

HOT SPRING

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WHO WILL ANSWER ?

Who can say that the Tamils in Ceylon have ever been wanting in a sincere desire and willingness to settle their disputes with the Sinhalese by negotiation and dialogue? Who in the world would have gone for dialogues again and again in the face of betrayal after betrayal?

V. Navaratnam in 'The Fall and Rise of the Tamil Nation.'

Fast By P.O. Ws Ten Days Old

Condition - Weak & Deteriorating

The fast by the prisoners of war in Jaffna entered the tenth day yesterday with some of them having to be admitted to hospital. The fasting men refrained from even taking water from the seventh day of the fast. In the meantime, on the eighth day the fasting men received information from JOC Chief, Hamilton Wanasinghe requesting them to give up the fast until the Government Agent, Jaffna (who was at Colombo) met them. The fasting men did not give up their fast but reverted to taking water "in deference to the message from the JOC chief" as they told newsmen here.

The Sinhala policemen who were held prisoners of war by the LTTE for over 3 years started a fast unto death on June 13 this year demanding that the Government of Sri Lanka obtain their release from LTTE custody.

The Government of Sri Lanka which at first ignored the fast, later sent Brig. Ananda Weerasekera to have discussions with LTTE. On June 21, an agreement was entered into under which the Government of Sri Lanka agreed to lift the ban it had imposed on certain essential consumer commodities to Jaffna and the LTTE agreed to release the prisoners of war.

On June 29, however, the Government of Sri Lanka retracted from its agreement and even ordered a ship laden with goods on which the ban had been lifted and destined to Jaffna not to unload the commodities at Point Pedro harbour. It was said that the Government of Sri Lanka went back on the agreement because of pressure from its Armed Forces. The LTTE for its

part reacted by refusing to release those policemen barring 5 it had already released on the agreement being reached and later another one on humanitarian grounds.

In the meantime Sinhalese persons-parents and relatives of the prisoners of war who had come to see their fasting children-were angered by the Sri Lankan Government volte-face and decided to stay in Jaffna until they persuaded the Govt. of Sri Lanka to obtain their children's release. They refused to respond to invitations from Colombo requesting them to return to Jaffna and insisted that they would return only with their children. The Government of Sri Lanka did nothing more and the prisoners tired of waiting re-started the fast on July 29.

Whilst the prisoners fasted, their relations, (parents, brothers or sisters) anxiously waited for some positive move by the Government of Sri Lanka to honour its agreement with the LTTE and obtain the release of the prisoners. They told local pressmen that the Government of Sri Lanka should provide the Jaffna people's requirements and obtain the release of their fasting children.

There was however no response from the Government till the 8th day of the fast and the condition of the fasting men was daily deteriorating.

The details of Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe's message are not known. Probably his proposals will be brought personally by the Government Agent.

Memorial Temple for Elephant Pass Heroes

A memorial temple was declared open on Saturday, July 31, at Kodikamam in honour of the 602 Tiger fighters who laid their lives in the Elephant Pass battle in 1991.

Mr. Pottu Amman of the LTTE declared the memorial temple open in the presence of thousands of people who had gathered to witness the occasion.

The parents of the 602 dead fighters were brought to the scene by special invitation. These parents paid floral tributes to the pictures of their dead children. Following garlanding and floral tributes and the lighting of lamps, leaders of the LTTE addressed the large gathering.

Super - Sonics and Puccaro Hit Again

1 Killed -
9 Injured

One student was killed and nine persons were seriously injured when Super-sonic jet bombers and Puccaro bombers of the Sri Lankan Air Force bombed

Sithankerny and Vaddukoddai on Friday, July 30, evening. Houses, and plantations were damaged and cattle killed.

At 4.55 p.m. on Friday, July 30 two Sri Lankan Air Force Super-sonic jets bombed Siththankerny and Vaddukoddai. Four bombs were thrown in all at both places. 5 persons were injured at Siththankerny and four at Vaddukoddai.

Within half an hour at 5.25 p.m. two Puccara planes again bombed these areas, 2 bombs each at

Siththankerny and Vaddukoddai. At Siththankerny 5 houses were damaged.

Seven houses were damaged in the attack at Vaddukoddai. Also a G.C.E(A/L) student T.Mukundan who was to have sat for A/L examination fixed for 2nd August was killed. Some cattle were also killed.

Of the nine injured two are girl students who were to have sat for the G.C.E. (A/L) examination which commenced on Monday, 2nd August. They are now in hospital with serious injuries.

Heavy Shelling at Midnight

The Sri Lankan Army encamped at Mandaitivu carried out heavy shelling and gun fire at midnight on Friday, July 23.

Whilst gun-fire was directed towards the coast the shells exploded in the Kottadi area in Jaffna town. Residents in the Kottadi area moved out of their homes at midnight and flocked to the adjoining security zone area under ICRC control covering the Jaffna Hospital area.



LTTE Attacks STF at Thambiluvil

Three Special Task Force personnel including a Sub-Inspector were severely injured and a land rover completely damaged, in an attack carried out by the LTTE on Tuesday July 20 at Thirukovil in Amparai District.

According to the news report, the Special Task Force men were travelling in

a land rover on patrol, when the LTTE attacked the vehicle at Thambiluvil in the Amparai District at 9 p.m. on Tuesday July 20.

According to Sri Lankan Army sources, one of the injured has since been transferred to the Badulla Hospital for treatment.

Navaratnam's Memoirs Continued

Port Nationalisation:

The next was the restoration of the Paduvil Kulam (The Sinhalese have renamed it Padaviya) under which all the fertile land west and north of Trincomalee town and adjacent to the Northern Province border is colonized with Sinhalese settlers.

Lone but valiant fight by Vanniasingham

It was left to C. Vanniasingham, M. P. for Kopay, to spearhead a campaign of protest against the Schemes. It was ineffective so long as D. S. Senanayake had G. G. Ponnampalam in

town depended to a large extent on the Naval Base. The local population, which was predominantly Tamil, found employment in large numbers, and thousands of families owed their livelihood to this important employer. More important was the fact that the administration of the Naval Base did not encourage recruitment of workers from outside Trincomalee, and that helped the town to preserve its Tamil ethnic character.

Soon after S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike was elected

even if it meant pulling out of the Government, or even if it meant the fall of the Government. More than a hundred Party workers from Trincomalee travelled all the way to Jaffna and invaded the party head-quarters. They demonstrated, argued, and pleaded with the party hierarchy pointing out the impending danger to Trincomalee. But all was in vain. Tiruchelvam pleaded that his position as Minister must be saved at all costs. A. Amirthalingam charged me in abusive language with

which operated in Colombo mainly for the Colombo Harbour. The Regulations relating to employment required that labour must be recruited through the local Employment Exchange in Trincomalee. The Port Cargo Corporation, however, bypassed that requirement by recruiting Sinhalese labour for the Colombo Harbour through the Employment Exchange in Colombo, and then after some time making internal transfers and adjustments by sending "excess labour" to Trincomalee. The local firms which had been carrying out the stevedoring and ship chandler services until the Port Cargo Corporation was brought in were and forced to close-down, inevitably their local labour was thrown out of employment.

The result was hundreds of Sinhalese toughs from Colombo slums inundated the town of Trincomalee. The impact of their presence was felt in Trincomalee in the orgy of murder and arson that marked the holocaust of Black July - August 83.

It is a grim reminder of the dangers of opportunist politics to those who raised the "Save Tiruchelvam's Cabinet Post" cry in the old Federal Party, at least to those of them who are still alive.

*The correct name should be Muthali Kulam

(Singhalised to Morawewa)

- to be Continued -

A Scheme to Singhalesize

Minister Distributing Dynamite Sticks.

C. P. de Silva who as a civil servant was carrying out the Colonization Policy under D.S. Senanayake, had entered Parliament and become a minister in the S.L.F.P. Government by the time the Kanthalai and Paduvil colonization Schemes were being implemented, and he was in charge of the Ministry of Lands and Land Development which handled colonization. In selecting colonists for these Schemes he saw to it that young toughs from his home district in the Southern Province were picked as allottees. They later justified the selection by committing the most violent atrocities during the frequent pogroms against the Tamils in Trincomalee. On one occasion C. Sundaralingam, M. P. for Vavunia, threw accusation across the floor of the House in Parliament that the Minister was seen distributing sticks of dynamite to his men.

The most saddening reflection to indulge in is to think that when the earliest and the biggest of the Colonisation Schemes, the Gal oya and the Allai, were being pushed through in the Cabinet G. G. Ponnampalam was a minister in it. He was supposed to be protecting the interests of the Tamils, but he is not known to have opposed the mass transplanting of Sinhalese people in the Tamil Province. Had he done so he might very well have averted the tragedy that befell the Eastern Province. But, as fate would have it, his self-interest, his attaching importance to inessentials like factories, his short-sighted advocacy of an imaginary right of the Tamils to settle in any part of Ceylon, all these stood in the way. Perhaps it made him shrink from a possible charge of inconsistency.

Trinco. Town

the cabinet when the major Schemes were pushed through. But Vanniasingham never relented in his opposition until his short life ended. Once his lone voice even succeeded in salvaging a small but vital project for the Tamils of the Trincomalee District. A minor irrigation tank by the name of of Muthaiyan Kattu Kulam* capable of irrigating a few hundred acres in close proximity to Trincomalee town was planned for restoration and colonization according to the usual Government pattern. A patriotic son of Trincomalee, C. Kodeswaran, then a young clerk in the Land Branch of the Trincomalee Kachcheri, got wind of it and alerted Vanniasingham. The latter brought such pressure on the Government that eventually the allotments under the scheme were given to Tamils of the District.

The colonization schemes referred to thus far resulted in Singhalesization of the Tamil land of the Eastern Province. The schemes have helped the Sinhalese only to gobble up the cultivable and habitable rural parts of the Province. The Government did not regard the Singhalesization as complete until the towns are made predominantly Sinhalese.

Singhalesization of Trinco - Town

It turned its attention, therefore, to the principal town of the Province, namely, the port city of Trincomalee.

At the time of the transfer of power, D.S. Senanayake had simultaneously entered into a Defence Agreement with Britain under which the British retained control of their wartime Naval Base of Trincomalee. The life of the

Prime Minister in 1956, he forced Britain to quit her Naval and Air Bases in Ceylon. The British dismantled their installations and left the Naval Base at Trincomalee. The Ceylon Government took over the harbour and converted it into a commercial port to handle cargo and shipping. The thousands of Tamil workers employed by the British were thrown out of employment, and the town became impoverished. A fraction of them were engaged by local firms which performed stevedoring and ship chandler services. Even that did not last long.

Nationalisation of Trincomalee Harbour

Following the General Elections in 1965, Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake formed a sort of a "National Government" in co-operation with the Federal Party and the Tamil Congress. This Government (1965 - 70) took a fateful decision that spelt the doom of Trincomalee as a Tamil town, the decision to nationalize the Trincomalee Harbour.

It is a paradox of history that this measure was decided on by a Government in which the Federal Party was actively participating with Minister M. Thiruchelvam in the cabinet. This is the party, which for sixteen years since its inception, has been carrying on an unrelenting agitation against Sinhalese colonization of the Eastern Province. Yet it gave its approval to this measure with full knowledge that by doing so it was opening the gates of Trincomalee to an influx of Sinhalese labour from Colombo.

I raised a storm of protest and caused a crisis within the Federal Party executive. It was my view that the measure must be opposed

having 'engineered' the demonstration by the Trincomalee Tamils. The majority of the party executive, moved by Amirthalingam's rhetorical exhortation, was more concerned with saving the Cabinet post of Tiruchelvam than with the fate of the Tamils of Trincomalee. They decided to stand by the Minister.

Singhalesization through Administrative acts

Nationalization of the harbour had a disastrous effect on the working class population of Trincomalee, and therefore on the composition of the general population of the town. It involved taking over of the stevedoring and ship chandler services by the state-owned Port Cargo Corporation

NEWS IN BRIEF

July 26 - Monday

Sri Lankan army personnel who arrived in a bus at Vaharai Kandaladdy in the Batticaloa District about 5.30 p.m. opened fire on the LTTE and in the fight that ensued, one LTTE militant was killed.

Issidore Pathinathar (42) an inmate of the Camp for Displaced Persons at Manipay, lost his right leg, when he got entangled in a booby trap at Perivillan, his village where he had gone to inspect his house.

At midnight, two artillery shells were fired towards Erlalai West and Erlalai South from Palaly army camp. The shell which fell in Erlalai South damaged a few houses and killed five fowls, while the shell which fell in Villichiddy in Erlalai area, damaged a field with kurakkan cultivation.

July 27 - Tuesday

Sri Lankan army stationed at Mandativu and Karainagar fired shells and gun

shots towards coastal areas. The shelling from Mandativu was directed towards the Old Dutch Fort and the Telecommunication office, while the intermittent firing of shells and gunshots from Karainagar were towards aimed Ponnalai, Moolai and Chulipuram. There have been no reports of any damages.

July 29 - Thursday

In a confrontation between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan army near the railway bridge at Thallady in Mannar District, three soldiers died.

Air Force bombed the Agricultural Farm at Jeevanagar in the Mannar District. There was no report of damages.

SPORTS

Cricket

Jaffna Hindu College under 17 Team, beat St. John's at the latter's grounds.

Scores:-

St. John's - 118 all out
Jaffna Hindu - 158 for 8 at close.

'The Island' of 13-7-93 has published an article under the caption 'Indian Factor in Sri Lanka's Separatist War' by a special correspondent. This person has stated that he was writing this article anonymously because of the gun culture prevailing in this country. If his arguments in favour of a military adventure by the Indians are correct, reasonable and patriotic, why should he fear any reprisal? A genuine person

Dixit Slandered

The article goes on to even twist the facts of recent history. He talks about USA - Iraq relations. He has forgotten the colossal help Iraq received from the USSR. He seems to have even forgotten 'Trangate scandal' which arose as a result of the relation USA had with Iran. Merely to justify or bring home a point, one need not attempt to change or twist facts of history.

neighbours. He says that people have been falsely told that they were here to capture the country and goes on to say that if the large force of Indians who had come here, refused to go away on their own, who was there to force them out? Did the Indians leave Sri Lanka, when they were asked to do so without any show of protest? The Government of India at first did

not, had become its Premier. He was against his country being involved in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. The other factor that made India quit, as it did, was the bashing the Indian troops received at the hands of the Eelam guerillas. The Indian troops were not mentally and militarily equipped to engage in a new kind of warfare which was peculiar only to the Tigers. The moral will - power of the

Does he not know that the JVP leader Somavansa Amaravansa was given refuge by the Indian RAW? Does he not know that the infamous Premadasa Udugampola was the guest of the Indian Government during his illicit stay in India? Does he also not know that for what purpose Varatharaja Perumal and his crowd are being kept in India? Are they being kept in secret places at great expenditure only for their own safety?

Indian Factor - Island's Correspondent's View

saying the right thing need not fear anyone. Or is he taking cover under anonymity to say all the untruth he has come out in this article? The writer is echoing the ideas of J. R. Jayewardene. Mr. Jayewardene has said at a mock Parliamentary proceeding held at the Sri Lanka Law College that if he had been in power, he would not have sent the IPKF away and that the North and East war would have ended by now. Well, it took so long for him to come out with this piece of opinion. He could have advised Premadasa at the time he asked the IPKF to leave Sri Lanka. He was not out of the UNP then, nor was he out of politics. But the actual fact is, during that period he was a rejected person. Anyone can come out with anything, when the person against whom such things are uttered, is not alive to defend himself.

Premadasa's patriotism

The special correspondent condemns Premadasa for sending the IPKF away saying that it was a blunder. Whatever accusation anyone can bring against Premadasa, no one can say that he was an unpatriotic person. He was not prepared to mortgage his country as J. R. J. did, in order to fight the dirty war against Tamil Eelam. He praises the Indo - Sri Lanka Accord, even inspite of it being not reciprocal and continues to say that even if it were so, it should be tolerated. Anything which is not of mutual benefit to the agreeing parties is not an accord. Further, did the Accord fulfil the aspirations of the Tamils who according to the writer had to face frequent massacres at the hands of the Sinhalese? No. They were not even a party to the Accord.

One wonders whether it is for this reason that the writer wants to be anonymous. In another attempt to belittle Premadasa, the writer

S. Thiagarajah

gives a different picture of J.N. Dixit stating that he begged President Premadasa not to act foolishly and send the IPKF away. Dixit who got what he wanted from Jayewardene with something which he jotted down on the back of an envelope, has stooped low before Premadasa. It shows Premadasa's real character.

Bomb attacks

The article laments about the havoc the LTTE had created since the IPKF left in March, 1990. Naturally when parties fight against one another, they create the maximum possible damage to the other party. Is not the Sri Lankan government killing innocent persons saying they are fighting the Tigers? Last week, super sonic and Pukkaro planes and helicopters bombed Jaffna, Chankanai, Kopay and other places and killed old people and innocent school-going children. When these children sought refuge in a temple, that temple too was bombed. A student being a member of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade rendered First Aid to a victim of bomb attack. This boy too received a fatal injury in a subsequent bomb attack. This is the havoc the Sri Lankan government is perpetrating on the people of Tamil Eelam.

India praised

The writer of this article seems to have a very high opinion of India and its relations with its neighbours. He paints India as peace-loving, non - antagonistic and as a country having no hegemonistic intentions on its

not heed the request of Sri Lankan President to declare a cease - fire. It did not comply with it.

The Government and the Tigers in a statement which could be called a Joint one by them, described the IPKF as an army of occupation. Even inspite of these, the Indians did not go away. Then what made them quit? There were several reasons for it.

The Cold War was just over and India was in a dilemma regarding its international relations. Rajiv Gandhi who plunged India into the Sri Lankan skirmish, was defeated and V.P. Singh, a tolerant, moderate politi-

Tigers was extra - ordinary. These factors were the main reasons for India leaving, as it did, even against the bureaucratic advice of the RAW and other state machinery. It quitted not willingly. Can we forget its machinations, political and otherwise. It got the EPRLF administration to come out with a Unilateral Declaration of Independence. It created a Tamil National Army and equipped it militarily at high cost. It was actually preparing for a blood - bath. But the circumstances at that time was not conducive.

JVP harboured.

Does not the writer of this article know that India is acting against the interests of Sri Lanka even now?

The article says that India is not out to conquer other countries. In the present world, there need not be a war or use of force to keep another country under subjugation. What is India doing to Nepal and Bhutan, its land - locked neighbours? It is economic and political strangulation that is being imposed on these countries by India. USA the only Super power in the world now, is also supposed to be a peace - loving country. But its economic tentacles strangle almost all the countries in Central and South America. What about its indirect World hegemony over almost all the countries through its vested interests in the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other similar agencies?

Tamils harassed

The writer of this article boasts that now Sinhalese areas are Havens for the Tamils to live in peace. Are the Tamils in the Sinhala areas living in peace? Definitely not. They are living in mental agony every minute of their lives. Constant

(Continued on Page 4)

SINHALA COLONISATION IN ZIONIST MODEL

Jews made use of planned colonization under guise of agricultural settlements to capture Arab lands. Mr. D. S. Senanayake studied this in detail and planned the Allai, Kanthalai, Padaviya and Gal Oya Schemes to change the demography of the Tamil homeland to benefit the Sinhalese. We quote below from "Sri Lanka's First Prime Minister, Don Stephen Senanayake" by H. A. J. Hulugalle.

Sir Arthur Ranasinghe has disclosed in his Memoirs, the genesis of the Book, "Agriculture and Patriotism." "As his agricultural policy became crystallised", writes Ranasinghe, "I suggested to him that it would be desirable to outline his ideas in a series of Press articles. The suggestion came to my mind, when I saw in the Press, some articles on the development

of arid Palestine by men and money of the Zionist Movement. 'D. S.' accepted my suggestion with enthusiasm and we began thinking out, discussing and writing a series of articles to be published in a newspaper. These articles were later collected and published as a booklet entitled 'Agriculture and Patriotism'."

A series of articles was written by the present writer in the Ceylon Daily News after a visit of several weeks to Palestine at the beginning of 1935. I lived in the Jewish settlements such as Rehovath, Givat, Brenner and Emek. During this trip, I was sent to Golda Meir who was then in-charge of a Labour Office and she invited me to her house in Tel Aviv on the sand dunes. Later she was Prime Minister of Israel which was previously a part of the British Mandate of Palestine.

I brought back to Ceylon with me a book in English called 'The Fellah's Farm' by a Mr. Villeani, one of the agricultural experts. He had taken an Arab farmer and put him to work on an allotment of land. A neighbouring land under the same conditions was cultivated by methods used in modern farming. The Arab's land was worked under the supervision of the Superintendent and all his work was indexed in detail. Villeani had gathered interesting material enabling him to compare both methods of agriculture.

I gave this book to Senanayake who was attracted by this kind of research and I had been told by Sir Arthur Ranasinghe who helped Senanayake with the book entitled 'Agriculture and Patriotism' that the idea of writing it came from 'The Fellah's Farm'.

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Simple Solution in Own Hands

Western World seems to go through a crisis caused by the influx of refugees from various countries who seek asylum in the countries of Western Europe and even in the North American Continent beyond the Atlantic. Large numbers of people from various parts of the world have run to European countries like Germany, France, Switzerland, Denmark, Holland, Norway and also to Canada and even to the USA seeking political asylum in those countries.

Judging from recent news coming from these countries, it is patently clear that the 'refugee problem' has become a major concern of the governments of these countries.

Germany which had shown lot of liberality in receiving foreign refugees, seems to have decided to place severe restrictions on those foreign refugees who seek to run to Germany as political refugees from other lands. This move to curb the influx of foreign refugees into Germany does not appear to have been welcomed by all the Germans. Some Germans have stoutly opposed the German Government's move so much so that, according to reports, members of Germany's parliament, Reichstag, were compelled to attend parliament making use of helicopters and boats to avoid confrontation with thousands of demonstrators in front of Reichstag protesting against the intended measures to curb refugee influx into Germany.

France is another country where large numbers of foreign refugees are seeking asylum. The reports from Paris indicate that the legislature in that country, the National Assembly, has passed laws intended to curb the influx of refugees into France despite warnings by the French President, Francois Mitterrand, against the advisability of the provisions of the intended legislation.

It is clear from reports from all over the West be it from Bonn, Paris, Geneva, London or the Scandinavian countries or Canada or US that all these countries want to make their laws stringent in a move to curb the influx of foreign refugees. But the measures adopted by the governments of these countries - almost all Western countries without exception - have invited opposition both from its own nationals and Human Rights Organisations, not to speak of the refugees themselves.

Large numbers of Eelam Tamils too have sought refuge in these countries. Why are Eelam Tamils running away from the country of their forefathers for the first time in history?

British imperialism handed over a separate and distinct Tamil Eelam nation which had existed independently of the Sinhala nation to the mercies of the Sinhala state. If Britain had not done this - i.e. destroy a nation state (Tamil Eelam) and subjugate it to the will and mercy of another nation (Sinhalese) - today there will be no war on this island. The two peoples will be living as friends.

There is a simple solution to the problem of the West in its own hands. It is the military - ware and lethal weapons supplied by the West to the Sinhala government which has rendered Eelam Tamils forsake their beloved motherland and seek refuge in other countries. If the supply of all arms, ammunitions and other military - ware is stopped to the Sinhala government, the war in the island will come to a stop. If foreign aid is stopped the Sinhala Government will not be able to finance its genocidal war against the Tamils and the West can be free from the bother of refugees from Tamil Eelam.

If, therefore, the West stops supplies of war materials and foreign aid for the genocidal Sinhala government of Sri Lanka, there will be no need for Western governments to be embarrassed by their own violation of international norms and standards set of up for the treatment political refugees.

It will also mean that not only there will be no new refugees from Tamil Eelam but independent Tamil Eelam state will act quickly to bring back its citizens to its soil without allowing them to be refugees in other countries.

Sinhala Policemen's fast

Centre For Better Society Appeals

Representatives of the Centre for Better Society, Jaffna, visited the fasting Sinhalese policemen in Jaffna on Monday, August 2.

The General Secretary of the Society, Mr. A. Santhiapillai issued a press release after the Society's team returned from the visit to see the fasting men. The text of the statement reads as follows.

To all people of goodwill. We paid a humanitarian visit yesterday to the 33 Sinhalese prisoners who are on a fast (with liquids only) in Jaffna and were glad that our visit gave much consolation to them and their relatives.

We could chat with each and all of them personally and without any monitoring. We are convinced that the fast is not forced on them but has been motivated by an intense desire for freedom and as their last resort.

We expressed our solidarity and that of all the religions and people of Jaffna who still believe in non-violence.

The parents and family members here convinced us that they could not but consent to their request to undertake the fast as they (prisoners) and not themselves really understand what prolonged imprisonment is. Almost all are from the poor class and feel left uncared to suffer so long because of their "insignificant status" and incapability to create a social impact. They clearly understand that they are victims of a war unnecessarily prolonged due to political power struggle and the inhuman desire for

military victories at the cost of human misery and are at the very depth of desperation.

They also assured us that they are yet in Jaffna on their own choice and would leave only with their kith and kin either free or even dead.

Non-violence, encouraged by all religions of which this is but one form, has not been given due response by any Government in the past. Satyagraha has been the ahimsa weapon of the Tamils from the inception of their struggle. Since it was not understood and was responded continuously with violence, the youth took to arms after 30 years.

The entire population of Jaffna deprived of normal educational, medical and

food supplies and freedom of movement due to blockades are forced to undergo fasting and "imprisonment". They suffer all this as their non-violent part of the struggle to attain their freedom. As a result of this 2nd fast by the prisoners commencing so soon after their earlier fast from 13th to 21st June, from the physical effects of which they had still not recovered fully, their condition is deteriorating fast.

We therefore appeal to all to pursue whatever is possible to secure their early release and a just solution to the underlying ethnic problem.

Fr. S. J. Emmanuel, Vicar General, Bishop's House, Jaffna.

Fr. S.V.B. Mangalajah, St. Francis Xavier's Seminary, Jaffna.

Sr. Shanthi, Holy Family Convent, Jaffna.

A. Santhiapillai, Secretary, Centre for Better Society, Jaffna.

Mannar Subjected to Heavy Aerial Bombardment

Sri Lankan Air Force planes carried out aerial bombardment of areas in Mannar in three spells on the same day.

The news from Mannar in this connection stated that on Monday, July 26, Sri Lankan Air Force bombers bombed Parappukadanthan about 8.00 a.m. Again at 12.00 noon Sri Lankan Air Force bombers bombed Pandirichchan. The damages caused in these areas were

not verified.

At 12.10 p.m. the same day two Puccaro bombers attacked the Maruthamadhu area. These planes also bombed the agricultural farm in this area known as Jeevathayam. A house is reported to have been damaged in this bombing.

Indian Factor...

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harassment by the police and armed personnel by way of frequent arrests, intimidation and often they have to cough out large sums of money to be allowed to live without being harassed. What about the frequent arrests of Tamil youths both males and females for nothing other than they are Tamils?

Is this living in peace? The writer states that this chance of Tamils living in peace in Sinhalese areas was bestowed on the Tamils because of India's action. Can anyone believe this? Anyone knowing what the IPKF did to the Tamils in their own areas cannot say this about India. Many innocent Tamils were killed, women raped and youth tortured. The atrocities committed by the IPKF had completely erased from the minds of the Tamils whatever historical, religious and

moral inclinations they had about 'Mother' India. There is nothing but fear and aversion to whatever India stands for in the minds of the Tamils. Did not the IPKF promote the colonization of Tamil homeland by the Sinhalese during its stay here? India by helping to put down Tamil nationalism attempted to make Sri Lanka its satellite.

Govt.'s duplicity

The article blames Mr. Thondaman and other Tamil groups who backed the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord for now insisting to have the N.E. Merger without holding a Referendum. Mr. Thondaman has his own views about how to solve the ethnic problem. He had placed a proposal of his own which the PSC had not even considered. But the reason behind the Tamil groups operating from Colombo is different. If they toe the Government line their already doomed future will be completely ruined. It is worth

considering at this stage the duplicity of the Sri Lankan Government. The Government and the UNP did not put forward its own proposal to solve the ethnic problem before the Parliamentary Select Committee. On the contrary, the Government has stated that it is putting forward its own proposal before the Parliamentary Select Committee that will be appointed to recommend ways and methods to revise the present Constitution. It has stated that its proposal will be on the basis of the half the number of Members of Parliament to be elected under the Old Westminster System and the rest by way of Proportional Representation. To solve the ethnic problem, it has no proposals but to revise the Constitution in the way it wants. This is the duplicity the Government plays on the people.

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