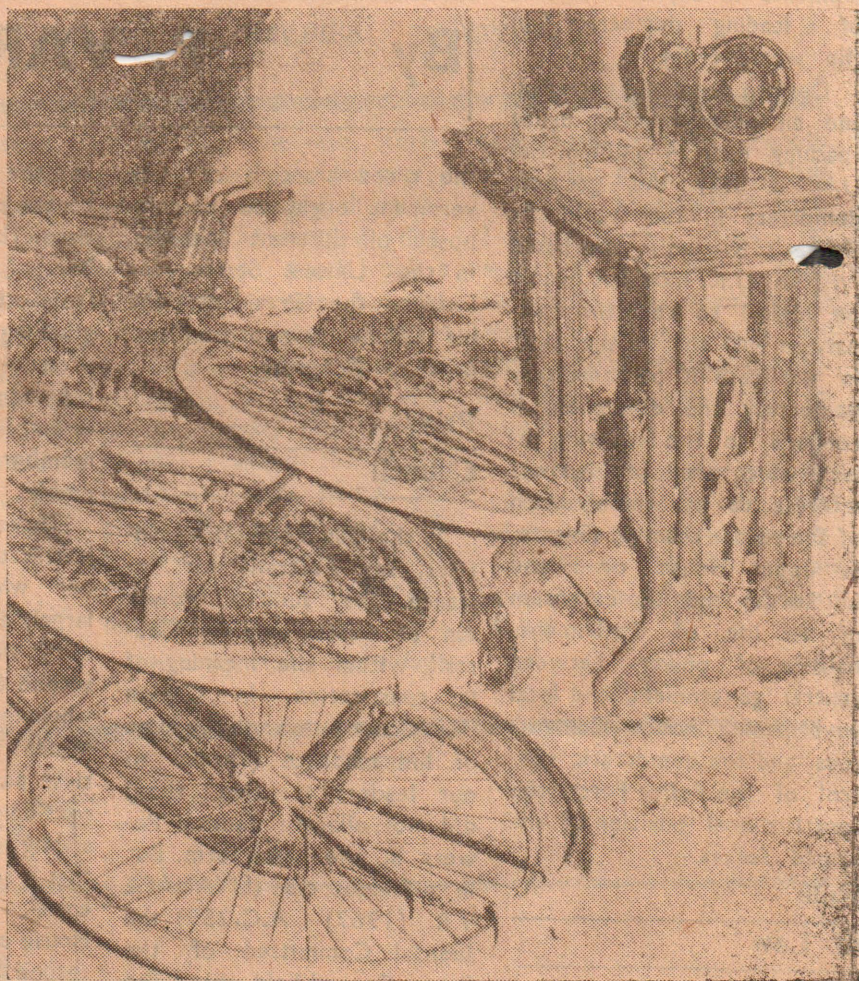
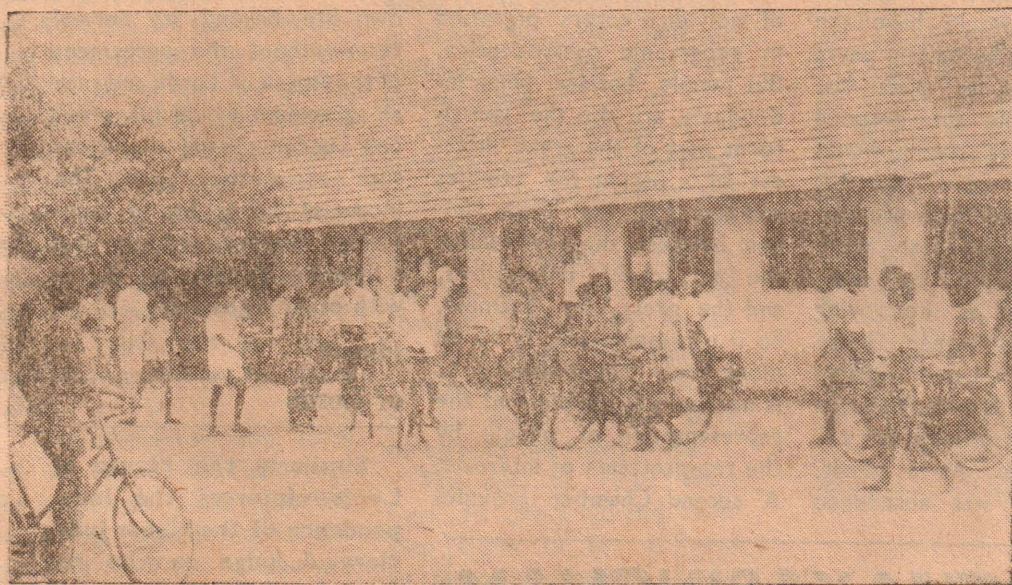


Election Night, Wednesday May 18th

# Army Orgy at Kantharmadam

Picture on top left shows the premises of Salvapragasa Vidhyasalai on Arasady Road which housed a polling booth and where half an hour before polling closed Corporal Jayawardene was gunned down and another soldier and two constables were injured. One hour later Army men went berserk setting fire to houses and vehicles.

On top right is the wooden chariot of a Hindu Temple at Palam Road which was set on fire and was partially burnt.





## PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY &amp; PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

## The U.K. comparison

When the British left Ceylon in 1948 the latter was left with a Parliamentary and administrative system based on the British Model. The British (UK) Democratic system, like any other Democratic systems such as the French, the American (and the ancient Greek) depends on two fundamental principles without which it would degenerate into anarchy. These two are 'RULE OF LAW' and 'SEPARATION OF POWERS'. In Ceylon the Government system has been radically changed since 1948 without being faithful to these two universal principles. In this troubled climate it would be useful to make a comparative study of the developments in Ceylon with that of a leading democracy in the world today.

Despite deepening recession and an unemployment figure reaching near 4 million, the U.K. is still the greatest democracy in the world. As Ceylon's system is also based on the U.K. model it would be logical to make this comparison with that of the U.K. In the case of parliamentary democracy the discussion is confined to the following topics which are of current interest to us: the abolition of the second chamber (Senate, or upper House or House of Lords) and the extension of the life of Parliament, balance of power between central government and local government; Police Committees and the democratic control of the Police Force, the constitutional position of the armed forces.

## Rule

## of Law

The Rule of Law implies (1) that the powers exercised by politicians and officials must have a legitimate foundation and they must be based on authority conferred by Law (2) that the law should conform to certain minimum standards of justice, both substantive and procedural. Thus the law affecting individual liberty ought to be reasonably certain or predictable; where the law confers wide discretionary powers there should be adequate safeguards against their abuse. Like should be treated alike, and unfair discrimination must not be sanctioned by law. A person ought not to be deprived of his liberty, status or any other substantial interest unless he is given the opportunity of a fair

hearing before an impartial tribunal; and so forth.

The doctrine of separation of powers may be briefly stated as follows: (1) There are three main classes of governmental function—the Legislative, the Executive and the Judicial; (2) There should be three main organs of government in a State—The Legislature (Law Making), The Executive (Making and applying Policy and General Administration) The Judiciary (adjudicate on alleged breaches of the law) (3) To concentrate more than one class of function in any one person or organ of Government is a threat to individual liberty. One of the implications commonly read into separation of powers doctrine is that

retain its key functions while ending the hereditary basis of membership. The built-in conservative (Tory) Party majority and the delaying powers of the Lords. The solution proposed was a two-tier system by which Government-appointed peers would have the right to vote, hereditary peers being allowed to speak but not vote while the delaying powers on legislation would be cut to six months. Though agreed between the parties, these proposals were bitterly attacked by some Conservatives as destroying the traditional Upper House and by a few Labour Party Members as creating a large new area of patronage for the Prime Minister. As a result, the measure was abandoned

a second Chamber's political role in enhancing the quality of the way people are governed is the need for a Chamber which represents something different from the first Chamber. The House of Commons is based on the representation of individual voters organised in geographic constituencies. But people, besides being individuals, are also the constituent part of the great 'interest' of a nation—the temples and churches, the Trade Unions, business, the professions, the land, schools, universities, and the press, for example. So if representation is to be more truly comprehensive it is necessary to supplement the representation of people by the representation of interests. A second Chamber provides

tances of the British style democracy, can be performed only by the House of Lords, or a reformed version of it, or by the monarch. This is to act as the ultimate defender of democracy. The House of Commons cannot extend its own life beyond its normal term without the agreement of the House of Lords and such an agreement would be given only under special situations such as a major war. The House of Lords has a complete veto here, and not just a delaying power, as it has with other legislation.

## House

## of Lords

Similarly, the House of Lords reinforces the independence of the higher judiciary. A Judge can be removed only by an address from both Houses of Parliament—so here, too, the House of Lords has veto power that cannot be overridden by the Commons. If the second Chamber was abolished and there was a unicameral system of Government, there would be nothing to stop a majority in the Commons from extending its own life indefinitely and dismissing any Judges who inconveniently sought to defend our basic rights and liberties from any restrictions it wanted to place upon us.

Even the Labour party which is determined to curtail the legislative powers of the House of Lords, has made exceptions to these powers which relate to the life of Parliament and Judiciary. This has been confirmed in the campaign document published at the end of March 1983, in this document it has also been noticed that no further mention is made on Mr. Wedgwood Benn's (former Chairman of the Labour Party and present Chairman of the Home Policy Committee of the Party) controversial proposals to create 1000 new Peers in order to change the Permanent Conservative Majority in the Lords to an inbuilt Labour majority.

At the last Annual Conservative party Conference held in October 1982 a motion calling for the election of some Members of the House of Lords was rejected by an overwhelming majority. It was stated that the supporters of the motion wanted to give the House of Lords some de-

(Continued next page)

By

P. VAROTHAYASINGHAM

London

the three branches of Government ought to be composed of different persons. In the United States for instance the President and his Cabinet cannot be members of Congress.

## Privy

## Council

In the Commonwealth countries, say Australia for instance, the Judicial Power can be vested only in "Courts" within the meaning of its constitution. In Ceylon the Constitution at the time of Independence (Thanks to our leaders at that time) did not allocate Judicial Powers in the same form. But in a famous case (LIYANAGE V.R. (1967) 1 A.C.259) the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council held that "The Province of Judiciary was immune from the grosser kinds of encroachment by the Executive, and the Legislature was implicit in the Constitution". When the Senate (Upper House) was dismantled by a previous administration which did not understand the real implications, the constitutionality began to decline. When Ceylon became the Republic of Sri Lanka in 1972 the impartial monarch was replaced by a Party oriented President and there was nobody left to salvage democracy.

Now let us see how U. K. has been managing its affairs. In 1967 there was an All-Party Conference on the future of the House of Lords in U. K., the objectives being to

and the House of Lords has continued unchanged to this date. There have been a number of proposals advanced from other sources for strengthening the Lords by including pressure group representatives, representatives from devolved assemblies or those elected as members of the European Assembly.

There can, nowadays, be no justification for a second chamber whose membership is largely based on heredity. Nor can it be justified where the second Chamber has an overwhelming and virtually permanent majority for one political party. Even so, it is considered that there are strong grounds for believing that a second Chamber is essential. This is because the House of Lords, or a reformed second chamber, has a crucial Constitutional role to play which cannot otherwise be satisfactorily provided for. Such a Chamber also has an important Political role to enhance the quality of Government—and that is true however we may reform the House of Commons and its procedures. What both the monarch and the second Chamber represent in their different ways is the belief that there should be organs that do not owe their whole being to the device of popular election. The ebb and tide of opinion should not be allowed to drown the evolved knowledge and established principles.

## Second

## Chamber

The essential foundation of

the forum for this.

This also has several practical advantages. First, there is the second chamber's revising function. When the bills have been carefully scrutinised in their entirety in the Commons and appropriately amended there, there is still a case for those bills being scrutinised and revised from a different point of view—the point of view of the special interests primarily affected by them and able to express their views without slavish adherence to strict party discipline. In this way the final product is likely to be better and more practical legislation than might otherwise have been the case. And not only will the quality of legislation be better; another and even greater benefit flows from thus giving the greater interests of the nation a real share in the decision-making process.

Another useful political function for a second Chamber is to provide a forum in which experts of various kinds untrammelled by ties of party or interest group, can make their own distinctive and distinguished contribution to Government decision-making. Experts simply cannot be full-time professional politicians in a first Chamber and maintain their specialist expertise; and, anyway, most of them would not have the time or the will to court the voters.

In addition, there is one crucial set of constitutional functions which the House of Lords is there to perform and which, in the special circum-



# The man who planted 100,000 trees in 3 years!

To those who are sceptical that the environment of Jaffna district could be transformed by a vigorous tree-planting campaign, (see "S.R." of April 9), we quote excerpts from a report by the late Jean Giono in the UN publication, "Development Forum"

In France, in a region where the Alps thrust into Provence, vast areas of forests had been felled to produce charcoal. As the forests got denuded, the climate began to change, water became scarce and the charcoal-burners moved to other areas.

One of the few who stuck on was Elzeard Bouffier. After he lost his only son, then his wife, he stayed on in this solitude with his sheep and his dog.

It was his opinion that the land was dying for want of trees. Having no very pressing business of his own, he had resolved to remedy this state of affairs.

Collecting acorns from the surrounding valleys, he began planting them, on the desolate mountain slopes, at the rate of about 100 a day. In three years, he had planted nearly 100,000; a fifth of them had sprouted.

That was when I, on a trek along the Alps, met him. The year was 1913, and he was 55 years.

I asked him if the land belonged to him. He answered

no. Did he know to whom it belonged? He did not. He supposed it was community property, or perhaps belonged to people who cared nothing about it. He was not interested in finding out. He went on planting his acorns with the greatest care.

After the world war, I returned to the region wondering whether Elzeard Bouffier was dead or alive. He was not dead. As a matter of fact he was extremely spry. He had changed his jobs. Now he had only four sheep but, instead, 100 beehives. He had got rid of the sheep because they threatened the young trees.

The oaks of 1910 were then 10 years old and taller than either of us. It was an impressive spectacle. I was literally speechless and, as he did not talk, we spent the whole day walking in silence through his forest. In three sections, it measured 11 kilometres in length and three kilometres in breadth. When you remembered that all this had sprung from the hands and the soul of this one man, you understand that men could be as effectual as God in realms other than that of destruction.

In the meantime, he had planted more oak trees as well as beeches and birches.

The wind too scattered the seed. As the water reappeared, so there reappeared



The pathetic picture of a denuded palmyrah grove in Jaffna.

willows, rushes, meadows, gardens, flowers and a certain purpose in being alive. But the transformation took place so gradually that it became a part of the pattern without causing any astonishment. Hunters, climbing into the wilderness in pursuit of hares and wild boar, had of course noted the sudden-growth of little trees, but had attributed it to some caprice of the earth

I saw Elzeard Bouffier for the last time in 1945. He was then 87. He had con-

tinued his one-man tree-planting campaign and everything was changed. Even the air. Instead of the harsh winds that used to attack me, a gentle breeze was blowing, laden with scents. A sound like water came from the mountains; it was the wind of the forest; most amazing of all, I heard the actual sound of water falling into pools. The old streams, fed by the rains and the snows that the forest conserves, are flowing again.

Little by little, the villages

have been rebuilt. People from the plains, where land is costly, have settled there, bringing youth, motion, the spirit of adventure. Along the roads, you meet hearty men and women, boys and girls who understand laughter and have recovered taste for picnics.

Counting the former population, unrecognisable now that they live in comfort, more than 10,000 people owe their happiness to Elzeard Bouffier...

## Parliamentary Democracy

### The U. K. comparison....

(Continued from page 6) mocratic legitimacy but there was already an elected house, the supreme house, the House of Commons. A second elected House would be superfluous.

Lady Young, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, winding up the debate, said that abolition of the Lords would lead to an elected dictatorship by one Party in the House of Commons. She did not believe that the people would support single Chamber Government. A Second Chamber was only guarantee that General Elections must be held at least every five years.

An example to illustrate the Legislative powers of the

House of Lords would be the recently drafted (controversial) Police and Criminal Evidence Bill which reached the Committee stage in the House of Commons on the 8th of March, 1983. The Conservative

#### Criminal

#### Evidence Bill

Government was forced to amend its Bill to get it through the House of Lords because of growing opposition to its proposals to give the Police access to confidential medical and other records.

The opposition to the Bill's proposal to allow the Police after obtaining an order from

a circuit Judge, to search the premises of Doctors, Psychiatrists, social workers and priests for evidence, came from such diverse sources as the British Medical Association the Board of the Division of Methodist Church Ministries (which is responsible for the Church's 2500 Ministers), the National Council for Civil Liberties, the Press Council and also the Church of England Bishops who attacked the Bill as posing a threat to confidentiality between priest and people.

The Home Office (Ministry) pressed ahead with the measure largely as a result of the

personal support of Mrs. Thatcher the Prime Minister (The Iron Lady), who was anxious to strengthen the power of the Police to combat rising crime.

The turning point appeared when the Bishops weighed in with vehement protest about the Bill. They were concerned that private and confidential church files would be handed over to the Police. The Bishops were getting ready to mount a strong attack from their benches in the House of Lords, and the Leader of the Lords, Lady Young, expected difficulties. Subsequently, the Prime Minister gave the

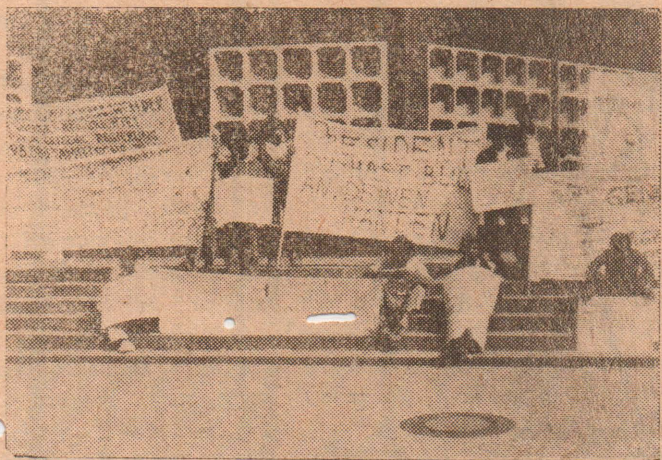
Bishops a pledge that the Bill would not allow random searches for incriminating evidence, or the production of confidential records which would not be admissible as evidence. The Home Secretary (Minister) has gone further and agreed to drop the proposal concerning confidential files.

How do these civilised procedures compare with elected dictatorship in Sri Lanka which has extended its term by a highly unconstitutional method and has now imprisoned the clergy? Where is the legality?

[To be continued]



# Demonstration in Berlin



"In the name of humanity, we plead that you should use your goodwill and influence on the Commander of the three forces of Sri Lanka, namely, Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, the President, to persuade him to remove the Prevention of Terrorism Act (which is condemned by International Organizations which agitate for preservation of Human Rights) which violates individual fundamental rights and to release all those who were arrested and to guarantee self-determination of the Tamils."

So states a resolution passed at a meeting which followed the demonstration organized by the Eelam Tamil Welfare Association, Berlin, W. Germany on 7th May, 1983. The demonstration went on from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Placards, slogans, Eelam literature, explaining the history of the Eelam demand were displayed and explained to the visitors. Some of the

## Another Train assault

"THE ISLAND" of Monday 23rd May carries the following report written by Peter Balasuriya under the headline "Passengers severely beaten up; TWO ARMY MEN RUN AMOK ON JAFFNA - BOUND TRAIN".

slogans and writings said: "SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT COM-MITS GENOCIDE", "SINHALA SETTLEMENTS IN TRADITIONAL TAMIL HOMELANDS", "ARMY RUNNING AMOK IN TAMIL EELAM AREAS, HARASSING ORDINARY PUBLIC AS WELL AS THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS", "MURDERS, DISAPPEARANCE OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS" ETC.

The Sri Lanka flag was burnt. The flag was smeared with blood to signify the suppression and bloodletting of Tamils by the Sri Lankan State. Two effigies of the President J. R. Jayawardene were displayed, one garlanded with human skulls and the other depicting J. R. in Army Uniform.

A counter displayed literature on atrocities of the Sri Lankan Government in Tamil Eelam, how it is colonized, how the Tamils refuse to accept Sinhala hegemony and want to be free citizens of Eelam etc.

"Two Army personnel are alleged to have gone on the rampage assaulting Tamil passengers when the Jaffna-bound train stopped at the Anuradhapura station shortly after midnight on Saturday.

"Police, it is understood, on receiving information that certain unauthorised persons were trying to enter the station and assault Tamil passengers had taken up position outside the premises. The Army, too, was requested to assist the Police in this operation.

"While the Police were mounting guard outside, two Military Police personnel are alleged to have entered the compartments of the stationary train and beaten up the Tamil passengers.

"On hearing their shouts and screams, Police had to report the incident to an Army Officer who arrived on the scene and took the two rampaging men into his custody.

"A few minutes later, the train had left with the dazed passengers who feared to break journey to receive medical attention.

"Meanwhile, a series of anti-Tamil posters have come up in the Anuradhapura town. Yesterday, Police commenced a clean-up campaign there.

## Lyman Kulathungam — Teacher, Editor, Actor, Producer & Church Leader

by I. P. Thurairatnam

I had known Mr. Lyman Kulathungam ever since May 1915, that was 68 years ago, when he and I joined Jaffna College together. We were classmates until 1922 when he became a teacher. Then we were colleagues on the staff of the College from 1925 to 1934. I left for Tellippalai in 1935 and some other teachers too left but Lyman Kulathungam stuck in the school. As a student he had one defect and that was that he had no defect. He was good in every subject. Therefore he could not be regarded as a specialist in any!

He taught at the College until his retirement in 1963. He did many things besides just teaching. He was editor of the *Morning Star* for 42 years and editor of the *College Miscellany* for 32 years, in both of which he succeeded his illustrious guru Mr. J.V. Chelliah. He was also an accomplished actor and an able producer of English Plays many of which were staged at the College.

He was a member of the Jaffna Council of the South India United Church and its Executive for many years and later a member of the Jaffna Diocesan Council of the Church of South India and its Executive. He was also

for some time Secretary of the Diocesan Council and a member of the Synod.

In the early '40's he was Chairman of the Committee of Review which was appointed to draft a constitution for enlarging the American Ceylon Mission so as to accommodate more nationals and make it broad-based. A short time later Church Union in South India became a reality and the revised constitution of the American Ceylon Mission became the precursor of the constitution of the Diocesan Council.

Besides these he served on several Boards and Committees of the Diocese. He was also a member of the Jaffna College Board of Directors. In everything he did he proved himself loyal to the Church, the Mission, the College, the *Morning Star* and other institutions with which he was associated. He never refused to respond to a call when it came.

He even ministered at the Vaddukoddai Church from 1966 to 1968 and in this respect he followed another distinguished layman, Mr. C.H. Cooke. Mr. Cooke was Managing Proprietor of the *Star* for a long time. During the war the *Star* passed through one of the most difficult periods in its che-

ckered history. At that time Mr. Cooke was the Manager, Mr. Kulathungam the Editor and I the Printer. I remember the trials the three of us had. Sometimes we used to quarrel violently but none of us was prepared to hurt the *Star* and it went on.

Once some of his friends wanted to do him a good turn. They thought he deserved better than to be a mere assistant teacher at Jaffna College. And so they got him appointed as Vice Principal of Drieberg College. He went there but returned home to Jaffna College within a week! Nothing could separate him from the love of Jaffna College. What was the secret of his all-embracing loyalty? What was the master sentiment that drove him to undertake all these laborious tasks? It was his loyalty to the total Christian enterprise.

Lyman Kulathungam was a sick person for a very long time. But he survived crisis after crisis through his indomitable courage and invincible spirit. He was appointed Vice-Principal of Jaffna College in 1953 when many people thought he would not be able to cope with the responsibility but would break down under the strain. He confounded his critics.

During the time of the take-over of schools in 1960 when Jaffna College elected to become a non-fee-levying private school it suddenly found itself in financial difficulties. The authorities set out on a programme of fund-raising by visiting the outstations every week-end. Mr. Kulathungam joined the parties every week-end in spite of his illness and pulled his weight. He undertook tiresome journeys to India for the Synod meetings though his friends advised him against the idea.

Once an eminent surgeon, a friend of mine, told me, "Your friend Lyman Kulathungam is seriously ill and only an operation may possibly save him. But considering his history I am afraid to operate". I said, "Doctor, I know my friend Lyman. He will face it with unconquerable will. Go ahead and operate". The operation was done and he came out of it triumphantly.

I used to visit him almost every time I came to Vaddukoddai, and that was quite often. I found him mentally alert, always reading, writing and researching. For the last few years he was engaged in writing the history of the American Ceylon Mission from the time the famous historian, Rev. C.D. Velupillai, left off in 1922 to the present. Quite happily for all of us the work has been completed and handed over to the authori-

ties. I hope this 'magnum opus' of his will be duly published and will remain as a lasting memorial to his dedicated labours.

Mr. Charles Subramaniam Lyman was Mr. Kulathungam's father. He was Headmaster of the Vernacular and Training Departments of Uduvil. It was written of him that, "His gentle and unobtrusive manners, retiring nature, friendly counsel, extreme courtesy and kind disposition won for him the esteem and affection of his pupils and the title of 'Ever gracious gentleman and a great teacher'. I wish to make this way tribute to the son as we bid him farewell.

There was a professor by name John Erskine at the Columbia University. He was also a great musician and novelist. Once he had an attack of coronary thrombosis but survived it. He and his wife went to France for recouping. After some months they returned. However, a little later he sensed that the end was near and told his wife, "If I go first I will ask God to keep a seat beside me for you and we will go on from there." He who had so loved life was confident it would continue after death. This is the message I would like to leave to his sorrowing wife and children.



The Sri Lanka Co-ordinating Centre Kassel, (SCCK), West Germany, sent a petition to President Jayawardene calling for the stopping of repatriation of "Indian Tamils" from Sri Lanka to India. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Nissanka Wijeratne, wrote back to SCCK with reference to the letter sent to the President.

In the course of his five page reply he said "my views however are personal but I do hope it will help to place in perception some of the problems you have raised.

The SCCK thereafter sent a copy of the letter received from Minister Wijeratne to the then High Commissioner for India, Mr. Thomas Abraham. Mr. Abraham replied to SCCK making his own comments arising out of Minister Wijeratne's letter.

Mr. A. Aziz, President of the Democratic Worker's Congress has now written to Minister Wijeratne replying some comments made by him:-

6th May, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Nissanka Wijeratne,  
Minister of Justice,  
Hultsdorf,  
Colombo-12.

My dear Minister,

I came across your above letter only recently; a friend gave me a copy of a publication called "A PLEA FOR JUSTICE - SRI LANKA". As your letter contains some inaccuracies and also needs to be commented upon, I am writing this one to you. A copy is going to SCCK for their information.

You have said in paragraph 36 of your letter; "Before independence was granted to Sri Lanka they (persons of Indian origin in Sri Lanka) canvassed the British authorities not to grant independence unless special racial benefits were conceded to them. They opposed the grant of Independence". This is absolutely untrue and I say this with personal knowledge as a person who was actively associated with the formation of and was a founder member of the Ceylon Indian Congress. I was in fact its first joint Secretary. When the Soulbury Commission came to Ceylon, I was the President of Ceylon Indian Congress and led its deputation to the Soulbury Commission. Mr. S. Vythilingam a member of the State Council was a Joint Secretary of the Ceylon Indian Congress and in that capacity had accompanied the delegation to the Soulbury Commission. First of all we did not demand "special racial benefits" as stated by you. What we asked for was, that there should be no discrimination against the persons of Indian Origin in any future Independence Constitution of

# The plantation workers: A. Aziz on Justice Minister's 'inaccuracies'

Ceylon. At the same time we demanded complete and full independence for Ceylon. In fact this was one of the fundamental objectives enshrined in the constitution of the Ceylon Indian Congress.

Lord Soulbury asked me a pointed question as to how did we reconcile the demand for complete independence for Ceylon with the demand for protection against any future discrimination. My clear answer was that we were willing to take the risk of facing discrimination and that complete independence for Ceylon was our undiluted and unreserved demand; the British need not remain in Ceylon to protect us. The record of the Soulbury report would bear this out. We took this position unhesitatingly and without any reservation. Therefore, for you to say, "They (Persons of Indian Origin) opposed the grant of Independence" is entirely incorrect.

## The role of

## Pandit Nehru

Events subsequent to independence are an open book; utilising the Independence of the country, you know what the UNP Government did to the Plantation population and other Persons of Indian Origin. They were decitizenised, disenfranchised and discriminated against in so many ways. This is how the Governments subsequent to Independence kept their faith with a population which was the main-stay of the economy of the country.

You have also said in paragraph 14 of your letter, "In 1939 with a view to giving more strength to Overseas Indians Pandit Nehru advised the Indians to organise themselves which they did as Ceylon Indian Congress and Pandit Nehru himself came for their inaugural meeting in Gampola. The umbilical cord therefore had not been severed with India." This statement also needs to be corrected. The formation of the Ceylon Indian Congress was not at the instance of Pandit Nehru. It was purely a local initiative. Somewhere in 1938 or 1939 Government of Ceylon decided to remove from its service Persons of Indian Origin who had a service of less than 10 years. This caused an alarm amongst the persons of Indian Origin.

There was also tremendous uneasiness amongst the persons of Indian Origin because of the tendentious and restrictive interpretation, by the powers that be, of the word "Domicile" for registration of persons of Indian Origin as voters.

There was also a cry amongst the Plantation workers for a central body to intervene on their behalf in the matter of their disputes with the managements of Plantations. At that time there was no proper and widely spread Trade Union amongst the Plantation workers. There were a few small Trade Unions in Hatton and Talawakelle, but not one that was spread throughout the Plantation areas. There also arose simultaneously a New Brand of young educated persons of Indian Origin in Ceylon, who felt that there was a need for a Central Organisation to meet the challenges that faced the Persons of Indian Origin living in Sri Lanka. This led to the formation of two central Organisations—one led by the old Guard of the Indian Leadership in Ceylon and another led by a group of young men. The first was called "Ceylon Indian Central Association" and the other "Ceylon Indian Congress".

Pandit Nehru visited Ceylon in July 1939 in connection with the proposed dismissal of persons of Indian Origin from Ceylon Government service. At this time these two

organisations were already in existence. Pandit Nehru intervened between these two groups and one Central Organisation under the name of "Ceylon Indian Congress" was formed. Mr. H. M. Desai from the Ceylon Indian Central Association and I from Ceylon Indian Congress were appointed by both the groups, as joint secretaries of the combined body viz. The Ceylon Indian Congress. The first inaugural Session was held in Gampola in 1940 but Pandit Nehru did not attend this Session. In para 7 of your letter, you say "Up to 1931 the Plantation workers were treated 'Sui generis'". They were provided with accommodation by the British Plantation Oligarchy and also with Food and Medical services while free travel to and from their homes in India was supervised also by the British authorities". The Concise Oxford Dictionary gives the meaning of "Sui generis" as "peculiar" or "unique". The treatment was indeed peculiar and unique in that it was sub human, and a crying shame on any civilized human society. Do you really believe that the treatment was worth eulogising for as you have attempted

In para 37 you say "Since the Leader of the Indians of recent origin viz. the plantation workers, Mr. Thondaman has joined the Government of Sri Lanka, I think the cause of solution will be better served and that through intelligent dialogue and with concord and

good-will". About the role of Mr. Thondaman the less said the better. Let us hope that what you believe will come true. The record of six years does not lend support to this hope.

## Six years of

## Thondaman

## as Minister

The difficulties that people who have already acquired Sri Lanka Citizenship undergo would need a good deal to write about. To establish Sri Lanka citizenship, a grant of a citizen by Registration has to chase after not only his father's Birth Certificate, but also his grandfather's citizenship certificate. The provision and staffing of the estate schools, peculiar outmoded and funny requirements for admission to Government Hospitals, and above all the questions of wages of the Plantation workers still continue to be a sore point even after a lapse of six years of Mr. Thondaman's position as a Minister in the UNP Government.

I have attempted to correct some misconceptions contained in your letter so as to put the record correct. I hope you will bear with me in this.

Assuring you of my regard for you and with good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A. AZIZ,  
PRESIDENT,

THE DEMOCRATIC WORKERS' CONGRESS.

c. c. The Sri Lanka Co-ordinating Centre Kassel (SCCK),  
D 3500 Kassel, F.R.G.



"Parvathy"

Karampan,

Kayts, 25 May 1953.

The Editor,  
Saturday Review.  
Sir,

Mr. S. Velautham writing in response to Mr. Kanagasooriar on the Palmyrah Development Board is a bit out of date. In the first place Mr. Kanapathy Nadarajah was appointed to act as Chairman of the Board by the Minister of Regional Development. Ordinarily the cabinet should give its approval to the appointment of a chairman of a corporation. Before such a name is sent up for cabinet sanction, the UNP EXCO must signify its consent. Proper procedure was not observed in regard to this appointment.

## Palmyrah Development

## Board appointments

ment.

It was only last month that the UNP High Command discovered that this appointment had been made irregularly by the Minister of Regional Development and a directive was sent by the UNP High Command to remove the acting chairman from office. Can Mr. Velautham quote any reference to any Govt. Gazette notification notifying the appointment of Mr. Kanapathy Nadarajah as Chairman.

The appointments of Mr. K. C. Nythianantha and Mr. N. Kanagasooriar were gazetted on 18-8-78. Mr. N. P. Jegathan of course was holding

a valid appointment as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Regional Development.

Mr. Velautham will also recall, if he refreshes his memory, that Mr. Nadarajah was dismissed from the post of Extension Officer when he was sitting as a member of the Board. Doubtless he is aware of the reasons why he was dismissed summarily. Surely he knows the Palmyrah Arrack Distillery at Kaithady is run by the State Distilleries Corporation and certainly not by the Palmyrah Board.

Yours Etc

M. A. Viramuthu.



# Dibbler Method to Improve Rice yields

Rice remains the staple diet of the people in Ceylon and consumes a large slice of the foreign exchange. To stop this an all out drive is being made to achieve self sufficiency with improved varieties, fertilizer, pesticides and weedicides but no proper study had been made on the preparation, size of liyaddas type of implements, frequency of irrigation etc. Rice cultivation can be classified in Ceylon as under two distinctive methods i.e. under wet and dry conditions. These two systems cannot be changed completely as they are dependant on the type of soil and water availability. The common and widely used method is to broadcast the seed either dry or germinated. The germinated seed is normally broadcast in puddled and levelled fields and the dry seed is broadcast under dry condition and the seed is covered by running the tyne

tiller both directions. It had been found that the yields are lower always under dry conditions and had invariably been attributed to poor cultivation but this is not correct. I am aware of farmers preparing the field well and doing all the improved practices, the crop looks good but at the time of harvest the yields are poor or not to expectation. Two main factors contribute to the low yields:

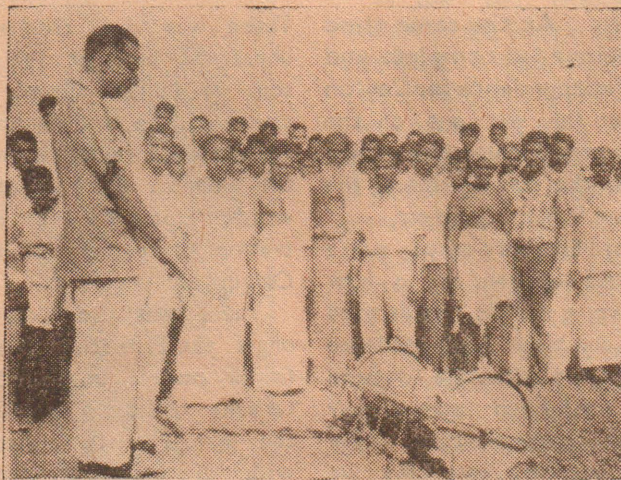
## Twin

### Factors

1. Level of field.
2. The depth of placement of seed.

**Level of Field:** The land is not levelled as in wet preparation but ridges and furrows do appear after sowing. It is only after the rains or water is impounded that the ridges close on the furrows. Yet the surface in the Liyadhda

is not level and when water is held up the depth of water varies from "0 - 6" inches. This will not be so under puddled condition. This defect is caused by the extensive use of the tyne tiller and the farmer not taking action to level



Author T. N. Manickavasagar, Agricultural officer (Retired) demonstrates the Dibbler

his field properly before seeding. The smaller the size of the liyadda the levelness of the field decreases.

**Depth of placement:** Under the present practice of using the tyne tiller the seed gets buried from ground level to a depth of 3 inches. The seeds at lower depth starts germinating and comes up to the top but the seed at a higher level do not germinate till rains comes in or water is let in. Thus there are several stages of germination under dry sowing. With the impounding of water the ridges dissolve and plants get buried or exposed, thus the tillering effect is retarded or plant population is reduced. The important fact in a paddy plant is that tillering take place at ground level at the node and rooting too has to be from surface downwards. (The attached diagram illustrates the growth stages)

### Tillering

The effect of tillering at different stages in the field do not allow the ear heads to mature all at the same time. But the farmer is forced to reap his harvest when all plants are mature to his naked eye. At the time of harvest more dead grains or half grains are found resulting in low yields.

The farmer attributes this to nonavailability of water or insect damage but in practice it is not so. This defect can be rectified only by placing the seed at constant depth right through the field. There are only two ways to tackle this: 1. To level the field, broadcast the seed and use a light rotary tiller or harrow to bury the seed for not more than 1 inch and impound water if available.

2. Is to level the field and draw furrows at a constant depth of less than 1 inch and row seed or drill in the furrow and cover the furrows.

Fields cannot be levelled and seed broadcast as in wet sowing as the seeds are liable to be attacked by birds and rodents and seed will get drifted with the flowing water, hence the seeds have to be buried to a depth of  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch only. Yields under dry sowing cannot be increased unless these defects are remedied. The more we advocate short aged varieties the emphasis should be more on depth control of seed and levelness of fields.

### Seed rate

The total quantity of seed used per acre is two bushels and over. If row dibbling is adopted  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel of seed is more than sufficient. That means the farmer could save  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bushels per acre. At the present price of Rupees 80/- per bushel, the farmer will save Rupees 120/- worth of paddy. The total expenses for row dibbling an acre will not cost this much. In addition the Rs. 120/- worth of rice that has been wasted could be used for consumption and reduce the national foreign exchange drain. An average of 1.5 million acres are broadcast each year in Sri Lanka and if the entire resources of manpower is utilised to Row Dibble the entire rice fields the country will save 180 million rupees worth of rice and save equal amount of foreign exchange per year.

### Manicks Drum Dibbler

A total of 8 to 10 units of labour will be required to row dabble an acre. But this labour unit can be cut down to one if the above dibbler is used. Two youths out in the field with this dibbler and completing one acre for the day can earn Rs. 60/- per day each or work the field and carry  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bushels of rice to their homes. This will not only make each youth to earn Rs. 60/- per day but indirectly help the country to save drain on foreign exchange and increase the self sufficiency of rice for the country of birth. The efficiency of the dibbler had been evaluated by the senior agricultural economist of the Department of Agriculture (Agricultural Economics studies No. 6 of 1-9-1973.)

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When the last truck rumbled out of the streets of Kantharmadam carrying Brigadier Balthazar's soldiers satiated after their orgy of arson, looting and assaults for the people of Kantharmadam the future held nothing but emptiness. To that section of the depressed class of people of the area who were already struggling for a square meal a day, even the roofs over their heads had vanished with their humble cadjan cottages and their few precious belongings also going up in smoke. The families which had scattered all over the peninsula, seeking refuge, held confused and frustrated question marks on their faces.

But the very next day their destiny took a turn for the better, as if miraculously. The dedicated students of the University of Jaffna set about rebuilding Palam Road (i.e., Old Road) into a new village. They undertook to rebuild 48 of the worst affected houses out of the 64 which were totally demolished. They visited such distant areas as Mullaitivu, Myliddy and Vavuniya collecting voluntary contributions in cash and kind. They provided the affected families with cadjan tats, poles and utensils to rebuild their houses. They bodily helped in reconstructing ten cottages whose inmates didn't have any male members. They distributed rice and provisions enough for a month to keep their kitchen fires burning.

#### No waiting for

#### govt. aid

The public and business men too gallantly responded to the efforts of the University Students. Money and clothes came pouring in. Food was provided round the clock by various public spirited organizations. The Lions Club provided hurricane lamps. The Rotarians undertook the repair of some of the damaged cement houses, and they have plans to put up a few semi-permanent dwellings.

The fund for the Kantharmadam victims, collected by the University Students, which had grown to Rs. 75,000/- within a week, shows every sign of mounting up, and the students have decided to use the opportunity to collect as much as possible so that the Fund will prove handy when other damages are inflicted on the Northerners by the armed personnel in the future. Arson by security personnel has become such

# Resurrection of Kantharmadam

a recurrent feature in the life of Jaffna that the students feel a permanent Fund is certainly necessary.

Meanwhile, a week after the destruction, the families of Kantharmadam are back in their area cheerfully and bravely building their homes anew.

Looked at in this light even the tragedy of Kantharmadam has come as a blessing in disguise. By making the public to contribute a share of their possessions to lift a section of their nation who had become victims of a common oppression, the students have been break-

Tamil NATION. Kantharmadam's rehabilitation has been an occasion in which the Tamils of different castes have been reaching out their hands to make new relationships and strengthen common bonds.

The spirit in which the students of the University

have been pitting their moral strength against the brute force of the soldiers. Such resilience and stoic courage that the students and the people of Kantharmadam have shown are certainly necessary to the Jaffna man, at a time when state terrorism has become a fact of daily life.

The million dollar question is: did the militant youths expect such positive developments when they made the attack on the polling booth? Otherwise why did they attack at 4.30 p.m. when voting was nearly over and at a time when the incident would have little influence on the voting pattern of the district. If so, the Forces have certainly fallen into a trap set by the Tigers! Apart from driving the public more towards the camp of the extremist youth and further away from the state, the army reprisal has resulted in the integration of Tamils as a Nation.

As Kantharmadam gradually rises from its ashes, like a Phoenix, it becomes a symbol of resilience and creativity in the midst of anarchy, chaos and destruction.

by

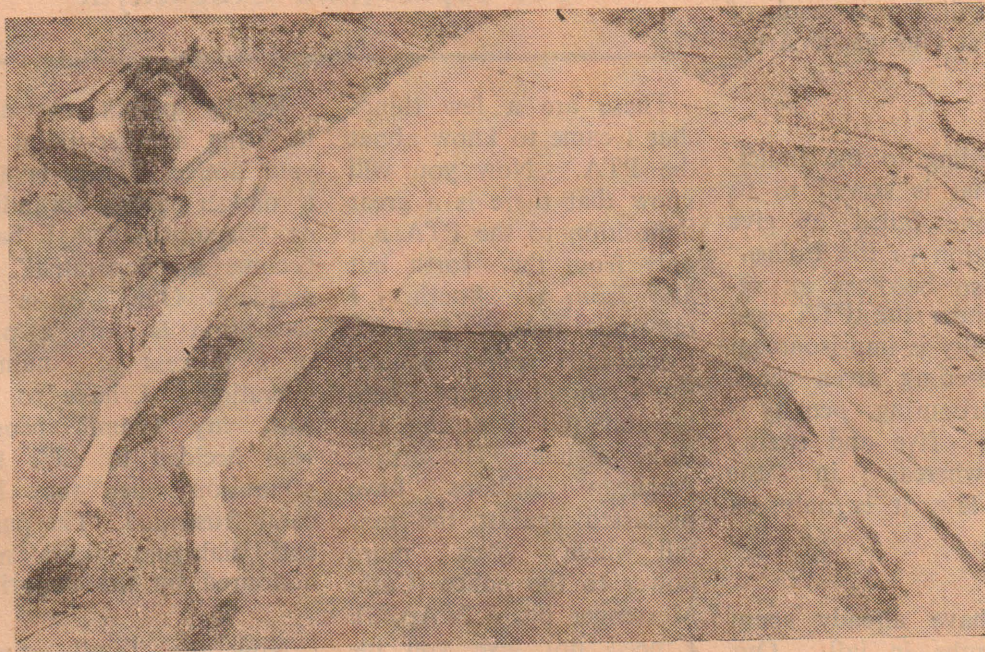
a Staff Writer

The students and public who are involved in this inspiring project are certainly not unaware of the implications of this effort in the Tamil nation's road to liberation. "LIBERATION" means not only the crushing of the oppressor; it also means, more significantly, the creation of new People, who are morally liberated; a new nation of people who can treat each other equally and live as a society without government aid. But this moral transformation does not come about overnight. This is the result of a long process in which the consciousness of the people gradually matures.

ing the Jaffna man's hard shell of tight-fistedness and materialism. As people from different remote areas collected funds for the people of Kantharmadam and identified with their plight, the Tamils of different backgrounds have been more closely integrating themselves as a NATION.

It is well known that the people who suffered most at Kantharmadam were people from the so-called lower castes. But the way the rest of the Tamils have been empathising with these people these past few days came as a remarkable demonstration of closing of ranks in the

and the people of Kantharmadam have approached the tragedy which befell them is itself worthy of emulation. Whereas the TULF fatalistically decided to leave a section of the burnt public library unburnt as a reminder of state terrorism, and later kept pleading for measly compensation from the Government, the people of Kantharmadam on the other hand have immediately set about rebuilding their village themselves, rather than beg for state funds which would never come. As Kantharmadam is resurrected from its embers, the people with their positive and constructive outlook



Human Organizations which stand up for legal rights, justice and fair-play in the south do not always stand up for those principles when the affected victims are Tamils. What will those who stand for the prevention of cruelty to animals say in respect of the animal victims of the Army arson and atrocities at Kantharmadam Jaffna on the night of May 18th? Could it depend on whether they are Sri Lankan goats or separatist goats?

## Under 17 - Cricket : Patricians beat Jaffna College

St. Patrick's beat Jaffna College in the 1st innings, at the St. Patrick's College Grounds last Saturday in the Jaffna District (Under 17) Cricket Tournament.

Patricians scored 220 for 8 with an elegant knock of 62 n.o. by S. A. Gladston. S. W. Kingsley the Vice

Captain of the side dominated the Jaffna College cricketers with his superb bowling, claiming 8 wkts for just 17 runs, in 15.2 overs with seven maidens. D. Balashankar made a hard knock of 45 runs for the losers.

St. Patrick's College: 1st

innings 220 for 8 decl (E. S. Egbert 30, T. D. Premanayagam 25, N. D. Anandarajah 27, S. A. Gladston 62 n.o. A. Jesurajah 2 for 51, M. Balachandran 2 for 58, A. J. Gunathilagan 3 for 31)

Jaffna College 1st Innings 85 all out.

(D. Balashankar 45, G. J. Jesurajah 19, S. W. Kingsley 8 for 17 off 15.2 overs with 7 maidens, N. D. Anandarajah 1 for 15 off 18 overs with 9 maidens)

Jaffna College: 2nd Innings 36 for 1 (S. Augustine 13 no., G. J. Jesurajah 14, S. W. Kingsley 1 for 2)



# Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

From Welikade Jail

## Kantharmadam residents' loss estimated at over Rs. 6 million

The Army rampage at Kantharmadam on 18th May caused damage estimated at over Rs. 6 million.

A team of Jaffna University students has made

this estimate based on statistics it collected.

According to information collected by the team, 54 houses were burnt, 64 damaged, 9 motor cars, 3 mini buses, 1 motor cycle and 20

bicycles were burnt. 16 bicycles were damaged. Jewellery looted or lost tot up to over 4000 sovereigns. Cash lost amounts to nearly Rs. 3 lakhs. Altogether, over 700 persons were affected.

# Fr. Singarayar writes to the Bishops

Welikade Prison,  
Colombo 8,  
8th May 1983

To: Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank  
Marcus Fernando,

The President

To Bishops' Conference of  
Sri Lanka,

Bishop's House,  
Chilaw

My Lord,

Greetings from Welikade  
Prison.

Please permit us to bring to your notice the plight that we are undergoing hoping that some action will be taken to remedy the situation.

It is after the statement that was issued to the Press by the Bishops' Conference in mid November '82 that our situation became worse at Gurunagar Army Camp. The C.I.D. officers told me that the Bishops are no more with you and they have let you down badly. Then they started torturing me. They went to the extent of making me naked and assaulted me. They promised me that they will not implicate the Church if I follow their ideas. They abstracted statements from me against my freedom. They also promised me to take me before a magistrate but they never did.

After a few days, I learnt that the Security Forces made a statement in favour of the Church.

It is only after coming to Welikade Prison—that is also very recently—that I had a chance of going through the past copies of the Catholic Messenger in which I read the statement that was issued by the Bishops' Conference. There it stated that the Church condemns violence and an appeal was made that a "fair trial" should take place.

The Archbishop of Colombo and his Auxiliaries were kind enough to visit us at Welikade prison. We have already spoken to them in detail of what had happened to us especially to Bishop Oswald Gomis who was the Secretary of the Bishops' Conference.

I do not know whether you are aware of the implications of the Prevention of Terrorism Act under which we are going to be tried. The "Statements" that were abstracted from us after torturing and promises become the evidence against us in the Courts.

The judicial power is given to the Armed Forces by this Act (PTA) and innocent people are victimised. It is very recently that a youth died as a result of torture at Gurunagar Army Camp.

According to the Indictment that is served to us "we have failed to give information to the Police." This also becomes an offence under the PTA and the penalty is imprisonment not exceeding seven years. For harbouring, penalty is between five and twenty years, whereas in the British law, it is only six months.

We have already spent six months in jail. Our trial is fixed for the 6th June 1983 and it is more likely that the trial will not be taken up on that day. We are refused bail under the PTA whereas murderers and people who have committed rape are allowed to go on bail.



Fr. Aparanam Singarayar

These are a few things that I came to know about the PTA. Now you will know that there is a great opposition to the PTA not only from the North but also from the South. I remember that the Bishops' Conference spoke against the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) during the SLFP regime. The British Anglican Bishops have protested against the new bill which gives more power to the police (Cath. Messenger pg. 8:24 Ap.83). I need not give you instances where the Church has spoken up against unjust laws and stood for Justice.

I feel that it is the sacred duty of the Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka who has promised a "Fair trial" to speak against this Act under which unbearable torture is taking place and innocent youth are being killed. It is the duty of every Christian to speak against this brutal Act.

Kindly permit me also to bring another point to your notice. There is also a danger namely branding us "Separatists". I have become a "Separatist" by accident. Our cause of separation is only a part of a process of human liberation. I have to be with my Tamil people who decided in 1977 for separation when they became frustrated. The pacts and dialogues were not honoured by the majority.

Now the Tamil people are 'POOR' people of this country, deprived of many of their rights. As a CHRISTIAN I have to be with the 'poor' for Christ came to the 'poor'. The Charism of our Oblate Congregation is to preach the Gospel to the 'poor'. Who are the 'poor'? Very Rev. Fr. Superior General in his Christmas letter 1982 replies "The youth who have taken up to drugs, the youth who have taken up arms."

Therefore what I have done and my commitment is perfectly in keeping with the Gospel values. The attack which was made on me by the Armed Forces is certainly an attack on the Priestly Ministry of Christ. I have no hesitation to suffer for this cause, following Christ.

But, what I am finding it difficult to stomach is the unnecessary suffering that is caused by our slackishness to discover the truth and to speak for the truth. Now we are suffering because of the hasty statement that was made by the Bishops' Conference without going into the matter.

Therefore to remedy the situation may I suggest the following for the consideration of the Bishops' Conference:

01. To request the Government to take up our trial on the 6th June without postponing;
02. In case of postponement, we should be allowed to go on bail;
03. To request the Authority to take our trial under the normal law, for statements have been abstracted after torturing;
04. That the Bishops' Conference study the PTA and request the Government to repeal or amend the Act.

Please excuse me for having taken your time. I shall be thankful to you if you are kind enough to take a speedy action on our case, for we have only a few weeks for our trial.

Thanking you—

May God bless you.  
Yours devotedly in Christ  
Sgd. A. Singarayar, OMI