

HOT SPRING

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His Worry!!

The head of the Tamil Nadu Branch of the Bharathiya Janata Party, Mr. Jana Krishnamoorthy, calling for CBI probe into militant activities, told the Indian Express: "In the rural parts of Tamil Nadu local supporters of the LTTE were systematically building up the image of LTTE supremo, V. Piraba'aran. His photos could be seen in many households".

PIRABAHARAN

Makes Public

Appearance

Surging Crowds Display Joy

Mr. Velupillai Pirabakaran, Leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam made a public appearance on the second day of the Tamil Festival held at Chavakachcheri on Monday, June 10th, 1991 to distribute National Awards to selected persons for their contribution to the national life of the Tamil people. Each award consisted of a gold medal with the Tiger emblem embossed on it, a certificate and a cash donation of Rs. 25,000/-

The Tamil Festival—an art and cultural programme organized by the Art and Cultural Section of the People's Front of Liberation Tigers began on June, 6th, 1991 at Manipay and concluded on 15th June, 1991 at Jaffna. In the interim the Festival programmes were also conducted at Chavakachcheri and Nelliady.

The programmes consisted of music recitals, staging of dramas, debates and lectures on selected topics. The PFLT also announced the award of national honours to eight selected persons for their contributions in their own spheres of life.

The PFLT had made arrangements to have the national awards distributed by the LTTE leader, Mr. Velupillai Pirabakaran.

It is learnt that the recipients of the award were brought to the venue of the meeting. They were told that their awards would be handed over by Mr. Pirabakaran. The recipients were taken to the platform in time to receive the awards. At the platform Mr. Pirabakaran handed over the award on a silver plate to each of the recipient and himself made a small speech.

This is the second time in his life that Mr. Pirabakaran

has made a public appearance. Earlier on August 4th, 1987, Mr. Pirabakaran appeared on a public platform at Suthumalai where he made a historic speech.

Mr. Pirabakaran then said that the LTTE could not accept the Rajiv Gandhi Jayewardene Accord but added that in view of the assurance given by India for security of the Tamil people, he would lay down arms and stated that India was accepting a heavy responsibility for the security of the Tamil people.

At Chavakachcheri when Mr. Pirabakaran made his appearance, people were over

joyed and showed their enthusiasm by non-stop greetings. The people showed great enthusiasm to see the leader especially after the wily campaign carried out by All India Radio and the late Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne (and of course the so-called 'national' press in Colombo) against Pirabakaran.

Once earlier Mr. Pirabakaran met newsmen but it was an exclusive meeting with only news reporters and the public had no means of meeting or seeing him.

"Shouts of Piraba Valzha" "Thambykkku Jai" rent the air for about five minutes before he started his speech.

"GREETINGS TO PIRABA"

RAJIV GANDHI

"Convey my greetings to Pirabakaran", Rajiv Gandhi is reported to have said to a senior LTTE central committee member when the latter met the former Prime Minister of India on the 5th of March this year at the residence of the late Mr. Gandhi at 10 Janpath, New Delhi. The meeting was unpublished.

This is revealed in a news report in the Madras Hindu of 25th May, 1991.

The news emanating from the Hindu's Special correspondent also states that the meeting between Rajiv Gandhi

Factory run in collaboration with a foreign organisation were shot dead by the Sinhala Army.

Govt. is trying to skip over saying that it may be the work of some individual.

and LTTE representative 'went off well' and at some stage Rajiv is reported to have said that Pirabakaran should "continue the struggle". The report further adds that Pirabakaran had expressed his satisfaction at the renewal of contact with the former Prime Minister.

This, coming as it does from India, must have confounded Sinhala policy makers who are endeavouring to pass the crime connected with Rajiv's murder to the LTTE.

**3,586 Killed
1,790 Injured**

Over 3,500 Tamils are reported dead or missing in the Batticaloa District since the current war started a year ago. Over 1,750 Tamils have suffered injury to their

(Continued on Page 6)

LEADER ACKNOWLEDGES



Picture taken of Mr. Pirabakaran at the Chavakachcheri Tamil Festival Celebration. The LTTE leader is acknowledging the greetings of the people who thronged to see him. Picture - Courtesy 'Eelanadu'

Carnage at Kokkatcholai
Sinhala Army Runs Amock

Innocent civilians inclusive of a large number of women and children numbering over 185 have been killed, over 250 were injured, six lady teachers raped, children burnt alive by the Sinhala Army on Wednesday, 12th June, 1991 by resort to shooting, cutting and clubbing to death. About 400 houses belonging to Tamil villagers have been set on fire. At the time of writing, it was

reported that the carnage was still continuing.

According to the B.B.C. and All India Radio, when questioned by news reporters about the incident, the Sri Lankan authorities have kept silent. However, a government official is reported to have condemned this dastardly act and stated that the information in this connection was being collected to be presented to the President.

Earlier some of the Non Governmental Organisations working in the area have complained that they were prevented by the Sinhala Army from entering the affected area to do relief work.

It is to be recalled that it was in this very same village of Kokkatcholai in Batticaloa District in 1987 that over 200 innocent employees of a Prawn Processing

Desultory Ramblings of Vadali Velan

Everyone to his or her own individual thoughts is and problems in these trying times. As to our friend, the village chronicler, he is wandering about in ever-widening circles with a furrowed brow and intense mien, a condition which leads us to believe that he is again at his usual game of coming to grips with an abstruse problem, of, probably, a historical import. Being accosted and asked to show cause he confesses that his mind is now exclusively occupied with finding out what sort of device Prince Vijaya would have employed on his followers, more than a millenium ago, to ensure that they remained celibate for a particular period of time. Did he instal a male chastity belt on each of his many followers prior to his hopping off to Mahiyangane and cutting capers around his sweetheart, Kuveni? After his grand dalliance away from his comrades, over more than a decade while two offsprings, did he return to find these devices intact so that he was subsequently able to marry his friends off to imported Indian royal damsels? Who is sued the necessary certificates of health (not to speak of those for character) to Vijaya and his retinue, thereafter, so that the mighty and proud king of Madurai did condescend to gift 700 maidens to these hither to renegades as if on a platter? However, we are not alarmed at our friend's proclivities. He is an authority, in his own right on historical lores, and is reputed for having debunked the canard that Vijaya's grand dad had been a lion, conclusion anyone in his or her right mind would concur with today. He has also declared that Lada (Lata) and other such place names occur as locations in both the Western as well as Eastern parts of Ancient India and that it would be from the Lata or Singapura of the East or in Kalingaland that the Vijayan dynasty originated, if at all the story itself is true! He further avers that the tale of how his hero's grandson fled Eastwards (from a Western Lata), 800 miles to Bengal across rugged jungle terrain, trailing two tiny tots and tracked by a vengeful and irate mate (sans even a second hand helicopter) is strictly for the marines!!

This is what becomes of human affairs when a "trustworthy" venerable like Maname of Mahavamsan fame (or infame?) decides to take the populace for a ride; with disastrous effects on our neighbours, the Sin-

halese and with a time-consuming headache for our friend the chronicler with his penchant for ferreting out the truth. Whatever, be the rigmarole, Vijaya lived and died a Hindu prince decades before birth of Lord Buddha; and Prince Vijaya could not have known a word of Sinhala, which language received its distinct identity, for the first time, only in the 12th century, at the court of the thrice-crowned queen, Leelawathy.

Quirks of history, combined with hysterical rantings (not to be confused with historical narrations) of the bald-pated religious gentry of the Island, have generated in the Sinhala nation a psyche so monstrously confusing that the average Sinhala individual today, is groping for a sane and rational way of life. Who are these leaders of his and of what calibre are they? What moral fibre they bare when they make mincemeat of their own legal system to suit their slightest whim or fancy, leaving the judiciary a quivering, covering and pliable jelly. The Sinhala individual is brought up to believe that he is a privileged purebred Aryan and hence obliged to pay kudos to the fair complexion, however, foreign. This account for the proclivity amongst many Sinhala youngsters, even amongst those of the Civil Service making a bee-line to the Central hills to claim brides of "Kandyan complexion" probably born of Dasconian mischief wrought in the land of "Kandyan hospitality". Contrarywise, the Sinhalaya is led to revere, with a fervent fremzy of adulation the non-Aryan Vijaya, Devanampiya Tissa and Prakrama (all Kalingars) and the Nagas, Kakavarna Tissa and his son Dutu Gemunu - proclaiming all the fore going as doughty Sinhala kings of the first water. Much admiration is also meted out to their hero of heroes, Keppetipola and to his sister Ehelapola Kumarihamy who were full blooded Malayalees (Kegalle diaries by Ivers)

It is but fortunate that the average Sinhalaya is even today lazy to think as, otherwise, his head will be in an eternal spin, trying to establish his identity.

Now what has been happening to the Sinhala elite and mis-rulers of present-day Ceylon in the meanwhile? Being ignorant as a babe born, of their own country's history and heritage and having been fed with tales of Hereward the Wake, the over-energetic Henry the Eighth and such-like, at well appointed colonially

favoured establishments like the Royal and St. Thomas's, they were delighted when the plums of office fell into their laps with a merry bang and just for the asking, though they possessed neither prior knowledge nor achievement of a national import to their credit. More strength to their collective elbow was added through family bandyism and the unclenephew system. However, they proceeded to have a ball of a time and even frittered away the nest egg of foreign exchange reserves left behind by the departing Briton. Once the Squandermania has run its course, they were driven to divert the attention of the people through various means, inclusive socially spectacular activities. The Sinhala caste system (vividly described by Janice Jiggins) was given the boot as a political formality, though it is not fully routed out especially at the higher echelons of political power, which includes the Sangha too. Though casteism was condemned as alien to modern thought, they, surprisingly, drummed up support for an old Mahavamsan canard of Sinhala Aryanism. This was done to add point to the repression of the Tamils and with the ultimate aim of diverting the attention of the people from the Island's dire economic plight. What a preposterous situation? I wonder these gentlemen ever look at themselves in a mirror with a critical appraisal. Eyes blue? Hair blonde? Skin really fair or that of a "black Aryan" or that of a Brown Sahib? Are they any fairer than the average Tamil? How amazing it is to find one of these erstwhile Sinhala leaders, while possessing preponderantly, the physiognomy of a muslim, claiming Aryan kinship with the North Indian and in the same breath stating that he is from a 2,500 year old Sinhala Buddhist race; though it is well known that he derives his ancestry from a domestic employee of the Dutch Colonel Drieberg and was a spy first for the Dutch and then for the English (a veritable turncoat!) against his own countrymen; furtherm

(Continued on Page 5)

We regret that by an oversight Rambler's column "This and That" in our last issue really carried the same matter that was published in Issue No. 34.

We very much regret the error and tender our apologies to our readers.

Editor

THIS AND THAT

by Rambler

MORE LIKE THEM

On my daily cycle ride to the market down the village road - I do see a charming young lady by the roadside in the company of a few young ladies, waiting for the fish vendor to come along. As she was new to the neighbourhood my curiosity was aroused and enquiries were made, only to discover that she was wife of a young professional engineer and the mother of two very young boys and that she was the product of the leading girls school in the north. I also came to know that this family had lived in the west for some years, where the husband not only owned a house but was in secure employment but that they chucked it all up and returned to their own native place and their origins like the salmon, so that they could be with their own people in their hour of distress and do whatever little they could.

Further down this same road - I met another charming character in his mid-forties, who told me that he was home on leave from the Middle East and was due to return in a couple of months but had decided to chuck up his lucrative employment and stay in his native place and do whatever was possible for the liberation struggle.

Looking at these two groups of people, I came to the conclusion that we definitely need MORE LIKE THEM to boost our morale. So how about it dear reader if you are now living abroad and have a small nest-egg put by, then why not return to us and keep the home fires burning. As a bonus you will be given the grand chance to witness our baby faced teenagers (both boys and girls) battling bravely with the sophisticated Bomber, Copter, Frigate and Armoured car whilst equipped only with the AK 47 and Cyanide capsule and chasing the well armed but cowardly enemy away from our dear soil.

OMNIPOTENT THONDAMAN

So we have Thondaman alias Thonda Thirukira-

Man shooting his mouth yet again. This time he has stated that who ever wins the Indian Elections, they will not intervene militarily in the internal affairs of this country. Now what makes this man think, that he can be the official mouth piece of the Indian Government and make such far reaching pronouncements. Is it by virtue of the fact that he is the son of an Indian Tea worker brought over by the British about 150 years back. In that case, every worker of Indian origin throughout the length and breadth of this Island, who is of lesser Indian vintage than Thondaman, can also say what future Indian Governments may or may not do. Or is Thondaman suffering from some kind of fear phobia, that makes him think, that from time to time, he should make statements that would please the Sinhala hoi polloi.

He has also stated, that Rajiv Gandhi will not repeat the errors and mistakes of the recent past. Is it because Thondaman will not be carrying misleading messages from his Sinhala mentors to the Indian leaders, as he did in the past. If it is the fear phobia, that is causing him to act thus, then he should realise, that many of his people, who were unreasonably thrown out of the estates, are now happily settled in EELAM and doing fine. So we say to you Thondaman, you too can get over your fear phobia by packing your bags and coming over to EELAM and then you need not fear the Sinhala hoi polloi any longer. After all did not Premadasa say very recently in Hatton, that had the CWC too joined, the EELAM struggle then the war would have also come to the Hills. So why wait until such times as the war coming to the Hills, when you can by pass that dangerous situation and come to EELAM, which belongs to all the Tamil Speaking people. May be you will come voluntarily and be garlanded, rather than be forced out and then tolerate Thonda Thirukira-

TAMIL PROBLEM ORIGINATES FROM BRITISH FAILURE

SURVIVAL OF TAMILS HINGES ON SEPARATION

Expat. Wakeley Paul Tells Lord Avebury

Mr. Wakely Paul, an expatriate Eelam Tamil in the States who is also the Vice President of the Ilankai Tamil Sangam, USA, recently wrote a letter to Lord Avebury with copies to other Lords and Baronesses who had participated in the debate in the House of Lords on the Eelam Tamil question. He put the entirety of blame for the present troubles on the failure of Britain to recognize the existence of two separate nations in the Island of Ceylon and concluded that the only solution to the problem was the creation of a sovereign Tamil Eelam State in the Island. The letter is being published by Courtesy of Tamil Nation, London.

Dear Lord Avebury: Your Lordship's speech on the "miserable state of affairs in Sri Lanka" reported in (House of Lords, (Hansard) Vol 525, No. 31, Wednesday 23, January 1991.) revealed a deep concern for "peoples" who presently inhabit that island.

I write this response on the one hand, as one of over a million Tamils, who have been either forced or induced to leave the country and seek refuge elsewhere, to avoid the consequences of Sinhala Buddhist domination. More importantly however, I represent here the views of the majority of the expatriate Tamils in the United States, which the Ilankai Tamil Sangam represents.

First and foremost, there has to be a clear distinction drawn between the problems facing the people in the Northeast Province, and the problems that the people of the south are confronted with. The former have to disentangle themselves from the desire of the Sinhala Buddhists to continue to rule them, regardless of what party they belong to, while the latter seek to free themselves from the military dictatorship of the present UNP government.

Your Lordship's initial conclusion that the "tragedy is self inflicted" stems from a confusion of the separate underlying causes, of the separate problems, that face the separate ethnic inhabitants of this island."

The problem of the Tamils in the Northeast (shared by the Tamil speaking Muslims of that region) originates from the failure of the British Government that ruled them for 150 years, to recognize them as a people with a separate and distinct identity and ideology from the Sinhalese, who dominated the south. This factor remained the dominant concern of the colonial Governors right through the dark fabric of British Rule, despite their desperate bid to unite them for reasons of administrative convenience. This was evident when Sri Andrew Caldecott as Governor stated just nine years before the grant of independence that "all our fissures radiate from the vexed question of minority representation," what he, as the last but one governor prior to grant of independence, failed to realize was that he was dealing with two separate nations that had been artificially merged by the British. At that time the

British patted themselves on the back for having seemingly forged a unity amongst those who had previously remained divided. They recognized the observation of the first colonial secretary to the island, Hugh Cleghorn in 1798 that "Two different nations, have from a very ancient period divided between them the possession of the island. The Sinhalese inhabiting ... the southern and western parts, and the Malabars (Tamils) the Northern and Eastern Districts. These two nations differ widely in their religions, languages and manners."

ship has missed in your analysis of the situation confronting the Northeast Province of this island, as it is presently described. It was the grant of a Unitary Constitution encompassing the island as one unit that has plagued this nation ever since. There was a false assumption of unity which had not in fact been accomplished under British Rule.

It did not take long for the Sinhala rulers to advance the fate of their own people at the expense of those who became minorities under this Unitary Constitution. Within

Gammons, MP. warned of: Danger of Racial Minority turning permanent Political Minority

They failed on the other hand to heed the warning of Mr. Gammons, Conservative MP for Hornsey, that even on the eve of Independence "Ceylon ... is not a single unit. There are two races in Ceylon, Sinhalese and Tamil. They (the Tamils) differ from the Sinhalese in race, religion, and to a large extent in background... where there is a racial minority in a country, the danger is, it may become a permanent political minority." (Hansard November 22nd 1947.) Never in the history of Ceylon (now renamed Sri Lanka) was a more prophetic statement made. The events since the British gifted to the Sinhalese the right to rule the Tamils in the Northeast has proved this prophecy to be unerringly accurate. It is this point that your Lord-

the first two years they denied one million plantation Tamils the right to citizenship and the right to vote, thus denying them the right to 8 of 98 seats in Parliament. They usurped the lands and waterways of the inhabitants of the northeast and gifted them as settlements to their own kind. They subordinated the Tamil language and supplanted it with their own as the official language of the Northeast where the dominant language was Tamil. They gave fishing rights to their people in the Northeast which were the fishing preserves of the people of the region. They denied equal access to higher education by preserving for their people over 2/3 right of entry to the universities. They continue to want to rule the people of the Northeast, on

their terms. In short, their only goal is to infiltrate the northeast, advantage their constituents at the expense of the local inhabitants, and subjugate its residents.

It is therefore not surprising that the majority of the parliamentary representatives of the Northeast have been elected from parties designed to protect them from the incursions of the Sinhala rulers. It follows that these representatives will, under the present constitution, remain a permanent political minority.

The Sinhalese have neither a moral or democratic right to continue to rule this region. Their presence is not only unwelcome and resisted, but detrimental to the rights of the local inhabitants. The Tamils and the Muslims of Eelam need a separate parliament of their own representatives if their aspirations are to be fulfilled. Their very survival hinges on separation. Their right to self determination is logical and necessary. It is time for the British government to acknowledge their mistake and recognize this reality.

The situation in the south, on the other hand, calls for a cleansing of their own house. Their problem is "self-inflicted". They have to take whatever steps are necessary to make this government shed its military posture and respond to the needs of the people. They, after all, cannot seek self determination from themselves. Nor can they blame the British for their plight.

Yours sincerely,
Wakeley Paul,
Vice President
Ilankai Tamil Sangam, USA

CC: Lord Bishop of Ripon
Lord Wilberforce
Lord McNair

Baroness Masham of Ilton
Lord Reay
Lord Taylor of Gryfe
Baroness Ewart-Biggs

AN AMERICAN VIEW POINT

UN Mandate in Gulf War Questioned

In the IFDA Dossier, April/May 1991 (International Foundation for Development Alternatives) Richard Falk, Professor of International Law at the Centre for International Studies, Princeton University, USA and holder of the Olof Palme Chair at Stockholm University in an article has questioned the UN mandate in the recent Gulf War. Here are some interesting excerpts:-

"Since the outset of the actual war in the Gulf the role of the United Nations has been reduced to zero"

"Is the Gulf War a fulfillment of a powerful United Nations taking over the task of protecting countries from aggression or is it the perversion of that dream?"

"With the ending of the Cold War, especially accompanied by Gorbachev's enthusiastic support for a global approach to war/peace issues, the UN received a new lease on life. The Gulf Crisis seemed to present the perfect opportunity to take full advantage of these favorable developments-clear aggre-

ssion against a small state, with the aggressor for the first time in UN history to annex a Member, and then intensifying the criminality of its undertaking by taking foreign hostages and committing a series of crimes against humanity in the occupied country."

"War should not have been authorized or even threatened by way of the 15 January deadline, and even if it erupted in any event, the UN had an obligation to control the definition of

war goals, the means chosen to achieve them and use its authority to impose a ceasefire. The Security Council has no authority whatsoever to delegate these responsibilities to one or more of its members, and its own legitimacy in relation to the overall membership of the UN, especially with regard to the Islamic world, is drawn into serious question. The General Assembly and the Secretary General should have been more active in preventing war, more vigilant in upholding the integrity of the UN

Charter in the face of the failure of the Security Council to act in accord with either its letter or spirit, and more vigorous in avoiding the impression and reality of double standards with respect to UN authority."

Some examples of 'double standards' quoted by him are - UN authority defied by Israel with the backing of the United States. Israeli refusal to withdraw from the territories occupied during the 1967 war including the

(Continued on Page 4)

Washington:

Asia Watch, a nonofficial American Human Rights monitoring organization, has charged that the Sri Lankan Government has directly contributed to the violence in Sri Lanka by "supporting, training and arming groups with a history of abuses against civilians, sometimes supporting two or more rival factions against each other, sometimes encouraging the formation of death squads composed of members of the security forces. It has engaged in a series of purges of suspected sympathizers of the various guerrilla groups, involving mass arrests, disappearances and extrajudicial executions."

Brutual campaign

Asia Watch also blamed the militants. "All have committed atrocities in the course of the civil war", it said.

Asia Watch said that the killing of Deputy Defense Minister Ranjan Wijeratne on March 2, 1991 underscored the Sri Lankan human rights situation, which is "marked by lawlessness on all sides". Wijeratne "ran an often brutal Government campaign against Tamil separatists". It is not immediately clear which of the several parties with grievances against the Minister was responsible for his killing. Those parties

ASIA WATCH

included militant groups such as the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), a radical Sinhalese nationalist insurgency operating in the south of the country, and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest of numerous Tamil guerrilla groups fighting for an independent state in the north-east."

Ranjan's assurance

Asia Watch noted in a 22-page update on human rights in Sri Lanka that in August 1990, Wijeratne told the Sri Lankan Parliament: "Just as we dealt with the JVP, the scum of the south, we shall deal with the scum of the north, we got the leadership of the JVP, and I have given assurance that we will get the leadership of the LTTE" (The top leaders of the JVP, "responsible for thousands of killings in 1988-89 of Government officials, members of the security forces and citizens believed to be working with them, were shot dead while in custody in late 1989".)

Two months before Wijeratne made the statement, however the LTTE and the Government had been in a de facto alliance Asia watch points out. "If the Govern-

ment's own abuses have served to escalate the violence in Sri Lanka, so have its continually shifting stands towards the guerrillas."

"If the LTTE initiated this latest round of fighting", says Asia watch, "the security forces have been equally responsible for abuses. Some civilian deaths have been attributed directly to the Army and police; others have been linked to vigilante groups. Since June 1990 there have been numerous reports of arrests, torture and killings of young Tamil men by the security forces."

Wrenching stories

Tamil refugees who have fled Sri Lanka have told

that since the Sri Lankan Army regained control of Batticaloa in June, they estimated that over 400 people have disappeared from that district alone, following detention by security forces. Although some may have been released, many are feared dead. In Batticaloa, "piles of burnt bodies have appeared in various places overnight when only the security forces are likely to be out on the roads."

Civilian shields

Asia Watch says that "according to reliable reports on September 29, members of the Special Task Force (STF) reportedly rounded up four tractor loads of Tamil civilians near Tirukkovil,

American Human Rights Body Condemns Lankan Terrorism

foreign journalists wrenching stories of the torture and horrible mutilation of young family members by Sri Lankan soldiers. Reports of disappearances, necklacing (burning live victims in tyres) as well as tyres being used to burn corpses are numerous. Many homes and business have been destroyed by fire.

Amnesty International reported in September 1990

many from refugee camps, and took them to Kanjikuldieharu. Some were made to march in front of the STF forces, reportedly to clear mines, while others were held close to STF Men as shields to protect their exposed side when carrying weapons. During the mission, the LTTE and the STF exchanged fire on several occasions,

seriously endangering the hostages.

When the Army finally reached the LTTE camp, they found food stores, supplies and refrigerators which the civilians were made to carry back to the STF camp. The refugees were allowed to keep a portion of these supplies when they were released, but this is small consolation for their humiliation and terror. Civilians now flee when the STF are sighted, often with tragic consequences.

Cyclists attacked

Asia Watch backs its charges by quoting Citizen's Committee of Jaffna, local Citizens Committees and Jaffna local Citizens Committees and Jaffna Diocesan Human Development Center. It quotes the Diocese report as saying: "The declaration of ourfow is an open licence to kill civilians at will from the air." People in the district of Jaffna travel almost exclusively by foot or by bicycle and often travel up to 90 miles in search of food." Thousands of bicycles move in and out of the peninsula night and day, carrying sacks of provisions. Hundreds of these bicyclists have been attacked and killed by helicopter gun ships..

Courtesy :
Tamil Nation, London.



TORMENTING

The Editor,

The attention of Hon. Minister of Finance is focused through this esteem journal of the hardships and inconvenience experienced by the pensioners drawing their pensions at the Rural Bank, Nelliady.

Non-availability of sufficient allocation of liquid cash is the Bank's attribute. This Rural Bank which was located in the heart of Nelliady town has in recent times been shifted to the distant Samiyan Arasadi. Old and feeble pensioners have to make numerous trips to this Bank before their mission becomes fruitful.

Is this the Bank's bureaucracy or the State machination to torment the Tamils could be best explained by whoever is responsible for this disgraceful and inhuman conduct.

How would the Sinhalese have reacted in a situation like this? The answer is fore gone - they would have waged

war against the responsible party. Unfortunately the Tamils have cultivated the habit of forbearance and tolerance and so they are being tormented in numerous methods.

The attention of the Govt. Agent, Jaffna is also drawn through this esteemed journal of the predicament of these poor pensioners so that he as the representative of the State will move the machinery of public utility in order and obviate the hardships of the old and feeble pensioners, by restoring punctuality and promptness in the payment of their monthly pensions.
D. Jeevananthan.
Vathiry.

Rajiv's Death

The Editor,

There was lot of speculation in the International Press regarding the death of Rajiv Gandhi but your Issue of 9.6.91 kept silent,

At least you should have had your comment regarding

celebration of his death at the Capital City of Sri Lanka by lighting crackers all round the city with sudden burst of Jubilation. It seems that the Baudha - Sinhala culture of celebrating a death in this manner.

The High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Mr. Jha and diplomats of the Indian Embassy would have

UN Man...

(Continuation of Page 3)

West Bank and Gaza strip and rejection of all reasonable approaches to the satisfaction of Palestinian claims of self-determination. There is a disturbing impression that the United Nations has been converted during the Gulf Crisis into a "virtual tool of US. foreign policy, thereby compromising its credibility in the future"

He contends that the 'UN rush to mandate war almost totally discounted the alternative of sanctions.' Two countries most reluctant to pursue the sanctions approach in the Gulf Crisis were the U.S.A. & U.K. who lectured the world community that in relation to South

had the first hand experience of this Colombo celebration. Where is the friendship and mutual understanding they are trying to build up? At least Mr. Jha will be able to enlighten the policy-makers regarding the Sinhala Sri Lankan attitude to India.

However, Mr. Premadasa and the members of the Government when the subsequent information about sus-

Africa it was necessary to be patient in order to allow sanctions to exert meaningful pressure. However, William Webster of CIA testified before Congress that sanction had cut down Iraqi exports by 97% and imports by 90% and Government and other officials have agreed with the general proposition that sanctions have been surprisingly effective.

The Gulf war was to a large extent a consequence of governments and public opinion being lulled toward submissiveness by a UN diplomacy of illusion crafted by the U.S. Most states learned this passivity during the Cold War, leaving global peace almost totally in the hands of superpowers.

picious on L. T. T. E. over this incident and as face-saving device declared a Day of mourning and also openly stated that they could assist to find the killers. What happened in Jaffna over this death? First a shock - later apathy and then sympathy for a man who died so young.

V Navaratnam
Kalviyankadu,

The Gulf War makes it plain that the persistence of this passivity is likely to produce a new dangerous version of Pax Americana and thus reduce the United Nations to a 'rubber stamp' and its Secretary General to an 'errand boy'.

The Gulf War vividly demonstrates the acute dangers to world peace from a refusal of countries with economic power and leverage to throw their weight in the direction of peaceful settlement of conflicts on behalf of common standards of law, morality and justice so that equals are treated equally when it comes to a refusal to bend the will of the global community as expressed through the United Nations.

A Free Tamil Eelam is a Certainty

— Pirabakaran

"It is people who are united by high ideals who make history. As a product of this history our land will become a free country. And this is certain", said Mr. V Pirabakaran speaking at the Tamil Festival held at Chavakachcheri after he distributed the national awards to the recipients.

Continuing Mr. Pirabakaran said:

"I am extremely happy to participate personally in this historic event today. I am proud that I have been given the opportunity to honour the great and true sons of our soil who worked or are working even today for the emancipation of our Tamil country, for the emancipation of the people of Tamil Eelam and for the renaissance of our Tamil Eelam national culture.

"It is in keeping with our Tamil culture to honour the good men who do good service. I extend to the Arts and Cultural Section of our Movement my heartiest congratulations for maintaining this sublime tradition.

"We regard the persons to whom we award this national award which is the highest

honour of our Tamil Eelam country as very great men. All these men are high idealists. They love their country and their people and are great patriots. They stepped out of the narrow circle of self-interest and rendered service to society, to national interest and to the welfare of the people. Their knowledge, their creative ability, and their work ability have all contributed to strengthening upliftment of Tamil Eelam society. Their service must grow and get exalted further and further. It is, therefore, that we decided to give them great honour by awarding national award.

"There is meaning and significance in our calling this award the 'National Award'. We the people of Tamil Eelam constitute a national entity. Historically we constituted a nation, we live as a nation today and shall continue to live as a nation in the future too.

"It is immaterial whether our enemy accepts our nationhood or not. We shall always make it known to the world that our nationhood is a unique and indestructible political reality. The national award we make is

really a declaration of this nature.

"We are today honouring some people who have made unique national contributions. Annually such awards shall be made on the occasion of the Tamil Festival in the future too. Every year great men will be selected and the honour of national award bestowed on them. Though only a few patriots have been selected for receiving this national award the award has to be perceived as an honour to all our people.

"Our people are worthy of honour. Our people are worthy of being praised. Our peoples' contribution to our national struggle is not ordinary. I would say their contribution is immeasurable. We have to call all our innumerable supporters and sympathisers who unobtrusively contribute their mite to our freedom struggle as great men.

"For a long time it is the common man who is bearing

the brunt of the struggle. We cannot adequately describe in words the unbearable suffering our people undergo by facing death and destruction, famine and hunger, tears and blood.

"The world over, it is the common man who bears the burden of tyranny against liberation struggles. This is because the tyrants show greater keenness in destroying the moral strength of the common people than destroying the liberation fighters. But this attempt never bears fruit.

"Peoples' yearning for freedom cannot be destroyed by tyranny. This is a fact that the history of the world teaches all. This is because the desire for freedom remains essence of the human soul. It is man's life breath. This is the great force that keeps going human history.

"Sinhala imperialism and tyranny, though it has given our people death and destruction and unbearable woes,

has also induced patriotism and quest for liberation, hitherto unknown. It has kindled the Tamil national soul.

"The Tamil Festival we celebrate today is a marvellous exhibition of the resurgence of our people's consciousness. At a time when people live under war conditions and the enemy's ammunitions boom on our borders, people have surged in their thousands for this festival. This clearly shows our people's determination and their yearning for freedom.

"It cannot be said that our people's clarion call has not reached the enemy's ears. Neither the Sinhala community nor the International community can ignore our nation's resurgent voice which is like a volcano. It is people who are united by high ideals who make history. As a product of this history our land will become a free country. And this is certain."

The Plight of the Tamils in the East of Sri - Lanka today

From homes driven,
Their houses burnt or looted bare;
In jungles and fields,
They meet ignominious death
By hunger and ill-health.

By the threat of hooligans,
Both Sinhala and Muslim,
Out from the refugee camps
The innocents, in numbers,
Are taken to be hacked and killed;
Women to be raped and bullet-drilled.

All - all in connivance with
That twin-tongued viper.
Of the Keselwatte shelter.
Oh, Ye in the world,

Look! Look and pretend
Not to understand the wiles
Of this villainous man so vile,
Whose aim it is to make
This land of ours — Pan-Sinhala — Pan-Buddhist!

Oh, ye Westerners
With all thy knowledge of all
The Arts and Sciences
Of this wide world,
Aren't you capable
Of glimpsing this terrible
Knotty web of deceit,
With much conceit,
Their politicians vicious
And Monks wayward and tenacious,
Disseminate around the world?
Feign ye not to know! — You are Cold.

— Ram —

Acute food shortage in Vakkarai

The people in Vakkarai AGA's Division on the southern tip of Batticaloa District are facing a famine situation, states a news report from Batticaloa.

The Assistant Government Agent, Vakkarai retired from service at the beginning of this year. Since then this Division has had no permanent officer to attend to the work of the AGA. The AGA Valaichenai has been appointed to act as AGA, Vakkarai. But Vakkarai is about 25 miles from Valaichenai and the

acting officer cannot effectively function in the present state of Army rule in the District and the lack of transport facilities. The Multi-Purpose Co-operative Stores Society of Vakkarai has also ceased to function resulting in complete break-down of food supplies. Even Grama Sevaka Officers are reluctant to work in the area due to the activities of the Sinhala Army.

All foodstuffs have to be transported to Vakkarai from Valaichenai. Since there is

no transport service, supplies cannot be taken to Vakkarai even by private effort. Some persons who are able to cycle or walk the distance, carry some foodstuffs from Valaichenai to Vakkarai but of necessity such food stuffs are grossly inadequate to meet the urgent needs of the starving people and can only serve the members of the family of such men.

To make matters worse, the Army has made order retaining all government relief supplies with the Army. The Army has also detained food supplies to Vakkarai by private Non-governmental organizations, insisting that supplies should be distributed only from Army Camps. The report adds that people are scared to go to Army Camps to obtain food supplies. The people of Vakkarai are facing a famine situation.

IN BATTICALOA

Army engaged in disrupting economic activity-Farmers & milk vendors victims

The preliminary preparatory work for the Maha cultivation in the Batticaloa District usually begins during the current months. The farmers - or more exactly those of them who are still able to live in their villages, have started this preliminary work.

The Sinhala Army also have begun to harass the farmers who go to their fields for this preparatory work.

Reports from Batticaloa state that Sinhala Army personnel go to the fields where the farmers work and open fire or assault the farmers who are on the fields working. This army harass-

ment has caused a number of farmers to abandon their cultivation work. It is feared that because of the Army harassment large tracts of fields may not be cultivated at all bringing disastrous economic consequences to the Tamils who are by and large a predominantly agricultural community.

The reports also say that the Army personnel harass milk vendors when out on work carrying milk for sale. The motive for this harassment of the people by the Sinhala Army appears to be the destruction of the economic base of the Tamils in Batticaloa.

Desultory...

(Continuation of Page 2)

ore, this leader's ancestors are known to have professed various faiths at opportune times, chiefly with an eye on material well-being; the great grand dad was a Tamil-speaking Hindu (Muslim?).

Why didn't these Prize nincompoops and miserable human beings desist from spending their time and energies on parading their pedigrees and from leading the people astray; and why didn't they do the job the people had chosen them for: the job of governing the nation fairly and squarely? We are, certainly, not amused!!!

HOT SPRING

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Let us Grow in Stature

As the first year of the ongoing battle ended on June 10th, Mr. Pirabakaran appeared in public to distribute national awards to eight selected persons for distinguished services to Tamil Eelam and its people. Of the eight persons, three were awarded the honour posthumously.

It would appear from the list of the eight persons selected for award of the honour that one is a member of the LTTE and that is Mr. Kasi Anandhan. Mr. Kasi Anandhan, however, has been awarded the honour for his contribution to literature. Mr. Kasi Anandhan's fame as a poet extends beyond the limits of Tamil Eelam and beyond the seas.

Apart from Mr. Kasi Anandhan, all others who received the awards have been thus honoured for their contribution in their own way towards the resurgence of Tamil nationalism.

It would appear that creative artistes and social workers have been honoured.

We think it is good gesture on the part of the LTTE to recognize and reward merit.

Some say that the ongoing war is now one year old. It would be more correct to say that the ongoing battle is one year old. The War is much older.

In fact the war began in the twenties and is going on to date. The difference is in the methodology of the war.

Just at this time we are reminded of another Tamil Festival in January, 1974. The Sinhala Police disturbed the final meeting of the International Tamil Festival. They opened fire which resulted in the death of nine Tamils and disturbed the meeting.

Looked at from what happened in 1974, the successful completion of the Tamil Festival in 1991 has been made possible not only by the absence of the Sinhala Armed Forces from most parts of the North but also by the mood of the people to brave the danger of possible aerial and artillery attack.

We have always been saying that the best way to end the war is to withdraw the armed forces of the government from the Northeast.

But that apart, the successful completion of the Tamil Festival with Mr. Pirabakaran personally appearing to distribute the national awards, speaks well for the growth of Tamil nationalist consciousness from all angles.

A nation's greatness does not rely solely on its military or state power. The grandeur that was Greece also arose from Greek contribution to philosophy, literature and art as much as to the political genius of the City-states.

It would be equally important to the Eelam Tamil nation to make great contributions in almost all fields of human activity. In fact there were and still there are many Eelam Tamils whose contributions in various fields, have certainly acquired for the Eelam Tamils a unique place even at a global level.

In fact the birth of the modern age in history begins with Renaissance and Reformation in Europe. Renaissance did not wait for political stability.

So too in Tamil Eelam the Tamils may be politically slaves today. They may be at the receiving end of a marauding horde trying to build an empire on archaic race-religious fundamentalism. But that need not retard the Tamil art and cultural growth. In fact this situation can give a fillip to the growth of the Tamil nation in every sphere of human activity.

The decision of the Tigers to honour all great contributors in various walks of life is a most welcome step auguring well for Tamil Eelam nation. It is hoped that each Eelam Tamil will contribute to the task of fostering Tamil nationalism through his or her own sphere of activity.

Bad record everywhere

Minister Hameed Rattles in Parliament

"I do not think any major political party in this House, can claim have contributed to communalism in this country. Whether it be the UNP, SLFP or MEP, all of them are guilty. The fact is that the hands of all the major political parties in this country are stained with having used the question of minorities to their political advantage."

"Look at your (SLFP) record. You opposed in 1965 the Regulations under the Tamil Language (Special Provisions) Act. The

same principles were initiated and enunciated in 1958 by the late leader of the SLFP, Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike. Look at your history from that day up to today. Can you cite one instance where on a major issue in this House, you have supported any move for the resolution of this problem? You accuse us of having set fire to the Library in Jaffna. I will come back to our record. Look at your record first. Have you supported one piece of legislation in this country

that sought to bring about a better understanding between the majority and minority communities in this country? I cannot think of any"

"I will tell you, we (UNP) are equally guilty. We stood for parity in 1956 and went to Kelaniya and changed it. What happened? We got reduced to eight members. And what happened again in 1960 July? We reversed our policy, took an anti-Tamil line. We were 50 in Parliament and we came back with 18. We have learnt our lesson."

Two Grama Sevaka Officers Abducted

Two Grama Sevaka Officers have been reported abducted by gangsters working in collaboration with the Sinhala Army in the Batticaloa District. No news in respect of the victims have been received since then.

Reports from Batticaloa state that on the 17th of May, 1991, two Grama Sevaka Officers were abducted from the office of the AGA Valaichenai, when the two officers had there gone in connection with their official duties.

While at the AGA's office, the two officers concerned were taken away by a group of Tamil armed gangsters working with the Sinhala Army. The victims were whisked away by the gang and nothing has been heard since then about the fate of the abducted officers.

The abducted Grama Sevaka officers have been identified as Chandramohan, the Grama Sevaka Officer of Perullaveli and Selvarajah, the Grama Sevaka Officer of Kallichehal, Vadamunai.

Kommanthurai Army Arrests Civilians

The Sinhala Army encamped at Kommanthurai in the Batticaloa District, arrested Marimuthu Sivaguru of Mavadi Vembu and Sutharsan of Koduwamadu on the 6th May, 1991. On the previous day the same Army arrested another person named Krishnapillai Krishnakumar of Karuvakerni.

All three persons are civilians. Nothing is known as to what happened to these men.

State Terrorism in Batticaloa

Over fifteen headless bodies were found in various parts of Batticaloa Town during the first half of May, 1991.

Reports received from Batticaloa in this connection state that persons in civil who come in either green or white vans, seize anyone whom they choose to and nothing is heard thereafter of the persons so abducted.

Over fifteen headless bodies were found in various parts of Batticaloa town and it is feared that the bodies must belong to the victims kidnapped. Since the bodies are without heads, identification of the dead persons become more complicated.

It is reported that the kidnappers belong to Vigilante

groups supporting the government and the exhibition of headless bodies in various parts of the town is meant to terrorize the people.

Army Killing Unabated

The Sinhala soldiers shot dead three Tamils at Pandaravali on the morning of 4th May, 1991.

The victims were non-combatant pedestrians going about their business.

The deceased have been identified as Theivanayakam, Mahendiran, and Kanapathipillai Shanmugam all of Pandaravali.

On the same day the Sinhala soldiers shot and killed four other Tamils at Velikandi in Periyapullumalai. The deceased are Ganeshan, Visnuvan, Mahendiram and Jesunathan all of Periyapullumalai.

Reports of Daylight robbery by Army

Reports from Batticaloa state that the Sinhala Army is engaged in looting properties left behind by Tamil refugees who have evacuated their homes for fear of the Sinhala Army and the Tamil gangsters working hand and glove with the Army.

The reports state that in almost all the villages in the Batticaloa District, people have left their houses and run away as refugees for fear of atrocities by the Sinhala Army and the Tamil gangsters working with the Sinhala Army. The Army is currently engaged in looting the belongings of the refugees. The loot includes fittings and

fixtures in abandoned houses, door, window frames and furniture and sundry items found in those houses whose inmates are in refugee camps.

It is also reported that the looted goods are addressed to officers of the Army and transported by lorries to their destinations.

3,586 Killed...

(Continuation of Page 1)
person. These figures are obtainable from complaints made to the Batticaloa Kachcheri by persons concerned.

It is learnt that the number of persons reported dead from the ten Assistant Govt. Agents' Divisions in the Bat-

ticaloa District total 2,444 up to April, 1991. Also a further 1,122 have been reported missing or disappeared. Thus in effect bringing the total persons killed in the District to 3,586 up to the end of April, 1991. This is the number so far reported to the Batticaloa Kachcheri.