

HOT SPRING

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"Amazingly, while the Accord repeatedly emphasised the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka it did not, in return, guarantee the important rights sought by the Tamils, i. e. meaningful devolution bordering on autonomy for the minority community and protection from the Sinhala military might. In addition, though India was supposedly acting on behalf of the Sri Lankan Tamils, none of their representatives were co-signatories to the Accord. Given this lacuna, ... a fiasco was clearly in the making.

Dr. Rajesh Kadian in his Book: India's Sri Lanka Fiasco

Despite JOC Assurance— Civilian Targets Bombed

Sri Lankan Air Force bombers bombed Polikandy and Valvettiturai in the Vadamarachy area on Thursday December 5th.

The report from Vadamarachy states that on December 5th Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed the

village of Polikandy at three different times. First around 8-30 a.m. two bombers bombed the village. Then again after the lapse of an hour three bombers were sighted over Polikandy which dropped bombs in Polikandy. In another half hour two bom-

bers flew over Polikandy and bombed the village.

Two persons sustained severe injuries. They are Anton Mariadas (32) and Dr. S. Subramaniam. The injured were admitted to Manthikai Hospital.

Five houses in the area were completely damaged. A medical dispensary was also damaged.

Polikandy came in for aerial bombardment on the morning of December 2nd, also when an elderly woman Sevaratnam Maheswary (56) sustained severe injuries. Three houses were also damaged on the December 2nd attack.

The Sri Lankan Air Force bombers also bombed Oorikadu in Valvettiturai on the morning of December 5th. A house was completely damaged. The owner of the house M. Balasubramaniam and other inmates escaped

injury by taking shelter in a trench.

Recently Lt. Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe, the Chief of the J. O. C. gave a press interview wherein he was quoted as saying that indiscriminate bombing of the North would not take place thereafter. He was further quoted as saying that all aerial bombardment operations would be personally approved by him.

"Are all these civilian target bombings approved by the Chief of the J. O. C.?" asked a resident of Valvettiturai.

82 Sinhalese Guests of LTTE

It is learnt that 82 Sinhalese people (men and women) will be brought to Jaffna by ship through the agency of ICRC. The ship with these Sinhalese crew is expected to arrive at Point Pedro on December 13.

These 82 Sinhalese persons are the close relatives of the 41 Sinhalese Police and Army personnel held captives by the LTTE.

Earlier the LTTE leader, Mr. Velupillai Pirabakaran made an offer to allow the parents or the close relations of the Sinhalese captives to visit them. This was a humanitarian gesture.

Mr. Pirabakaran's offer was conveyed to those concerned and now it is reported that 82 anxious relatives of the 41 prisoners will be coming

over to Jaffna to meet their relations in captivity.

It is further learnt that while in Jaffna these 82 Sinhalese persons will be guests of the LTTE. The LTTE will also make arrangements for these people to meet the captives and talk to them. They will be able to directly see how the captives are treated and cared for by the LTTE.

Prelate Advises Army Big Man

Reports from Kandy state that the Head of the Malwatte Chapter, a Buddhist Prelate has met the Chief of Joint Operations Command, Lt. Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe,

when the latter was in Kandy recently.

The report further states that the Prelate has told the Army Boss that the Army should involve itself

also in finding a solution to the ethnic problem and the Lt. Gen. should also be present at any peace talks that may take place.

Ven. Vipassi Thero, the Head of the Malwatte Chapter donated Rs 30,000/- to the War Fund of President Jayewardene, when the latter was President. Ven. Vipassi Thero is known to be strongly supportive of former President J.R. Jayewardene.

Air Bombing takes toll of Women and Children

Five persons including women and children were killed and a number of others were injured, when Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed civilian residential areas in Vellankulam in the Mannar District on Monday, November 25th.

Reports from Mannar state that on the morning of Monday, 25th November, two bombers and an Avro plane belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force started bombing in Vellankulam, a residential village in the Mannar District.

Five persons died on the spot. They are Jesuththevy (female 26), Francis Angela-thevy (female 24), Jegatheesan Soruban (male 06), Vivekanandan Aritharan (male 10), and Kanapthy Pirabakaran (male 08).

Among the many people who sustained serious injuries were V. Vijayaluxmi (female 26), T. Suresh (male 10), S. Balachandran (male 12), and N Saratha (female 08).

The same reports add that the Government Dispensary, School and many houses in the area were damaged by aerial bombing.

Separate Administration for Tamils and Sinhalese

Our British Colonial masters did wisely think that the different peoples who dividedly possessed the Island of Ceylon, should be ensured different systems of administration too - subject of course to the overall British System and Supervision.

Accordingly they divided the administrative areas of the Island into two - Cingalese Districts and Malabar Districts.

According to Regulation No. 6 of 1909, Native Headmen were to be in the employ of the "Cingalese Districts of Chilaw, Colombo, Cultura, Galle and Matara"

According to Regulation No. 24 of 1820 - Native Headmen were entitled to the rank "within the Malabar Districts of Pulum, Mannar, Jaffna patam, Trincomalee and Batticaloa"

British administered the Sinhala Districts through Sinhala officers and the Tamil Districts through Tamil officers.

Army General gives a Political Interview

Lt. Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe, the Chief of the newly created Joint Operations Command is reported to have made a press briefing at Kandy.

The reports say that Lt. Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe stated that the Army would be able to occupy the entire North in two or three months' time. He has also further said that the LTTE should lay down arms and that the Tamil people should refuse to support the LTTE.

It is further learnt that a Prelate in the higher echelons of the Sinhala Buddhist hierarchy Ven. Vipassi Thero, the

Head of the Malwatte Chapter in Kandy met the Army Boss in Kandy.

LTTE Batticaloa Leader Killed in Combat

The LTTE announced on Sunday, December 1st, the death of its Army Commander in the Amparai and Batticaloa Districts.

According to the LTTE report, its Amparai-Batticaloa Commander Lt. Col. Joy died as a result of an injury he received in battle

the previous day in the Batticaloa District.

The LTTE report further said that 12 Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and a large number of arms were recovered from the Sri Lankan soldiers in the battle in which Lt. Col. Joy received his fatal injury.

OUR READERS SAY

The Editor,
Hot Spring

Referring to the Editorial in your Issue of 10.11.91 about Rev. Palipane Sri Chandananda Thero's protest to the alienation of land at Pallegala Estate to the Estate Tamil workers.

The Buddhist way of life as exemplified by the Master, does not stress the acquisition of material possessions, the aspiration for personal fame and power, nor to the clinging to the thought of a permanent ego, nor a blind conformity to existing social institutions and practices.

The Buddhist, is to stand as a person before persons, men are to be his fellow men and not means for purposes of domination or exploitation. Inter-personal relations are to be suffused with Benevolence, Righteousness and Compassion. Buddhism with its ethical code, its Eight-fold Path, gives us an ideal of conduct which is unsurpassed in any religion man has known. In its teaching of the law of cause and effect, in its stress upon the unity of all life and the relative unimportance of the Personal Self, it emancipates the ego from enthrallment of the lower nature and its striving for self; it shows us the perfected man in the person of the Arahant and hold out to all humans the glory of achievement.

Judging by the above standards and expectations from the Buddhists in this island, a serious doubt has arisen, be they be laymen or men in robes, as to whether they are coming within the accepted norms. Every aspect of His Teachings stand defiled. Quite so, because Buddhism is not a religion where God is personified as the Supreme Being. Buddhism is a philosophy and like any piece of

legislation, could be easily defiled. There is no fear of consequences as in the case of other religious principles.

Rev. Chandananda Thero's protest to His Excellency the President's move to alienate lands at Pallegala to the Estate workers, reveals his aspiration for personal power among fellow-Buddhists. His lust for egoism. Who is fooling whom? You can fool some people all the time, but not all the people all the time. Does the Preyer feel he can fool all the Sinhala lay Buddhists all the time?

If this Island and its peoples are solely dependent upon Tea, Rubber, Cocoa and Coconuts as their principal exonomy, it is due to the cheap and hard labour of the Estate workers who toiled with the sweat of their brows and helped the Island and its peoples to the present standard of economic self-sufficiency. They were docile workers who toiled under trying conditions, inclement weather and poor pay which Ceylon labour would have brushed aside. With the Estates coming under State purview, we have witnessed how conditions have deteriorated with labour conflicts and strikes. Sooner or later, the Government may have to globe-trot with begging bowls for essential commodities.

Rev. Chandananda Thero's protests would be justified, if the Sinhalese labour had been willing workers, able to make sacrifices as true Buddhists in the name of their land and religion. Since Independence we have records of how state machinery has functioned, labour disputes, strikes and disrespect for law and order have become

the order of the day. Thefts and misappropriation of public funds and utilities have permeated public life. Political patronage is given to parties and their sycophants who have crippled the State machinery. The whole Island has been virtually reduced to anarchy.

Rev. Chandananda Thero as Head of the Asgiriya Chapter, I believe, is well acquainted with the teachings of Lord Buddha. Lord Buddha sought to lead men

by a well-defined path to a goal which might well be termed Salvation and Nirvana. Those who attain Nirvana rid themselves of their individuality and reach the light of a new spiritual way. I do not wish to dwell far too deep into these aspects, as the Prelate with the high position he has reached in the Sect, should know best and abstain from controversial issues that tend to defile the noble thoughts

of Lord Buddha and confine himself to the best interests of himself, the clergy and the Buddhist population and redeem the island from its present predicament by preaching the teachings of Lord Buddha and the propagation of the Eight-fold path.

Unless serious thought is given to these lofty Buddhist ideals, it may be too late for those in yellow robes and they may ultimately face total extinction from the Buddhist world!

D. Jeevanandham

Vathiry

The Plight of GCE (O/L) Candidates December, 1991

The Editor,
Hot Spring.

Reference the forthcoming GCE (O/L) examination which is scheduled to be held from 9th to 18th December, 1991, it is saddening to observe that some candidates have not yet received their National or Postal Identity Cards from the Department of Registration of Persons and the Post Master General, Colombo.

It must be pointed out that no Temporary Identity Cards will be accepted by the Department of Examinations. The authorities should take suitable measures to remedy this situation.

These candidates are unable to continue studies at night due to lack of lights. Moreover, the sun set early in the months of November and December and therefore it is dark early. Their concentration on studies is further disturbed by operations by security forces intermittently and without provocation at all.

This is an Islandwide Public Examination. The future of these students depends on their performance at this Examination.

The total lack of public transport, scarcity of paper, pen, soap (both for washing and toilet) and lack of firewood to cook meals on time are some of the difficulties they have to contend with.

Human Rights Violations in North East Sri Lanka

Editor,
Hot Spring
Sir,

We the ordinary people in North Sri Lanka are undergoing immense hardship due to the complete disregard to Human Rights shown by the Sri Lankan Government.

We should be immensely obliged if the Foreign Diplomatic Corp in Sri Lanka unitedly take steps to get the Sri Lankan Government to at least stop FIRING ARTILLERY SHELLS from their several Army Camps and Navy Vessels.

Besides the loss of life & limb and damage to property, this firing of shells affects the people psychologically in a very big way. When bombs are dropped by bombers or strafing is carried out by helicopters the emotional suffering is only of short duration, the time the aircraft is over you. But in the case of shelling from Army Camps and Navy Vessels it is a 24 hour NIGHTMARE.

S. Alagaratnam
Urumpirai.

Parwathy Achchi, You are Great!

Parwathy Achchi, You are Great,
You are the living symbol
Of National heroine of
This tiny Tamil Eelam
You have a Son in London
You have a son in Canada
You have another in France
And the last one in Colombo
You have received letters
You have received invitations
With pre paid air tickets
To visit these countries
Before you go to the cemetery.
But Parwathy Achchi,
You are adamant, you
Do not want to go, when
The people around you are
Starving and suffering

Bombed and killed, properties
Are destroyed and
Dwelling in cattle sheds.
If you do wish to go,
You can go to London
And see the Beauty of Thames
You can go to Canada
And see the sky high towers
You can go to France
And admire the beauty of Paris
But you do not want to go
When your people in
Batticaloa, Amparai and Trinco
Are in the refugee camps
Treated like cattle, taken
Out, raped and molested
Cut and chopped,

Manjan

Saiva Savant Remembered

The 127th birth Anniversary of J. M. Nallasamypillai was celebrated by the Young Men's Saiva Association at Kantharmadam on November 24th.

Mr. A. N. Yoganathan who presided at the commemoration meeting traced the history and work of J. M. Nallasamypillai.

Mr. Yoganathan said that the great scholar was born at Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu on the 24th of November, 1864. He graduated in Philosophy at the age of 18 and later proceeded to study Law. He practised as an ad-

vocate at the age of 24. Giving up the Bar, Mr. Pillai joined the Bench and functioned as a judge for 20 years.

After retirement he devoted himself entirely to the propagation of Saiva Saththanam. He rendered into English most of the philosophical works in Tamil. His English translation of Tamil works in Saivism made known to non-Tamils the greatness of Saiva thought and philosophy. He edited an English journal called "Light of Truth" for 14

(Continued on Page 6)

AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. STEPHEN SOLARS,

Chairman of U. S. Congress Committee on
Asian and Pacific Affairs.

PART II

In the course of the war for liberation in Sri Lanka Tamil rebels are acting perfectly lawfully since the polity of the Dominion of Ceylon was a conditional polity both by reason of the provisions of Article 29 of the Constitution of the Dominion polity as well as by the undertaking given in the Floor of the House by D. S. Senanayake the then undisputed leader of the Sinhalese in inviting the Tamils to join the Sinhalese in working the new Constitution, i. e. the Soulbury Constitution which ultimately became, with minor amendments the Constitution of the Dominion of Ceylon. Article 29 grants power to the Legislature to make laws for good government, peace and security but specifically denies capacity to enact any legislation in favour of or adverse to any particular community which does not equally apply to every other community.

When the non-discrimination provisions of the Constitution were violated and ultimately the entrenched Clause for non-discrimination was sought to be annulled, the Tamils have the right to opt out of the polity which is clearly a conditional polity. The demand for Eelyom, the homeland of the Tamils to be made a Sovereign State is a logical and lawful consequential step.

India

But certain countries, notably India, Britain and United States are insistent on asserting the sovereignty and integrity of Sri Lanka to encompass the North and East, the Homeland of the Tamils. Obviously they are acting in pursuit of a strongly myopic self interest. India has been mesmerized by the wily old President Jayewardene with a simple manthram: An independent state of two million Tamils will mean a *fortiori* another Independent State of sixty million Tamils. The innuendo behind this manthram is simple. Tamil Nadu in India will be inspired to secede and become an independent state which will lead to the disintegration of India. India was a well integrated political unit at the time of Independence. But to day New Delhi is apprehensive of India getting disintegrated. This fear is the result of four decades of exercise of imperium by New Delhi and its attitude of ignoring the autonomous character of the

States. In fact the description the Federal Republic of the Indian Union is fraudulent. The Constitution adopted on Independence under the leadership of Nehru really provides for an Empire controlled from New Delhi. Almost 90% of the provisions of the Indian Constitution constitute a carbon copy of the Government of India Act of 1935 which is an Imperial contraption. In addition Jawaharlal Nehru introduced a provision by which the political faction in power in New Delhi could dismiss any elected Government of the States and dissolve the State Legislature without assigning any reason. This Imperial provision was frequently resorted to for the benefit of the political faction in power in New Delhi. The composition of the State Cabinets (if congress was in power in the State) was determined at New Delhi; if another political party was in power, New Delhi was busy in toppling the state Government. The powers of the State Government to achieve anything tangible was severely restricted as the State has to depend on the discretionary authority of the Centre to obtain bulk of the financial resources. The Congress party at the centre really plays a tyrannical role over the States. This built-in Imperium of New Delhi is really responsible for the erosion of the sense of Indian-ness and pride in being an Indian among a growing proportion of the Indian population. India is really qualifying to be an Imperii Defensor. It seeks to defend the Sinhala Sri Lankan Empire over the Eelyom Tamils in order to maintain the imperial structure in India. Hence it signed an Agreement with full of contradictions and sought to employ its military machine to crush Eelyom Tamils and their pursuit of Independence.

Britain.

Britain's action in asserting the sovereignty of Sinhala Sri Lanka over the homeland of the Tamils is very easily explained. Edmond Burke, the British philosopher, stated with uncanny accuracy that bureaucrats will fight with much tenacity to defend their errors as if they were fighting to defend their patrimony. Britain wants to defend its colossal error in its Imperial past of lumping together two different nations namely the Sinhalese and the Tamils who held divided

possession of the Island from a very ancient period. Britain acted under the apprehension that if the Tamils in the Island were not marginalized politically they would bring the Island into the vortex of strident Indian nationalist agitation which was at peak levels from the twenties of this century. Britain regarded the Tamils as likely to get aligned with the Indian Nationalist struggle; it was convinced of the Empire loyalty of the Sinhalese and felt that the imposition of a Constitution which would transfer power into the hands of the Sinhalese would ensure ultimately an Empire loyal Brown dominion which could be a model for the rest of

Somasuntharam Vanniasingham

Britain's colonial possessions. There is no other explanation for Britain imposing the Donoughmore Constitution which was opposed to by all the Tamils barring one proved bribe receiver called E.R.Thambiattu. The Donoughmore Constitution dashed away all Constitutional safeguards provided for the minority Tamils and paved the way for the Sinhala Imperium over the Tamils. The Donoughmore scheme was accepted in the Legislative Council by only a slim majority of two votes. Of these two votes one was that of a Tamil Legislator proved to be a bribe receiver. Definitely Britain was not unaware that Constitution making should be a matter of consensus. To impose a Constitution which disregarded all the earlier safeguards (accepted in the Legislature by only so narrow a majority)

constitute a determination to marginalize the Tamils in the fond hope of nursing an Empire Loyal Sinhala dominion in the island. In the event Britain was disillusioned. Progressively the Sinhala majority not only acted against the Tamils but also liquidated most of British investments in the Island and saw to it that Britain's exports to the Island were whittled down.

United States

The attitude of the U.S. in ignoring the merits of the claims of the Tamils and the complete lack of legal validity for Sinhala Sri Lanka can only be explained by what may be termed the 'establishment mentality'. Both individuals and collective persons who are well off and established suffer from an inherent pre-disposition to support, preserve and maintain the existing structure. Anything radical appears to them to be something which should be resisted.

When the International Monetary Fund was established, the United States of America was the master of ceremonies. The scheme of the Fund accepted meekly existing par values of the currencies of the member countries although these par values terribly overvalued such currencies and were maintained at that time only through stringent exchange control and import restrictions. These anomalous par values gave immense trouble in the management of international finance and took several years before a sensible scheme for altering the par-values of different countries to realistic levels. The configuration of politics in Asia and Africa by the Western imperial powers were highly artificial and the acceptance of such configuration is really the route of internecine

warfare killing and violence and political instability in most parts of Asia and Africa.

Misguided Notion

A misguided notion that ethnic conflict in most of the Asian and African countries arise from lack of economic performance and that Liberal Aid from the West would strengthen the economies and eliminate the causes of friction is a complete illusion. The economic aid pumped to these countries is really spent on armaments which escalate violence and internecine warfare. As more aid flows from the West to these countries the moral fabric of public life is undermined, inequities multiply corruption and bribery, records of phenomenal increase quite apart from a strong tendency for the regime to develop a tyrannical outlook. Easy money militates against financial discipline and promotes the power of unpopular regimes. An official of the U.S. Embassy delivered a talk some years ago at the Jaffna Campus. At the end of the talk the writer asked a simple question as follows: Has the United States of America which lays great stress on Research ever undertaken a Research to find out why goodwill among the third world countries towards the United States varies in inverse proportion to the amount of Dollar Aid given to such countries? The Official smiled and evaded an answer by saying that such research should be undertaken. It is high time that United States of America examined whether the vast flow of Dollar Aid is received by worthy recipients and whether the benefit of such aid accrues to the people.

NGO's Attention Drawn On the Needs of Women

SCF (UK) Save Children Fund sponsored a workshop recently (16-11-91) at the Gnanam's Hotel, Jaffna on the problems and needs of women presently displaced and distressed due to the Sri Lankan Army activities in the Northeast.

The aim of the workshop was to share the ideas and experience of income-generating Schemes for women. Prof. K. Sivathamby who presided over the meeting, explained the plight of Jaffna

women and requested the Groups to study in detail the various Schemes relating to Handicrafts, Animal husbandry, Small-scale business for both short-term wartime and long-term projects. Representatives from Non-Government Organisations and interested individuals actively participated and submitted their reports. The President thanked the group for their reports and recommendations and also the Representative SCF (UK) who took such an interest.

Bomber Attack At Kompady

Two persons were injured when a Sri Lankan Air Force plane dropped five bombs at Kompadi near Elephant Pass on Tuesday, November 26th. Three boats were also damaged.

It is reported that on November 26th morning an Air Force plane, attacked Kompady where passengers were travelling in boats. At the sight of the plane, the passengers fled to safety but the plane dropped five bombs which damaged three boats and injured two persons.

One of those injured was Sebastiampillai Sivagnanam (20) of Murasumodai and the other is a boatman.

Part I of the Open Letter to Mr. Solars was published in our issue 1-12-91. This is the second and last part of the letter.

Eezham Tamils Contribution to Anna's Pre-Eminence

Late Hon. C. N. Annadurai, popularly and lovingly known as "ANNA" was the greatest indomitable genuine egalitarian of Tamil Nadu. He was respected and admired by the Tamil Speaking people all over the world for his incessant selfless service rendered to the Tamil Speaking community in all spheres of life.

He was an erudite scholar in Tamil and English. He was the unequalled thinker, rationalist, writer, reformer, orator and statesman of Tamil Nadu.

He participated in the Anti-Hindi campaign organised and led by an Eezha Tamil - Eezhaththu Sivananda Adikal, against Hindi imperialism and went to prison. Again in 1965 he led the Anti - Hindi Campaign in Tamil Nadu.

When he became the Chief Minister of Madras State, a resolution was passed in the legislative assembly to name the Madras State as "TAMIL NADU".

Eezham Tamil helped Anna's Educational Career

During studenthood Anna was a brilliant student at Pachchayappas' College, Madras. Anna obtained a First Class in the Inter Arts Examination. In those days it was a rare achievement for a non - brahmin Tamil Student like Annadurai. He was eligible to follow the B. A. (Hons.) class. But his parents did not have adequate means to spend for the higher education for three years. He, therefore, decided to follow the ordinary B. A. class and then seek employment.

Mr. Sinnathambypillai, who was the principal of Pachchayappas' College at that time requested Anna to join the B. A. (Hons.) class. Anna told him about his plight politely and regretted his inability to follow the Hons. class because of the in - adequate means of his parents. The principal said, "Among our Tamil students only a very few score the highest marks like you and they must progress well in the higher education. As such I have decided to grant you a scholarship at my discretion to follow the B. A. (Hons.) class." Anna replied as follows: "If the necessary books are also purchased for my studies in addition to the scholarship,

I will then be able to follow the Hons. class." The Principal conceded Anna's request and Anna followed the Hons. class.

These facts regarding the Scholarship are given in pages 5 & 6 of the booklet 'ANNA-VINVAZHAKAI KURIPPUK-KAL' (Notes on Anna's Biography) in Tamil compiled by Anbu Pazham Nee and published by New India Book House - First edition 1950 Second edition 1951.

The Principal Sinnathambypillai referred to above was the brother of late K. Kanapathypillai, Surveyor, from Thambacheddy, Pulol West, Point Pedro. Before he became the Principal he was the Professor of Mathematics at Pachchayappas' College. Sinnathambypillai's daughter-in-law Mrs. Sunthareswary Sivagnanasuntharam and his grand children are living at Thambacheddy, Pulol West, Point Pedro. The elderly gentleman Mr. Kanagasabapathy who was dwelling at Kancheepuram closer to Anna's house is still living at Pulol West. When he was young he had the privilege of meeting Professor Sinnathambypillai in person and conversed with him at Pachchayappas' College.

Anna and Ezhaththadikal

Anna and Ezhaththadikal were intimate friends. Ezhaththadikal's native village was Vadaliadaippu in Jaffna District. Navalar Nedunchezhiyan, Minister in Tamil Nadu State at present was the editor of "Manram" - a Tamil magazine. In the issue of the magazine dated 1 - 5 - 1955 he wrote about Ezhaththadikal as follows:—

"Ezhaththadikal who is in charge of "Dravida Nadu" (a Tamil Weekly paper) was once upon a time known as Ezhaththu Sivananda Adikal.

Kamandalam (Sages' water can) in his hand, saffron robes on his body, holy ash on his forehead, bead round his neck, sandals on his feet and with shaven head, he appeared as a holy Saint before 1938. He was born in Eezhanadu. He appeared as a saint at his young age and was on pilgrimage to holy shrines and temples and finally he established at Karur a spiritual organisation known as "Ari-vuthya Kazhakam" and was

imbued in spiritual practices such as Siva Sakthi poojas. He had intense love for Tamil and was very keen to promote the progress of the language. When comrade Rajagopalachariar issued a report stating that he would make Hindi a compulsory subject, it who Eezhaththadikal was sent the first telegram to Achchariar opposing his report. He was the person who started the Anti-Hindi Campaign. Then only people like Navalar - Bharathiar, Periyar Ramasamy and Arignar Anna participated in the campaign. He served as the first dictator of the campaign and entered the prison. When Adikal dressed in saffron robes entered the prison Anna also entered the prison in Madras. Both of them were lodged in B class of the Prison. They met each other and were able to exchange their ideas. Adikal was attracted by Anna's profound ideals immensely. Little by little there were signs of transformation in the devotional saint and he became a rationalist."

It should be reiterated and remembered for ever that it was an Eezha Tamil who was the first Tamil who fought and led the campaign against Hindi imperialism in Tamil Nadu.

When Communal riots broke out in Ceylon in May 1958 and when the Tamils were slaughtered by the Sinhalese hoodlums instigated by the Communalist Bandaranayake regime, Anna was the first leader in Tamil Nadu who organised a mile long demonstration in Madras to protest against the genocide committed by the Sinhala imperialist and gave a memorandum to the Deputy High Commissioner for Ceylon in Madras at that time. In his lucid editorials written in his English weekly paper "Homeland" and Tamil weekly paper "Dravidanadu" he warned the Sinhala Imperialist that history would repeat itself.

It is unfortunate and regrettable that the successors of Anna have completely forgotten the lofty ideals for which Anna dedicated his entire life and fought incessantly. After his demise his party leaders were fighting amongst each other to capture the power to rule Tamil

Nadu forgetting the patriotic ideal for which Anna sacrificed his life. The cleavage in the party led to the down fall of Anna's fundamental principles. Both the divisions of the original Anna's Party sought the embrace of the enemy Hindi Imperialist Party to win the elections in Tamil Nadu. They have forgotten the past history of the party. It was an offshoot of the Self Respect and Dravidian Movement. It is doubtful whether the present day leaders of Tamil Nadu ruling party except Hon. Nedunchezhiyan know the sacrifice of several leaders and thousands of members who fought against Hindi Imperialism.

Eezha Tamils who sought asylum as refugees in Tamil Nadu are being driven from pillar to post and the refugee students are not considered on compassionate grounds for admissions in Educational Institutions.

The famous French Writer Rousseau said, "Those who would treat politics and morality apart will never understand one or the other". The leaders should not aim at power and sense - enjoyment only. They must aim at Morality, Justice and Tranquility.

— "AHYILYAM"

National Heroes' Day Celebrations

The National Heroes' Day started with the pealing of bells and lighting of lamps on the midnight of November 27th. Every householder in Jaffna lit oil lamps at his or her house.

Following the ringing of bells and lighting of lamps all over Jaffna, the Leader of the LTTE, spoke over the Voice of Tigers - the LTTE broadcasting service.

On the evening of the 27th a mammoth meeting was held at the Jaffna University premises. Mr. K. Mahenthirarajah, the President of the People's Front of Liberation Tigers and Mr. Yogarajnam Yogi were among the speakers who addressed the meeting.

The meeting was preceded by a parade of the LTTE cadres and personnel of the Tamil Eelam Police Service. The impressive parade

was watched by the people who thronged in their thousands to see it. The proceedings connected with National Heroes' Day came to a close at 5 - 00 p. m.

Heavy Air Attack At Kachchai

Sri Lankan Air Force planes carried out heavy air attack at Kachchai in the Chavakachcheri area. In all 16 bombs were dropped in this coastal area which caused extensive damage to fishing boats beached there.

A resident of the area, Vari-thamby Markandu (male 60) also sustained severe injuries and was admitted to Jaffna Hospital for treatment.

In the circumstances, the Citizens' Committee has requested that the President must immediately arrange to ship children's milk foods sufficient for at least three months. According to Citizens' Committee the estimated requirement of milk foods for a month for the children and the sick is 480,000 kilograms.

Citizens' Committee Appeals for Children's Milk Foods

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee in a letter addressed to the President, has drawn his attention to the critical non-availability of milk foods for children and has requested him to order the supply immediately.

The Citizens' Committee has further said that 20% of the population in Jaffna constitute children under five. The supply of milk foods through ships up to now constitutes only 7% of the

total requirement of milk foods. Feeding mothers are not able to provide breast-fed milk because they themselves are grossly under-nourished. Most cows in the District have been killed by bombing and shelling and the remainder lack food. Supplies brought into Jaffna by road transport have also ceased after the Sangupiddy jetty had been closed as an inlet with the Sri Lankan forces coming into this area.

International Court and Eelam Demand

As a people dispersed throughout the world for more than two thousand years, the Jews were refugees in all parts of the globe, wherever they resided. They continued to be a persecuted lot. But during the Nazi regime of Hitler, the Jews in their thousands were sent to the gas chambers and they faced genocide.

Times changed when the Axis powers were defeated and the victorious five nations U.S.A., U.S.S.R., U.K., France and China came together to establish the United Nations Organisation.

The partition of the British mandated territory of Palestine was made possible by a resolution passed in the United Nations. This paved the way for the birth of a new Nation in Palestine and modern Israel entered the Comity of Nations. Ben Gurion, the father of the Israeli Nation could not have proclaimed the New State of Israel, if Soviet Union and the Communist bloc countries failed to cast their votes in support of the motion to partition Palestine.

The creation of Israel had brought about a National Home for the wandering Jews of the world but in this process had made another people, Palestinian Arabs lose their homeland.

The United Nations Organisation which helped the creation of Israel, is today attempting to solve the Palestinian Issue again by trying to find a State for the Palestinian Arabs too, within the borders of the Palestinian territory.

After the Jews and Palestinian Arabs, the Sri Lankan Tamils are attracting the attention and concern of all those who cherish Human Rights. To capitalise on this concern, the Tamil Nation has to do quite a lot of lobbying in International Forums including that of the United Nations Organisation. While the militants wage war in the battle fields, everyone who has the cause of Eelam at heart must leave no stone unturned to internationalise the Eelam demand in the way the Jews got about in America to bring about the Birth of Israel and in the way the Palestinian and other Arabs are now doing the world over. But for the international lobbying, the UNO will not bother itself in convening an International Conference in Madrid (Spain) and Washington to resolve the Palestinian problem.

The Tamil problem in this Island is as old as the UN proclaimed Charter of Human Rights itself. The Charter of Human Rights was universally declared on December 10th, 1948. But what happened in the same month of the same year in this Island of Ceylon? Tamil Estate workers were disenfranchised. Colonisation of the traditional Tamil Homeland too was carried on regardless so as to affect the demography of the Tamil territory.

Any country on admission to the UN must ipso facto recognise the Charter of Human Rights and also promote its observance within its own boundaries. Ceylon was knocking at the doors of UN. It has had to wait a long while for its admission, as the USSR was blocking it, obviously for other reasons. The Tamils should have done quite a lot of lobbying to prevent Ceylon gaining admission on the ground of its tainted Human Rights record, citing the examples of Ceylon Citizenship Act, the imposition of the Kandyan Flag as the National Flag over the Kingdoms of Kotte

and Jaffna, colonisation of the Tamil homelands which even started before Independence and accelerated after Independence, the Sinhala Only Official language Act the standardisation of marks on a linguistic basis (which came a little later).

Had the Tamils done proper lobbying in international circles, two things could have happened Sri Lanka could have found it difficult to

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obtain admission on the grounds of its Human Rights violations or in the alternative could have rectified its record of Human Rights violation prior to seeking admission.

Even afterwards the Tamils showed general apathy towards organising UN Day or Human Rights Day. Of course, there were functions organised by the Government Agents or Assistant Government Agents but they were under government aegis and Human Rights violations could not have found a place under such government sponsorship even invitees were government supporters!

The only exceptions to such functions were when Mr. K. Nesiiah and a former Member of parliament, the late Mr. Kathiravetpillai who organised seminars spotlighting Human Rights violations taking place in the country and specifically in the field of education. After Mr. Raja Visvanathan became Mayor of the Jaffna Municipal Council, he organised public meetings on these days by inviting politicians and trade unionists of various hues to address these functions and air their views in public on matters concerning Human Rights violations in Sri Lanka. Mr. C.V. K. Sivagnanam who followed him also permitted the spotlighting of Human Rights violations but the Indian military intervention in the Sri Lankan ethnic issue brought about an abrupt end.

Earlier, however, in 1979 and 1980 the Movement for Inter-Racial Justice and Equality (MIRJE) too had organised public meetings and seminars on the eve of Human Rights Day to focus attention on violations of Human Rights and State Terrorism prevailing in the Island. In 1979 on the eve of Human Rights Day, 9th December, the MIRJE

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GENDER BLINDNESS AND THE POOR WOMEN

How often has the following been cited; "Women make up 50% of the world's population, do two third of the work, earn less than 10% of the world's wages and own less than 1% of the world's surface"! Yet, despite the awareness of women's (relative) poverty and, inequality all over the world, the situation of poor women continues to worsen.

Despite a positive evolution in poverty-oriented development theories and strategies since the sixties, the start of the international debt crisis in 1982 and the threatened collapse of the international monetary system has brought classic development theories, based on economic growth and liberal market economies, back to the foreground. Growth has today become synonymous with export-oriented production and external liquidity has become the major guide of development policy.

Women, in both rural and urban areas, as the providers

of food, nutrition, health care, education and income within the family have been particularly adversely affected by the present economic crisis, and in many ways.

Cuts in public expenditure by the Third world governments, often imposed by the IMF, have led to increased unemployment and women have found themselves pushed into the informal sector!

Falling commodity prices have not only meant lower wages for the producers but are forcing developing countries to increase further their cash crops exports resulting in more work for women, often without additional income, and leaving less time for women to produce food to meet own families' needs;

Cuts in subsidies on drinking water, on food, health, education, public transport and the fall in average per capita income in many developing countries are placing an ever increasing burden

on women to make ends meet.

What is happening today is a process — the "feminisation" of poverty whereby the brunt of the world economic crisis is being passed onto poor of the Third World and it is the women who find themselves at the end of the chain.

Activities of women in general show that, throughout history, women have always played a vital role in ensuring the survival of urban and rural communities through food production, reproduction and child care as well as producing incomes for the household through work of economic value and in the performance of activities such as fetching fuel, food and drinking water.

During the last decade and largely as a result of the attention paid to the situation of women during the UN Decade for Women 1975-1985, the multiple role of rural women in particular has

become widely recognised. Many studies now reveal that worldwide women are responsible for at least 50% food production.

While in regions of the Third World such as Sub Saharan Africa the contribution of women to food production in all its aspects rises to 80%. FAO in 1985 affirmed women's contribution to development in these words:— "In the Third World agricultural productivity cannot be substantially increased nor can rural poverty be alleviated unless women's access to key productive resources and service is substantially improved. The consequences of patriarchy for agricultural productivity are very expensive. Developing countries cannot bear their heavy cost".

However, the new awareness of the consequences of patriarchy has not until now led to a further empowerment of women. The central position of women in the life of the community, their inferior status and their exposure to discriminations of all kinds in everyday life evidently combine to give women a different perspective on the main problems of today, and on ways of solving

those problems. Yet, the problems of our age, both economic, and political, are regarded as being a male preserve. In the North and the South, the socio-political systems in force tend to direct women more to the private sphere of the family home and men to the public sphere with decision-making power. It is the men who take the decisions.

As can be seen from the above, it is clear that lack of productivity is not the cause for inequalities in power relations between men and women. So what is it? There is no one explanation nor common thinking on this question. Some blame the patriarchal systems, for the relative poverty of women in all economic systems, others argue that women's poverty is a consequence of the class structures in capitalist societies. But as Lynn Jones of the World Council of Churches stated; it is not an either/or proposition; gender and race on the one hand and class on the other, act to reinforce each other.

— from the desk of—

Dr. Nagules

Kathirgamanathan

Director General, SEACED

HOT SPRING

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IS IT AN ILL WIND?

News reported from the hill country capital of Kandy is rather disgusting. Lt. Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe, now elevated as Chief of Joint Operations Command, has given a Press Interview from Kandy.

Among the many things he stated are:-

- (a) In two or three months time the Army would take over the North;
- (b) The Government must announce its policy clearly;
- (c) The LTTE must lay down its arms;
- (d) That the Tamils must desert the LTTE.

In addition to the General's Press interview, we also have another report from Kandy which says that the High Priest of the Malwatte Chapter, Ven. Vipassi Thero has told the General that the Army must help in finding a political solution to the ethnic problem and he has further said that the Army - General must be present in all future talks on the ethnic issue.

The Buddhist clerical leader, Ven. Vipassi Thero already earned notoriety, when he liberally donated Rs. 30,000/- to former President J. R. Jayewardene's War Fund. That act alone speaks of the gap between this individual's practice and the precepts of Buddhism.

Kandy has been selected many times both by President Premadasa and his predecessor, J. R. Jayewardene to make important speeches. So now too General Hamilton Wanasinghe has chosen to speak to the Press from Kandy, touching amongst other things important political matters too.

Many politicians have tried to alienate the Tamil People from the LTTE. They are perfectly entitled to do that because politics is their sphere. But now the most Senior Sinhala Army Officer of the Baudha Sinhala Government is also telling the Tamil people what they should do politically.

Will the Tamils therefore have Sinhala military men as their political tutors? Is it what is in store for the Tamils?

The matter does not end there. The General has said that the Government must announce its policy clearly. We do not know what clarity he seeks from the Government. Whatever it is, it appears that he has some doubts. That is why he has chosen to ask for clarity.

Does it not sound strange that a highly placed military officer should seek clarity from the Government through Press media?

We are constrained to think that the army is getting politicised. Perhaps the Army cannot be blamed either.

From 1971 the Governments that came into being, whether it be of Mrs. Bandaranavake or J. R. Jayawardene, have ruled most, if not all their time, under Emergency. In other words, it was the military power of the State that retained them in power. It is the same case with Mr. Premadasa's government also.

For almost two decades the Army has sustained the politicians in power. Surely this should give the Army the thought that the State power in the Island is entirely dependent on it. If this thinking gets into the heads of Army men, one cannot blame them for too much considering the absolute dependence of the politicians on the power of the bullet over that of the ballot.

And now to make matters worse - the Prelate of the Malwatte Chapter is telling the General that the Army should find a solution for the ethnic problem also.

Do these reports coming from Kandy augur not too well to the Sinhalese themselves?

JAFFNA HOSPITAL CAUSING HEALTH HAZARDS TO JAFFNA CITY?

This monsoon season has seen a very high incidence of diseases in Jaffna, ranging from Typhoid, Brain-fever, Malaria to Diarrhoea. The war situation, the embargo imposed on the transport of medicines and insanitary conditions at hastily put up Refugees' Camps have further complicated matters. Since the re-opening of the Hospital at the end of 1990, a situation has arisen where untreated sewage is pumped into open Municipal drains - thus creating another serious health hazard to the general public.

Prior to the June, 1990 war all hospital sewage was collected in septic tanks within the Hospital compound and then pumped out into the lagoon at Pannai, by a Pumping Station at 1st Cross Street.

After the war started in June, 1990 and with the bombing of the town, the septic tank in the Hospital was damaged. The pumping station at 1st Cross Street had also been damaged. This is the explanation given by the Hospital authorities as to why the sewage is being flushed before being treated into the Municipal drains along public roads. It seems that the I. C. R. C. is supplying chlorine to spray over the sewage. Solid matter is being taken away to a dumping ground in Navanthurai.

The flushing of untreated sewage into open Municipal drains is the matter of most

concern. This is evidently being done with the knowledge of the Hospital administration, the I.C.R.C., The Red Cross Society, the C.E.C.B., M.O.H. of Jaffna Municipal Council and the R. D. H. S. Office, Jaffna, but no one seems to take due interest in the matter.

It is learnt that a private firm of Consultants has already provided the Hospital administration with a study of the situation and means of rectifying this. However, more than six months have passed since the submission of the report and no visible action has been taken.

"Surely it is within the capabilities of local Engineers to correct this health hazard situation? Could not the good offices of the various, N.G.Os be

put to good use to obtain money and materials to reconstruct the sewage system and pumping station?" said a Health worker. "The I.C.R.C. could arrange for a new pump to be brought down. At least the removal of sewage could be done by pumping into a bowser vehicle and transporting it to a pre-determined site away from the city and from human habitation. The sewage material could be used as fertiliser for various schemes as done in India," he added.

"The general public is concerned over the health risk to the public. We know that there are means and methods of rectifying this situation and would urge the relevant offices to look into this health hazard and initiate action," said a Health worker.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Message from Dr. Nagules Kathirgamanathan, Chairman, UN - Jaffna Unit

Over 40 years ago, the peoples of the United Nations, acting through their governments, adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first international instrument drawn up to protect these rights. The Declaration is today norm for all countries.

At the same time, we observe that the principles, treaties and conventions, to which the Member States of the United Nations have subscribed, are not always

respected. This is why it is indispensable to ensure that the concept of Human Rights become a unifying force for all humankind.

Let us all hope this late decade of the 20th century opens up new horizons on life and social interaction between peoples, and by constant efforts in this domain all Member States of the UN and others develop and encourage new paths towards understanding and fraternal entente within the great human family.

International...

(Continuation from Page 5)

organised a Day of Prayer and Fasting in places of public worship such as Churches, Temples and Mosques within the City of Jaffna on behalf of victims of State Terrorism and conducted a public meeting at Kalyana Mandapam in Nallur at which leaders of Colombo-based political parties and Trade Unions also participated and addressed. Among those groups who addressed the meeting were members of the Ceylon Teachers' Union, Messrs. Bala Thampoe of the CMU and Vasudeva Nanayakkara of the NSSP who expressed support and recognition for the Right of the Tamil people to exercise their Right to Self-determination. The Jaffna Mothers' Front (now defunct) too carried out a mass demonstration by wearing black bands on Human Rights'

Day so as to express displeasure on the inactivity of the UNO to stop the oppression of the Eelam Tamils and the blatant violations of Human Rights indulged in by the State in Sri Lanka.

There is no reason to stop such mass actions on Human Rights' Day to focus attention and concern of the International Community especially after Indian military intervention in the Sri Lankan Ethnic Conflict. This Indian military intervention has internationalised the Ethnic Issue which was at one time considered a domestic one. Why cannot we make use of this opportunity to propagate and advance the justification of the Eelam demand? Let the intellectuals think aloud as to whether the Eelam advocates could refer the matter to the International Court at The Hague.

Saiva Savant...

(Continuation from Page 2)

years. He died on the 11th of August, 1924.

The works of Mr. Pillai drew the attention of great thinkers like Max Muller, G. U. Pope and Prof. R. W. Frazer.

Swami Vivekananda who once came to Madras, had occasion to converse with Mr. Pillai. After reading the English rendering of "Sivagnanabotham" made by Mr. Pillai, Swami Vivekananda said to Mr. Pillai, "Mr. Pillai, had you given me this book earlier, I would have taken this to Chicago and declared the magnificence of Saiva Siththanda" Swami Vivekananda's comment really reveals the greatness of Mr. Pillai. He brought out the high philosophy of Saiva Siththanda to the knowledge of those who did not know Tamil. All Saivites must gratefully remember him," concluded Mr. Yoganathan.