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TRIAL OF THE PRIESTS BEGINS

"VAIN ATTEMPT AT CRUCIFIXION"

SPECIAL REPORT By DR. DAVID SELBOURNE

On Thursday June 23rd I attended the first day of the trial in the Colombo High Court of Fathers Singarayer and Sinarasa, Reverend Jayatillakajah, Dr. Jayakularajah and Mr. and Mrs. Nithianandan. The ground floor court-room, with windows and doors open in the heat, was under heavy guard, allegedly because of threats to the lives of the defendants; with dozens of soldiers and military police, some armed with sub-machine guns and others carrying walkie-talkies patrolling the grounds of the building. Inside the court-room, fans whirring, the benches rapidly filled from 8.45 a.m. with witnesses, including robed clergymen, lawyers and a small handful of local journalists. I was the only foreign reporter there, such is the inadequacy of the Colombo based press corps.

At about the same time, the accused arrived outside the Court to the sound of wailing sirens and the roar of army trucks; perhaps half a dozen accompanied the vehicle in which the prisoners were held. The arrival of High Court Judge Mr. Robert Silva, was delayed for nearly an hour - I overheard some saying that it was due to his notorious unpunctuality, others to the fact that he was under pressure from the state to stand down from hearing the case because of his known impartiality - yet throughout this time the prisoners were kept sealed up in their van outside as the heat of the day increased.

Their eventual entry, all of

them handcuffed (with the exception of Mrs. Nithianandan), accompanied by warders and escorted by armed soldiers to the entrance of the court-room, was both a tragic and moving moment. Their dignity of bearing, the priests in black-belted white robes and Father Singarayer wearing a large crucifix,

seemed like a rebuke to the sordidness of the trial they were undergoing. As they stood for the judge's entrance, surrounded by warders who unfastened their steel handcuffs in a rattling of metal, with sub-machine gun-carrying guards standing in the windows behind them, they seemed to

embody a triumphant moral superiority over their accusers.

They were nervous (Mrs. Nithianandan pale) but it seemed to me they were glad to be standing close together, shoulder to shoulder to face the outrageous charges brought against them under the Prevention of Terrorism Act: of harbouring, and withholding information about, Tamil 'terrorists'. For either the whole of Jaffna should be on trial in this courtroom, or no one.

Moreover, it was immediately obvious to me, sitting close to

MY EXPULSION FROM SRI LANKA - DAVID SELBOURNE



On Saturday June 25th, at about 9 p.m., I was in my room at the Phoenix House hotel in Colombo. I had returned shortly before to wash, before going out to dinner. I was due to leave late next day by British Airways after a week's visit. There was a knock on the door, and when I opened it I saw several men in plain clothes - all nervous but aggressive - led by a particularly unpleasant Assistant Controller of Immigration. I was asked to produce my passport and come out of the room with them.

I was taken to the dining room of the hotel - where uniformed police also arrived - protesting

about what was happening. I said that I had appointments the following morning with the Chief Justice (at 10 a.m.) and the Attorney General (at 11 a.m.); that I was myself an academic and a lawyer; and that in 1982, during my first visit to Sri Lanka, I had had lengthy conversations with President Jayawardene himself. I also demanded the right to phone the British High Commission and a lawyer. I was told that I had no rights, that I could not phone anywhere, that my permission to stay was 'cancelled forthwith' - without any explanation whatever of the reasons, or the service

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LATE NEWS

The only regional English weekly published in Sri Lanka, the **SATURDAY REVIEW**, and a Tamil weekly **SUTHANTHIRAN** have been banned from publication and their offices sealed under emergency regulations; A coach-load of Tamil people travelling from Jaffna to Trincomalee were set on fire by Sinhala racist gangs. The people were prevented from getting out of the coach while it was burning. 15 people died and 60 were badly injured according to a Reuters message.

A train (Yarldevi) with all its compartments completely burnt when an unidentified group stopped the train at Inuvil in Jaffna, poured petrol and set it alight.

the advocates' table, and with three priests behind me who will later give evidence, that

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TAMIL TIMES

THUGGERY AGAINST JUDGES

The co-ordinated, but deplorable, attack on the houses of three judges of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka by gangs of demonstrators on 11th June is concrete manifestation of the growing fascist trends in the country. The United National Party Government under President J.R. Jayawardene, while indulging in platitudinous nonsense of creating a "Dharmista Society", has condoned the repeated use of thuggery against its political opponents. To those who have closely observed with awe the blatant and open use of thuggery as a political weapon in the recent past against opposition political parties and individuals, this attack on the judges must have appeared a logical and inevitable development in the inexorable march towards authoritarianism. However, to the vast majority of the people, this constituted a shocking and dangerous trend.

The ostensible reason for the attack was that the three judges concerned delivered judgement in favour of a citizen whose constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights had been violated by the country's police. The fact that the attackers came in state-owned vehicles gives an indication of the support the perpetrators had from the Government, or at least a section of it. The failure on the part of the police to respond promptly to the pleas for protection from the judges points to the complicity and culpability of the police in this sordid episode.

Ever since this government came to power, not only has it interfered with the appointment and transfer of judges, but also it has sought to undermine the integrity and independence of the judiciary. Judgements of the Supreme Court were rendered inoperative overnight by blatant abuse of the legislative process. Orders of the courts were flagrantly disobeyed by the country's security forces on executive directives. The Chief Justice himself had spoken of the "erosion of judicial power through executive action" in correspondence with President J.R. Jayawardene in November last year. But what did the "Dharmista" President do? He released the correspondence between himself and the Chief Justice for publication, despite the fact that it was marked confidential, in a deliberate attempt to discredit the Chief Justice of the land. The recent appointment of a Parliamentary Select Committee at the instigation of the Government to probe into the complaint made against three judges of the Supreme Court by

a relatively junior ranking judge who had retired under questionable circumstances was unprecedented and a gross infringement upon the independence of the judiciary. The promotion of police officers immediately following their being found guilty of violation of the constitutional rights of citizens not only constitutes a slap in the face of the judiciary but also makes a mockery of the constitutional provisions concerning fundamental rights. What is worse is that it gives the green light to the security forces to commit whatever excesses they choose against the civilian population.

Not unexpectedly, the attacks on the judges' houses have produced a widespread sense of outrage in the country. As a commentator put it: "Rarely has a single incident of this kind produced such strong protests from such diverse quarters in Sri Lanka." The chief Justice, Mr. Neville Samarakoon, Q.C., defiantly declared that "nothing will deter us from what we believe is right".

Declarations, however defiant they might be, would sound empty and meaningless unless they are acted upon. Time after time, the security forces have defied the orders of courts permitting lawyers to visit those held in detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The Judges failed on those occasions to assert the authority of the court by summoning those responsible in order to punish them for contempt of court. On more than one occasion, some judges have admitted into evidence "confessions", despite the overwhelming evidence of torture having been used to obtain such "confessions". Had they acted with the sturdy independence that judges of professional integrity are expected to possess, not only would the tendency to use torture upon detainees have been discouraged, but also the executive and the security forces would have entertained second thoughts before they embarked on violating the constitutional rights of people.

While it is absolutely essential that a campaign should be mounted to protect the judiciary from executive interference and from direct attacks by thugs who have the Government's benediction, a bigger share of responsibility lies with the members of the judiciary to salvage their reputation, independence and integrity. The only way to ensure this is, as the Chief Justice himself declared, not to be deterred from what they believe to be right and to discharge their functions according to law in a spirit of sturdy independence.

THUGS ATTACK HOMES OF THREE JUDGES.

In an apparently coordinated operation, three gangs each comprising over 50 attacked the homes of three judges of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka on 11th June. The gangs travelled in state-owned buses, and the police did not respond to calls for assistance from the judges until long after the attackers had left.

On Wednesday, 8th June, the three judges, Mr. Justice B. S.C. Ratwatte, Mr. Justice Percy Colin Thome and Mr. Justice J.F.A. Soza, awarded Mrs. Vivienne Goonewardene, a veteran LSSP leader, Rs. 2500 as compensation for violation of her fundamental rights- illegal arrest, detention and degrading treatment by the Kollupitiya police. Mrs. Goonewardene had claimed that she was abused and kicked at the police station. Mrs. Ouida Keuneman, wife of the veteran CP leader, Mr. Peter Keuneman, who was also present at the police station at the time of the incident, gave evidence in support of the allegation.

The three judges after holding that there had been a violation of Mrs. Goonewardene's constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights, recommended that the Inspector General of Police should inquire further into the behaviour of the police Sub-Inspector concerned. But almost immediately after the judgement, the Defence Ministry announced that the Sub-Inspector had been promoted. The gangs which attacked the homes of the judges were carrying placards and posters making reference to the judges' verdict in the Vivienne Goonewardene case. The placards and slogans they shouted were obscene, abusive, threatening and derogatory of the three judges.

ATTACKS CONDEMNED

The attacks on the judges homes have been condemned by several political, trade union and civil rights organisations. Rarely has a single incident of this kind produced such strong protests from such diverse quarters in the country.

The Civil Rights Movement called upon the Attorney General to take action to ensure that those responsible for the attack be indicted for contempt

of court. In a statement, the CRM stated: "This is the most grievous instance of contempt of Court in the history of our country. The Constitution recognises that such contempt is an offence which the due administration of justice requires to be suitably punished. The primary duty to have those responsible dealt with by the Supreme Court lies with the Attorney General."

The country's Chief Justice, Mr. Neville Samarakoon, QC, after conferring with the entire Supreme Court defiantly declared that the judiciary would not be intimidated and "nothing will deter us from what we believe is right".

The 7000 strong Bar Association of Sri Lanka held a special general meeting and passed a unanimous resolution condemning the attack and calling for an Independent Commission of Inquiry. Law students staged a demonstration in protest and pledged support for an independent judiciary. **LURCH TOWARDS TYRANNY.**

The English daily "ISLAND" in editorially backing the call for the appointment of an Independent Commission of Inquiry said: "Never before has

any single incident generated such public indignation and horror than this attack by thugs on the judiciary. The judiciary is the last bulwark of the people's rights, if the last bastion is breached then society's lurch towards the tyranny of mob rule will be frighteningly swift. This is why the Government cannot afford the luxury of treating this incident lightly and allowing the Police to conduct the investigations at their own whims".

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), in condemning the attack on the judges' homes, placed the entire responsibility on the government. The President of the SLFP and former Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, in a press statement stated: We were shocked and horrified that thugs in CTB buses had demonstrated against the Judges of the Supreme Court last Saturday with vulgar obscene and derogatory placards and slogans. The object of the demonstrators clearly was to intimidate the Judges concerned....When Police Officers violate fundamental human rights and Court decisions are given against them, awarding compensation to the victims, Mr. Jayawardene (the President) immediately rewards them with promotions. This is the way of showing the deep respect that he professes to have for the independence of the Judiciary... The Courts are the ultimate protection that people have against government oppression... These incidents are reminiscent of Fascism in Hitler's Germany and fore-

shadows the kind of dictatorship that the people must be alert to resist".

"NOTHING WILL DETER US"

- SAY SUPREME COURT.

Following is the text of the Press Statement issued by the Supreme Court Judges after their meeting with the Chief Justice in connection with the recent demonstrations outside the residences of some judges.

"Exposed as we are to the winds of criticism, nothing which is said (or done) by this person, or that, nothing which is written by this pen or that, will deter us from doing what we believe is right, nor (we) would add, from saying (or acting) what the occasion requires of us, provided that it is pertinent to the matter in hand.

"Last Saturday, certain elements staged demonstrations opposite the houses of Mr. Justice Ratwatte, Mr. Justice Colin Thome, and the former residence of Mr. Justice Soza. "This was sequel to a judgement of the Supreme Court delivered by these three judges. The demonstration appeared to be planned and co-ordinated. State owned buses appeared to have been used to transport the demonstrators. Slogans and obscenities were shouted at the judges. Attempts by two of the judges to obtain Police protection proved futile.

"It has been reported in the Press that the acting IGP has offered sentries to those judges who do not have such protection at the moment. "These judges do not feel encouraged to accept the offer. The judges, however, note the assurance given by the Prime Minister and await the outcome of his action.

"The Judges feel that certain actions taken in recent times have been an incentive to the events of last Saturday." "We need hardly add that such events in no way deter us from being independent in discharging our duties."

BAR ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

The seven thousand member strong Bar Association of Sri Lanka at a Special General Meeting yesterday called upon the Government to appoint an independent commission of inquiry constituted of representatives of the Judiciary and the Bar to investigate into the recent demonstrations staged outside the residences of three Supreme Court Judges.

The Association unanimously adopted the following resolutions;

★ *That it condemns the acts of miscreants who sought to intimidate the three Judges of the Supreme Court on Saturday, June 11.*

★ *Calls upon the Government to take steps to see that these miscreants are charged and brought to trial speedily.*

★ *Views with deep concern and regret that the administration found it necessary to express its disapproval of recent judgement of the Supreme Court on an issue of funda-*

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RACIAL ATTACKS ON TAMILS CONTINUE

BOMBS FLUNG AT MP's HOUSE

Attacks on Tamils and their property in various parts of Sri Lanka have continued unabated since 18th May. Arson, looting and even killings have continued despite the declaration of a state of emergency and imposition of curfew in the affected areas.

Although the scale of violence is not as widespread as was the case in August 1977 and August 1981, reports reaching us indicate that not a single day has passed since 18th May without attacks upon Tamils in some part or other of the country.

The pattern of violence reveals that there are forces at work which have connections with at least certain sections of the government. While one section of the government is trying to calm the situation, there are others who are hell bent on fanning the flames of racialism against the Tamils. Anti-Tamil posters have appeared in various parts of the country. The Sinhalese newspapers have contributed in no small measure to the prevailing tension.

The country's security forces, including sections of the police, have joined in the attack on the Tamil people or turn a blind eye when racist gangs go about attacking innocent Tamils and their property. Passengers in trains, particularly the Jaffna-Colombo train, were repeatedly subjected to violence both by civilian racist gangs and sections of the security forces so much so that train services were suspended for two days recently. On 5th June, Tamil passengers in the morning train from Jaffna were attacked by Air Force personnel who entrained at Vavuniya.

MP's HOUSE BOMBED

For a number of days, the eastern Tamil city of Trincomalee was affected by racial tension following the burning and looting of shops and houses belonging to Tamils. Despite a dusk-to-dawn curfew, attacks have continued.

Two bombs were flung at the

house of the MP for Trincomalee, Mr. R. Sampathan, at around 3.30 am on 11th June. The bombs although directed at the MP's house did not find their target. One bomb hit the roof of the MP's sister's house and the other hit a coconut palm. Suspicion that these acts of violence have been perpetrated either by the members of the armed forces or by thugs in connivance with them has been strengthened by such repeated incidents during the hours of the curfew.

The sub-Post Master of Uppuveli, Mr. S. Sivanandan, was shot at by unidentified men who also set fire to his house. Again, while the curfew was on, bombs were flung at the houses of two Tamils and also at another business centre in Ehamparam Road in Trincomalee. Other incidents included the killing of a Tamil youth named Rasathurai and the burning of fishing wadiya belonging to a TULF member.

On 4th June, the Mansion Hotel in the city of Trincomalee was burnt down. At China Bay, a Hindu Temple was attacked and damaged. At Pankulam, a Tamil was shot and killed and another seriously injured. At Velankulam, six houses belonging to Tamils were set on fire.

KURUNEGALA

On June 3, over 25 shops and several houses belonging to Tamils were burnt down. As the looting and arson spread, the police opened fire upon a gang which resulted in the death of a looter. A curfew was imposed to cover the whole district. A lorry with 100 bags of sugar and 75 bags of rice which was proceeding from Colombo to Trincomalee was waylaid and the contents looted. On the following day, despite the curfew, several shops including Murugan Stores were burnt down.

DIVULUPITYA: Three Indian tourists were assaulted when thugs looted and burnt two houses and vehicles be-

longing to the proprietor of a match factory.

Unofficial curfew was imposed by police in Polonnaruwa, Kegalle, Peradeniya and Panadura to contain racial attacks on Tamils.

Kanthasivam, aged 25, died of injuries sustained when the textile shop in Negombo in which he was an employee was attacked by thugs with a hand bomb.

In Amparai, 22 Tamil students of the Hardy Institute of Technology took refuge in the neighbouring town of Kalmunai after being threatened with bodily harm and murder.

On 5th June, a Pharmacy and a restaurant belonging to Tamils, were burnt down in Ratmalana. A house of a Tamil doctor from Ratmalana was attacked and the doctor died later in hospital.

On 7th June, Tamil shops in Panadura and Kalutara were attacked, looted and set on fire.

Many Tamil families have fled from their homes and have become refugees in relatively safe places. A refugee camp has been opened at the Ramakrishna Mission Centre in Colombo.

KUMAR'S HOUSE BOMBED

Hand bombs were thrown at the residence of Mr. Kumar Ponnampalam (son of the late G.G. Ponnampalam, Q.C.) residence at Gregory Place in at Gregory Place in Colombo to the bedroom of the house.

The All Ceylon Tamil Congress of which Mr. Ponnampalam is the President, recently announced that his party candidates would withdraw from the recently held local elections in response to the call for boycott by Liberation Tigers. This attack is learnt to be in retaliation to his party withdrawing from the elections and describing the Tigers as "Freedom fighters".

After the attack, Mr. Ponnampalam said that the intention of the attackers must have been to kill him because the bombs were aimed at the bedroom. His vehicles which were parked outside the house in the open were left undamaged.

SANSKRITIK 13TH FESTIVAL OF ARTS OF INDIA QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL, 5-9 JULY, AT 7.15p.m.

Among the artistes taking part are RAGHAVACHARI KANNAN from Madras who is renowned for his sensitive playing of the veena, GOVINDARAJAN a singer from South India who will provide vocal accompaniment to the Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dancers, M.V. NARASIMHACHARI and VASANTHALAKSHMI, a versatile couple from Madras and also renowned teachers and choreographers, and P.D. Sundaraman who will provide Mridangam support for the South Indian dancers and also additional percussion for the music ensembles.

Tickets are priced at £2.25, £3.25, £4.25 & £5.25, and are available from Royal Festival Hall Box Office (01-928 3191). The programme varies each evening. For further details send s.a.e. to Sanskritik Festival, 17 Holdenhurst Avenue, London N12.

BATTICALOA LAGOON TO BE DREDGED

The 'Singing Fish Lagoon' of Batticaloa is to be dredged shortly after plans for this scheme mooted long years ago remained in cold storage for quite some time.

The Minister for Regional Development has allocated funds for this major scheme and the Ministry has been fortunate in obtaining the voluntary services of a former Director of Works of the Eastern Region Mr. N. G. Thamotheram who several years ago had undertaken depth gauging of the lagoon. It was the same official who during his services here finally evolved a scheme to prevent the annual flooding of the Kallar Causeway which used to completely dislocate all traffic between the Batticaloa and Amparai districts.

Some dredgers used for this purpose at the Kotte Complex are likely to be brought here for this project.

JAFFNA BURNS AGAIN

ARMY ON LOOTING AND ARSON SPREE

On 18th May, the northern Tamil city of Jaffna in Sri Lanka went up in flames for the second time in two years. Marauding gangs of Sri Lankan army personnel went on a rampage, setting ablaze houses, shops, petrol filling stations, vehicles, etc. and looting and assaulting innocent members of the civilian population under cover of a state of emergency which came into force at 5 p.m. that day.

The army men, who were mostly in civilian dress, came fully armed in several trucks, jeeps and cars. Cash, items of jewellery and other forms of valuables had also been looted. Many of the houses which were burnt down were those belonging to the poorest sections of the city who not only lost their homes but also whatever possessions they had.

These army atrocities followed the shoot-out between some militant youths and army personnel who were guarding a polling booth. About eight youths had come there at about 4 p.m. that day and exchanged fire for about twenty-five minutes which resulted in the death of an army corporal and the injuring of an army private and two police constables.

Later in the evening, an army helicopter flew low and landed in the vicinity of the polling booth and trucks and jeeps loaded with soldiers numbering over 600 entered Arasady Road in Kantharmadam and commenced their "operations".

The army used what looked like petrol bombs to set fire to the cadjan fences and the cadjan-roofed houses. Some soldiers were seen with "pandams" (torches). Trucks smashed the gates of some houses before the men walked into the houses, looted them and then set them on fire.

Many of the males in the area were assaulted with rifle butts. Livestock, including goats and cattle were left burning in their sheds. Passing vehicles were

stopped and burnt. As the dark smoke leapt into the skies men, women and children of the surrounding area ran in all directions for safety. Many of the families took refuge in temples, churches and in the premises of the University of Jaffna. The Tamil people had become refugees in their own homeland. The army "operations" continued until 4 a.m. the following day when the last trucks were seen rumbling out of Kantharmadam leaving behind the rubble and ruins of this densely populated residential area.

Meanwhile another group of military personnel went about setting fire and wreaking havoc in the shopping area of Jaffna town. As the army vehicles roared through the main streets, the soldiers fired into the air to frighten the public. The vegetable market building

and many shops were set on fire. The Jaffna Co-operative Store was smashed. Some petrol filling stations were set on fire, including the one owned by Mr. A.G. Rajasooriyar, who was a very senior member of the ruling United National Party in Jaffna and who had stood for election that very day on behalf of his party.

In spite of the presence in Jaffna of the Army Commander, and Inspector General of Police, Mr. Rudra Rajasingham, who had flown from Colombo on the night of May 18th, the army continued their "operations" on the following day too. People were assaulted indiscriminately, forced to kneel in the middle of the road for prolonged periods and perform embarrassing "exercises". All youths on bicycles were stopped, their hands were tied behind and severely assaulted.

ARMY MEN PREVENT POLICE FROM DOUSING FIRE

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

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

RASIAH SIVALINGAM, Chief Manager of the Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna states in an affidavit that, on the 18th day of May, 1983, at about 5.30 p.m. a group of Army men in uniform came to my house and wanted to search and went off after the search without causing many damage. On the same day at about 6.30 p.m. a second group, broke the window panes and demanded kerosene oil. After obtaining about a quarter gallon of kerosene oil they set fire to the car which was in the

portico. My wife, children and I first ran to the house of my brother-in-law my neighbour.

"While the car and the front portion of the house was burning at about 8.30 p.m., the Police who came to put out the fire was prevented by the Army. All of us had to go to a friend's house and when we returned in the morning the house was ransacked and jewellery worth Rs.30,000/- had been stolen."

A group of Army men had, at gunpoint, got a box of matches from the mother of the Chief Priest and Trustee of the Sithi Vinayagar Kovil, and then proceeded to set fire to the chariot the temple and the household articles of the Chief Priest, PARAMESWARA KURUKKAL SOMASKANDA KURUKKAL. When the Priest returned the following morning he found furniture and books burnt, his house ransacked and the jewellery stolen. The temple chariot had also been set on fire and a valuable portion burnt. KANDIAH NAINAR relates in his affidavit how several Army personnel in uniform walked

KILLINGS ARSON & LOOTING IN TRINCO

From Frances Ashborn
in Colombo

Turmoil continued in the Sri Lankan port of Trincomalee at the weekend, after a week of communal clashes and the appointment of the navy chief, Rear-Admiral Asoka de Silva, as coordinating officer in the area.

Nineteen people, including three women and four children, have been killed in the port and in surrounding villages since last Monday. Arson, looting, and assault have been rampant despite the state of emergency which exists throughout the country and the long (sometimes 24-hour) curfews imposed. Nearly 300 people are in custody.

In Jaffna, where the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front (Telf) called a strike on Friday, the president of the party, Dr S. Dharmalingam, and its secretary, Mr Kovai Mahesan, were taken into detention. Dr Dharmalingam earlier called for a UN peacekeeping force in Trincomalee.

The police have also sealed the presses of the English-language Saturday Review and the Tamil-language Suthanthiran and an armed gang of youths set fire to the Colombo-Jaffna express at Kondavil station in the Jaffna district. The youths beat up the station master and destroyed the communications system.

In Trincomalee, police opened fire at least twice last week to disperse armed mobs. Mr A. Amirthalingam, the leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front (Tulfi), the main Tamil political party, and leader of the Opposition, sent President Jayewardene a telegram asking him to send more Tamil soldiers to the port "to instil confidence among the Tamils." Mr S. C. Chandrachud, the legal secretary of Telf, said that the 19 people who had been killed since last Monday were all Tamils.

(Courtesy of Guradian, 4/7/83)

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

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

VAVUNIYA SET ABLAZE BY ARMY

The Sri Lankan army continued its undeclared war against the civilian population in the northern Tamil province. Vavuniya became the latest target of state terrorism.

The town was set ablaze on Wednesday morning, June 1, exactly on the second anniversary date of the burning down of the Jaffna Public Library by the Lankan police force. Gandhiam offices and its vehicles became special targets.

Preliminary estimates of the damage indicate a sum in excess of four million rupees.

Service personnel in Vavuniya went berserk burning down the market, shops and vehicles and assaulting Tamils after two Air Force personnel stationed at Vavuniya vegetable market in a guerilla attack round about 10.30 on Wednesday morning.

Service personnel destroyed the Gandhiam farm at Kovilkulam, about one and a half miles away from Vavuniya town, on Wednesday night (1 June).

The rampaging servicemen who came in trucks destroyed the crops and huts and set fire to the farm buildings and vehicles. Three tractors and a van were burnt.

The orphans who were living on the farm had to flee for their lives and seek shelter in neighbouring homes. 12 farm workers were taken for questioning to the Army Camp near Eraperiyakulam.

On Wednesday morning the Gandhiam office in Vavuniya, town was smashed up by service personnel and a Gadhiyam van burnt.

A four-man guerilla group had flung bombs at the Air Force jeep and then opened fire. Airmen U.L. M. Perera and W.A. Gunasekera who were seated in front died on the spot, while Airmen W.A. Ranjan was seriously injured. The dead bodies were charred by the bomb blast.

Within minutes of the attack, Servicemen who arrived on the scene began assaulting by-standers and passers-by. Shop-keepers hurriedly put up their shutters and school children were packed off home.

A few minutes after the Airmen's dead bodies were removed to the Vavuniya Hospital, the Market went up in a blaze: the clouds of smoke billowing up could be seen two miles away.

Rampaging servicemen had also broken into the Gadhiyam office in Vavuniya town and smashed up the place.

About two hours after the guerilla attack, the Vavuniya Police acting on a tip off arrested Atputham alias Amirthalingam Ramanathan and Kumar alias Ponnambalam Sithamparanathan. Both were warded in the Anuradhapura General Hospital under heavy armed guard where Kumar passed away on Friday. A sub-machine gun believed to have been taken away by guerillas who attacked the Anaicoddai Police Station in 1981, was recovered from a shop in Vavuniya.

An unofficial curfew was declared in Vavuniya after the arson and the assaults on civilians. Mail train services between Kankasanturai and Colombo were cancelled on Wednesday and Thursday. Private buses too didn't run.

Vavuniya looks like a blitzed town, despite the efforts of Government authorities to bring things back to normal. The streets are almost empty except for armed patrols. People fear to step out of their homes as they run the risk of being beaten up by servicemen. The Vavuniya incidents- which occurred just a fortnight after the military rampage and arson at Kantharmadam, Jaffna- have touched off a chain of attacks on Tamil passengers and Indian repatriates in trains on the Northern line and Tamil shops and buildings in various parts of the country.

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can fool some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.
Long live THAMIL EELAM."

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Vincent Sundrasingham

President

for and on behalf of the
EELAM TAMIL ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALASIA)

VIOLATE PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND BE PROMOTED!

Sub Inspector V. Ganesanathan of the Kollupitiya Police, Colombo, Sri Lanka, who helped disperse a protest demonstration, has been promoted to the rank of Inspector Class 11 with immediate effect.

This leap-frog promotion- within 24 hours of a Court decision- is a reward for the good work he did in dispersing a procession led by an Opposition politician who has been awarded damages by the Supreme Court on the ground that her fundamental rights had been infringed.

Announcing the promotion made by the **Acting IGP, S. S. Joseph**, a Defence Ministry communique issued on Thursday (9 June) says "the work done by Mr. Ganesanathan in dispersing a procession conducted by **Mrs. Vivienne Goonewardena** on 8.3.1983 has been gone into and it had been decided that he should be given a special promotion."

Mrs. Goonewardena, a one-time Parliamentarian and veteran **Lanka Sama Samaja** politician, petitioned the Supreme Court alleging that she was subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment at the hands of the OIC of the Kollupitiya Police Station when she

went to the Police Station to get the release of a cameraman. According to the petitioner, the cameraman was taken into custody by the police when he was taking pictures of the police snatching the banners carried by demonstrators on March 8, International Women's Day.

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court unanimously allowed Mrs. Goonewardena's application on 8 June Holding that her fundamental rights had been infringed, Justices B.S.C. Ratwatte, Percy Colin Thome and J.F.A. Soza ordered the State to pay Mrs. Goonewardena compensation of Rs. 2,500.

In February this year, the Supreme Court held that the Gampaha SP, P. Udugampola, had seriously violated the fundamental rights of a Buddhist monk, Ven. Ratnasara Thero, by seizure of leaflets published by the Pavidhi Handa against the Referendum. The Court ordered the SP to pay the monk Rs. 10,000 as compensation and Rs. 2,100 as costs of the case.

On a Cabinet directive, SP Udugampola was promoted to Class I from Class II and the Government paid the compensation and the costs awarded by the Supreme Court.

JUNIOR TIMES

'LOGIC PROBLEM' Junior Times, April 83.

Solution: Kumar from Trinco was served first; with milk shake. Ranjit from Badulla was served second; with ice cream Sita from Jaffna was served third; with coke.

The following three were drawn from the pool of all correct answers and will receive in due course the prize of voucher each to the value of £2.

J. Joe Newton
C917 FANTOFT STUD BY
5036 FANTOFT
NORWAY

Miss R. Collier
66 LAVENDER HILL
ENFIELD
MIDDLESEX. U.K.

AMANI PATHMANATHAN
P.O. BOX 66
FRANCIS TOWN
BOTSWANA

WILL TULF MPs RESIGN?

The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), in opposing the Referendum held last year to extend the life of parliament, announced that its Members of Parliament would submit their resignations in July this year when their five-year term came to an end and seek re-election.

Will the TULF leadership act in keeping with their announcement is the question that is now being raised in political circles. Some TULF MPs, including the MP for Chavakachcheri, Mr.V.N. Navaratnam, are said to be ready for the plunge and resign their seats. The party leadership also had hoped to use this opportunity to eliminate certain ineffective MPs and the recalcitrant MP for Kilinochchi, Mr.V.Anandasangari, who had become a lone ranger in the TULF parliamentary camp.

It would seem that there are three different views on the question of resignation within the party. One view is that only the ineffective and unpopular MPs should be called upon to resign and in their place younger and more active members should be nominated. If this is done, the leadership's hand would be strengthened. The other view is that all MPs should resign en-bloc and create a situation in which the government would be compelled to hold bye elections in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. This would provide an opportunity for the party leadership to demonstrate their continued support among the Tamil speaking people. The third view, which is not shared by the leadership but put forward by militant youths within and outside the party, is that all MPs should resign their seats and desist from seeking re-election. If the bye elections are held, the people should be called upon to boycott.

The TULF leadership is also said to be apprehensive about the probability of the Liberation Tigers imposing a boycott of the elections upon the party as they did in the recently held local elections. The success of

the boycott call during the local elections when over 90 per cent of the voters in the Jaffna district did fail to turn up at the polling booths to vote, despite the TULF leadership's appeal to the people to disregard the boycott call, would appear to have raised real fears at the leadership level, so much so that some are predicting that the TULF leadership would backtrack on their promise to resign their seats in July.

NO ACTING HEAD OF STATE.

For the seventh time, President J.R.Jayawardene has gone abroad- Egypt and Italy. But no appointment has been made for anyone to act on his behalf during the time he is away.

The Constitution provides for the appointment of the Prime Minister, or in his absence the Speaker, to act for the President. The question that intrigues everybody is whether there is nothing to be done in the country while JR is abroad and therefore the country needs no acting Head of State. Enormous powers and functions are vested in JR as executive President.

Who exercises these powers and functions during his absence from the country? Or is it that the President does not trust the Prime Minister, R.Premadasa? Or is it that, although he is fit enough to be Prime Minister and do all what the President bids him to do, he is not suitable to fill the top post even in an acting capacity? Has this anything to do with the fact that Mr.R.Premadasa does not belong to the right caste- Goigama?

BICYCLES TO BE BANNED?

Recently, on a recommendation made by President J.R. Jayawardene, the Sri Lankan cabinet decided to set up an Energy Conservation Fund in an apparent effort to reduce the drain on the country's foreign exchange.

Ironically within a week, the President was considering a suggestion by his military men

MISCELLANY

to ban the use of bicycles, a mode of transport, if widely used, would have given a considerable boost to his conservation campaign. The proposed ban would apply only to the northern province. Why? There is terrorism in Italy, Germany, Northern Ireland and many other parts of the world, but Sri Lanka is the only country in the world where there are "Bicycle Terrorists", said the President.

The military brass have argued that the "biggest menace facing them in the North are the bicycles" and therefore "they urged that bicycles should not be permitted in the North". The President has promised to arrive at a decision on his return. Instead of imposing a total ban which might affect the entire cycling population in the North, it is reliably learnt that a system of security clearance might be introduced for bicycle users, and in addition licensing and registration of all bicycles would be made compulsory.

MAY DAY, 1983

"What was the most significant feature of this May Day? It was the slogans sympathetic to the Tamil cause which were to be heard at every rally and procession of the Left. The (Government Clerical Service UNION) GCSU-led trade union demonstration and the NSSP (Nava Sama Samaja Party) march supported the right of the Tamils to self-determination. In the LSSP and CP processions, demonstrators chanted slogans against state repression in the North and stressed 'Sinhala-Tamil unity in struggle'. At a somewhat lower pitch, the JVP demanded the restoration of peace in Jaffna and the grant of Tamil rights. The demand to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act was prominent in many demonstrations." - Lanka Guardian, May 15, 1983.

CYRIL MATHEW'S PLOT

Cyril Mathew, the Sri Lankan Industries and Scientific Affairs Minister, has been contending for some years that there are

over 250 Buddhist shrines in the northern and eastern provinces which have gone into disuse. His plan was to restore these shrines, instal the required number of Buddhist monks in the restored temples and settle the area surrounding the temples with Sinhala-Buddhist families so that they may sustain the temples and the monks.

Those who knew Cyril Mathew and his views described his scheme as an insidious plot to colonise traditional Tamil areas in the northern and eastern provinces with Sinhala-Buddhists.

Has Cyril Mathew succeeded in getting the government to implement his pet scheme? Recently the cabinet decided that "all places of worship which went into disuse since the advent of the Western powers to Sri Lanka from 1500 AD should be restored and appropriate religious bodies placed in charge".

DAILY NEWS ON THUGS & TUPPENNY COWARDS

In an uncharacteristic forthright editorial, the "DAILY NEWS of Sri Lanka recently said:

"Before we look for terrorist bases beyond our shores, we might then do well to look to see where the rot starts at home. If terrorism is to be stamped out in every office, school, university and village.

"Those closest to the government must bear a heavy responsibility in this connection. There is precious little use in beating up small fry for minor misdemeanours. Those who give their blessings to vulgar rowdies, who walk across office floors with their sarongs hitched high in the air before them, those who lend their patronage to tuppenny cowards who bask only in the presence of their masters- such dukes and vassals are as guilty of contributing to the breakdown of law and order as gun-toting tigers.

"Liveried piety cannot conceal that truth".

"DISPOSAL OF DEAD BODIES WITHOUT INQUIRY"

The Sri Lankan Government, as part of the increasing powers given to the country's security forces, has also granted them the right to dispose of the bodies of persons killed by them without the need for a postmortem or inquiry.

The country's security forces have already demonstrated on several occasions their propensity to retaliate indiscriminately against the civilian population, and granting such powers would only result in deaths under torture, indiscriminate killings and executions without trial by the security forces similar to what happened in 1971, says the Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka in a telegram sent to President J.R. Jayawardene.

Here's the text of the telegram sent by CRM Secretary DESMOND FERNANDO to the President:

"The Press reports today 4 June 1983 that Emergency Regulations are being promulgated to permit disposal of dead bodies by armed forces in the North without postmortem inquiry. According to the report a Government spokesman said the morale of service and Police personnel is low because under normal circumstances if they shoot down a terrorist they have to face an inquest, remand and other constraints. Another report says that the Government wishes to ensure that servicemen and policemen doing their duty under difficult circumstances are "in no way harassed by the law".

Who is a terrorist and who is not.

"Working Committee of Civil Rights Movement which met today expressed deep alarm at these reports. It recognises that Government has serious problem of maintenance of Law and Order in the North and is not unmindful of fact there have been killings of servicemen, policemen, politicians and innocent by standers with which it is the responsibility of any Government to deal. It is how-

ever precisely at such times that excesses are likely to be committed by security forces who have already demonstrated their propensity to retaliate indiscriminately against civilian population.

"Granting of such powers will create again the excesses of 1971 when similar powers resulted in deaths under torture, indiscriminate killings and executions without trial by the security forces which usurp functions of courts in determining who is a terrorist and who is not and leading to slaughter of many, never established to have been involved in insurgent activities. Revocation of this horrifying regulation was one of main demands of CRM at its inception in 1971. "As CRM wrote to then Prime Minister Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike at that time "just as

CRM PROTESTS

much as a democratic Government has certain obligations in exercising its powers in relation to the general body of citizens it also has certain obligations even in dealing with persons who have broken the law or are alleged to have broken it. It must guarantee that all such persons are dealt with by due process of law and in keeping with fundamental principles of justice....for otherwise a Government would be flouting the principles of justice that are vital to democracy in the very act of claiming to defend democratic institutions."

International Covenant

"Working Committee also points out that International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which Your Excellency's Government has signed specifically provides that the right

to life and right to protection from torture cannot be derogated from even at time of emergency threatening the life of the nation."

"DECLARATION OF WAR"

Speaking at a meeting held to commemorate the memory of Comrades Kandasamy and Somapala at the New Town Hall, Colombo on June 7, N. Sanmugathasan, General Secretary of the Ceylon Trade Union Federation, declared that the recent action of the Government to permit the disposal of dead bodies by armed forces in the North without postmortem, inquiry or legal proceedings in a court of law was an open licence to the armed forces to shoot and kill without fear of consequences. It was virtual declaration of war by the Government against the Tamil people.

ARMY TRUCK DRIVEN OVER SHOT YOUTH

Sabaratham Palanivel a young van driver of Valvettiturai, in the northern district of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, was dragged into the Valvettiturai Army Camp and shot dead on Monday (30 May) round about 4.30 a.m.

While his body was lying in the camp an Army Truck had been driven over it about two hours later, flattening the upper half of his body and smashing his skull. This incident was witnessed by several of his relatives and others who had gathered at the camp entrance.

Palanivel who got married less than a year ago had taken some of his relatives in his van to Thondamannar early on Monday morning to catch the Trincomalee bus. After he had seen them off, he had driven back alone to his house in Arthikovilady, Valvettiturai.

Corporal M.Wimalaratne the sentry who shot him claims that Palanivel had stopped his van opposite the Camp, got down and walked towards him.

He had warned Palanivel in Tamil, English and Sinhala to halt and put up his hands. Palanivel disregarded his warning and continued to advance. Sensing danger he had fired at Palanivel thrice.

Sumanapala Weerasinghe, a driver attached to the Palaly Army Camp, told Point Pedro Magistrate K. Kanapathipillai at the inquest that on the day in question he drove his truck to the Valvettiturai Camp behind an army jeep. Only after

he had gone to the camp did he learn he had accidentally driven his truck over the head of the dead body which was not covered. It was difficult for a large vehicle to negotiate the spot where the body was lying.

To avoid the body he would have had to drive his truck over load of stones at the spot.

"I am sorry for this incident and ask for pardon" he told the Magistrate, adding he had been pulled up by his officers.

"REMOVE ARMY" SAYS JAFFNA SLFP

The removal of the Army from Jaffna is one of the demands made by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) Branch of the Jaffna District.

The President of the SLFP, Jaffna District, Mr.V. Rajasunderem, in a press statement issued by him says: "A reign of terror erupted again after the elections in Jaffna. This has happened ever since the UNP Government was elected to power in 1977. It happened in 1979 during the local elec-

tions, in 1981 during the District Development Council elections and in the referendum. In other parts of the country this reign of terror was unleashed and in particular the victims of these diabolical and calculated acts were Tamils. The Jaffna Tamils suffered most. These all worked to a pattern seemingly planned very much ahead and executed to perfection.

"Those responsible for the Kanthermadam incidents were the very custodians of the law in civies hand picked, ostensibly for maintaining law and

CONTD ON P.19

'ISLAND' REPORTER ON

"THE ORGY OF ARSON" IN JAFFNA

The 'Island', an English daily published in Sri Lanka, carried an eye-witness account of the 'Burning of Jaffna' in its issue of 22nd May by its feature columnist, Mr.D.B.S.Jeyaraj. The following are extracts from his account:

Darkness was fast approaching when the Police Jeep I was travelling in screeched to a halt at a point close to the Saivapragasa Vithiyasalai school on Arsady road at Kandarmadam, Nallur. At a glance I saw several soldiers in uniform and other armed men in civils in the area. There was a lot of smoke with fire in the area.

It was that fateful day of May 18th-Election Day- with 46 local authorities and 18 electorates facing elections. In Jaffna District the Jaffna Municipality along with the Chavakachcheri, Point Pedro and Valvettithurai Urban Councils were facing elections.

TOWERS OF SMOKE

Even as our vehicle approached Kandarmadam we saw fluid towers of smoke spiralling upwards. Jaffna which burnt in 1977 and 1981 was burning again.

At Kandarmadam I saw soldiers behaving in four different ways. There was one group which was fanning out in crisp military formation and conducting search operations. There was another group which was setting cadjan fences on fire there was another group of men who were passive spectators. However there was another group (may its tribe increase) which was trying to douse the fire started by their comrades. They even called upon the residents in some instances to fetch water and douse the fires.

A soldier called out to a Policeman "Give me a lighter. I want to burn all these fences. They shoot at us and hide behind these fences". The policeman did not oblige. I saw a soldier kicking a few bare-bodied youths in sarongs who were being rounded up for questioning. Another group was trying to upturn a parked Morris Mi-

nor. A timber depot was burning gloriously. An old woman was peering cautiously through a crack in the gate; a young girl was standing on the verandah of her house watching her neighbourhood burn.

ROUGH HANDLING

A colleague from a Tamil newspaper told me that he and a photographer were stopped by some soldiers and roughly handled. Another higher-ranking soldier upon hearing that they were from the Press apologised and allowed them to proceed.

From a vantage point on a high-rise building in Jaffna city I could see flames in Jaffna City. I had earlier gone on a bicycle to the Jaffna bus stand junction to see what was happening. I discreetly retired when I saw some soldiers in an obviously belligerent mood.

I went to the Jaffna bazaar area. The vegetable market which was re-constructed after the 1981 fire was gutted again. Vendors were trying to salvage some of their merchandise. Two textile shops were gutted. A liquor store had been ransacked. The glass panes of some buildings like the co-operative store had been smashed. Three petrol sheds one of which is owned by a Northern UNP personality had been smashed up. It is suspected that petrol obtained here had been used for the orgy of arson.

KANTHARMADAM IN RUINS.

But Kandarmadam was in ruins, 169 dwellings in Arasady road, Old road, and some by lanes in Kandarmadam were either completely or partially burnt. Vehicles totalling close to 40 were burnt. About 35 of the homes were brisk houses. The rest were thatched, wattle and daub huts. The "vel" from a temple was missing. The chariot in another temple was partly burnt.

A man told me that the "vel" was missing and wanted me to see the shrine room. When I attempted to take my shoes off the man impatiently said

"Just come in with your shoes. Those men came in with their boots."

Most of the people had fled from their homes and sought refuge in the Jaffna University Sivan temple and a private nursing home. Many of them had returned in the morning to find the charred remains of what was once their home.

"I have only this saree left" wailed a woman. Most of the afflicted persons were of the poorer sections of the community. Several of them were of the so called depressed communities of Jaffna. Some of the affected persons alleged that cash and jewellery, watches, etc. had been robbed. At one place where women had been together for safety all jewellery had been taken at gun point.

UNIVERSAL LAMENT

Another person who had accumulated a large amount of

jewellery for his daughter's wedding next week lost everything. A lot of furniture had been also damaged. Close upon a thousand people had been rendered destitute overnight. When I went to the makeshift refugee camp the lament was almost universal "Boys came and shot; they came and burnt

we came here". One old woman "After shooting they should not have run off. They should have waited here and protected us".

Apart from damage to property there was injury to persons, too. An old woman at Kandarmadam is warded at the hospital for burns.

Ten other males are also warded in the hospital for assault injuries. Two of those men, employees of the Government Hospital were injured during the course of a shooting melee. Another person, 25-year-old Sri Skandarajah of Karainagar was shot dead. A person from the

Cont. from page 3

mental rights by promptly promoting the Police Officer involved and giving the facts of such promotion wide publicity through state and national media.

☆ *Calls upon the Government to take all steps to maintain and uphold the rule of law and ensure the independence and dignity of the Judiciary to which the Government has pledged itself.*

Speaking in support of the resolution, one of Sri Lanka's most senior and eminent lawyer, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva said that since he was the lawyer who appeared for Mrs. Gooneratne in that case, he found himself to be in a position to voice his views on the matter. There appeared to be a private army of the party in power which was regularly used to break up strikes and meetings of even members of the clergy and also against university students. The question that had

to be asked about the incident related to the judges was who was going to sit in at the inquiry.

Dr. de Silva said the Country witnessed how promotions were given to two Police officers whose actions were considered illegal by the Supreme Court. He had now heard of an inspector who had thought of getting his long awaited promotion by slapping him (Dr. de Silva). That was now the form with the Police for promotions.

Referring to the demonstrations outside the residences of the Judges, Dr. de Silva said that it had no parallel in the country's history. Such a thing did not happen even during the colonial regime. Today the country was faced with a totally new situation.

He said: "If judges can become the victims of such demonstrations, I will have to hasten to bid good-bye to our independence, good-bye to all freedoms and human rights of the people".

TERROR IN PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

Tamil students at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka experienced a night of terror on the night of 11-12 May, 1983 when gangs of Sinhala undergraduates of the same University dragged them out of their hostel-rooms, assaulted them mercilessly and ordered them to quit the campus by 6 a.m., the next day. By noon on 12 May, almost all Tamil students had left the campus hurriedly; one Tamil undergrad, who had fallen down from the ceiling while attempting to flee the attackers, was warded at the Kandy General Hospital with cracked ribs and a broken chin; yet lectures continued to be conducted "as usual" by the Peradeniya university authorities, and well attended by Sinhala students.

Unaware of the provocation.

"Shocking... unbelievable... The first time an incident of such nature and proportion has taken place at Peradeniya University", said dazed Tamil undergrads on their arrival in Jaffna. "We were taken totally unawares". They pointed out that this incident portends ominous signs for the future safety of Tamil students at the Universities of Sri Lanka.

Most Tamil students reaching Jaffna were still unaware of what had provoked this brutal attack upon them the previous night. According to reports, a Tamil Engineering student named Balasooriyar was handed over to the Police (on Wednesday 11 May) after fellow Sinhala undergraduates had searched his belongings and allegedly found pamphlets of a proscribed Tamil Liberation Organization and a rubber stamp with the sentence "DO OR DIE".

T.V. Tamil movie.

Also late in the evening on Wednesday 11 May, unknown persons had defaced the Sinhala and the English lettering on the nameboard of the Medical Faculty; the words "EELAM FOREVER" in English were written in white paint on Uni-

versity roads; and posters in Sinhala and English expressing "EELAM" sentiment had appeared on the walls.

Male Tamil students staying at Marrs, Hilda Obeysekera, and James Pieries Halls bore the brunt of the assault; most of the students belong to the Medical and Dental Faculties. Tamils at all these halls were attacked almost simultaneously.

A typical scenario took place in Marrs Hall. Students watching the late-night movie were first "bucketed" with water amid cries of "THALAYA (Gingelly-oil-fellow)" and "Koti (Tigers)". The drenched students returned to their rooms. A gang came round shouting and banging on doors. They did not press to gain entry into the rooms, however, and moved away in the direction of another hall of residence. Thinking that this was just another example of chauvinistic rowdiness, many Tamil students fell into fitful slumber.

"Quit campus by 6 a.m. order.

Around 2 a.m., there was shouting again and the crash of breaking glass and wood. Gangs of Sinhala students from other halls began attacking Tamil students. Doors were broken open. Tamil students were dragged out into the corridors and each one individually attacked by 10-15 persons, many of whom were recognized as Sinhala undergraduates of Peradeniya.

Most students were assaulted mainly with hands and feet; some with clubs and iron bars. Some incurred cuts and bruises, while most sustained internal injuries due to battery. "No campus and no Eelam for you bastards. All Tamils should quit the campus by 6 a.m. tomorrow," they were told in English. Meanwhile, "search parties" raided the rooms to look for "subversive literature."

Tamil speaking Muslim students were not attacked however. Students belonging to the Estate Tamil community were not spared even when

they pleaded their different origin.

S.Sritharan, a fourth year Medical student from Kilinochchi, was one of eight students who sought refuge between the roof and the ceiling of Marrs Hall. But the ceiling gave way under Sritharan and he fell face downwards, breaking four of his ribs and injuring his chin. He was later admitted to the Kandy General Hospital by helpful Sinhala, Muslim and Tamil students.

Sinhala students to the rescue.

Amongst all this thuggery there were a number of heroic instances of good natured Sinhala and Muslim students saving their Tamil brothers. In Akbar Nell Hall, a gang of students was turned away by Sinhala students who told the raiders that they themselves would rather bear the blows than allow their Tamil faculty-mates to be attacked. Seeing their firmness, the mob retreated, hooting and jeering. However, the next morning, Tamils at Akbar Hall were asked to leave too, since their Sinhala friends could not protect them the next night too.

It is fortunate that women students belonging to the Tamil community were not attacked physically, though threats and insults were hurled at them.

Dean's change of mind.

For some unlucky Tamils the agony continued long into the night. Some were taken to the nameboard of the Medical Faculty, assaulted, and told to clean up the defaced Sinhala and English lettering. Others were taken around the campus and were forced between blows, to deface Tamil letters on the signboards.

While it seems to be a curious coincidence that the attacks at various Halls were more or less simultaneous, it is also noteworthy that the attackers have been careful not to injure the heads of their victims or to deal fatal blows, though they had not refrained from jumping onto the bodies of their fallen victims.

As dawn broke over Peradeniya University on Thursday, Tamil students came out of their hiding places and returned to their battered rooms to collect whatever notes and belongings they could before taking a bus or train to safety. Those whose arms were temporarily maimed by the blows were not so badly bruised. Some students broke into tears on seeing their notes lying soaked in pools of water.

A group of Tamil medical students dared to stay back near Dean's Office, in order to let him know of their plight and the reason for their leaving the campus. When the Dean arrived and heard their tale of woe, he agreed that they had no choice but to leave, and promised to inform the Vice-Chancellor of the situation. However, later on in the day, he seems to have changed his mind and remarked, "Everything is calm here, why can't the Tamils come back and attend lectures?"

Lectures as usual- V.C.

This seems to have been the general attitude adopted by the Administrative Authorities at the University. Vice-Chancellor Panditharatne made haste to inform the Press that lectures were being conducted as usual and that everything was calm. He said he could not take any action as no student had come to him to complain of damage to person or property. It is noteworthy that when students loyal to the UNP and JVP Parties clashed on the campus, the university was closed down within less than 24 hours.

However, things were far from calm at the campus. On Thursday, 12 May some final-year medical students who had dared to stay on in view of their impending final exam, were assaulted. A Tamil lecturer belonging to the Arts Faculty was assaulted in front of Wijewardene Hall and has sustained a fracture of the skull. Three Tamil Medical Students who went to meet the Dean of

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PERADENIYA TO BE A 'A SINHALA UNIVERSITY'?

Is there a plot to convert the University of Peradeniya into a "Sinhala Only" University? This is the question that is being raised in the context of the continuing tension and intimidation that prevails in the University and the failure of the authorities to take adequate and appropriate measures to provide the required security to facilitate the return of the Tamil students who fled from the Campus after being subjected to violence and degrading treatment beginning 11th May.

The co-ordinated and calculated manner in which the Tamil students were subjected to violence and forced to flee the campus would lend credence to the belief that the violence was premeditated and stage-managed with agent-provocateurs from within and without at work.

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their Faculty were surrounded by hostile Sinhala students; ultimately the Dean had to send them out in a university vehicle.

Observers are astonished at the viciousness of this attack, given the docile attitude of the Tamil students of Peradeniya University, who though they are still considerable in number (about one-third of the student population), yet always maintain a low profile in the University, avoiding political polarizations and alignments. Tamil students do not in general take an active part in student union activities as business there is almost all the time conducted in Sinhala. Unlike their counterparts at the University of Jaffna, Peradeniya Tamil students are rather indifferent, as a group, to political developments in the NORTH and EAST, and generally remain aloof from politics. The ominous question in the hearts of the Tamil students of Peradeniya University today is: "How can we hope to continue our studies in safety, if at all, at our University?"

(By courtesy of "Saturday Review")

A few days before the violence erupted, a student group had staged a Tamil translation of Jean-Paul Satre's "Men Without Shadows" which depicted the torture and cruelty by the Nazi soldiers on the French resistance fighters. Some designing individuals in the University would appear to have created a suspicion that the play had been portrayed in a manner as to being a parallel to present day conditions in Sri Lanka. From nowhere pamphlets purported to be issued by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam began appearing on the Science Faculty walls. The Sinhala lettering on the name board at the entrance to the University was also discovered obliterated with tar. Who did this remains a mystery, but the Tamil students flatly denied responsibility for the pasting of the pamphlets or the obliteration of the Sinhala lettering. Whoever did it knew that violence would ensue.

The editor of the Sri Lankan fortnightly "LANKA GUARDIAN" commented:

"Was it spontaneous combustion or engineered provocation? While that's the main question to which any 'Probe' team must address its mind, the outburst of racial violence at Peradeniya University is troubling for many reasons. Especially after we witnessed a repeat performance, on a much smaller scale of course at the Medicos hostel, Bloemfontein, in Colombo.

Blessed with better facilities than most other campuses, Peradeniya is still regarded as the 'elite' campus. More significantly the racial 'mix' shows a quite evenly balanced Sinhala Tamil undergraduate community. Divisions in the past were always political-ideological rather than ethnic or religious. Any subsurface racial antagonism and prejudice were largely contained. When it erupted some years ago, a spirited battalion of Sinhala students took the initiative to deal with the rabble-rousers. (On another occasion a Warden

found that the trouble had been caused by the rude and provocative racist remarks of a minor employee. He was promptly disciplined.

Unless he was a certifiable lunatic, no Tamil student would have used a tar brush on Sinhala name-boards in the heart of the Peradeniya campus. Who then was the provocateur?"

PETROL BOMBS & INTIMIDATION.

Anti-Tamil feeling again seems to be running high at the University of Peradeniya, with Science Faculty students boycotting classes to protest against the suspension of 2 Sinhala students involved in anti-Tamil activities

Once again, Tamil students who returned to the Campus less than a fortnight ago are being intimidated. On Thursday night (9 June) 2 petrol bombs were flung at the rooms of some Tamil students in Marris Hall. Last Saturday night 3 Tamil students were assaulted at Arunachalam Hall: the assa-

ilants wore polythene masks to hide their identity. On Sunday 2 Tamil Engineering students were the targets of a similar attack at James Peris Hall. Tamil students have been warned to keep away from lectures or face the consequences. The warnings have been backed up with fire-crackers.

With the exams approaching, the Tamil students are in a dilemma. They can't afford to quit the Campus at this stage but reportedly pro-UNP Sinhala students seem to be determined to make things so hot for the Tamil students that they'll flee the Campus again, as they did in May.

University high-ups too have no sympathy for the Tamil undergraduates. One of the 'top-rungers' was overheard saying he doesn't favour keeping the Tamil students in the Campus. He is reported to have added the Campus will not be closed down even if a Tamil student is killed.

"KEEP PERADENIYA MULTI-RACIAL"

The English Students Association of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, has called upon everybody concerned "to provide an atmosphere which would encourage the Tamil students to return to their studies".

The Association states:

"Last week, for the first time in the history of this University, incidents of racial violence gave the entire Tamil student population no option but to leave the campus premises. They are still being forcibly kept away from attending lectures, which is as much their right as it is of the other undergraduates. We feel that Peradeniya is what it is because of its multi-racial and multi-cultural character and this experience is what we cherish most in our academic lives. We are convinced that the only solution open to us now is for everybody concerned, authorities, staff and students, to provide an atmosphere which would encourage the Tamil students to return to their studies and feel that passive acceptance of the

situation only amounts to a tacit acceptance of racism, intimidation and thuggery, irrespective of where it comes from. The English Students' Association, therefore,

- Urges the authorities to take immediate action to ensure the return of all Tamil students to the University and to take adequate measures to guarantee their safety thereafter.

- Commends the University Teachers' Association for its decision not to conduct lectures since a section of the student body is being prevented from attending them and request them to continue working towards an immediate resolution of the crisis.

- Appeals to all its members and to all other undergraduates to keep alive the concept of a multi-racial University and to work actively towards achieving this end which will entail bringing back all Tamil students to continue their studies in an environment where they will not feel threatened."

ABOUT PEOPLE

TAMBIMUTTU

Tambimuttu, who died in London on June 22, was in his day, a resoundingly known figure on the London literary scene, but he also has a permanent niche in the history of literary affairs from his stewardship of the magazine *Poetry London* which he edited from 1939 to 1947.

Tambi, as he was universally known, presided over the fortunes of *Poetry London* with a style of editorship in which eccentricity was always cheek by jowl with near chaos. Run with genial informality from the Hog in the Pound public house, then on Oxford Street, where Tambi conferred with his peers, *Poetry London* always seemed an unlikely survivor of the austere economic climate of the Forties. Yet it not merely survived, but did so with distinction, publishing in the course of its fifteen issues almost every British poet of note, providing a platform for what was, then, younger talent which would have found itself stifled



by the more orthodox available outlets.

Born in Ceylon in 1915 Tambi had come to Britain in 1937 with a jazz musical comedy-performed at the Regal Theatre, Colombo - to his name, and perhaps at that stage no defined ambition to electrify a literary scene overdominated by academics.

Poetry London came to birth from a meeting between Tambimuttu, Tony Dickens, Dylan Thomas and Keidrych Rhys. Tambi's mission from that point was to "liberate" poetry.

His own talents were essentially creative and personal. At

business he was less adept. Nevertheless this "wild, dark impresario of the dithering Forties" was, with his eclectic tastes to publish among many others, Dylan Thomas, Stephen Spender, Louis MacNeice, Kathleen Raine, David Gascoyne and George Barker. He also commissioned illustrations from Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland.

Tambimuttu left London for the United States in 1947 when his own financial interest in the magazine was bought out by a business partner. *Poetry London* appeared for two more years but without his presiding genius seemed to lose something of its zest for life.

In America his career was varied. There was a new but short lived magazine called *Poetry London- New York* and plans to reenter the British literary scene with a bang, via a magazine called *Apple* in cooperation with the Beatles. But it was not until 1979 that an issue of *Poetry London/Apple Magazine* finally appeared by which time Tambi was a quarter of a century from the scenes of his inspiration.

In the 1970s with his striking graphite coloured hair, he was again a familiar sight in the old haunts, but reminiscence had begun to predominate over creativity. A more permanent acknowledgment of his achievement was in a reprint of *Poetry London* in a set of five volumes by Frank Cass in 1971.

By courtesy of The Times
Friday June 24 1983.

RANGANATHAN, QC, DIES AT 74

Mr.C. Renganathan Q.C. one of Sri Lanka's leading Appeal Court lawyers died in Colombo recently. He had been ailing for some time. He was 74.

He also held several key positions in government and private institutions. He was a director of the Tourist Board a member of the Board of directors of the S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike National Memorial Foundation and a member of the Council of Legal Education.

He also served on the board of management of the Ramakrishna Mission,, V.P. Hindu Educational Society (Colombo) and the Hindu Religious Affairs Advisory Board. He was the convenor and member of the board of trustees of the coordinating committee of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Sri Lanka.

He was educated at St. Joseph's College, Colombo, the University of Ceylon and the Law College. He took his oaths as an advocate in 1936 and became a QC in 1965.

Mr. Lyman S. Kulathungam

The death occurred on May 5, 1983 at his residence in Vadukoddai of Mr. Lyman S. Kulathungam, retired Vice-Principal of Jaffna College and Editor of The Morning Star for 42 years. He celebrated his 80th birthday on January 29. He leaves behind his wife Dhi-viam, four sons (Dr.L.C.D. Kulathungam, Mr. W.D. Kulathungam, Mr. Jeyam Kulathungam and Mr. Rajan Kulathungam) and a daughter Mrs.J. Pooranampillai.

The late Mr. Handy Perinbanayagam and Mr. Kulathungam were pioneers in teaching English and Latin to the Undergraduates of Jaffna College. Mr.Kulathungam was always young in spirit and full of wit and humour. He had the knack of transporting his students into the very world of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet', Milton's 'Paradise Lost' and Dickens' 'David Copperfield'.

Mr. Kulathungam was for many years staff representative on the Board of Directors of Jaffna College, member of the Executive Committee of Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India, editor of the Jaffna College Miscellany, lay preacher, and an ardent member of the Church and Community.

The Rev. S.W. Sugunaratnam

The death occurred suddenly on May 3 of the Rev. S.W.Sugunaratnam, Pastor of the Chavakachcheri Church. Prior to his recent move to Chavakachcheri he had been Pastor of the Uduvil Church and had also served as Secretary of the Jaffna Diocese. He leaves behind his wife and two daughters.

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LONDON MURUGAN TEMPLE, MANOR PARK LONDON E12

The London Murugan Temple, a registered charity founded in 1975 to promote Hindu worship and facilitate the conducting of religious, cultural and social activities in the U.K., has been able to purchase a freehold property for £60,000 to establish a Hindu Temple at 78 Church Road, Manor Park, London E.12.

A large band of well-wishers and devotees in South India have undertaken to meet the entire cost of all Vighrahas, Utsava Moorthys, Silver Kavachams and all expenses connected with the travel and honorariums of a group of expert sculptors expected to arrive in the U.K. in early July. The temple building would incorporate some of the finest facets of South Indian Hindu temple architecture and lend new colour to the landscape of that part of London, and would be a focal point for the Hindus of the U.K. and Europe.

The first stage of the building operations is expected to be completed in time for the Maha Kumbabishekam to be held in October 1983.

The Trustees and the Management Committee need £45,000 to complete the project and invite donations from well-wishers and devotees. Cheques drawn in favour of "The London Murugan Temple" could be sent to the President, at 202 Browning Road, Manor Park, London E 12.

INVITATION

The Headmaster & teachers of the West London Tamil School request the pleasure of your company on Prize Day, Saturday 16 July, at 6.30p.m. in the Greenford High School Hall, Ruislip Road, Greenford, Middlesex. Dr. Rhodes Boyson, M.P., Minister of State, will present the prizes.

RSVP (by July 9) Dr. R. Nithyanathan, M.Sc., Ph.D., Headmaster, W.L.T.S., "The Kudil", 179 Norval Road, North Wembley, Middlesex.

HARTLEY COLLEGE O.B.A. (LONDON BRANCH)

The Past Pupils of Hartley College, Point Pedro, living in the U.K. have taken the initiative to organise an Old Boys Association.

The inaugural meeting was held at 17 Leeland Mansions, Leeland Road, London W13 on June 11. The following Committee was elected : Patron Mr. W.N.S. Samuel (current Principal of Hartley College), vice partons Mr. K.C. Praesooddy and Mr. C.J.T. Thamotheeram President Dr. M. Sreetharan Vice-President Mr. R. Nadarajasundaram General Secretary Mr. A. Sriharan, 50 Coningsby Road, London W5 (Tel: 01-840 3635) Treasurer Mr. R. Raveendralingam.

It was decided to organise a dinner in honour of Mr. Samuel who is shortly due in London as representative of the Sri Lanka Methodist Conference at the Annual Synod of the British Methodist Conference. Details of the function as well as of the newly formed Association may be obtained from Mr. Sriharan.

SHREE GHANAPATHY TEMPLE, WIMBLEDON, LONDON SW 19.

The Idols of Hanuman, Bhudevi, Sri Seedeivi, and Chandikeswarar, exquisite masterpieces produced by the sculptors of Kumbakonam and Mahaballipuram in south India, were installed at the Shree Ganapathy Temple 123/133 Effra Road Wimbledon, London SW19 on 23rd and 24th June 1983, under the direction of His Holiness Swami Haridhoshgiri of Thapovanam, India. The ceremonies commenced on Thursday, 23rd June with the setting up of Kumbams, Homams and the chanting of Vedic Mantras. On Friday, the 24th, after Abisekam to the deities, Pranapratheshthai and Bimbastapanam, Thirukalyanam of Lord Venkateshwara to His Consorts Bhudevi and Sri Seedeivi was the highlight of the ceremony. His Holiness Swami Haridhoshgiri delivered a religious discourse and sang Bhajans.



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ASSAULTED FOR 4 HRS AT ARMY CAMP

- JMO's REPORT

For nearly four hours on Sunday, 8th May Dr. S.Rajasunderam, Administrative Secretary of Gandhiyam Society was assaulted by Lieut. Bukmeewawa and three others, all of whom he could identify, at the Army Detention Barracks at Panagoda near Colombo. This allegation made by Dr. Rajasunderam in person to Dr.M.S.L. Salgado, J.M.O., Colombo, is contained in Dr. Salgado's report submitted to the Court of Appeal Colombo.

In his report to the Appeal Court Dr. Salgado says: "I examined Somasunderam Rajasunderam, 47 years, who is being detained at the Army Detention Barracks, Panagoda, at 2.10 p.m. on 12-05-1983 in the front room of the barracks building. Dr. S. Premathirathne, my assistant, was also present.

"I explained to the examinee that I have come to examine him on an order of the Appeal Court on an application made by S.Karalasingham of Vavuniya. I also explained that my findings would be communicated to the said Court and asked him whether he consents to be examined.

On being pushed, he fell into cell.

I ensured that no other person was within hearing distance as the examination room was small. The examinee consented to be examined and in proof of his identity I got him to sign and date on the paper on which I was going to make my notes. The examination concluded at 3.10p.m.

History: S.Rajasunderam stated that he was brought to Panagoda from Gurunagar Army Camp and arrived at about midnight of the 7th May, '83. He was taken in and pushed into a cell by two officers who were in uniform whom he can identify. As a result of being pushed he fell inside the cell. He thereafter slept on the marble floor of the cell.

"At about 3 a.m., sand was thrown at him but he continued to sleep. At about 5.30 a.m., on the 8th, a person whom he can identify came into the cell wearing a towel

and "boxed my tummy", as a result he found difficulty in breathing. His hair was pulled and he was also assaulted on the shoulders by the same person. About half an hour later another person whom he can identify came into the cell and he was hit on the head and shoulders for about two minutes after which he left.

'HE WAS SHOWN TWO MEN HANGING UPSIDE DOWN FROM THEIR LEGS IN 2 CELLS'

"At about 5.00 pm, on 8-5-83, Lt. Bukmeewewa came with three others, all of whom he can identify. Two of them assaulted him with shoes, elbows, fist and knees. The assault continued from about 5.00pm., till about 8.30 to 9.00p.m. Thereafter he was kept naked and he had to take his meals without clothes.

On the 8th night when he was sleeping he was taken out of the cell and shown two men hanging upside down by their legs in two cells. He was beaten there with hands and slippers and asked to admit that there was a conference in 1981.

"He was taken back to his cell where he slept and his clothes were returned at 1.30a.m. on 9th morning. He was told that all were beaten up as two detenus had communicated what had occurred to their lawyers.

"On the 10th he was threatened but not assaulted. He was made to walk on his hands and knees for exercise in his cell. "On the 12th he was made to stand from 9.30a.m., to 1.00 p.m., with a break of five minutes as he had told lawyers who had met him on the 11th what had occurred.

"Two officers whom he can identify threatened him not to speak about the incidents of the 8th May, 10 minutes before he was brought up for examination by me."

Cont. on page 15

AUSTRALIAN TAMILS

TELL TULF MPs

"PLEASE STEP DOWN"

The following is the text of a letter sent to the leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Mr.A. Amirthalingam, MP by the Eelam Tamil Association (Australasia):

9th May 1983

Mr.A. Amirthalingam
General Secretary of the

T.U.L.F.

& Leader of the Opposition
Parliament of Sri Lanka.

Dear Mr. Amirthalingam,

"Our Association has requested me to write this letter to you.

"Eelam Tamils at present resident in Australia are horrified and dismayed to note that while Tamil Eelam is suffering under the yoke of armed occupation by its present Sinhala rulers and while its youth, intellectuals, refugee rehabilitation workers and religious leaders are being harassed, tortured and mur-

dered in Sri Lankan jails, the T.U.L.F. parliamentarians like modern day Neros are fiddling with local elections and power politics and are having secret 'discussions' with the Sinhala rulers and even proclaiming that the present U.N.P. government is giving 'redress' to Tamils (ref: your speech reported in Virakesari of 13-4-1983).

"When following the death of our late revered leader Thanthai Chelva the mantle of Tamil leadership fell on your shoulders and you led the T.U.L.F. to parliamentary power on the mandate of achieving independence for THAMIL EELAM, we like all Eelam Tamils at home and abroad were thrilled to the core of our hearts. When for the next two years you roared your defiance at the fanatical Sinhala Buddhist par-

liamentarians we all thought that the hour had at last produced the leader who was going to liberate the Eelam Tamils.

"But alas, we have witnessed yet another of the sordid Tamil parliamentary dramas of soft pedalling followed by back pedalling, crowned by downright betrayal of the Tamils, of their hopes, their aspirations and their lives. Eelam Tamils have been betrayed time and again in the past by their political leaders, but your betrayal has become the most dastardly because it is happening at a time when mother Tamil Eelam is bleeding to death.

"We strongly point out to you that the Tamil people gave you and your T.U.L.F. parliamentarians a clear and unequivocal mandate to strive for and achieve an independent sovereign state of THAMIL EELAM and not to compromise for anything short of this. You were most certainly not given any right to conduct back door dialogue asking for DDC'S and other petty concessions. We hate to ponder in whose best interests you are acting today: your parliamentary seats or the Tamil people's freedom?

"We have this to say to you-you and the present bunch of Tamil parliamentarians, who like puppets are dancing to

the tune of the master puppeteer J.R., are not made of freedom-struggle material; you are most definitely not capable of leading Eelam Tamils to freedom. Therefore please step down, taking along with you, your parliamentary harem and let a real meaningful leadership come forward and lead us to freedom.

"We have one more thing to say to you-they say history repeats itself and that is true of our struggle too. You will remember that when the Tamil Congress leaders betrayed the trust that the Tamils placed in them, Thanthai Chelva and Vanniasingham emerged as the real leaders of the Tamils. But it took them eight long and heart-rending years the

break the Tamil people free of shackles and deception that the previous leadership had imposed on them. We are now watching a similar drama unfolding yet again, the only difference being that the players are different and the stakes are priceless-the very survival of Eelam Tamils. Do not think you too could fool the Tamil people for eight long years or more.

"Please remember the old adage, 'You can fool all the people some of the time, you

Cont. on page 6

Cont. from page 14
Dr. Salgado in making his observations says:

"He (Dr. Rajasunderam) walked into the examination room slowly and he appeared to be frightened until I explained the purpose of my visit. His face was unshaven and on questioning him he stated that he had not shaved since the 7th. "He complained of pain behind one ear, on the back of the chest, back of head and tummy. He also complained of a buzzing sensation in both ears more in the right. His pulse was 100 per minute, his blood pressure 120/80mm. mercury. His temperature under the tongue was 99.4F.

He had a purplish brown contusion immediately behind right ear with an abrasion at the upper end of the contusion. To the left of the mid-line on the back of the top of the scalp was another contusion which could be felt and was tender but which was not visible.

"There was tenderness over the lower end of the right shoulder blade of the back of chest. All joints had full movements except the shoulder joints where there was pain on extending the upper arm fully.

The patient complained of pain in the calves but no abnormality was detected.

Dr. Salgado states that he was unable to examine his ears as there was no otoscope. Dr. Rajasunderam gave him a history that he has had perforation of the ear drums when he was small and that Dr. Benjamin had treated him. He also stated that prior to the assault on the 8th night he had no complaint regarding his ears.

Dr. Salgado states that in view of the symptoms (tinnitus) and the history of assault he recommends that he should be examined by an ENT Surgeon in regard to his complaint of buzzing in the ears.

Dr. Salgado states that injuries that he had listed were all non-grievous with the qualification that he had not examined the ears internally. Since Dr. Rajasunderam was having low fever he had recommended that he should not take the yogic exercises which he was accustomed to do daily.

After listing the various medicines that he should be provided Dr. Salgado concludes "His mental condition is normal except that he is in a state of apprehension."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EELAM - A POINT OF VIEW

The recent arrest in Sri Lanka of the leaders of Ghandiyam under the unlimited power of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the all too familiar spree of arson and looting by the army in Jaffna, once again highlights how the Sri Lankan Government is escalating its repressive measures against the Tamils. Consequently, more and more Tamils are being inevitably forced to consider whether the establishment of a separate State of Eelam is the only choice left if they wish their life, liberty and the future of their children to be secure. The time has now come for the Sri Lankan Tamils at home and abroad to face facts and come to a decision about their future. If they wish to live in Sri Lanka, then they must answer the question - Do the Tamils need a separate State? All those who answer in the affirmative must then actively help towards establishing it. However, anyone with

average intelligence will concede that proper planning which takes into consideration all relevant factors (natural resources, commercial potential, support of other governments, degree of commitment of the concerned people etc.) and possible eventualities, is vital to the success of this endeavour, though luck would play some part in the final outcome. It is, therefore, totally irresponsible for some groups to say that the only immediate goal to aim for, is the physical achievement of Eelam and matters like how we will hold on to it and earn our livelihood in it, can be considered subsequently. Those who advocate this policy do not seem to realise that they are risking the lives and future of all the Tamils who opt to become citizens of Eelam. I would not wish to follow any group that is, in effect, asking the Tamils to commit voluntary genocide in the name of patriotism, which

is exactly what the Sri Lankan Government wants.

True, sacrifices of life and property are inevitable in any independence struggle but they can be reduced to an unavoidable minimum with adequate preparation.

The disastrous attempt by Biafra to break away from Nigeria illustrates the folly of such an impetuous action.

After a hasty declaration of independence, the Biafrans, in spite of their oil resources, found themselves isolated and were starved into submission while the rest of the world watched apathetically. More than two million Biafrans died - many of them being women, children and elderly who succumbed to malnutrition. It was this that broke their spirit. This debacle was due to the Biafran leaders (1) underestimating the ruthlessness of the Nigerian Government (2) over-estimating the outside world's willingness to intervene on their behalf (3) not planning for survival by self-sufficiency before they declared independence. The Eritreans in Ethiopia and Kurds in Iraq have also suffered similar fates. Are we to learn our lesson only from tragic personal experience?

In recent times only Bangladesh has successfully seceded from Pakistan with direct support from its big neighbour, India (whose government had to cope with the flood of refugees and to whom Pakistan was a common enemy) and indirect support from Russia. Eelam has no country to back it and has no fertile soil or other natural resources; the Tamils are not united nor prepared to make sacrifices to preserve their ethnic identity.

The Tamils living abroad now are unique among all other expatriates in their voluntary adoption of English as their mother-tongue, relegating Tamil to the status of an unnecessary and bothersome foreign language. Presumably Eelam, symbolising Tamil language and culture, would mean nothing to them or their children. I do not say that we should abandon the idea of

Eelam - far from it. I only wish to point out the need to plan for the viability of Eelam as much as the need to pursue its establishment, because we are not going to be given a second chance at it. Eelam is not going to be the achievement of one man or of one group but has to be the fruit of collective effort on all fronts - political, socio-economical and military strategy. Is there a working party of Tamils in existence now, which is studying the economic and commercial potential of Eelam and if so will the group identify itself so that all those who believe in its aims can offer their help?

**Paramanathan
England**

USE OF TAMIL- GOVT APPOINTS ADVISERS

The Sri Lankan government, it is reported, has decided to appoint a Committee comprising of senior civil servants to advise on the implementation of government policy on the use of Tamil language in the administration, particularly of the northern and eastern provinces.

Although the Tamil language enjoys the constitutional status of a national language, in practical terms it meant nothing. And this is one of the major issues on which the Tamil people have held strong views.

Reports attributed to governmental sources state that the recommendations of this committee, which comprises some of the most senior and experienced civil servants, would ensure that the implementational aspects of a variety of matters already provided for both statutorily and administratively would be taken care of.

The Committee is expected to be chaired by Mr. Bradman Weerakoon, the Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Political observers suspect that the government has taken this step with a view to enticing the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) to recommence negotiations with the government.

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THE PRIESTS' TRIAL

Cont. from page 1
this trial is itself a serious tactical error on the part of government. Likely to last at least six weeks, and probably longer, and whatever its outcome, it is destined to be another turning point in the downward spiral, not only of relations between the communities in Sri Lanka, but also in the life of the regime which misgoverns them. In addition, to take on the Catholic and Methodist Churches, when their cultural influence is so strong in Jaffna, and as political instability and insecurity gradually increase throughout the island, can only be deeply counter-productive.

The morning was taken up with over two hours of legal argument, in which the prosecution insisted that the case would take longer than six weeks to complete and that Judge Silva, who retires early in August, should therefore not hear it. In the garden, I could see a bizarre sight: butterflies dancing amid the flowers and the machine guns, while what little remains of the rule of law in Sri Lanka

struggled for survival. Bala Tampoe for the defendants argued with great eloquence that, having been denied bail, justice demanded their speedy trial; and said the defendants were anxious to 'take their chance', and immediately face the charges against them. When Judge Silva decided in their favour that the trial commence at once, their faces lit up, their relief obvious.

As the court adjourned, and the defendants stood to be handcuffed by one of the khaki-clad bullies who now increasingly determine the rights of the citizens of Sri Lanka, justice too stood in the balance, for the next weeks to be held in the hands of Mr. Robert Silva. When the priests turned to leave, they raised their handcuffed arms to me in a gesture of defiance, signalling too (and correctly) that the outside world must come to their aid, and be witness to this ultimately vain attempt at their crucifixion.

MY EXPULSION FROM SRI LANKA.

CONTD FROM P.1
out orders. 'Other countries do worse things than us', said

one of the CID men, 'and don't suffer for it'.
on me of a deportation order - and that I must pack and accompany them at once.

Outside the hotel, in the darkness of the lane, I could see other uniformed men, at least two jeeps and other cars. I was put in one of the jeeps with two plain-clothes policemen, a driver and a uniformed policeman, all unarmed as far as I could make out, and attempting no further intimidation. I was driven directly to the airport with the second jeep behind us.

At the airport my baggage was searched and nothing of any significance to them found. They were plainly cheated of their expectations; they had caught not a tiger but a mosquito. I told them that they had made a serious error in expelling me, to which they replied that they were merely carrying I asked them to convey my apologies to the Chief Justice and Attorney General for my failure to keep my appointments with them. I also expressed the hope that the Chief Justice would not himself be in any difficulty for agreeing to

see me. The CID man replied 'Oh no, he is much too powerful'. I took it that if he was less powerful - say, only as powerful as an ordinary Supreme Court Justice - even he might soon be suffering the attentions of Sir Lanka's army and police - ruled state.

I was left in the airport departure lounge, with my CID and uniformed escorts watching me till the end, in a harassed and exhausted state with no explanation for my sudden expulsion. I had entered the country perfectly legally as a British citizen. During the six days of my travels, I had conducted myself openly in Sri Lanka and spoken with politicians, judges, journalists, lawyers, public officials and academics precisely as I had done in 1982. Nothing that I had done was covert, illegal or improper. But plainly the limits upon what is tolerated in a seedy and increasingly brutal political dictatorship like Sri Lanka's - now becoming just like all the others - and the conditions under which a visitor can travel the country have narrowed sharply in the last twelve months since my previous visit.

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SLBC SURPLUS RS.10.8 MILLION

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation has reported a Rs. 10.8 million surplus of revenue over expenditure during the financial year 1981 against a Rs.16.6 million surplus the previous year.

SLBC Chairman Eamon Kariyakarawana has said in his report for 1981 that the corporation had achieved its revenue targets with both radio licence fee collections and the yield from the sale of air time growing appreciably. SLBC has reported a total operating expenditure of Rs. 92.4 million for 1981 against Rs.69.9 million a year earlier. Administrative expenditure had grown sharply from Rs.42.5 million to Rs.61.1 million.

MEDICAL GIFT FROM US.

The International Human Assistance Programme (IHAP) USA has donated to Sri Lanka Rs.5 million worth of medical supplies and equipment, one of the biggest single donations ever made by a single organisation.

These gifts from US governmental sources and private enterprise will comprise medical hardware and consumables to equip two modern hospitals. The items include 5 X-ray plants, 10 operating tables, 3000 pieces of surgical instruments, 50 sterilising units, 50 suction units, and other assorted items. In addition over one thousand boxes of dressings, syringers, linen and orthopaedic bandages are included in the package.

The American medical supply companies through the IHAP have already donated gauze and suture material worth over Rs.3,891,000/-.

RS.700 MILLION PLAN FOR MANNAR & VAVUNIYA

The government will inaugurate an Integrated Development Program for the accelerated development of the Mannar and Vavuniya districts in the Northern Province immediately. Sri Lanka's Finance

and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel said recently;

Rs.700 million will be set apart with World Bank aid for the development of these two areas alone. Mr. de Mel added;

"This is the largest sum of money ever set apart for the integrated development of any area in Sri Lanka", he said.

"This alone should nail to the counter the false propaganda spread by Tamil racialists that Tamil areas have been neglected by this government. This government alone has done more for the Northern and Eastern Provinces than any other government since independence" he said.

This Integrated Development Program will be in addition to the normal improvements done by line-ministries in these two districts and through the development budget.

The World Bank has now provided nine loans totalling \$ 115 million and 33 International Development Agency (IDA) credits totalling \$ 618 million to Sri Lanka.

About 50 per cent of this assistance has been for the agricultural sector aimed at increasing food production and reducing dependence on food imports by raising productivity, employment and the incomes of the rural population.

OVERSEAS CHILDREN'S SCHOOL TO TAKE IN LANKAN STUDENTS

Lankan students of all ages will be admitted to the Overseas Children's School at Colombo from September 1983.

In the senior forms, selected students may study for both London University 'O' Levels and the International Baccalaureate Examinations.

The OCS has been granted permission to become an International Baccalaureate School for its newly formed grades 11 and 12. It thus joins the ranks of other international

CONTD FROM P.19

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school in over 40 different countries.

Until four years ago the OCS had a student population of around 250 from pre-school to grade 10 where University of London 'O' Level Examinations were taken.

"The present Sri Lankan government's economic policies have brought in an increasing number of expatriate managers. This, together with a similar increase in UN-sponsored and individual government aid programs, has meant a rapid increase in the number of students at the school", the spokesman said.

The OCS board, last year, made there important decisions affecting the long-term interests of the school. The school was split into three administrative units. Primary, Middle and senior each with its own principal, and all under one headmaster.

The advantages to senior school children who come from 35 countries, seeking university in every country.

Students may also choose to study their subjects at either higher level or subsidiary level. Students not taking the full IB diploma course can elect to sit examinations in individual subjects and will receive a certificate in each subject they pass.

The educational philosophy of the IB is that it shall give a general education covering six subjects in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Languages.

Specialization is left to the University years.

DECLARATION OF ASSETS

The Sri Lankan Cabinet has approved a recommendation by Prime Minister, Premadasa, to enlarge the scope of the Assets & Liabilities Law, to make the

declaration of assets and liabilities cover besides ministers and members of parliament and public officers, other persons such as office bearers of political parties, office bearers of trade unions, candidates nominated to contest elections, proprietors, editors and editorial staff, chairmen and members of DDCs, chairmen and members of local authorities, chairmen and members of statutory boards and local authorities.

Such declarations should be made available to any citizen on the payment of an appropriate fee.

When any person does not agree with the declaration it will be possible for him to contest it in court.

Adequate safeguards to be provided to prevent malicious and frivolous applications to court and to deposit a prescribed amount in respect of each charge.

In the event of the charge being proved false heavy penalties will ensue.

Cont. from page 8
order and the security in Jaffna. "The SLFP of Jaffna District strongly condemns these premeditated acts of violence, perpetrated on the innocent Tamils of the North with terrifying frequency.

We therefore request the Government should:

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

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