

HOT SPRING

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We were a people and are so yet.
When we have finished quarrelling for crumbs
Under the table, or gnawing the bones
Of a dead culture we will arise.
Armed, but not in the old way.

R. S. Thomas.

SUNDAY OBSERVER ARTICLE

JAFFNA UNIVERSITY

ACADEMICS DENY AUTHORSHIP

The academics of the University of Jaffna have disassociated themselves from the authorship and views contained in an article under the Caption 'The Politics of destruction and human tragedy' published in instalments in the Sunday Observer from March, 24th 1991.

This article is purported to have been written and issued by the University Teachers (Human Rights) Jaffna and it is understood that the article was published in other papers including 'Lanka Guardian'.

Jaffna University Teachers who were contacted all denied any hand in the drafting and publication of this article. No one knew who was behind it.

The University Science Teachers' Association, Jaffna, when contacted, after deliberations in their Executive Committee passed the following resolution and authorized releasing the same to the Press.

The University Science Teachers' Association, Jaffna, resolution reads as follows:-

"An article published in instalments in the Sunday

Observer, from March 24, 1991 under the caption 'The politics of destruction and human tragedy' purportedly by the University Teachers for Human Rights, Jaffna, has been brought to our notice. We understand that the article has been reproduced in other magazines as well. The Executive Committee of the University Science Teachers' Association, Jaffna, deplores the attempt made by the publishers to present this article as a 'University Report' which represents

the views of the academics of the University of Jaffna. The Committee wishes to disassociate itself from the view expressed in the article".

Dr. S. K. Sitrapalam of the Arts Faculty and President of the University Teachers' Association, Jaffna, also denied that the article was written by any member of the University Teachers' Association, Jaffna. He too expressed the disagreement of the University Teachers' Association, Jaffna with the

view expressed in the article. It is further learnt that a University Teachers' Association (Human Rights) was formed many years back in Colombo but that Association had ceased to function a long time ago after the key officials left the Island.

University Teachers expressed the view that the article does not represent the views of any University Teacher in Jaffna and has not been authored by any University Teacher in Jaffna.

Kokkatticholai Inquiry Commission Fails to evoke Public Confidence

The appointment of a Commission of Inquiry to inquire into and report on the army atrocities that took place recently at Kokkatticholai in the Batticaloa District has failed to evoke any public confidence. It is reported that people in the area have expressed their grave doubts in the work of this Commission and have, stated to the BBC correspondent in Colombo that the Commission would only help to suppress the news of atrocities indulged in by the Army in a number of villages in the Kokkatticholai area becoming public.

It is further reported that an American priest Rev. Fr. Miller, living in Batticaloa has told the BBC correspondent that so far as he knew 123 Tamils have been killed and 49 have been seriously injured.

One hundred and forty nine houses have been completely destroyed and 342 houses severely damaged, Rev. Fr. Miller has said that this was a major calamity.

Rev. Fr. Miller has further said that because no legal action was taken against the offenders in similar army excesses and atrocities at the

same place earlier, the present incidents took place. It is likely that similar incidents will take place in the future too.

Fr. Miller had told the BBC correspondent that sixty seven dead bodies were found buried and 56 bodies of dead persons were missing. Many dead bodies have been burnt and the identity of the deceased cannot be determined.

Another person told the BBC correspondent that he saw personally women being dragged out of their homes and raped.

The public have expressed grave doubts about the

(Continued on Page 5)

Suicide Tigers Enrich Cricket Parlance

In the test match played last week between the formidable West Indies and the M. C. C. Cricket teams in England when the West Indian Captain and number 2 batsman V. Richards came in to bat and faced the bowler the English Captain Graham Gooch placed a fielder too close to the batsman at a silly mid - of position. The radio and television Commentator Tony Cozier was prompted to refer to the fielder's attempt as a suicide encounter just like that of an I. R. A. or Sri Lanka suicide Tiger in his running Commentary. Tany Cozier is yet to become familiar with the appropriate term 'Black Tiger'. Perhaps he may master it soon before the next opportunity comes his way.



PICTURES OF UNDERGRADS' DEMONSTRATION WENDING THROUGH THE STREETS OF JAFFNA - FOR NEWS SEE PAGE 6.

Courtesy - Eela Nadu.

MUSINGS BY NESTOR

The name of our homeland in Roman Script

Eelyom is round the corner. We must settle some preliminaries. To begin with, we must settle on the spelling of the proper noun, the name of our homeland in the Roman Script, which is the International Script. There is only one letter 'l' to service for answering the phonetical shape of *ல*, *ள*, *ல்* in the Tamil Script.

At present various spelling patterns are in use. Professor Suntheralingam began with the pattern Eylom. Probably he had not given much thought to it; otherwise he would have made it ee. The TULF used the pattern Eclam. Because TULF was the elected parliamentary party many people followed that pattern. It results in foreigners pronouncing the proper noun of our homeland as in ecl. Indra Gandhi and many foreigners also pronounced it as in ecl.

Nestor adopted at the start, following Suntheralingam's lead, to write Eelyom. But an Indian friend of his corrected it to EELYOM pointing out that the letter which modifies the sound of I should follow and not

precede I. Thus it will be seen that the correct spelling is EELYOM.

It represents the sound of *ய* and *ல* the sound of *ள* while I represents the sound of *ல*.

Of course linguists have certain rules for rendering into Roman Script words of other languages. According to this process the spelling would be

EEZHOM.

and would be rather pedantic and confusing to the laymen. It cannot be said that these rules are widely accepted. To try to spell thus would be analagous to the Tamil Pundit who cried, when his mother fell into the well, the alarm 'Euraay Koopathul. Hope no pedantry invades the spelling of the proper noun of our homeland Eelyom.

Open or Clandestine

It seems that D. M. K. leader Karunanithi does not know the A, B, C of politics. If he accepts responsibility for the Party's almost total failure at the polls, the logical sequence is to resign from the Party leadership, or more appropriately, to take steps for a complete change in the party's policy.

Resigning from the seat in the Legislature is a *non sequitur*. There is no relevance in resigning the seat in the Assembly.

As everyone knows, the congress and A.I.A.D.M.K. accused Karunanithi and his party of giving clandestine support to the liberation tigers. It is now well known that New Delhi did give clandestine support to the militants in the shape of arms, training facilities etc. Since clandestine support is posed as the issue, the proper course for the D. M. K. is to make the issue open and public. The correct course would be for D. M. K. to pose before the Tamil Nadu electorate the question whether India should support the right for Swaraj for Eelyom Tamils or not. If the issue is posed thus, the opposite issue would be seen to be:—Should India support the Sinhala genocidal Imperial war against the Eelyom Tamils? That is the issue which should be placed before the Tamil Nadu electorate. There should be no question of clandestine support. The issue should be open support for the Eelyom Tamils or for the genocidal Sinhalese. D. M. K. should have brought out the issue openly and frankly in the

above form. Rajiv Gandhi destroyed about seven thousand innocent Tamil civilians and about a thousand Liberation Tigers in addition to enormous damage to property in the process of giving clandestine support to the Sinhalese for purpose of subjugating them to Sinhala Imperium. Let the D.M.K. bring out the issue of Eelyom Tamils into the public inst d of allowing the matter to remain within the clandestine plane.

'Nona Mathaya' Jayalalitha

Nona Mathaya Jayalalitha does not seem to understand International norms or law. If a country accepts refugees from another country as such, it cannot force them back to the country from which they fled as refugees. It is best to remember that when the question of Eelyom Tamil Refugees being sent back to the Island arose Indra Gandhi posed the question whether they were to be sent back to be butchered. She used the word to be butchered. Let not Nona Mathaya Jayalalitha in her frenzied support to President Ranasinghe Premadasa forget past history.

Such refugees from Lanka cannot be ejected unless they have committed some offence

against the Indian law. It is best to remember that when Rajiv Government proceeded to send Mr. S.C. Chandrakasan out of India and put him on a plane bound to U. S. A to which country he had a multiple visa, he refused to get down from the plane and India had to bring him back. In the meantime Mrs. Chandrakasan had filed a writ application in India's courts and the Government of India realized that it could not under Indian law eject him from India because he had not committed any offence against Indian law.

Let Nona Mathaya Jayalalitha halt their campaign against Eelyom Tamils following Rajiv Gandhi's policies against the Tamils. The emotional wave has played into her hands but when the issues are considered dispassionately, she would not gain by identifying herself with Sinhala Sri Lanka.

Mr. Paskaralingam.

Mr. Paskaralingam has returned to the Island from the very important mission entrusted to him, i. e. to convince the Western Powers that there is no ethnic problem in Sri Lanka when a Tamil pleads the cause of Sri Lanka for the continuance of the Aid. Has he succeeded?

Jaffna Citizens' Committee Calls for concrete and clear proposals from President

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee has called upon the President Premadasa to put forward concrete and clear proposals for negotiations to solve the ethnic problem.

In a letter to President Premadasa the Committee says that the ethnic problem must be taken up above party politics and adds that it is regrettable that all political parties have so far failed to

treat it as a problem calling for an urgent and amicable solution.

'While political parties in the Opposition had waited like the proverbial 'Cat on the Parapet wall', only to criticise and disturb any attempt to solve peacefully the ethnic problem, the successive governments on the other hand had been hesitant to take correct decisions

fearing political disadvantages to them. Much time, resources and invaluable lives have been lost in the party political chessboard'.

The Citizens' Committee has, therefore, called upon President Premadasa to put forward concrete and clear proposals which will form as basis for negotiations and invite these concerned to discuss and arrive at a lasting solution which will meet the aspirations of the Tamil-speaking people.

Ramakrishna Mission to Serve Orphans

The Sri Ramakrishna Sarada Sevashramam at Point Pedro has decided to provide relief for orphans in the educational field.

For this purpose it proposes to open two of its Branches, one at Polikandy, and another at Chunnakam.

Swami Chidrupananda, the Swami in charge of the Ashram at Point Pedro, has called for applications to be addressed to him to the Sri Ramakrishna Sarada Sevashramam, Point Pedro from

Service - minded - Self - employment for Pensioners

Nallur Pensioners' Benefit Association is planning on a Service - minded, Self-employment project for the Pensioners in the Jaffna District.

Mr. P.S. Thiruchelvam, the Hony. Secretary of the said Association, in giving the details of the project, states that it has already started on an experimental basis and the response and the results are very satisfactory and also encouraging. Mr. Thiruchelvam further states that this Scheme does not in anyway deprive the eligible youths of their employment opportunities. On the contrary, it

has helped several poor especially displaced refugees in finding suitable jobs in their various self-employment cottage Industries.

Finding suitable employment market for pensioners is part of the activities of the Association and this will not only help the Pensioners themselves in keeping them fit and healthy both in mind and body but also make use of their hard-earned residuary knowledge, skill and experience for the maximum benefit of their future generation.

In the field of self-employment projects, the Association has found openings in translation work, welfare activities in many voluntary welfare organisations and Institutions in the distribution and determination of gifts and donations to displaced persons, building projects, in the re-settlement plans for the displaced and the refugees in several nurseries and indoor and out-door medical and health-care projects in the Jaffna District.

Mr. Thiruchelvam further states that if expanded, this project will enable several pensioners to not only supplement their monthly pensions which are not paid regularly but also benefit the public as well.

AIMLESSLY AIMED

The Sri Lankan Army stationed at Palaly suddenly launched artillery shell attacks on various parts of Jaffna town on the night of the 21st. June, 1991. There were nine artillery shell attacks. The only provocation appears to have been the bomb explosion at the Joint Operations Command Head Quarters in Colombo.

Interestingly some of the shells exploded near about the ICRC head quarters at temple Road - Rakka Road junction but failed to hit the headquarters by about a distance of 25 yards. Nevertheless one shell exploded a little distance away succeeded in causing damage to an office of another International Non - Governmental Organisation - the Redd Barna. A house in the area was also damaged but fortunately no one suffered personal injury.

Do the aimless shell attacks also have some aim?

THIS AND THAT

Rambler is on holiday and will be back shortly.

Editor

An Open letter to

President Ranasinghe Premadasa

— by S. Sivanayagam

Dear Mr. President,

You are the eighth politician to head the government in your country. Except for the first prime minister of Ceylon at the time of independence in 1948 - Don Stephen Senanayake - who, despite the harm he did to the Tamils, both Indian and indigenous, had a smooth unchallenged 4½ years of Power, and a stop-gap prime Minister in W. Dahanayake for 6 months, all six of you were called upon to solve - repeatedly what has been known in the Sinhala political lexicon as "the Tamil problem."

Thirty - five year old problem

This problem - solving has now gone on for 35 years, and in the process at least 35,000 Tamil lives have been plucked away by the six of you (an average of 1,000 a year), and at least 350,000 Tamils you have made them homeless, virtually Stateless (except in the passports), vagrants, wanderers and refugees in their own homelands as well as in the five continents of the world. Between the six of you, you represent Oxford, Cambridge, the Upcountry and Lowcountry Sinhala aristocracies, and in your case your humble beginnings. And certainly, all of you were Sinhalese, and significantly, Buddhists, (even if some of you were political converts from Christianity) representing a

charge something that you cannot possibly deny - that between the six of you, over a period of 35 years, you have failed to find a solution to your own problem. Not the problem that afflicts the Tamils themselves, because we Tamils have found a solution for it. At least we know what the solution is. But you Don't Know the Solution to Your Own Problem! Does not that make you, as the surviving President, representing the Sinhala Buddhist people and the Sri Lankan State, if not ashamed, at least inadequate?

What did you do with a glorious patrimony?

The island of Ceylon, Mr. President, has long been eulogised by foreign travellers, and in tourist brochures, as a Paradise on Earth, as a Garden of Eden. That was Nature's blessing, and certainly you Sinhala politicians had no hand in it. Your country at the time of independence had a flourishing export economy in Tea, Rubber and Coconut, which of course was the inheritance you derived from British colonial entrepreneurial skill and the sweat of the oppressed Tamil labourers. You had a readymade infrastructure for a flourishing tourist industry, a fine network of roads and railways, sun-swept marble beaches, a fairyland of rolling hills,

Mr. President within these fifty years of independence, what have you politicians done, with all this glorious patrimony? What was once known as a land of milk and honey, you have made it into one of blood and poison. Instead of progress, you have only made your country slide into regress. Instead of touching the Highest Common Denominator in the collective Sinhala psyche, you kept on reaching for the lowest. But as the one Sinhala politician who we still believe is probably more sensitive to the terrain and temper of the people outside the insensitive seat of power in the pretentious wealth-flaunting metropolis of Colombo, you should realise that the country over which you think you preside, is not the same as the one in which you and we are born. Or the one which you took charge.

No Challenge

Talking not in the nature of a challenge, but in plain, realistic valuation, neither your government, nor any government to follow, could possibly exercise any more that kind of "sovereignty" over the north and east that you have in mind (as reflected in your recent Communiqué dated 3 January 1991 -Page 12); which "sovereignty" means something totally different to the Tamils and Tamil-speaking Muslim people who live there. To them, it makes no sense, other than subjugation. We are not blaming you alone for that. After all, you are not only a pillar of the Sinhala-Buddhist Establishment; you are also a prisoner of it.

The Sri Lankan State itself has been founded on a bedrock of mythology, harking back to the Mahavamsa and Dutta Gamani, and nourished on the concept of Sinhala-Buddhist exclusiveness. After 50 years of damage to the mind-both Sinhala and Tamil- it is now too late to put the clock back. How can we Mr. President when your Sinhala primers and history books have been telling once unspoilt little Sinhala children that the Tamils are aliens, they are enemies, they are descendants of South Indian invaders, they desecrated

your ancient Sinhala civilisation and that it was your Sinhala Buddhist hero Dutta Gamani who rescued your land, language and religion from the clutches of the Tamil marauders? Many of those children who were taught all these at their tender age thirty, forty years ago, are the very ones who are today's grown-ups, deciding policy, wearing yellow robes and dictating the course of your history.

"Afraid? why, I'm only too willing". There ARE some Tamils, Mr. President, who may view the world like that shepherdess. By all means, assimilate them and keep them within your fold. But that is no excuse for you to assume that they represent Tamil thinking (you assume so in your communiqué), or represent Tamil pride, Tamil feeling or the collective Tamil consciousness.

Every Island is not a nation - Nor does an Island have only a nation

If you want to sustain a Sri Lankan State that is exclusively Sinhala and Buddhist, in which others of differing ethnic or religious persuasions cannot expect consideration as equal partners (on the basis that they are numerically smaller) you are welcome to that kind of State, blessed by the Buddha. Where you and your predecessors in office have erred, is in trying to assimilate people who are neither Sinhala nor Buddhist and annex territory where neither Sinhala is spoken nor Buddhism is practised; where the people have their own language, their own religions, own traditions, own culture, own ethos, own ways of life and own territory, all of which are legally and morally sufficient to constitute them into a nation - a separate Tamil nation. Perhaps you are confused into thinking that a chance geographical formation that happens to be an island makes it one nation like many external observers who suffer from that metaphysical illusion. In which case, imagine the number of nations that we have around Ceylon - Delft, for example. Or Kachchativu or Analativu, or Eluvaitivu... Or think of the neighbouring Maldives, with its 1000-odd island nations! No, Mr. President, there is no God-given law nor man-made rule that says that every island is one nation or that one island cannot contain two nations of peoples.

No Rhetoric

There was a character in one of Marlowe's plays - a shepherdess who when asked whether she was not afraid of being raped, tossed her head in defiance and said:

Please do not think we have been indulging in any rhetoric in saying all these. We certainly appreciate the fact that on your part some rhetoric, some face-saving, are unavoidable: when an established government is called upon to respond to a unilateral ceasefire announced (rather impudently we think) by a group of armed men described variously as "guerrillas", "separatists", "terrorists", "fascists", "murderers" and so on. As for rhetoric you have in your Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne a regular practitioner, an accomplished master of the spoken word, a man who in looks can pass off as a benign Bishop but in words sounds most of the time like a cross between Attila the Hun and Bob Hope.

But should we not mix the rhetoric with some bold thinking, some tangible action at this point of time when the country is fast reaching the cross-roads. We are afraid Mr. President that whatever steps you take now and in the near future, or the steps that you don't take, may determine the future course of history for all time. And That Mr. President is not rhetoric either.

After a 35-year period of subjection to physical violence and humiliation (beginning with that day at Galle Face Green in 1956) what hurts the Tamils Mr. President is, more than the corporeal injury, the fact that the guilt of the ethnic crime has yet to seep into the collective Sinhala consciousness. We do not expect from you therefore or from

(Continued on Page 4)

We are a nation - We have found a solution for our problems

religion that stands for Ahimsa, Tolerance and the Middle Path.

What have you to declare after 35 years? For your Sinhala manhood and Buddhist piety? Your leadership incompetence? Your political bankruptcy? Your racial intolerance? Your inbred chauvinism? Your hypocrisy in parading your religion? Your pretence as democrats? Even if we are kind to you and say that you are not guilty of any of these (all six of you including the three living ones), you have to plead guilty to the bottom-line

verdant valleys, rivers and water-falls. You had no share in that either. To what you exhibit to tourists as historical ruins of an ancient civilisation, you have now added more ruins in the North and East, through bombing and shelling - not as examples of civilisation, but of the lack of it. You were presented with a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious mosaic of peaceful human presence with which you could have raised a model, secular democracy that would have been a showpiece to show the world. What have you done with it?

International Organizations must Continue Service

Citizens' Committee tells President

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee has condemned the aerial attack on UNHCR and MSF vehicles and has told President Premadasa that the services of International organizations are very much needed amongst the affected people and requests the President to ensure the working of these organizations unhindered by the armed forces of government.

The Citizens' Committee's letter reads as follows:-

We have time and again complained to your Excellency the indiscriminate bombing, shelling and strafing from helicopters on civilian targets,

Despite our cries the forces have always been claiming that their attacks had been very accurate on LTTE targets. The number of civilian deaths and destruction caused to temple, churches, schools, houses and refugee camps have proved our claims beyond any doubt.

Recent attacks on the UNHCR and MSF vehicles injuring foreign personnel who have come into our country to do humanitarian services cannot be justified or condoned under any pretext.

It is our suspicion that the attacks were wilful and, by no means, accidental as all the vehicles concerned were flying internationally accepted

flags for protection which no airman could have failed to see. Besides the movement of these vehicles in the area concerned were - according to reports - made known to the forces in advance.

We are concerned very much in this matter and it is our earnest desire that these international organizations must continue their services in these areas among the people who are suffering beyond description.

Please therefore take all steps to ensure that incidents of this nature do not take place in the future and make it possible for the foreign personnel to continue their invaluable services to the suffering people.

Stop Artillery and Gun Boats shelling Jaffna Citizens' Committee

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee has sent a special memorandum to President R. Premadasa, lodging its strong protest against unexpected artillery shell attacks and gun boats shelling aimlessly targetted all over the Jaffna peninsula which cause untold damage and even death,

The Citizens' Committee's letter reads as follows:-

The Citizens' Committee sends this special Communi-

cation to protest against the daily increasing killings of innocent civilians and widespread damage to private houses and Public buildings by purposeless Artillery Shellings and shellings by gun-boats.

It has become a regular practice on the part of the Government Security Forces to engage in indiscriminate and targetless long range

Artillery Shellings fired into thickly populated areas lying 15 to 20 Kilometers away. These vicious attacks take place throughout the day and more at nights. There were hundreds of cases where civilian lives and houses were destroyed by these shells.

Recently an artillery shell fired from the Palaly Camp fell on a house with a large family at Naranthana in Kayts killing seven of its inmates - a husband and wife (65 & 60 years respectively) and five children ranging 4 to 14 years.

These poor victims were reported to be having their dinner at that time.

We bring this to your Excellency's notice as we feel that these shellings take place without your knowledge and that you would not have permitted this inhuman attacks.

Trusting Your Excellency will issue necessary directives forthwith to discontinue Artillery Shellings and Gun-Boat shellings.

An Open...

(Continuation of Page 3)

the Sinhala people a change of heart at this belated stage. Anyway, to think that a change of heart can alter the course of a deep-seated conflict between two peoples is a simplistic notion. Rivers, as one of your Prime Ministers said once, do not flow backwards. What is required if one wants to avoid further misery both to the Tamil and the Sinhala people, is a fundamental change in the Sinhala vision.

OUR READERS SAY

COMMISSION

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Sir,

Mr. Premadasa has named a three man Commission to sit in judgement over the Kokati, cholai carnage in which innocent civilians Comprised of men, women and children were killed mutilated and raped by the Sri Lankan forces as a retaliation against the loss of three of their men in an operation against the L. T. T. E.

The purpose of a Commission is to convince the common man the real cause behind the commission of an offence, be it against a State or its subjects and where the laws of the land have turned a Nelsonian eye. The three Commissioners have been issued with the terms of the Commission and based on those terms they have to enquire and report. Of the three Commissioners, two of them are retired Judges of the highest Courts of justice and therefore the law abiding citizens of this country look forward from them judgments independent of any kind of party, politics or nationality, and that in the discharge of their functions, they will act without fear or favour.

The moot point in this exercise is whether the armed forces were engaged in anti L.T.T.E. operation or anti Tamil operation. If it is the former, then the killing of the innocent civilians is an excess by the armed forces and suitable action should be taken under the common law of the land. If it is the latter, then it becomes obvious that in the guise of flushing out the LTTE, the armed forces have revealed their intention of destroying the Tamil community. Therefore the mission of the L.T. T. E., in their struggle to liberate the Tamil community from Sinhala Chauvinists remains self explanatory.

Even during the 1971 April insurrection not a drop of civilian blood was shed in

the anti Che Guevara operation launched by the government of the day. Neither any damage to their houses and properties. Loss of lives, limbs and properties of the people in the North and East is a clear manifestation of the malice the Sinhalese have against the Tamils. Their intention is bristling beyond any manner of doubt.

The trend in the North and East is focussing towards a separation, and it is in the veins of every Tamil speaking citizen that it is only under the banner of Eelam that they can find solace.

Let sanity prevail even at this hour of calamity for Mr. Premadasa to east aside his obstinacy and boorishness and act with a sense of rationality. Every action has an equal and opposite reaction and there are number of lessons before us and how world leaders have paid their supreme penalties for their commissions and omissions. Retribution when it starts grinding, leaves nothing unturned Let us not preach the noble edifice of thoughts of Lord Buddha, but practice them too. Compassion and Maithreya are two noble thoughts of Lord Buddha.

Will Mr. Premadasa as Head of a State advise the armed forces to give up human carnage and confine their limits to the terms of their commission as armed forces and not as armed bandits.

Miss. J. Sukanthy
Vathiry.

Second My Lai

After the massacre of My Lai in Viet Nam, there was the turn in the Vietnam war and the world felt the reality inspite of all the propaganda of U.S. public media. Will there be a similar reaction to the occurrence of second My Lai massacre, at Kokkaticholai, Batticaloa last week?

V. Navaratnam
Thirunelvely East.

In Reverence to the Dead Tigers

Thousands of their kind are dead;

By a mighty chieftain they are led.

They did not live long to wed,

Or enjoy world, or sleep in bed.

Night and day they strove to win,

A land for all our kith and kin;

They laid their lives in the battle din,

Pray for them: else much sin.

With poisons round their necks they fought,

To swallow same if they were caught.

Nought was life was their thought,

Compared to the Land they so valiently sought.

For them a lamp we shall burn,

In all our homes and ever yearn

A lofty place for their souls

In Heaven, — for their earthly roles.

Proudly sing ditties in praise

Of their valour in louder voice;

And see their numbers very much rise,

To reach the goal; and that is wise.

Own them all as 'Ours' and 'Dears'

Remember them for all long years.

Burn a candle for them and revere,

And say your prayers ever and forever.

Sing my countrymen sing in praise,

And cause their fame yet more rise;

Shed my countrymen shed your tears,

Let not their fame go unawares!

— Ram —

Which again Mr. President is too tall an order to expect from the Sinhala leaders as long as you keep on deluding yourselves that the departing British gave you, the Sinhala racial majority, the constitutional sanction to lord it over the ethnic minority. If independence means something to the Sinhala people, it surely must mean the same thing to the Tamil people as well. What has really happened these 35 years was that while the Sinhala mind had remained frozen,

the Tamil mind has changed. You are today dealing with a new generation of Tamils whose thinking is much sharper than that of the previous generations. A Tamil militant youth in custody was once asked by a Sinhala Minister what the Tamil grievances were. To which the youth replied, "Our grievances are that you are looking after our grievances". That sums up the entire issue Mr. President.

Courtesy: Tamil Nation

Desultory Rambling of Vadali Velan

These boys! They did not know how to appreciate the prowess of their elders. On one of my rare visits to the town (Ja fna-patnam) to look up my grown-up nephew, I was told that he was away, participating in a game, called, "cricket". On finding my way to the site of, what it seems to me, horseplay, I found my nephew in the middle of an extensive and sun-seared field, vigorously brandishing a sizeable plank (which I learnt, later, is a "bat") with another youngster of his age, determinedly, trying to knock him with a red stone. They were in turn surrounded by a few others of their ilk; all of them nattily clad as if in readiness to attend a wedding or some such ceremony and assuming the various postures of a crouch. Imagine my surprise too at perceiving this unequal contest being hailed and cheered on by a motley crowd of mostly, teenagers, numbering more than a thousand. On the spur of the moment, intending to avert grievous hurt to my beloved relative and also for me to return to my village before nightfall, I made voluble, but ineffectual efforts at breaking up the so-called match and calling him back to my side. On my persisting, I was hushed and restrained by a group of youngsters around me. My prestige and self-esteem having got the better of me, I proclaimed, then and there, that they were indeed lucky to behold me in the flesh, a village champion, for three years running, of the doughty game of "kiddi" (a fore-runner of America's favourite game, baseball), when I was a youngster like them. One of them looked at me gravely and remarked something about the generation gap, whilst another offered, sympathetically, to have my head examined. All in all, it was their unanimous opinion that I wend my way home quietly and without further ado - but not even a gasp of admiration on being appraised of my former prowess and glory! Thinking the better of it, I forthwith set forth and reached my village, bemused and crest-fallen. These boys!!

It took me sometime to realise the error of my conceptions. I am told that this game of cricket is by far important and even, sacrosanct when compared to any other game or activity in many parts of the world. Though

it is a far cry from Eton to Colombo, the game of cricket was introduced to the Island of Ceylon by her colonial masters and avidly lapped up and honoured as a fetish by our foreigner-aping Sinhala friends across the Tamil Eelam border. The spirit of this game is imagined to enter their very souls and remain a part of them until, at last, oblivion claims them. In the Island's going on cricket has always played a dominant role, with the rules often misapplied, deliberately. If you are after an appointment in the highest ranks of the government service or that of a prestigious commercial establishment you should have had the nerve and foresight to have wielded a bat, preferably in a Royal Thomian match, which by the way, is played always with a show of state-condoned public nuisance and rioting partaken of, solely, by the young hoodlums of these two colleges. Our Sinhala friends in public life too have been found not only "thinking cricket" but also known to cheat in playing it, on innumerable occasions, crying, "not out", when cleanly "run out, stumped, bowled or well-caught"

What an absorbing interest and pastime even when ageing members of the Sinhala cricketing fraternity seem to be having at the expense of others, trying to match their lives' activities with the intricacies of this game, cricket, and invariably getting "run out", so that world famous organizations like the Amnesty International, a French Medical team, even the British Ambassador and many others have already proclaimed that these gentlemen were certainly not "playing cricket".

What has been their undeniable record since the "Independence"? The B-C pact, the D-C pact and other solemn agreements, they made with us, were annulled, claiming that the matches had to be abandoned due to foul weather which, we know, were fanned into cyclones just because these stupid gentlemen always consulted the Baudha Hamathuru and other Sinhala communalists on how to play the game. One of these gentlemen, the silver-haired Major General Ranjan, who had not commanded even a platoon and was doing uproariously well in this game, chanced to cry out, "match over", all the while intending to "carry off the bat; not out" for a long time there-

after. But he was "run out" in the next big match with the very first ball and was heard of no more, being reported to have vanished in a wisp of smoke. Spontaneous combustion? Nevertheless, he was a great performer, whose adroitness at running between the wickets was grossly misused by the Boss (the Team Manager) who, not being up to the mark in the sophistry of this game, occasionally dons a pair of short-pants, dyes his hair and indulges in the lesser game of football with a gusto that helps to keep his tennis-playing life's partner amused.

Major - General Ranjan was succeeded in his many tasks by another cricketer of the namesake of the great Bradman. However, this Bradman imagines himself to be a very genteel player and is always hoping that the umpire will net look his way when his bails are going astray. Having been the blue-eyed boy of successive Prime Ministers he managed to keep his place in the reigning champion's team, changing sides, if necessary, with

gentlemanly decorum and going into brief exiles without a demur. Most important, he survived all the in flighting between the various Sinhala teams, brilliantly, to emerge a winner, always. Meanwhile he went away to counsel a world body on how to reduce the burgeoning population through gentle (biological) means only to return immediately thereafter back to the home team and help it reduce the Tamil Eelam population, this time through violent and Neanderthal (cave man) means. He now occupies, permanently, the position of coach and that of scorer for the team, whilst yet continuing to bat on its behalf. It is evidently fishy and funny (certainly against the rules!) to entrust the batsman (and a Sinhala one at that) with the impartial score - recording for his own team. This Sri Lankan Bradman has already been "bowled and caught" by the Amnesty International when he attempted a "big hit" and was also found to have interpolated false figures in the score-books.

He is now making half-witted pronouncements that

a score against the holding of LTIE - Sri Lankan talks will enter the records over the LTTE's alleged contribution to the recent fireworks in Colombo, ignoring the fact that we, the Tamil Eelam people, have also been maintaining records and have already entered a score against such confabulation over the grave and heinous incident at Kokatticholai. It is but a sign of desperation on the part of the Boss that he is constrained to lean too heavily on such super-annuated players and the likes of the other international player, Caneke-ratne, since no younger and more sprightly players are willing to rally round the team for the fear of facing "demon bowlers" at every turn. Meanwhile these senile gentlemen, together with their Boss, are continuing to have secretive and forlorn hopes of not growing any older so that they may prolong their positions in the team under these fortuitous circumstances.

"Cricket! Lovely Cricket! not with standing, we opt for living our own lives and playing our own games. Else we are prepared to go up in clouds of smoke!!"

CRICKET ELEVEN

WILL MURALIETHARAN FIND EVEN 12TH PLACE?

Although the school-boy cricketer, Muthiah Muralietharan of St. Antony's College, Katugastota has now been selected for inclusion in the Sri Lankan team due to tour England shortly to play in the forthcoming test match between Sri Lanka and England, in order to avoid any charges of demonstrations against the Sri Lankan team by ex-patriate Tamils residing in England, as it happened during the first Prudential World Cup One-day limited over games conducted in the seventies, it is doubtful whether Muthiah Muralietharan will find a place even as 12th man, when the team is finally announced before the actual test event.

It may be recalled that at the first Prudential World Cup One-day games held in England, ex-patriate Tamils from the Island entered the pitch and conducted a demonstration to attract international attention to death due to starvation which prevailed amongst estate Tamil workers in Sri Lanka at that time.

The match had to be stopped for about five minutes to get the demonstrators out of the pitch. In the meantime television cameras and radio commentators covering the match did not fail to give full coverage to the demonstration.

Kokk...

(Continuation of Page 1)
outcome of the Commission of Inquiry.

The most important aspect of the matter is that when ever atrocities are committed by the Army or other armed forces of government against the Tamils, the Government has always condoned such actions and in some cases have patted the offenders on the back by promoting their positions in the forces.

Whenever there is a public outcry, the eye-wash of the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry has been resorted to. How does one expect these Commissions to do an impartial work, when it is appointed by the very Head of the Offenders. Invariably the offenders

Mr. K. B. Ratnayake, then Sri Lanka Minister for Sports was in the pavilion as a guest - of - honour watching the Anti-Sri Lankan demonstration as well.

It may also be remembered that the demonstrators then complained of the non-inclusion in the Sri Lankan team of Ravi Sathasivam, Gajan Pathmanathan and Ponniah, although all three Tamils were then in good form and playing during the season for the U. K. Counties they represented.

have the secret backing of the higher ups, if not actual investigation from above to commit atrocities against the Tamils.

Some persons pointed out the results of the De Alwis Commission appointed to inquire into the aerial bombing of the MSF vehicle at Vavuniya. Another person told our correspondent about the Sansoni Commission appointed by J. R. Jayewardene and said that when the President is a party to the conflict and is chief perpetrator of crime against the Tamils, it will be futile to expect any fair-play or justice in the hands of these Commissions. In fact these Commissions are appointed as an eye-wash and to pass on the crime to the very victims of the crime.

HOT SPRING

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Confusion worse Confounded

Sometimes back we had news that President Premadasa gave an ultimatum to the members of the All Party Conference (APC). He told the APC to give its own proposals for the solution of what is described in Sinhala quarters as the 'national problem' by a certain date and proceeded to say that should the APC fail to do so the government would come out with its own proposals.

The deadline has come and gone but neither the APC nor President Premadasa has come forward with any proposals.

In the meantime President Premadasa got the Ambassadors of three European countries to enlighten the members of the APC in regard to ideas for the solution of the 'national problem'. And we have it that the Ambassadors also did say something to the members of the APC to enlighten them in regard to finding ways and means of solving the 'national question'. Still the APC is so sterile that it cannot conceive or bring forth anything.

It is not only the APC but all Sinhala politicians are in that pathetic position and unfortunately so because of deliberate choice on their own part.

Week before last, on Thursday, when parliament met and the question of the extension of emergency came up for discussion several parliamentarians started speaking on the 'national question' and every one appeared to speak for the sake of speaking without being 'caught' in any position. We had SLFP speakers offering co-operation to the Government all the time without themselves indicating in any way the extent to which they would co-operate but betraying all the time their hidden intent to make the 'national question, an election issue to defeat their opponents.

Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe asked - let it be noted that he never suggested - whether a federal form of Government would not be an appropriate solution.

The SLFP rose immediately to the occasion. One M. P. from the SLFP charged that the Government was attempting to introduce a federal form of Government and declared that the 'people of this country' would never permit such a move.

Prompt came the denial from the Government benches and Minister Wimal Wickremasinghe stated that the Government would not introduce a federal form of Government which is contrary to the Constitution - the Jayawardene constitution of course.

And State Minister M. S. Sellasamy was heard to appeal most pathetically and equally idiotically to the Opposition to discuss the matter amongst themselves and come to some agreed conclusions and then speak to the Government. And so ended the debate without anyone putting forward any concrete proposal but every one wanting the other to bell the cat - not of course to solve the problem but to get an advantage over his opponent to wield a weapon at the bustings!

But President Premadasa's confusion seems worse confounded. He originally wanted three European Ambassadors to enlighten the members of the APC but now has made a right about turn and seems to be content with the insular wisdom of the Baudha Sinhala fundamentalism. He has declared at Kamburupitiya that no foreign advice or assistance is needed to solve the 'national question'. One does not know whether the word 'foreign' in Mr. Premadasa's terminology has to be given a restrictive meaning as referring to India only or its ordinary meaning. One does not see any reason why he should have bothered the Ambassadors of the three European countries referred to, to lecture to the members of the APC, if he thinks that no foreign, advice or assistance is necessary.

Despite challenges from the Opposition, Mr. Premadasa himself keeps mum as to what his own solution is to the 'national question'. Everyone not excluding Mr. Premadasa keeps on rambling general sentiments which take no one anywhere.

They are all not merely confused but confounded. They do not have any solution to meet the Tamil demand.

Then why not agree to the only sensible alternative now available? Leave the Tamils severely alone as they demand and be rid of your headache for all time.

UNDERGRADS PROTEST-

Memorandum to President Presented

Undergraduate students attached to the University of Jaffna took out a protest demonstration on Monday June 24th, 1991 against the Sri Lankan Government's recent genocidal attack against the Tamils of Kokatticholai in the Batticaloa District and against the attack on University students by the armed forces of the Sri Lankan government.

The Jaffna University students marched out from the University premises in procession carrying placards and banners. The procession went through the important roads and reached Jaffna Secretariat where they handed over a memorandum to the Additional Government Agent, Jaffna to be forwarded to President Premadasa. Later the students went in procession to the office of the

ICRC Team at Jaffna and handed over a memorandum to the ICRC Team leader also.

The memorandum presented by the University students states that the Tamils are being continued to be rendered refugees by the actions of the armed forces and Tamil women being subjected to sexual assault by Muslim thugs. The genocidal attack against the Tamils started in June last year and is continuing to date.

The memorandum refers to the large scale arrests of Tamil youths and refers specifically to the case of a final year Jaffna University student named Jayaseelan being arrested by Muslim thugs and army personnel at Vavuniya on June 8th, 1991. Nothing is known of

this student to date. The memorandum also refers to the killing of some students of the University after the war broke out last June. Arumainayakam of Kattai-arichchan, Kirupakaran of Akkaraipattu, Thayalan of Thuraiyelavanai and Joseph Jeyaraj of Kayts are some of the students who have been killed by the Sri Lankan Army. Another final year student, Mukunthan, had been seriously wounded, when the Army shot at him at Vavuniya.

The memorandum also states that a number of University students from the occupied areas are unable to continue their studies because of army action. The memorandum calls upon President Premadasa to stop forthwith the military operations in the Northeast.

NEWS ROUND UP

12. 6. 91

At Meenkamam in Mutur 14 Tamil civilians were arrested by the Army. They are S. Tharmalingam, S. Suntharalingam, Sithivinayagam Kunchu, N. Sithmapranathan, S. Rasu Kulasegaram, Shanmugarasa, K. Rasu, S. Thangavadiel, K. Kunchu, N. Rasan, L. Ramu and Thuraj.

At Batticaloa (Pullumalai Colony). - A lady was killed by the army. 6 persons arrested by the Army are - Seenithamby, Kopalapillai, Punniamoorthy, Kathirgama-thamy and K. Ranjan.

13. 6. 91

Komari in Amparai District - 35 Tamils were arrested by the Special Task Force. 15 of these were taken to the STF camp.

14. 6. 91

At Iyakkachchi - Helicopter attack and artillery shell from Elephant Pass Camp directed towards Iyakkachchi. Damage not verified.

At Tellippalai - The Army stationed at Veemamkamam fires artillery shells directed towards Tellippalai. Damage not verified.

At Valaichenai in Batticalao 6 persons were hacked to death by Sri Lankan Army. 20 houses were burnt down.

15. 6. 91

At Vavuniya (Poovarasan kulam) - 3 persons were killed by Army opening fire. They are Kandasamy (32), Senathi (34) and Rajadurai (55)

16. 6. 91

At Vavuniya - Army opens fire. A civilian Nagalingam was killed.

20. 6. 91

At Thoppor in Trincomalee - Two fishermen were killed by Army opening fire At

Eruvil in Batticaloa. Army rounded up and arrested Y. Pakiyaraj and some other persons.

21. 6. 91

At Jaffna - Redd Barna office and two houses were damaged by artillery shell attack from Army Camp at Palaly.

23. 6. 91

At Kattuvan. Artillery shell attack from Palalay camp. Damage not verified

24. 9. 91

At Wellikanttha in Batticaloa - Nine Tamils were hacked to death by Sri Lankan Army.

25. 6. 91

At Maviddapuram - S. Thuvaregah was injured, when Army opened fire. She was admitted to Jaffna General Hospital.

At Iyakkachchi - Artillery shell attack, Damage not verified.

T. R. O. Puts up School Building

Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (T.R.O.) Vadamaradchy East Branch has put up a new building 100 feet by 16 feet comprising five class rooms for the Nagarkovil Maha Vidiyalayam. Most of the labour involved in the construction of the new building, was voluntarily provided free by refugees from Myliddy, who are now living in Vadamaradchy East.

The new building was formally declared open by

Mr. Manoharan, the resident representative of the T.R.O. Vadamaradchy East at a ceremony held on June 11, 1991.

A public meeting followed the opening of the new building presided over by Mr. K. Paramaguru, the Principal of the Nagarkovil Mahavidyalayam. Cluster principals, teachers, members of the Old Boys' Association and a refugee student from Myliddy addressed the

meeting. The girl students sang the school anthem and songs in praise of Tamil language.

The building has been named after a former girl student and LTTE cadre, Niranjana who died in battle.

There are about 250 refugee students also now admitted to this school which caused severe accommodation problem in the school.