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ANNUAL REPORT 1996

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தலைவர் உரை

அன்புடையீர்,

தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கம் சித்திரைப் புதுவருடப் பிறப்புடன் தனது ஆண்டுவிழாவையும் வருடாவருடம் கொண்டாடி வருவது யாவரும் அறிந்ததே. இந்த ஆண்டும், தமிழர் புதுவருடமான “ஈஸ்வர்” வருடப் பிறப்புடன் எமது ஆண்டு நிறைவு விழாவினை கலாசார இரவாக 26.4.97 அன்று நடாத்துவதில் பெருமையடைகிறோம். மலரும் இப்புதுவருடத்தில் தமிழர்தம் துயர்நீங்கி, நிம்மதியான வாழ்வு கிடைக்க இறைவனை வேண்டி, எல்லோருக்கும் புதுவருட வாழ்த்துகளைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.

புலம்பெயர் குழலில் வாழ்கின்ற நம் தமிழ்ச் சமூகம், தனது தனித்துவத்தை இழக்காதிருக்க முயற்சித்து வருவது கண்கூடு. இந்த முயற்சிக்கு, தமிழ்ச் சமூக அமைப்புகளும் சமய, கலை, கலாசார ஸ்தாபனங்களும் பெரிதும் உறுதுணை புகின்றன. இவ்வகையில், கிழக்கு லண்டனில் வேருன்றி, கடந்த பதினொரு ஆண்டுகளாகத் தொடர்ச்சியான சேவையாற்றிவரும் தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கத்தின் தலைவர் என்ற ரீதியில் உங்களுடன் சில கருத்துகளைப் பகிர் விரும்புகிறேன்.

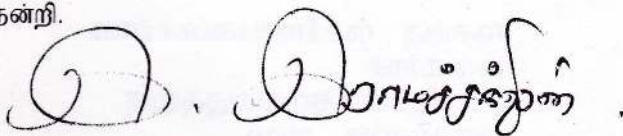
தமிழினம், குறிப்பாக இலங்கைத் தமிழர்கள், சர்வதேச அமைப்புக்களாலோ அன்றி உலக நாடுகளாலோ கேட்பாரற்று, நாதியற்ற ஓர் இனமாக உலகமெல்லாம் பரவி அகதியாய் வாழ்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கிற வேளையிலும், தம் பாரம்பரியத்தை, கலாசாரத்தை, விழுமியங்களை அழியவிடாது பேணிப் பாதுகாப்பதில் ஆர்வமுடையவர்களாகவே இருக்கின்றனர். இவ்வகையில் தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கமும் தனது பங்களிப்பைச் செய்துகொண்டே வருகிறது.

பதினொரு வருடங்களுக்கு முன்னர் கிழக்கு லண்டனில் அகதியாக வந்தவர்களின் நலன்களைக் கவனிக்க, அவர்களில் ஒரு சிலரால் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட சங்கமானது, இன்று தமிழர்களின் நிகழ்காலத் தேவையான சமூகநல உரிமைகளைக் கவனிப்பது, தமிழர் சமூக நல மேம்பாட்டிற்கு உதவுவதுடன் உள்நாட்டிலுள்ள அமைச்சினால் அகதிகளாக வருவோர்க்குரிய அகதி விண்ணப்ப நிராகரிப்பு, விசா போன்ற பிரச்சினைகளுக்கு முன்னுரிமை கொடுத்து செயல்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிற வேளையிலும், கலை, இலக்கியத்திலும் தனது கவனத்தைச் செலுத்தி வருகிறது.

உலகமெல்லாம் பரந்து வாழும் தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர்களின் இலக்கிய ஆற்றலை வெளிக்கொணரவும், எழுத்தாளர்களை ஊக்குவிப்பதற்காகவும் கடந்த ஆண்டில் (1996) இருந்து ஒரு கலை இலக்கிய மலரை தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கம் தனது முயற்சியில் வெளியிட்டு வருகிறது. இவ்வருடமும் உலகளாவிய தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர்களின் படைப்புகளை தொகுத்து ஒரு மலரை எமது கலாசார இரவு வேளையில் வெளியிடுவதில் பெருமகிழ்ச்சியடைகிறோம்.

மேலும், எமது சங்கத்தின் வளர்ச்சிப் பாதையின் ஓர் அங்கமாக, இவ்வருடம் சித்திரை மாதம் முதல், வயது முதிர்ந்தோர்க்கான சேவை ஒன்றையும் ஆரம்பித்திருக்கிறோம். இப்படிப் பல்வேறு துறைகளிலும் எமது சங்கத்தின் சேவைகள் பல்கிப் பெருகி, தமிழ்ச் சமூகத்தினர்க்குச் சிறந்த சேவை செய்வதற்கு தமிழ் மக்கள் எல்லோரதும் ஆதரவையும் வேண்டி நிற்கிறோம்.

நன்றி.



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திரு சந்திரதாஸ்

(செயலாளர்)

தமிழர் நலன்புரிச் சங்கம்

33 ஸ்டேஷன் சாலை

மாளார் பார்சு

இலண்டன் கி.2

7.4.1997

அன்புடையீர் வணக்கம்!

தமிழர் நலன்புரிச் சங்கத்தின் 11வது ஆண்டு தமிழ்ப் புத்தாண்டு விழாவின் அழைப்பிதழ் கிடைக்கப் பெற்றோம். மகிழ்வு கொண்டோம்.

வெளிநாடுகளில் வாழ்ந்துவரும் தமிழ்ச் சமுதாயத்தின் எண்ணங்களைப் புரிந்து அதற்குத் தக்கவாறு சேவை புரிந்து வருவதில் இங்கிலாந்து நாட்டில் தமிழர் நலன்புரிச் சங்கம் நிகரற்று திகழ்ந்து வருகின்றது. சமய சமூக விழாக்களை எடுப்பதிலும், குழந்தைகள், முதியவர்களுக்கு ஏற்றவாறு நிகழ்ச்சிகளை அமைப்பதிலும் நன்கு தொண்டாற்றி வருகின்றது.

ஆண்டுதோறும் தமிழ்ப் புத்தாண்டு விழாவினைச் சிறப்பாக நடத்தி தமிழர்களுக்கு தங்கள் சேவையினைச் செய்கின்றது. அந்த வரிகையில் தனது 11வது ஆண்டு சிறப்புத் தமிழ் புத்தாண்டு விழாவினை கோலாகலமாக கொண்டாடி மகிழும் இந்த நன்னாளில் தமிழர் நலன்புரிச் சங்கத்தின் சேவைகள் சிறந்திடவும், தொண்டுகள் தொடர்ந்திடவும் சங்கத்தினரின் சேவைகளைப் பாராட்டி எல்லாம் வல்ல இலண்டன் ஸ்ரீ முருகப் பெருமானை பணிந்து போற்றி வாழ்த்துகின்றோம்.

இங்ஙனம்

S. Senthil Kumar

சீ சம்பத்துமார்
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14.4.97

The Secretary
Tamil Welfare Association (Newham) U K
33A Station Rd
Manor Park
London E12 5BP

I have great pleasure in congratulating the Tamil Welfare Association (Newham) UK for their invaluable service to the Tamil Community in general and the Tamils in Newham in particular. I am pleased that TWAN is providing immense help and support to the Tamil Community, particularly to the Tamil Asylum Seekers in Newham. Their active participation and contribution at meetings, conferences and discussions on asylum issues and immigration problems has won my admiration. TWAN had also organised useful forum to discuss Asylum and Immigration issues. The Tamil Asylum Seekers, I believe, will appreciate their services and in return support them.

TWAN is actively engaged in the development and promotion of our traditional Arts and Culture. Celebrating Tamil festivals like New Year is of great significance in preserving our Arts and Culture.

Community Organisations draw their strength and inspiration from the community members. Community support is vital for the successful fulfillment of their aims and objectives. Unity and co- operation are essential for achieving our goal and mission. My humble message to the Tamil Community on this occasion is that we should unite and work together to achieve our objectives and goal.

May TWAN grow from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely

S. STANISLAUS
President

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



The Mayor
Councillor Shama Ahmad
London Borough of Newham

Tamil Welfare Association (Newham) UK
33a Station Road
Manor Park
London E12 5BP

25 March 1997

Dear Friends

It gives me great pleasure to once again send best wishes to you all from the Mayor of Newham on the occasion of Tamil New Year.

It is my dearest wish that all the Tamil community in Newham should continue to grow and prosper as they have done in the past and that the New Year will bring them every success.

Once again my best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

Shama Ahmad.

Shama Ahmad
Mayor

Secretary's Report

AGM 1996

The Annual General Meeting was held on 23.6.96 at the Trinity Community Centre between 12 noon and 4.30 pm. The agenda was as follows:

01. Registration 12.15 pm.
02. Welcome Speech
03. Election of Chairperson for the AGM.
04. Apologies
05. Secretary's Report
06. Lunch (1.15 pm)
07. Casework Report
08. Treasurer's Report
09. Project Report
10. Questions/Suggestions
11. Any Other Business

1.0 Registration

Registration took place between 12.00 and 12.30 pm and there was necessary quorum to start the meeting on time.

2.0 Welcome Speech

The Chair, Mr Ramachanthiran made the welcome speech and went on to call for nomination to elect the Chair for the AGM. Mrs Balasingham was elected. She was proposed by Miss Thambiarajah and seconded by Mr Premkumar. Mrs Balasingham was unanimously elected.

3.0 AGM Chair

Mrs Balasingham thanked everyone for electing her as the Chair and she requested everyone to give their co-operation to make the meeting a success.

4.0 Apologies

Mrs Navaratnam
Mr & Mrs Manoharan
Mrs Sivajoti
Mrs Shanmugavadivel
Dr Ambikapathy
Mrs Rajendran

5. Secretary's Report of AGM

5.1 Last year more than 3000 people visited TWAN seeking services of various nature. TWAN continued to provide services in the areas of welfare, immigration, housing, education, primary health etc. TWAN also carried out activities for youth, elderly people and young children and also cultural activities.

5.2 Welfare and Housing (Accommodation)

More than half the people visited TWAN sought some kind of help in this area. The types of help given are wide ranging from completing applications for social security benefits and housing benefit claims, follow up of applications, accompanying clients to Social Security Offices to assist in the interpreting, finding suitable accommodation through Housing Department and private agencies etc.

We were able to get some secured accommodation for elderly people at Upton Park through a Housing Association and we are trying to get more housing units in this area so that the travelling difficulties could be reduced. We had been trying to get some accommodation through Housing Associations because Housing Department had stopped letting houses to our Association. The houses offered to us are either far away from this place or needed extensive repairs. Therefore, we could not accept these types of premises and are still trying for proper housing in this area. We also have plans to set up a Housing Association so that we could acquire houses and provide accommodation to people of all walks of life.

5.3 Immigration

This is the next major area of our services.

Airports: New arrivals into the country are held at the airports by the immigration. The immigration authorities get in touch with us and our Outreach Worker goes to the Airport to speak to the immigration authorities and attend to the necessary formalities to let these people into the country. The new arrivals are conveyed and given

temporary accommodation until they find places of their own. Our volunteers and Outreach Worker are often required to go out during unsocial hours and weekends to attend to these.

5.4 Asylum Applications

The new arrivals need to complete asylum applications. TWAN provide much assistance in this respect. Nowadays, the Home Office is scrutinising individual applications and a large proportion of the applications are refused. However, the applications need to be carefully prepared. Our workers spend quite a lot of time in helping asylum seekers in making their initial applications.

5.5 Appeals

Since 1993 Asylum Bill, the number of refusals had skyrocketed. Large number of people who are refused asylum seek our help to make appeals. A lot of time is spent by our workers on these matters. Co-ordinating with suitable and most able Solicitors and Barristers too need to be carried out. This involves a lot of travelling as well. We are trying our best to alleviate the problems of these people.

5.6 Detention

People held in detention centres are visited and their immigration matters are carried out. We have managed to help some detainees to be released from detention. Those still in detention centres are visited and counselling is done by our Outreach Worker and some volunteers.

5.7 Office Administration

Our office is open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. However, on Tuesdays & Thursdays after 1.00pm, the office worker would be busy with completing arrears of work and carry out any typing. So we do not encourage visits by clients during these hours. However, urgent cases would be dealt with even during this time.

Accommodation becomes a problem when volunteers and trainees from outside are present. Also, we are unable to expand our services. Hence, we are in the look out for an added premises. This is not an easy task because necessary funds need to be raised to meet the additional costs.

5.8 Education and Training

TWAN provides with accommodation and necessary support in conducting supplementary classes for 11+, Secondary and Advanced Levels. The classes are regularly held at Kensington and Little Ilford Schools. Over fifty students attend these classes. Some grants enabled us to meet the stationery expenses and rent. We are still trying for bigger grants so as to meet the teachers pay. May I request all of you to tell your friends and others that these classes are of great benefit to those studying in schools in this area and to make use of the services.

5.8.1 Training

Child Health:

Session on child health was conducted by Mrs Rajes Bala. The session was valuable to young parents. There was a good gathering. But it was a pity that not many young parents turned up. We request for greater participation of young people for sessions of this nature.

5.8.2 Current Asylum Development:

We arranged a session on current asylum development and we had specialist barristers, solicitors and advisory workers attending this. This session is quite informative to a very large number of asylum seekers. Although this was mainly to those who are affected by the recent asylum law, not many such people turned up.

5.8.3 Death of the Refugee - Discussion: We also arranged a session with Patricia Tuitt, a Researcher and Lecturer in Law at the East London University. We have requested her to explore the possibility of extending her research to Sri Lankan refugee issue and some TWAN members are involved in it.

5.8.4 Courses:

Courses on Accounting, computing, welfare benefits and management, fund raising were arranged and interested members attended them.

5.8.5 Cultural Activities

TWAN celebrated the 10th Anniversary alongside the Tamil New Year show on 2nd May 1996. Local artistes and large number of children gave performances. These were our classical dances and music. We encourage the local artistes and create interest the younger generation. This time

our magazine was a more elaborate one. A lot of articles written by well known people around the world were included in the magazine. This way we encourage our Tamil writers and the readers. Thanks to the good effort taken by Mr Pathmanaba Iyer in compiling this magazine. A lot of Tamil scholars have given appreciation for this job which was well done. TWAN also arranged Tamil music and Dance programmes at the Asian and other Art festivals last year.

5.8.6 Elderly Project

In September 1995 a group of elderly people were taken on a two day outing to Scotland. It is amazing that these people withstood the journey and enjoyed the trip thoroughly. This kind of trip gave them great pleasure and happiness especially to those who are confined and living alone. We intend arranging a trip this year and we are working on it.

5.8.7 Young Children

We arranged Summer Play group for children under 10 at Kensington Primary School. The session was for two weeks and the turn out was quite remarkable. Nearly 50 children attended the session. The children were very enthusiastic and they all liked it very much. Teachers and volunteers organised various activities to the children who learned with fun. We took a group of children to the Colchester Zoo and the Roller World by coach. Although it was cold winter time, the children had an enjoyable time, that they are looking forward for further trips this year.

5.8.8 Day Trip

As usual, our day trip in July 95 was a great success. Four coach loads of people were taken to a seaside resort. Children and people of all ages came on the trip. Each found his or her own way of enjoyment in the wide sea front. This is serving as an outing to many of our people who do not get much opportunity to get out of London.

5.8.9 Sports

Youngsters from the community made appeal to buy the some sports equipment. We bought them a cricket set and they are having regular practice at Little Ilford School grounds.

5.8.10 Charriot Festival

We served soft drinks to devotees on the festival day. This had been our first effort and we found

that it was a valuable service.

6.0 Lunch

Lunch was served between 1.30 and 2.30 pm and the meeting continued.

7.0 Case Work

Mr Iyer gave a more detailed account of the Secretary's Report. He spoke in Tamil so that the majority of the people at the meeting would understand it better. Mr Iyer touched upon all the matters that the Secretary said earlier. However, he gave out more information on certain aspects which are as follows.

7.1 Immigration

Nowadays, the Home Office is not accepting the reasons given by asylum seekers in their applications. The Home Office make their own assessment of the situation in Sri-Lanka and make a decision on the case. This had led to a large number asylum applications being refused. Statistics reveal that about 80% of the applications made between 1992 and 93 had been refused. Consequently greater number of people turn up to our office to make further appeals. Even fresh applications are scrutinised in stricter way than ever before. This means careful thought need to be given for every application that is completed. This is indeed a bigger task and increased work load to TWAN.

7.2 Welfare Rights

According to the latest Asylum law, if the asylum application is refused after 5th February 1996, the applicant is not entitled to any welfare benefits from the date the decision is made by the Home Office. This law is a potential threat to all Asylum seekers. TWAN is already feeling the increased work load in handling the problems of the people who are victims of this law. However, it is understood that this bill would be challenged and if proved to be illegal, it can be expected that the bill would be withdrawn.

7.3 Housing

Accommodation is arranged to Asylum seekers through letting agencies. Some Housing Associations are giving some support to find accommodation to our people who face this problem.

8.0 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer said that the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1995 appear on pages 40 - 44 of the Annual Report 1995 which was distributed to the members present. The treasurer requested the members to raise any issues that are not clear or needed any explanation. It was accepted unanimously that the accounts were in order. The acceptance of the report was proposed by Mr S Muthucumarasamy and seconded by Mrs T Gunaratnam. The Treasurer was pleased to announce that TWAN was successful in getting a grant from the National Lottery Charities Board to run the Office for the next three years.

9.0 Project Report

On behalf of the Public Relations Officer (P R O), the Outreach Worker presented the Project report. This report appears separately in the Annual Report.

10.0 Questions and Suggestions

10.1 Secretary's Report

It was suggested to present the Secretary's Report in Tamil because our Association being for the Tamils and our people understand better if done in Tamil.

10.2 Acceptance of Secretary's Report

Secretary's Report was accepted; proposed by Mrs T Janaka and seconded by Mrs T Janarthanan.

10.3 Appointment of Accountant and Auditors

Mr T Selvakumar was appointed as Accountant and Ableman Shaw & Co as Auditors for the year 1996. This was proposed by Mrs A Ramachanthiran and seconded by Mr S Chandradas.

11.0 Election of Directors

11.1 The following were elected to fill the vacancies of three directors.

Mr S Gajendrakumaran
Mr R Ramachanthiran
Mr T Sivaranjan

11.2 Re-election

There were nominations and the above three directors were re-elected without contest. The unanimous election of the three directors were proposed by Mrs Poopalasingam, Mrs Vamadevan and Mrs Jeyachandran respectively.

வாடிக்கையாளர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் எமது புத்தாண்டு வாழ்த்துகள்

ஐரோப்பாவின் முதல் தமிழ்க் கடை
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Project Report 1996

Introduction

The outlook for the Sri Lankan community in the U.K. is getting increasingly bleak. The gloomy prospects facing the users and clients of the Tamil Welfare Association, Newham (TWAN) on account of changes in law and procedures, together with insufficient funding and manpower at the centre, have all contributed to great difficulty in coping with the needs of TWAN's clientele.

The Immigration and Asylum (Appeals) Act, 1993 is largely responsible for the worsening of the situation from the point of view of the Tamil community. It has led to the rejection of 97% of the applications made by asylum seekers.

An even greater blow has followed in the shape of the Asylum and Immigration Act of 1996. It concerns restrictions on asylum seekers' access to benefits. After severe criticism from various quarters, including the Government's own Social Security Advisory Committee, all asylum seekers regained their rights to benefits, as given prior to 5th February 1996. It was however, a short-lived reprieve. The benefit restrictions were re-introduced in June 1996 and finally became law. Subsequent court rulings that refugees must be given "basics for survival", especially those with children who are protected by the Children's Act, have mitigated the sufferings of this unfortunate group, to some extent.

The sword of Damocles however, continues to hang over the heads of all asylum seekers who enter the UK. They could be deprived of financial assistance by the state. At the moment, refugees, with no means of support, apply for assistance to the local authority social services department for their basic needs. This does not cover legal fees and applicants approach TWAN for assistance. Limited funding makes it impossible for the organisation to provide such aid. Even though some philanthropic bodies such as the Immigration Advisory Service and the Refugee Legal Centre do take up cases without fees, their work load is becoming increasingly onerous, not to mention the delay in processing applications.

They refuse to take up cases at short notice and sometimes, their work falls short of the expectations of those who seek their aid. The Legal Aid Scheme does not normally extend to immigration appeals and hiring solicitors is beyond the means of asylum seekers.

Part - I

Decision-making at the Asylum Directorate

The applications of asylum seekers are being rejected at an alarming rate by the Home Office. The percentage of refusals is as high as 97%, as revealed by recent figures. 840 refusals have been recorded from January to May 1996 alone, as opposed to 9.26% refused in 1992 i.e., prior to the Immigration and Asylum (Appeals) Act of 1993. The tables have indeed been turned. The powers that be quote reports from the Sri Lankan government, the UNHCR and the I.C.R.C. to support the decision to reject the applications, on the grounds that Tamil civilians are not being victimised or harassed either in Colombo or in their homelands.

Genuine, fact-based reports by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch /Asia, and even the U.S. Dept. of State, portraying the sufferings of the Tamil population, have not been considered. World-wide media coverage of the happenings in Sri Lanka has been totally ignored.

Influence Of UNHCR

To be more specific, some highlights provided in the UNHCR reports during Jan 1996-Sep 1996, are listed below:-

1. No suppression of human rights.
2. No refugee outflow.
3. Government assists....., with the help of national and international R.G.O.s., TCRC as

well as UN agencies such as the UNHCR, which have full access to the internally displaced persons (IDP) affected areas.

4. a) Tamil population do not face any serious problems in Colombo.
- b) There is improvement in the human rights situation.
- c) Tamils are treated in a fair and humane manner by the police & security officials.
- d) In UNHCR's view, the institutional and legal mechanisms to monitor and prevent human rights violations, are functioning.
- e) Those who claim to have fled the country solely due to the conflicting situation in the north of the country, do not merit UNCHR protection outside, unless..... they have a well-founded fear of persecution.....

The counter arguments to the above, are as follows:

Sri Lanka's wavering commitment to human rights

1.a) Since the resumption of the armed conflict, thousands of Tamil people have been arrested in Colombo and in the East..... but a significant number have been held without charge or trial for weeks or months.

*Amnesty International,
August 1996.*

b) A statement has been issued by the Sri Lankan Ministry of Defence expressing "deep shock and concern" at the reported extra-judicial execution of 24 civilians at Kumarapuram, Trincomalee district, of 11 February 1996.

*Amnesty International,
19 February 1996.*

2.a) Fighting between the separatist Tamil Tigers and Sri Lankan government forces in the Jaffna peninsula, has caused the displacement of an estimated 300,000 - 400,000 people after the government assault on the rebel stronghold.

*I.C.R.C
Sri Lanka Information Sheet,
3 January 1996.*

b) 'Tens of thousands of Tamil refugees are fleeing a government assault on the Tamil Tiger stronghold in the north' - UN Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Ghali.

*BBC 1
Teletext on 168,
6 November 1995.*

c) 'The government (Indian) viewing refugee (Sri Lankan) influx seriously!

*'The Hindu' - International
Ed. 31 August 1996.*

3.a) Sri Lanka curbs relief aid to Tamils.

Colombo - Sri Lanka said it would ban international agencies from independently aiding tens of thousands of Tamil refugees because of fears that some were not impartial. 'We do not intend to permit any outside agencies, including the United Nations, to carry out independent operations', the foreign minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar said.

*CNN Teletext on 104
6th November 1995*

b) "A most worrying trend since mid 1995, has been the repeated public attacks made by the government on the work of certain international humanitarian agencies working in the north, and on non-governmental organisations with humanitarian concerns..... and have raised concern that the freedom of association and expression which such organisations need, in order to carry out their important functions, is being increasingly threatened."

*'Silent War'
by the International Centre against
Censorship, Article
19, March 1996.*

4.a)

1. "Tamils, to be safe from police harassment, need good social or political connections or money to pay. Otherwise, woe betide them". Excerpt from Prof. Ratnajeewan H.Hoole's "On Being a Tamil in Colombo"

*The Island, Sunday edition,
15 September 1996.*

2. 'Abductions continue in Colombo',

*The Sri Lanka Monitor -
April 1996.*

4.b)

1. 'Torture continues in police stations' - Justice Ramanathan in

*'The Island' - Sunday edition,
10 November 1996.*

2. '5 killed in Lanka jailbreak' -

*The Asian Age,
1 November 1996.*

3. 'Sixty-six disappearances reported between April 1995 and March 1996'. Appendix

*Amnesty International
August 1996.*

4.c) The case of Krishanthi Kumarasamy who was raped and murdered on 7th September 1996 by nine servicemen at a check point, followed by the murder of her brother, mother and neighbour by army personnel at the check point in Kaithady / Jaffna, has been widely reported in national newspapers, namely,

Virakesari, 27 October 1996
and the *Sunday Observer* of
3 November 1996.

4.d)

1. "Attack on the work of Humanitarian Agencies and other NGOs" in 'Silent War', Article 19, *International Centre against Censorship* - March 1996.

2. 'Fast for freedom'. Tamil prisoners in Colombo protest four-year detention without trial. TULF M.P. Mr K. Thuraiajasingham, says the Human Rights Task Force is ineffective in the case of Tamil detainees.

'The Sri Lanka Monitor'
June 1996.

The Human Rights Situation report on Sri Lanka by the American State Department contradicts the observations of the U.K. government that the overall situation regarding Human Rights during 1990-96, had improved.

According to the U.S. report, in most cases culprits were not even arrested, much less punished. The government used civilians as human shields to fight the L.T.T.E. Troops bombarded a church at Navaaly in July 1995, killing 125 people. Hundreds have disappeared during the said period, including youths in the south. Those killed include academics and media personnel.

Some important human rights violations were documented in 1996. They are:

a) The case of Krishanthi and her mother in Jaffna. (Raped and murdered).

The rape of a peasant woman in a hut in Navatkuli while her husband was chased and stabbed to death. The matter was hushed up - 29th April 1996.

Other cases of rape were reported from Manthuvil, 17 May 1996, and Kachchai, also in May 1996.

In early July, soldiers in plain clothes, carrying arms, went to a house in Mattuvil and pulled out a young girl. Her brother and a neighbour who

rushed to her defence, were badly assaulted. The girl was raped and brought back. They were all warded at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

On 4 August 1996, screams were heard from a house in Kerudavil, Thenmaradchy at 11pm. The neighbours were too scared to intervene. Next morning, the two inmates were found brutally murdered. The girl had been raped and the father tortured, before being killed. Their mangled bodies were taken to the Chavakacheri Base Hospital.

UTHR (Jaffna)
Special Report No 7,
29 August 1996.

b) The harassment and assault on the sister and brother-in-law of Mr Rajan Hoole, the well-known Human Rights activist, in a police station in Colombo.

c) The arrest and detention of a Tamil girl who returned to Colombo from Denmark, followed by the arrest of 4 Danish journalists who went to Sri Lanka to make inquiries about her.

Sri Lankan Human Rights Practices -1995
U.S. Dept of State
March 1996

4.e) 'Asylum seekers abroad do not merit UNHCR protection..... unless they have a well founded fear of persecution.....'.

However, according to the recommendations of the M.R.G.(I) in "Sri Lanka, a Bitter Harvest", of February 1996, "The right of Sri Lankans to seek asylum overseas is increasingly threatened. It is essential that all countries where refuge is sought, ensure that asylum seekers are granted their full rights under the UN Convention relating to the status of Refugees."

Steps taken by the Tamil Refugee community:

1. Meeting with Mr Richard Towle and his colleagues of the UNHCR.

Representatives of the Tamil Refugee Community expressed deep concern and dismay at the UNHCR report sent to the Home Office which has resulted in the refusal of a large number of applications by asylum seekers. The said report has influenced adjudicators to issue unfavourable decisions.

The UNHCR has promised to review the matter. This meeting was organised by the British Refugee Council. (BRC)

PART II

Current Home Office policy towards Sri Lankan Asylum Seekers

According to the release of the Sri Lanka Policy Unit of the Home Office, dated 4th April 1996, and July 1996, the following points have been made:-

1. The Sri Lankan Government continues to try and find a political and peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict. The President has requested all ethnic groups to support the peace process and is willing to re-start talks with the L.T.T.E.

The proposed package for devolution drafted by the Sri Lankan Government, is just a draft. It has to be accepted and passed by Parliament. Without the consent of all ethnic minorities and the opposition parties, the P.A cannot obtain a two-thirds majority and implement the proposals. Past experiences, mutual distrust between the main participants and present tensions among parties make it clear that this cannot be achieved easily. To reject the appeals of asylum seekers on the grounds that a political solution is within sight is, to put it mildly, totally unrealistic.

2. The release states that the military offensive has not been accompanied by any decline in the observance of human rights standards, that civilian casualties have been low and that the army had shown consideration while the L.T.T.E, in sharp contrast, had attacked Sinhala villagers and civilians. Furthermore, many hundreds of thousands of Tamils live outside the conflict zone, proving that conditions there are safe and normal for all. The reports of all the N.G.O.S have made it crystal clear that human rights are being violated with impunity in Sri Lanka.

Proper interpretation is necessary for a proper understanding of the true situation prevailing there.

The Secretary of State admits that casualties are high on both sides but says that civilian casualties are low. Since there were no independent eye witnesses, the source of these reports must necessarily be of a military nature. A large number of deaths, whether civilian or not, could have been grouped under the L.T.T.E category.

Regarding the treatment of the Tamil civilian population, the Human Rights situation report on Sri Lanka by the U.S. State Department, has it that the Government uses civilians as human shields to fight the L.T.T.E.

Retaliation to attacks by the L.T.T.E has always been instigated by the actions of the Sri Lankan Government. The restraint shown in the recent past and present could be motivated by the dire need for international financial assistance.

3. As for the statement that many thousands of Tamils continue to live safely outside the conflict zone, it must be understood that this applies to the Tamils of Indian origin in Colombo and in the estate areas and to those Tamils who have been settled in Colombo for a long period. Recent arrivals in Colombo are neither safe nor free from harassment, intimidation and torture.

4. It is not true that young male Tamils who are rounded up in Colombo, are treated in a fair and humane manner by the authorities. The following excerpts from Sri Lankan newspapers disprove this:

"Torture continues in police stations" - Justice Ramanathan in *The Island*, Sunday Edition - 10th Nov '96

Tamil M.P, Joseph Pararajasingham, estimates that over 1,100 Tamil youths have been detained and 300 have been in custody for over four years, without charge or trial.

The Sri Lanka Monitor
June, 1996

Just as U.N.P stalwart and former Prime Minister, Ranil Wickramasinghe is to be summoned before a Presidential commission to explain the activities of the Batalanda torture camp which he supervised, a change of Government could see members of the present regime being called upon to answer for the torture and inhuman treatment of political prisoners languishing in jails and in police custody in Colombo now. Sticking chillies, into rectums and hanging suspects upside down until they confessed. The lawyer added that, "any young fellow who is arrested will be tortured".

Major concern centres on the Thandikulam camp near Vavuniya. The British Refugee Council report of Feb 1997 has it that seven people had been killed under torture there, as revealed by a Colombo-based lawyer. The latter described the blood-spattered walls and listed the torture meth-

ods. These included filling a shopping bag with petrol and pulling it over the suspect's head, shoving bottles in-to vaginas. Sticking chillies into rectums and hanging suspects upside down until they confessed. The lawyer added that, "any young fellow who is arrested will be tortured."

The University Teachers for Human Rights, Jaffna, report that there are, in fact two torture camps, "one at Malar Maligai under PLOTE and the other is Ramya House inside the Air Force Camp, under the Counter Subversion Unit." Various levels of harassment have been noted and allegations of rape in other camps in the area. One Western diplomat has been told by people that a 17 year old girl had been gang-raped by police at Poonthoddam Welfare Centre. This was confirmed by the G.A.

5. The Secretary of State remains of the view that members of the civilian population, including Tamils, have nothing to fear from routine action and inquiries by the authorities. In the case of Ravichandran, the Court of Appeal judgement of Oct '95 stated that it was safe to return Tamils to Colombo.

Yet, subsequently, the relevant Home Office refusal was withdrawn on the grounds that his case was being reviewed because of change of circumstances in Sri Lanka.

6. The Secretary of State believes that the government of Sri Lanka has taken measures to inquire into allegations of abuses of human rights by Sri Lankan Security Forces and prosecute offenders.

Human Rights Agencies fear that over 20 Tamil youths have disappeared in the Jaffna peninsula since Operation Sunray in December '95. A detailed account of the abuses, including rape, torture and murder, appears under 'Terror Tactics' in the Sri Lanka Monitor August '96.

Impunity for these responsible for Human Rights violations remains a serious concern, according to A.I. It is not aware of any independent investigation being ordered. No information about any follow-up action taken, was available; letters of September '95 requesting his information from the Secretary, M.O.D., the Commander of the Army and the I.G.P., remain unanswered. (A.I. Report, August '96)

7 The Home Office understands that the number of arrests of Tamils in Colombo and ill-treatment during detention, have markedly decreased of

late. These arrests although ethnically based, are directed, not to the oppression of Tamils as such, but rather to the maintenance of law and order.

Sri Lanka ranks 2nd in the list of countries noted for disappearances, with 11,484 persons listed as missing, in statistics released by the European Human Rights Law Review for September '96.

Prof. Hoole's article, "Being a Tamil in Colombo" published in the Tamil Times, September '96, describes the harrowing experiences of innocent Tamil civilians at the hands of the police and the prison authorities in Colombo. The writer concludes "Tamils, to be safe from police harassment, need good social or political connections or money to pay."

The Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka, which exposed the acts of violence of the last regime is now appalled and horrified by the reappearance of political violence by leaders and supporters of the major parties, including the P.A. It has called upon all political parties, including the ruling P.A, to urgently review their commitment to non-violence. Other rival Tamil groups "seem to be allowed to operate in some areas with almost total impunity," as Amnesty International have stated. Their abuses will not be exposed as government relies on their support to maintain their parliamentary majority.

8. The secretary of State maintains the view that the authorities in Sri Lanka have a lawful and legitimate interest in seeking to question individuals, shelter any Tamil suspected of involvement with the L.T.T.E., in view of the continuing terrorist threat posed by the latter. Such actions, according to him, does not constitute persecution of Tamils under the 1951 convention. He considers that civilians, including Tamils, have nothing to fear from routine actions and inquiries made by the authorities.

The 1996 report of the UNHCR on Sri Lanka has it that in the north-east, young Tamils suspected of belonging to, collaborating with, or sympathising with the L.T.T.E. were most often reported as detained or missing. Internally displaced persons staying in churches or school centres were particularly at risk of detention and disappearance. All this merely goes to prove that government policy is not always implemented according to international standards. The Home Office should take a more realistic view of the conditions prevailing in Sri Lanka now.

9. In conclusion, the Secretary of State remains

of the view that it is 'safe to return failed Tamil Asylum Seekers to Sri Lanka'.

The fate of Chitra Rajendram is a case in point, she was returned to Sri Lanka by the Danish government only to be arrested and detained by the Sri Lankan government. This highlights the need for caution and sympathy on the part of the Home Office in dealing with asylum seekers. The four Danish Journalists who followed her to Colombo, were also arrested and subsequently deported. Chitra, who had admitted to having worked for the L.T.T.E when appealing for asylum in Denmark, is now facing imprisonment in Sri Lanka for that very admission. The Danish government is willing to re-admit Chitra, but she has to be cleared in the Sri Lankan Courts, before she can return to Denmark.

The need for humanitarian consideration and sympathy cannot be over emphasized. Failed asylum seekers in Holland have been provided with alternative asylum in countries like the U.S.A, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Several hundred Iranian, Iraqi and Somalian failed asylum seekers under the UN Convention have been accommodated in this fashion, by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

The U.K. government could very well make a similar request and provide alternative asylum for Sri Lankan and other failed asylum seekers, instead of forcing them to return to their countries of origin.

Representatives of Sri Lankan Refugee Organisations concerned with current policy on Sri Lankan asylum applications, joined a Refugee Council delegation to meet officials of the Sri Lankan Policy Unit at the Immigration and Nationality Department (IND) at the Croydon Office, on 19th November '96.

The Officials of the IND admitted the followings:

(a) The Sri Lankan government hasn't reached a political solution to the ethnic problem in their country. It is still only endeavouring to do so.

(b) The Home Office believes that the Sri Lankan government is committed to the eradication of violations of human rights in their country. It also believes that this can only be achieved over a period of time.

(c) The delegation pointed out that between January and May '96 840 applications by Sri Lankan

asylum seekers had been rejected, amounting to 97% of the total submitted. It earnestly requested the British government to review such applications on humanitarian grounds and not solely in accordance with the U.N. Convention.

The Home Office (IND) admitted that the Sri Lankan government had neither arrived at a political solution to the problems nor eradicated violation of Human Rights in their country.

As such, it is imperative that more sympathy should be shown to asylum seekers. They should be granted E.L.R, as in the past, if not refugee status under the convention.

PART III

Asylum & Immigration Act 1996

The asylum and Immigration Act 1996 contains measures which extend the scope of the fast-track procedure, first introduced by the earlier Act of 1993. The new Act broadens Immigration Offences and restricts access to Social Security Benefits.

1) White List Countries

On 15th October '96 a list of seven safe countries of origin, namely Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ghana, India, Pakistan, Poland and Romania was debated and passed. Ministerial statements on the status of those who arrive from White List countries indicate that a rebuttable presumption against the application will be created immediately. This is contrary to the opinion taken by UNHCR which states that, there should be no 'pre-judgement of the individual cases merits, despite the general designation of the country'.

Such applicants may still appeal but the appeal will subject to fast-track procedures. Other countries could be added to this White List at the discretion of the Home Secretary.

2) Failure to produce a valid Passport

An Asylum Claim may be certified if the person concerned either fails to produce a valid passport without giving a reasonable explanation for his failure to do so, or produces a passport that is not valid and fails to inform the office of the fact

No reasonable explanation of the term "valid" has been provided. Forgery, substitution of photographs, expiry of passport, the use of bribery or other improper assistance in obtaining the passport, could all be instrumental in invalidating a passport.

3) Merits and Timing of Asylum Claim

The third set of conditions leading to certification of an asylum claim relates to its timing and merits. If a person claims asylum; after being refused entry in some other capacity (e.g as a visitor); after a recommendation for deportation; after being notified by the Home Office of a decision to make a deportation order or of liability to removal as an illegal entrant; all the above could result in the asylum claim being certified.

Regarding merits, if any asylum seeker establishes that there is a reasonable likelihood that he or she has been tortured in his country, the claim will not be certified. Even one item of false evidence could invalidate a genuine claim for asylum.

The provision also covers claims that are frivolous or vexatious.

However, satisfactory evidence of torture can ensure that an asylum claim cannot be certified even if one or more of the circumstances given above apply.

Other measures included in this new law introduce new Immigration Offences by those who assist applicants with increasing penalties and powers of search and arrest, sanctions on employers; and restrictions of access to certain welfare benefits.

Coming to brass tacks, there are two issues before an Adjudicator in considering an appeal against a certified claim: namely, the matter of the certificate and the merits of the asylum appeal.

A grant of certificate can be challenged as being contrary to the Refugee Convention of 1951. Appropriate arguments must induce the Adjudicator to consider whether he/she agrees or disagrees with the certificate. Following this he/she should consider the merits of the appeal.

Pressure groups are awaiting the interpretation and implementation of the proposals in the new act by the Home Secretary, in the coming year.

Judging by the tone and content of the statement of the Home Secretary on the current situation in Sri Lanka (Nov 1996), it appears that Sri Lanka may be added to the White List of safe countries, in the foreseeable future.

The matter of invalid passports or lack of passports in the cases of Sri Lankan asylum seekers, may be easily explained. These applicants are mainly Tamils from Jaffna or Batticaloa who have to reach Colombo, where the only international airport is located, in order to leave the country. The first hurdle appears in their home towns to get a pass from the army to reach Colombo. Once there, they are harassed at check points and lodging houses as their places of birth appear on their documents. Getting a passport or an entry visa has become virtually impossible for Tamils from the North or East. Consequently, they have to resort to other measures to flee the country. Very often their efforts end in disaster as seen in the following cases:

About 280 immigrants fleeing from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are said to have lost their lives after two ships collided about 15 miles from Malta, on Christmas day in '96. They were forced at gun point, to climb down from the larger vessel into the smaller one, when the two ships collided. The survivors who ended up in Greece, were arrested. 52 Tamils have been identified among the dead.

Again in Feb 1997, 130 people were feared drowned when a trawler carrying 150 Tamil refugees to India, capsized in the Mannar Sea, off Northern Sri Lanka. About 85 bodies, mostly that of women and children, had been recovered.

It is desperation that drives these people from their native shores to seek a new life in peaceful surroundings, because of lack of safety to their lives in Sri Lanka.

The delay between the entry of a refugee and his application for asylum could stem from a variety of causes. Fatigue, culture shock, jet-lag, the hardships of travel by sea, air or on land in far from comfortable circumstances, following traumatic experiences and persecution in their home countries, all these factors tend to reduce refugees to a level where their faculties don't function normally.

A man jumping from a burning house into his neighbour's garden doesn't wait to get permission from the said neighbour.

Refugees need time to recover before they can

proceed to the next step. Therefore it is unreasonable, to put it mildly, for the authorities to expect all immigrants to apply for asylum immediately on arrival. They need a breathing space to collect their thoughts, recollect incidents in chronological order, explain reasons for a change of name and last but not least, trust those who interview them. Openness doesn't come easily to all and some have an indirect way of answering questions.

1. Fresh Applications

Test case:

Sandralingam and Ravichandran

- v -

Secretary of State

16th Oct '96

The Secretary of State, for unknown reasons, withdrew the decision letters on the previous day and agreed to reconsider fresh applications. It has been suggested that a misunderstanding pervades the whole division dealing with Tamil asylum cases.

In the case of Ravichandran, the Judge stated that the test of what constitute a fresh claim should not require a change in the nature of the persecution said to be feared. A later claim may be a fresh claim, if it is supported by convincing fresh evidence of the same persecution, said to be feared in the earlier claim. Ravichandran's case sheds light on two vexed questions namely (1) what actually constitutes persecution in the asylum seeker's own country and (2) what point of time should the appellate authorities be focusing on, when assessing the future risk of persecution.

Ravichandran and both the others had been rounded up detained and tortured following the assassination of the President and Leader of the Opposition in Sri Lanka. However, the Tribunal as well as the adjudicators considered the periodic rounding up and questioning (not their ill treatment) of Tamils, was justified in the needs of public order and did not amount to persecution.

2. Asylum Appeal Procedures

Once an appellant's claim has been refused, the court sends a Notice of Hearing in response to his appeal to the Adjudicator. This notice also includes a request for information that must be supplied by the appellant or his representative. The date set for the hearing is generally 14 - 18 months ahead. As such, it causes great incon-

venience and uncertainty to the appellant, especially in the matter of summoning witnesses for the hearing.

On the other hand, the ten working day period allowed between rejection of the initial application and appeal to the Adjudicator, has now been reduced to five working days. This again causes great inconvenience to the appellant or his representative.

3. The Fast Track System

Several type of appeals are included in this system. Firstly, those cases which have been certified by the Secretary of State will be brought into this. Asylum seekers from white list countries and third safe countries and those with manifestly unfounded cases, will also automatically go into the fast track system. They are given only two days to appeal, from the date of refusal of entry clearance and not seven as in the case of others.

The route taken by the asylum seekers from their home land is decided by the agent, who most often, doesn't reveal his plans to his customers. Hence the latter are quite ignorant of the possibilities of claiming asylum in the safe countries through which they are taken; sometimes overland routes necessitate travel through such countries in transit as it were; passports are destroyed or handed over in accordance with the agent's instructions.

This being the case, it is hardly fair to penalise the asylum seekers for not claiming asylum in a safe third country through which he passes.

Many would, be Sri Lankan refugees and their agents are aware of these facts now and the number coming through such safe countries has decreased.

4. Other Factors Affecting Appellants

Adjudicators are extremely reluctant to adjourn cases. Sometimes they do, if medical certificates are submitted.

Asylum seekers are prevented from seeking employment for six months and are unable to obtain welfare benefits or legal aid. This makes it very difficult for them to employ lawyers to represent them.

Free legal representation is available at the Refugee Legal Centre and I.A.S. but applications have

to be made eight weeks ahead and there is overcrowding in these two agencies. Moreover, the officials there lack up-to-date and specialised information regarding Sri Lanka. This again places Sri Lankan asylum seekers at a disadvantage in addition to the other factors mentioned earlier.

It is noteworthy that in 1996, only twenty two people won their appeals before adjudicators. Most of these decisions will be challenged by the Home Office because they believe that granting E.L.R. on the basis of the Adjudicator's recommendation, would be inconsistent with or would undermine their general policy.

Appeal to Tribunal

Once a case has been turned down by the Adjudicator, the asylum seeker may apply for leave to appeal to the Tribunal within 5 working days. The I.A.T. must give a decision in 10 days time. If leave is granted, the case is heard by a three-member panel. Sometimes leave is refused by the Tribunal because the 5 days period is insufficient for the appellant to draft full grounds of appeal and the Chairman of the Tribunal fails to detect flaws in the Adjudicator's determination.

Consequently, the majority of Sri Lankan appeals are rejected by the Tribunal.

It must be noted that credibility is an all important factor in the proceedings at every stage. Hence the statements of the appellant as well as those of his witnesses must be substantiated by facts throughout. If leave is not granted or the appellant is unsuccessful, he may apply for a Judicial Review.

Judicial Review

The unsuccessful appellant can now apply for a Judicial Review. It must be done within 3 months with Counsel's advice. Legal aid may be obtained to cover such an application. A decision by the judge will be made, based on the documents submitted. If leave to apply for Judicial Review is granted, the case will be heard.

Appeal to the Court of Appeal

Even if the leave to apply for Judicial Review is granted, the matter may be sent back to the I.A.T. by the Home Office and after leave to appeal is granted, the case will be heard by another adjudicator in a new hearing.

If the case is lost after a substantive appeal hear-

ing before I.A.T. or the Judicial Review, the remedy is to appeal to the Court of Appeal. Application for leave must be made within 10 working days, with Counsel's opinion and legal aid.

Here again a single judge will deal with the application 'on the papers.' If leave is not granted, application may be made orally to the full court.

If leave is granted, the case will be sent down for hearing in due course.

Over 4000 Sri Lankan cases are pending at different stages in the appeal procedure now.

Temporary Admission & Standard Acknowledgement Letters

When an asylum seeker, on entry makes an application for asylum, he is granted temporary admission for 6 months initially. Renewals are made on request, while the case is pending.

Port applicants with the necessary I.D. papers will be granted a S.A.L.I. In recent times, very few Sri Lankan asylum seekers were able to produce the necessary I.D. papers.

All In-Country applicants (i.e. those who apply after entering the country) are issued S A L II. This category of applicants is not entitled to social security benefits.

Both Port Applicants and In-Country Applicants are not permitted to work for 6 months. If the application for asylum is not refused within 6 months, the asylum seeker is permitted to work on request. If the application is rejected, the asylum seeker will not be given a work permit. The authorities have expedited dealing with these applications in order to cut down the numbers applying for welfare benefits and work-permits. This has put all asylum seekers to great hardship.

Extension of Exceptional Leave to Remain (E.L.R)

Before 1993, 90% of Sri Lankan asylum seekers were granted E.L.R. for one year on compassionate grounds. After July 1993, the number of Sri Lankans given E L R dropped to less than 3%. Most of these were either old or sick or both.

Applications for extension of the E.L.R. had to be made either verbally or in writing, before the end of that first year. Such extensions were given initially for 3 years and subsequently for another

Tamil Welfare Association

33A Station Road, Manor

Pres

A Culture

East Ham
London E6, on 2

Progr

WELCOME SPEECH

By the Chairperson of TWAN

GREETINGS

Guest Speakers

VEENA

By Student of Smt. Vasuki Siva
Subasini Sivasangari
Brinthini Sivasangari
Yamiya
Vasuki Siva

Accompaniments

Sri Muthu Sivarajah
Sri Ganathan

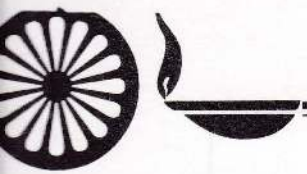
SOLO DANCE

Selvi Threeya Tharmendran
Disciple of Laksmi Samarakoon

KEY BOARD

By Student of TWAN
presented by Sri. Yarl Seelan





Association (Newham) U.K.

London Park, London E12 5BP

Presents

Cultural Night

Town Hall,
26th April 1997

Programme



BHARATHA NATYAM

By Student of Niruththalaya
presented by Smt. Rajini Moganaraj

Jeyakrishna Jeyachandran, Gayathri Suriyakumaran
Sathya Lingananthan, Subhanchali Vamanananthan
Doyuthi Sripalan, Asha Loganathan
Arunthathi Mahendran, Kugajini Vamanananthan
Amirthajini Mahendran, Sinthajini Mahendran
Vishpa Thavendran

Accompaniments

Smt. Rajini Mohanaraj
Smt. Suhirthakala Kadacham
Sri Muthu Sivarajah
Sri Gananathan

MUSICAL MELODIES CHITRALAYA MUSIC GROUP

Synthesizer:

Mr A Venthan, Ms V Kavitha

Drums:

Mr U Gajendran

Base Guitar:

Mr S Hary

Tabela:

Mr Arudchelvan

Singers:

Mr Ganga, Mr Chandrasegar, Ms Tharshini,
Mr U Surendran, Ms V Kavitha, Mr V Sivasuthan



3 years. Since 1st October 1996, applications for extension have to be made on a specified form, F L R (O). Details regarding passports, income and accommodation have to be provided.

After a total of seven years, applicants were granted Permanent Residence or Indefinite Leave to Remain in former times. Only those with a criminal record had the I.L.R. withdrawn.

But after October 1996, any person who provided false information on the form given could have his I.L.R. withdrawn, leading to his deportation.

It is feared that if E. L. R. holders cannot show proof of their earnings, they may find it difficult to obtain an extension.

Limited Stay and Public Funds

The Immigration Act of 1971 has been amended so as to cause concern. Restriction or prohibition on employment and registration with the police, were the only conditions to be imposed under that Act. Now however, the Home Office and Immigration Office are entitled to impose a condition requiring a person to maintain himself without recourse to public funds. This provision came into force on November 1st 1996.

Permission to Work

In-Country Applicants for asylum have been refused permission to work since 5th Feb 1996.

Those who apply for asylum at the port of entry are permitted to work after 6 months, provided their application for asylum has not been refused.

Since 27th January 97 all employers have been instructed to verify whether applicants for work have valid work permits issued by the Home Office, before giving them employment.

Those who have obtained E.L.R. or I.L.R. are not affected by this regulation.

Asylum seekers who are "appealing against" a negative decision can get confirmation on request, from the Home Office, for permission to work.

This measure will serve to deter employers from offering work to asylum seekers and will damage attempts to extend equal employment opportunities. There may be discrimination by employers or educational institutions not taking the trouble to employ or enrol those without straightfor-

ward or familiar documentation.

This measure will also serve to encourage illegal practices.

PART IV

TAMIL IMMIGRANT PRISONERS

The detention of Tamil Immigrants in the U.K started in 1985. About 70 persons were detained in that year and in the years up to 1988, when the number decreased dramatically.

After the Act of 1993, the number of Tamil immigrant prisoners started increasing until it reached 68 in September 1996. The period of detention has lengthened and the threat of deportation is looming larger on the horizon.

All this has resulted in mounting pressure and tension in community groups like TWAN. Commuting to visit these prisoners in detention centres at Oxford, Rochester, Portsmouth, Hounslow and Gatwick is time-consuming and costly for community workers.

The detention of asylum seekers seems to depend on the individual interviewer and not on any consistent pattern of assessment. The availability of space at the centres, method and time of entry are all deciding factors. The credibility and co-operation of the asylum seekers play an important part in influencing the Immigration Officer's decision. The Officer is not compelled to give reasons for his decision, nor does he have to divulge the duration of the detention.

Even a convicted criminal is informed of all this by his judge in a court trial, the hapless asylum seeker is condemned to a life of agonising suspense and mental torture in his detention centre, simply because he sought asylum in this country.

Illegal Entry

The requirement of an entry visa since 30th May 1985 has resulted in the proliferation of illegal practices among Sri Lankan asylum seekers. Forged visas, false photographs, forged passports and illegal entry have become increasingly common since the imposition of this requirement.

The term "economic refugee" is frequently used by the authorities to mislead the public in regard to the influx of asylum seekers.

As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, large numbers who fled the country, have done so after abandoning good jobs, property, assets of all types and a well to-do life, simply because of ethnic unrest and danger to life.

As for employment, the Home Office itself admits that the figures for unemployment are extremely high among refugee communities. They find it very difficult to obtain work. When they apply for welfare benefits, they are given only 90% of what other applicants get.

It must be pointed out here, that the British welfare benefit payments are the lowest in the European Community. An "economic refugee" would fare better if he were to seek asylum in Germany or Switzerland.

It is his desperate plight, leaving choice of asylum to the influence of agents and in some cases, social connections, that result in the Sri Lankan refugee's arrival in this country.

Above all, the past colonial ties between these two countries have forged an unbreakable bond, which cannot be found in France, Germany or Switzerland.

"Convenient refugee" is another phrase used by the media. This refers to in-country asylum seekers who obtained entry earlier, on student or visitor's visas. Or it could be spouses attempting to join their partners; the link between them is established at the port of entry and the wife is allowed to go with the husband. When the husband's appeal is refused at his hearing, the wife makes a fresh application for asylum on her own behalf. At this point she is labelled a "Convenient refugee." If she had been interviewed on her first day at the port of entry with an interpreter, she would doubtlessly have asked for asylum. Instead, the Immigration Officer summoned the husband and sent her off with him, thus side-tracking her. He could have refused entry then and there, as she had come without an entry visa. Or he should have recorded her appeal for asylum. He chose the easiest way out by sending her off with her husband.

"World travellers" form a third category of would-be immigrants. Having failed to obtain permission to remain in this country after all the appeals, they endeavour to leave for another

country, say Canada. At the airport, they are questioned and either sent to a detention centre or requested to await further action in this country. The reason for this harassment is unclear.

Volunteers and staff from TWAN have been visiting Sri Lankans held in these detention centres to give them moral support, practical and other assistance needed for immigration procedures, including deportation.

Case I

Mr S arrived on 28th February 1995 and applied for asylum on 7th March 1995 at the Home Office. He was arrested on 21st March 1995 and detained at Rochester for one year and then transferred to Oxford. Pending his appeal, a deportation order was issued on 8th June 1996. He has now applied for Judicial Review and is waiting for the hearing.

Case II

Mr P arrived in April 1994 at Terminal 3 at Heathrow Airport, in transit to Canada. As he was about to be deported to Sri Lanka, he immediately applied for asylum in the UK. He was permitted to enter the country but his application was refused in December 1994.

On appealing to the I.A.T., he was arrested and detained at Portsmouth in March 1996. The Prison Officials failed to produce him at the hearing on two occasions. The barrister had to be paid. On the third occasion, as his funds had been exhausted, TWAN arranged legal representation through the Refugee Legal Centre. His subsequent appeals were all turned down and Mr P has now made a fresh application. He is still at the Portsmouth Detention Centre.

Case III

Mr N arrived at Heathrow Airport in November 1994. He sought asylum there and was permitted to enter the country. In May 1996, he was detained for have come via a third safe country. He is at the Portsmouth Centre now, awaiting his hearing, as his initial application has been refused.

Detainees such as these are normal people in an abnormal situation. Having suffered traumatic experiences in their country of origin, they tend to breakdown in the third and fourth month. Some attempt suicide. Others suffer from stress and depression. They don't know why they are be-

ing held and for how long. The threat of deportation adds to their misery. They feel helpless and betrayed and suffer a second exile. Severe psychological problems could result and their mental health gets impaired. They lack viable choices and experience grief and a sense of loss as they have no control over their daily existence and destiny. Enforced dependency is anathema to one who has hitherto exercised power and initiative. Seeking sanctuary has merely placed a human being under threat and hostility.

Detention is clearly abusive and inhumane and must be opposed on medical and humanitarian grounds.

The Mechanism of Release from Detention

1. Temporary Admission

The cases of detainees are reviewed periodically by the authorities at the centres. Some are released if changed circumstances warrant it. Such detainees are given temporary admission. The periodical review is supposed to take place on a weekly basis. Whether it is done and what criteria are employed in determining release, are unclear.

2. Release on Bail

The only legal safeguard against indefinite detention is the right of the detainee to apply for bail. Application for a Judicial Review of the decision to detain, is of little value in practice, as it has limited scope. However, the value of the bail mechanism is severely diminished by unfair restrictions on eligibility.

a) Illegal entrants cannot even be considered until they make an application against refusal of asylum.

b) Bail hearings are not automatic; the detainee or his legal representative must initiate an application for bail.

c) Legal aid is not available for bail applications.

d) Bail guarantees have been increased up to £5000.00, making it impracticable for the majority.

e) Those who are charged under the Criminal Justice Act, have no right to apply for bail until they are cleared.

f) Bail may be refused for several reasons including the existence of "substantial grounds for believing" that the accused will not abide by the conditions.

g) The absence of any criteria to be applied by adjudicators in determining bail applications.

Slight relief has been granted to detainees by amendments to the Asylum and Immigration Act made in September 1996.

3. The Habeas Corpus Mechanism

Under the Habeas Corpus Act, any detainee can apply to the High Court for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. The Court then has to decide whether the individual's detention is lawful. But as the Immigration Act of 1971 permits indefinite detention at the discretion of an Immigration Officer and as the H.C. Act does not allow the Court to examine the merits of the Immigration Officer's decision, this mechanism has proved to be of limited value in the case of asylum seekers.

However, in recent times, this mechanism has proved useful in cases where the detainees have exhausted all appeal rights and are held pending removal, but where there is no realistic prospect of removal being effected within a reasonable period. It is believed that about a dozen Sri Lankan detainees were released in January '97 under this Act.

4. Appeal to the European Court of Human Rights

The release of the Sikh leader, Karamjit Singh Chahal, is a case in point. He had spent over six years in prison battling against deportation and after his case was rejected by the British Court, he appealed to the European Court in Strasbourg and obtained his freedom.

This judgement will force the government to change the way in which it deals with asylum seekers fearing torture if returned to their homeland and those alleged to be national security risks. The decision gives fresh hope to Sri Lankan detainees who are considered to be such national security risks.

In conclusion, it must be remembered that detention causes extreme suffering to the detainees and their families. Its negative impact on the physical and mental health of the unfortunate asylum seekers cannot be overstressed. It costs the government over £10,000 a year to detain one

person. To pay him welfare benefits for the same period would amount to only £4,400. The taxpayer should not be saddled with unnecessary burdens through misguided bureaucratic policies. The ill-judged experiment of the Home Office which ended in ignominy in October '87, is also relevant here. Some 100 asylum seekers, mostly Sri Lankan Tamils, were detained on a converted car-ferry which broke loose during a storm and began to sink. Besides exposing the asylum seekers to grave danger, it also entailed costly rescue operations. The detainees had to be housed in temples and community centres, after their escape from a watery grave.

Incalculable psychological harm is also done to detainees, as seen in recent studies. Detention must be done away with in the interests of humanity.

PART V

Welfare Benefits

Asylum Seekers and Benefits - Update

The Secretary of State, Peter Lilley, announced plans to take away 70% of entitlements to benefits from asylum seekers while their cases were being resolved, so as to save £200 million a year. This was announced at the Conservative Party Conference in October 1995 and the regulations were introduced on 5th February 1996.

Two categories of asylum seekers stood to lose by this legislation:

a) In-country applications and b) those whose initial applications and appeals had been refused by the authorities. All these asylum seekers were stranded without food or shelter. The regulations were challenged in the courts by the J.C.W.I and on 21st June 1996, the appeal was allowed. Thereafter, the government passed amendments to its own Asylum and Immigration Bill by means of primary legislation which became law on 24th July 1996. The asylum seekers were once more deprived of their entitlements.

The Refugee Council and allied organisations then pressurised the local authorities to provide food and shelter for the asylum seekers, under the National Assistance Care Act. 1948 and the Children's Act. 89. The local authorities refused

to do so. Cases were taken to the High Court and on 8th October 1996, a judgement was delivered saying that applicants should be provided with the basic necessities of life. The Department of Health and three local councils, namely Westminster, Lambeth and Hammersmith and Fulham, took the matter to the Court of Appeal, which turned down their appeal in February 1997. They were also refused permission to appeal to the House of Lords.

More than 15,000 asylum seekers have been affected by the withdrawal of benefits, which first took effect more than a year ago. The Dept. of Health is now preparing to pay the local authorities approximately £80,000 to cover some of the costs of feeding and housing asylum seekers, now and in the future.

These ups and downs in the provision of welfare benefits to asylum seekers have added greatly to the stress and insecurity they suffer, besides increasing many times, the work load at TWAN. Sudden stoppages of benefits to our clients by the DSS, have to be looked into, settlements have to be negotiated for clients who received unfair refusal, and appeals have to be made in such cases; those who are not entitled to welfare benefits have to be referred to the Social Services Dept, of local authorities for basic necessities; sometimes TWAN has to provide accommodation for those who are left homeless. All this newly-created tension and insecurity in the community, is reflected in the TWAN office. Routine work in a relaxed atmosphere is a thing of the past. Every day is a working day and long hours are inevitable. Development in other areas such as immigration case work, unemployment, education and cultural activities, is lagging behind, on account of all this.

The vouchers issued by the local authorities cannot be used in ethnic stores patronised by asylum seekers. Payment in cash would be preferable for this reason. In many cases, the local authorities refuse to pay rent for asylum seekers and send them to hostels which are substandard and inconvenient. It is not clear why this is being done, as the authorities have to pay more for hostel accommodation.

Apart from this, TWAN continues to perform routine tasks such as obtaining unemployment and job seeker's allowance, income support, housing and council tax benefit, disability living allowance, social fund, family credit, child benefit and maternity benefit. TWAN provides information and advice, helps clients to fill in

forms, represents them at offices, does interpretation and translation, besides counselling and boosting morale. The appointment of an outreach worker last year, has greatly facilitated the field work carried out by TWAN.

PART VI

Accommodation and Homelessness

Until July 1993, TWAN was able to obtain unwanted, short-life properties from local councils, renovate them with the help of asylum seekers and provide them with accommodation, thus forming a Housing Co-operative. After the I.A. Act of July 1993, it was no longer possible to obtain such buildings.

Asylum seekers had to be housed in the private sector. Rent was paid to the landlord through housing benefits. The I and A Act of 1996 did away with the housing benefit given to asylum seekers, thus rendering them homeless. Such stranded persons were housed by TWAN in the emergency shelter which it obtained from the council in 1987, prior to getting assistance under the National Assistance Act of 1984. This would lead to accommodation in B & B hostels with other meals supplied by soup kitchens.

The only house available to TWAN for this purpose is far from adequate for the overwhelming demand for accommodation that has resulted from the withdrawal of benefits to asylum seekers. To make matters worse, the council is demanding the return of the property.

Lack of accommodation could lead to prolonged detention by the Immigration authorities. Claimants cannot obtain benefits either from the DSS or under the National Assistance Act, unless they have a permanent address. Furthermore, they cannot register with a G.P. and cannot obtain medical care, even in an emergency. Such homeless people are also subject to unnecessary harassment by the police.

In view of all the hardships that homelessness entails, it is imperative that TWAN launches a project in the near future, to provide accommodation on a bigger scale, to help stranded asylum seekers.

PART VII

Care of Senior Citizens

The clash of cultures has resulted in the marginalisation of a valuable group of citizens who have been forced to relocate in the West, for one reason or another. The upsurge of the nuclear family in Western society has destroyed the values and benefits afforded by the extended or joint family system, seen in most Asian countries. It is not unusual for three generations to live in harmony under one roof in Sri Lanka or India, but it is unheard of, here.

Senior citizens among Sri Lankan Tamils, can be grouped under two headings. First, there are those who migrated here many years ago in search of education or employment and those who came as dependants of children, who had established themselves here.

The second group consists of asylum seekers who arrived in recent times. Many of them were well-to do and had led comfortable or even luxurious lives, before the civil war turned them into refugees. Some had to face persecution and torture at home; on arrival here, they were faced with deprivation, alienation, isolation and sometimes, even abuse.

All this, on top of the struggle to obtain the right to remain in this country. Truly, their plight is pitiable.

Some of these golden-agers have valuable skills and talents. They are indispensable agents for the transmission of spiritual and cultural values, from one generation to another. It behoves us at TWAN, to identify them and help them to enjoy the remaining years of their lives and make use of their talents.

TWAN has organised get-togethers for this age-group, to enable them to socialise and get into the mainstream of life. They have been taken on trips to various places of interest and of religious and scenic importance. Sheltered housing has been provided for those in need of it. A day centre is to be opened in April, where senior citizens can meet each other and obtain advice regarding all their problems. A part-time development worker will be in charge there to attend to their needs.

PART-VIII

Children's Projects

a) Supplementary Education for School Children (Refugees)

Refugee children also arrive from Sri Lanka find it difficult to adjust to school life in the UK. Many of them have had their schooling disrupted in their country due to the ethnic unrest there. They suffer from traumatic experiences and are not able to concentrate on their studies. A strange medium of instruction makes learning even more difficult, not to mention differences in environment. Their parents too are facing similar problems and are unable to help them with their lessons at home. Hence, there is a very real need for supplementary education for the children of refugees. Many school are reluctant to admit these children because of these differences and fear that standards in schools, which are low in this borough, could fall even lower, in consequence.

The parents of these children appealed to TWAN to step in and fill the gap. With the help of the community and various volunteers, TWAN has started this supplementary education project. The expenses of the volunteer teachers are paid by the parents while TWAN provides the accommodation and lesson materials.

About 60 children are benefiting by this project. There is room for improvement in the services provided, but unfortunately resources are limited.

b) Play School

This project was intended to care for children between 4 and 15 during the school holidays. All kinds of activities are planned to keep them occupied. Play workers and volunteers supervise these activities and the children are taught about their cultural heritage, besides being looked after in a safe environment. Funding is obtained from the Play Section of the local authority. 80 children were registered in the Play School last year.

c) Arts and Crafts

These classes are conducted at the Little Ilford

School between 1 and 4 pm. during the weekends. Children are taught instrumental music, painting and handicrafts by trained teachers. Parents meet the expenses of the teachers while TWAN provides the accommodation and lesson materials. As regular funding is not available these classes cannot be conducted uninterruptedly.

d) Trips and Gifts

Children are taken on day trips between 2 and 4 times a year, depending on funding. This is because their parents, who are welfare benefit recipients are unable to do so. X'mas gifts are provided for deserving children of impoverished parents. About 110 children received these gifts in 1994 and 1995. We were unable to carry this out in 1996, due to lack of funding but hope to resume this year.

e) Cultural Project

The Tamil New Year begins in April, according to the Hindu calendar. TWAN decided to celebrate this event in a fitting manner so as to enable all the Tamils to socialise and rejoice on this happy day. Members of other communities were invited to participate. The celebration has been carried on for the past ten years and 400-500 people attend the event. Cultural programmes are staged by refugee children. Traditional food is served and TWAN's annual report is published on that day. All told, it is a very enjoyable occasion and we hope to continue celebrating our New Year in the years to come.

PART- IX

Youth and Sports Project

TWAN has long felt that there is a crying need for a youth development project. It is people in this age group who have been most affected by the civil war in Sri Lanka. Their ambitions in life have been thwarted. Many were forced to undergo persecution, torture and bereavement and have lost homes and families. Several have participated in physical training programmes and other activities. Such individuals need to have their resources channelled into suitable programmes if they are to become good citizen. They have to be saved from turning to vice, crime, drug addiction and other nefarious activities. Hence, the need for a suitable development project.

For a start, TWAN has organised two sports clubs one senior, for those aged over 24 and the other, a junior club whose members are between 12 and 24 years of age. The former is an independent and self-sufficient organisation. The latter has to be funded and supervised by TWAN. The senior club has 45 members while the junior has 25. A similar organisation for girls and women has been mooted, but the project has stalled through lack of funding and trained workers. A proper development plan is needed to co-ordinate the activities of all three clubs.

Conclusion

Much has been achieved by TWAN since its inception in 1996 but much more remains to be done. Many factors come into play when an organisation is required to function smoothly and efficiently. A serious handicap at the moment, is lack of adequate space. If TWAN could be housed in a large unit with a spacious hall for meetings, seminars and social activities not to mention classes, it would accelerate development in many areas. Again, secure funding is of primary importance in community service. Planning for the future becomes a pipe dream unless solid financial support is readily available. It is hoped that

the Newham Council and other organisations will rally round to provide sufficient funds in a steady stream, so that work can be carried on without interruption.

TWAN is further handicapped by lack of adequate staffing. Many hands will contribute to increased output besides lightening the heavy workload. Up to April 1996, the office was manned by just one full-time worker who supplied information and advice to clients. In April '96 a part-time worker was appointed and work was carried on with the help of 22 volunteers. Several projects have been started and some more are in the offing. The heavy work load makes the appointment of additional staff a dire need. A case worker an out-reach worker, a development worker and a youth development worker are necessary at the moment. More staff could follow as more projects obtain funding. This again highlights the need for adequate, secure financial backing. A five year business plan has been drawn up with projected development in several new areas.

Unceasing hard work and courteous, dedicated service has earned trust and goodwill for TWAN, not only in the East end but also in London, as a whole. That is a reward in itself.

இலங்கையிலிருந்தும்
இந்தியாவிலிருந்தும் தருவிக்கப்பட்ட
சகலவிதமான
பொருட்களுடன்
FROZEN FISH மட்டுமல்ல,
FRESH FISH உட்பட
அனைத்தும் பொருட்களும்
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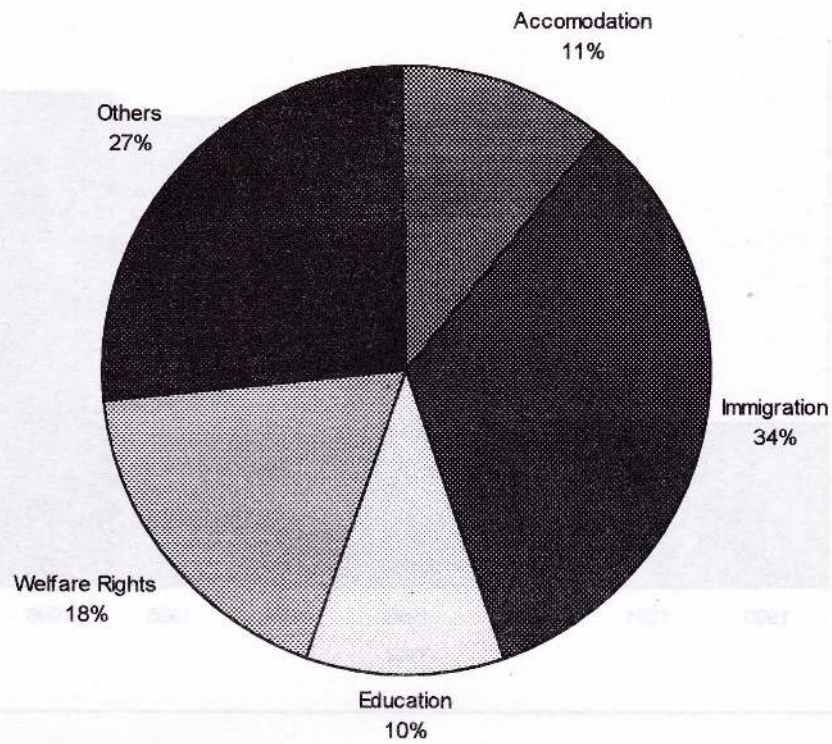
SEELANS

332

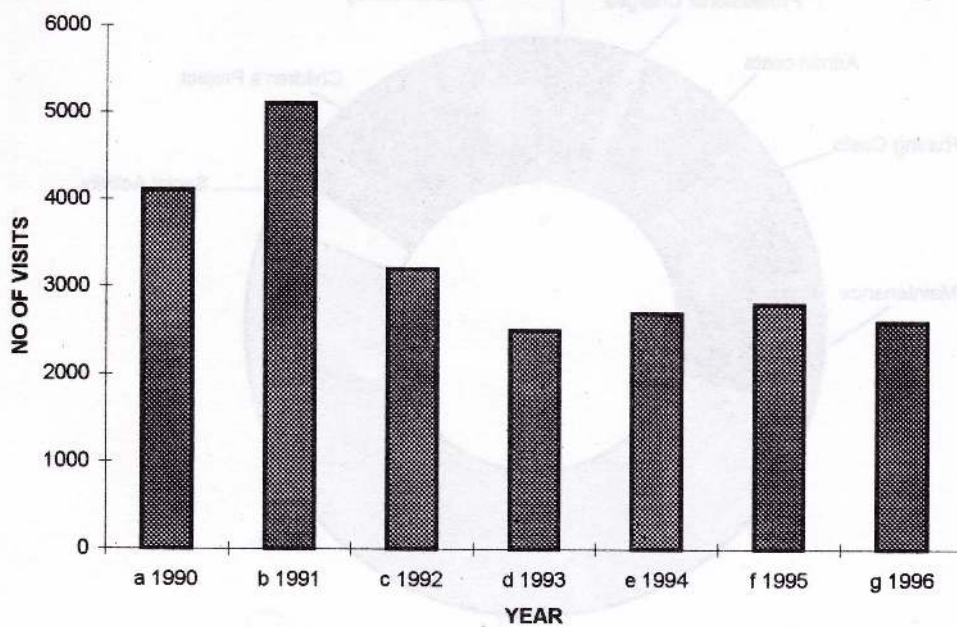
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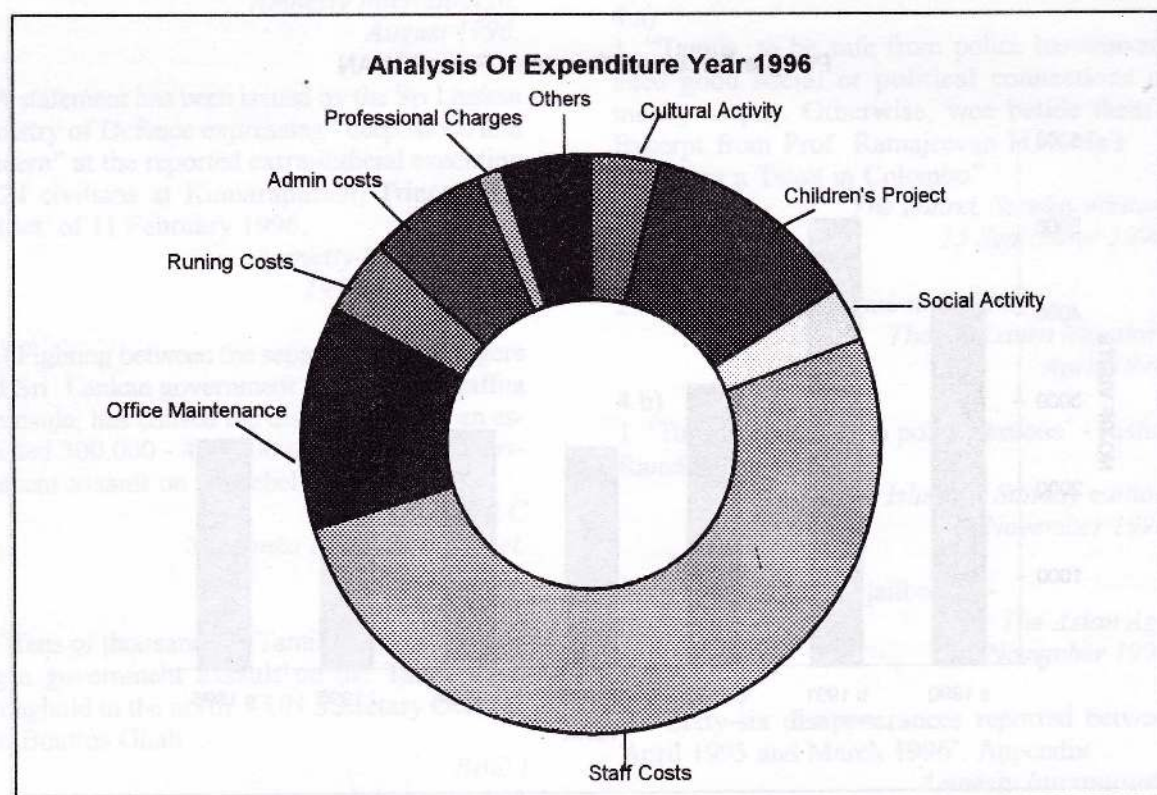
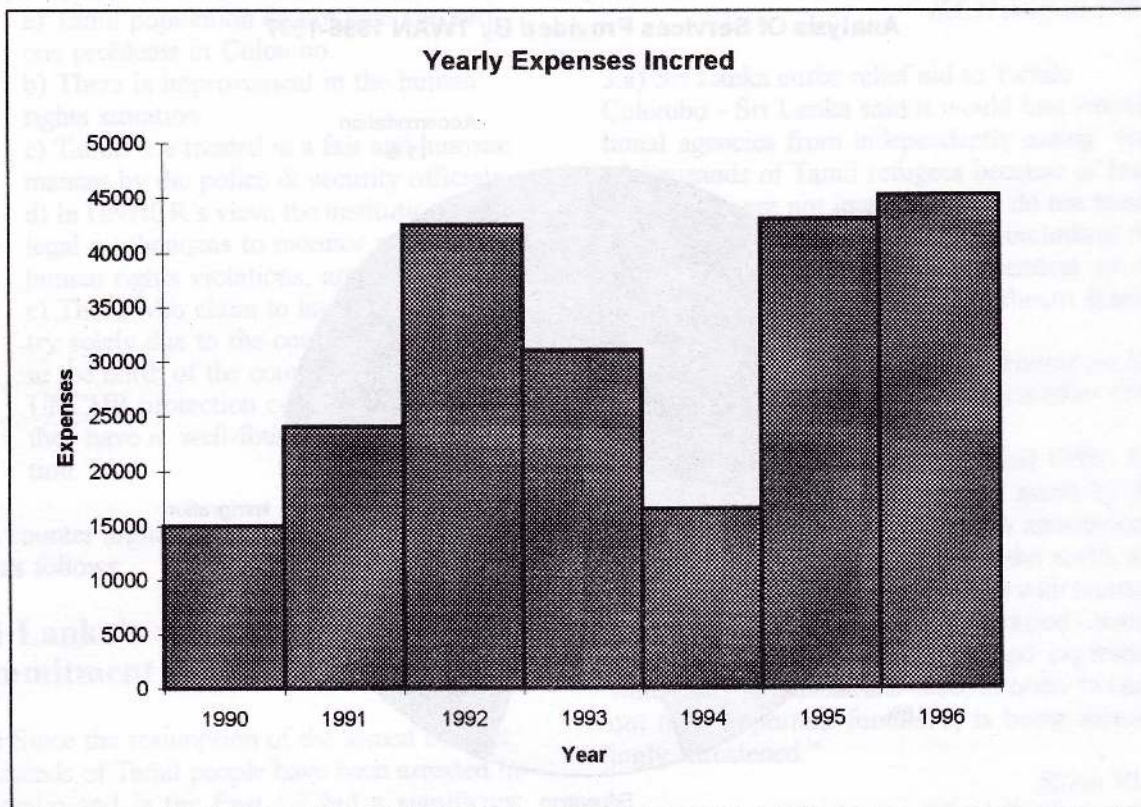
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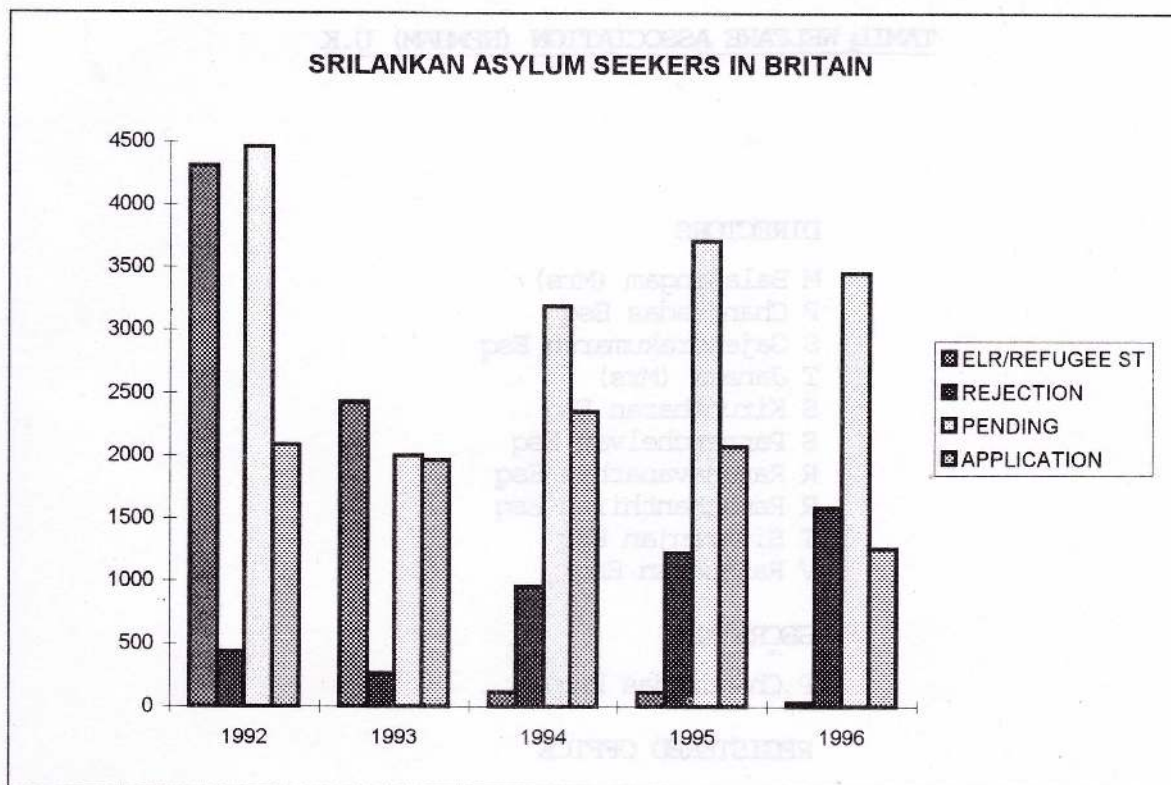
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TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NEWHAM) U.K

DIRECTORS

M Balasingam (Mrs)
P Chandradas Esq
S Gajendrakumaran Esq
T Janaka (Mrs)
S Kirubaharan Esq
S Pannerchelvan Esq
R Rajanavanathan Esq
R Ramachanthiran Esq
T Sivaranjan Esq
V Rajendran Esq

SECRETARY

P Chandradas Esq

REGISTERED OFFICE

33a Station Road
Manor Park
London
E12 5BP

PRINCIPAL BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc
Newham Business Centre
737 Barking Road
Plaistow
London E13 9PL

TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NEWHAM) U.K

REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTANTS

We have examined the attached Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts which have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books, vouchers and records produced to us.

In our opinion, the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Tamil Welfare Association (Newham) U.K as at 31st December 1996 and the excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

Ableman Shaw

Mercury House
1 Heather Park Drive
Wembley
Middlesex
HA0 1SX

Ableman Shaw & Co.

15th April 1997

Registered Auditors &
Chartered Accountants

TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NEWHAM) U.K

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1996

	<u>Sch</u>	<u>1996</u> <u>£</u>	<u>1995</u> <u>£</u>
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Fixtures & Fittings	1	<u>5,990</u>	<u>5,137</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Debtors and other prepayments		1,268	1,156
Cash at bank		7,323	1,740
Bank deposit account		8,062	10,063
Cash in hand		-	47
		<u>16,653</u>	<u>13,006</u>
<u>Less: Current Liabilities</u>			
Accrued expenses		2,717	1,373
Paye & N. Insurance		-	345
		<u>2,717</u>	<u>1,718</u>
<u>Net Current Assets</u>		<u>13,936</u>	<u>11,288</u>
<u>Total Assets</u>		<u>19,926</u>	<u>16,425</u>

TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NEWHAM) U.K

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1996

	<u>1996</u> <u>£</u>	<u>1995</u> <u>£</u>
<u>Represented By:</u>		
General fund brought forward	6,361	7,109
Excess income for the year	3,502	(747)
	<u>9,863</u>	<u>6,362</u>
<u>Building Fund</u>		
Balance b/fwd	10,063	18,831
Excess of expenditure for the period	-	(8,768)
	<u>10,063</u>	<u>10,063</u>
Balance c/fwd		
	<u>10,063</u>	<u>10,063</u>
Total	<u>19,926</u>	<u>16,425</u>

Signed on behalf of the Board on 15th April 1997

Chandradas

P Chandradas
Secretary

S Gajendrakumaran

S Gajendrakumaran
Treasurer

TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NEWHAM) U.K

NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1996

1. Fixed Assets

Opening balance

Additions

Closing balance

Aggregate Depreciation

Opening balance

Charge for the year

Closing balance

Net Book Values

As at 31st December 1996

As at 31st December 1995

Furniture
Fittings
&
Equipment
£

Total.
£

16,943

16,943

2,350

2,350

19,293

19,293

11,806

11,806

1,497

1,497

13,303

13,303

5,990

5,990

5,137

5,137

TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NEWHAM) U.K

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

	1996 £	1995 £
<u>Income</u>		
Grants received (Sch)	40,811	24,749
Membership fees	537	831
Donation received	541	963
Training	388	600
Cultural activity income	-	606
Family outings income	1,521	1,792
Rent receivable	4,450	1,847
Bank interest received	400	584
	<u>48,648</u>	<u>31,972</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Cultural activity (net expenses)	1,788	-
Elderly Project	-	1,477
Childrens' Project	5,488	2,582
Art Project	-	701
Family outings expenses	1,050	1,200
Sports activities	290	695
Salaries and wages	20,277	16,000
National insurance	1,851	1,138
Staff training	220	37
Volunteers and sessional workers	616	1,142
Compensation for loss of office	-	1,759
Rent and rates	4,880	6,267
Insurance	530	756
Security costs	247	311
Light and heat	855	1,077
Telephone	961	1,245
Repairs and maintenance	270	139
Equipment maintenance	135	270
Printing and advertising	1,250	1,030
Postage and stationery	1,559	1,282
Legal and professional	-	50
Audit and accountancy	623	450
Meeting expense	281	167
Bank charges	155	87
Sundry expenses	323	340
Depreciation	1,497	1,285
	<u>45,146</u>	<u>41,487</u>
Excess of income over expenditure	<u>3,502</u>	<u>(9,515)</u>

TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NEWHAM) U.K

SCHEDULE TO ACCOUNTS

1996 ACCOUNTS

1. Grants received	1996 £	1995 £
N L C B Grant	25,461	-
City Parochial Foundation	7,500	17,500
Computer Grant	2,000	-
Art Grant	950	1,000
Childrens' Project (Tudor Trust & L.B.N)	4,900	3,150
Elderly Project	-	1,606
Sports Grant	-	663
Technical books	-	400
Arts in the Neighbourhood	-	430
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	40,811	24,749

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பழைய, புதிய வீடியோ படங்கள் அனைத்தும்
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- Office Assistants
- Admin Assistants
- Playworkers
- Computer Designers
- Report Writers
- Supplementary Class Teachers

*For further information, please contact
Tamil Welfare association (Newham) UK*

on

0181-478 0577

உங்களுக்குத் தேவையான

சகலவித இலங்கை, இந்திய, ஆங்கில உணவும் பொருள்களையும்
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ஈழத்து மண்தனிலே
எரியும் தீயோடு
ஷெல் மழை பொழிந்தது.
ஒன்று பட்ட உள்ளங்கள்
உரிமையோடிருந்த நெஞ்சங்கள்
ஒன்றே மண் ஒன்றே இனம்
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உலகமெலாம் புகழோடு
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தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கத்தின்
இனிய வாழ்த்துகள்.

இயக்குநர் சபை உறுப்பினர்கள்

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**We thank all our distinguished guests
for having graced the occasion
with your presence this evening.**

★TWAN Members & Volunteers
★Well-wishers

★Councillors, Stephen Timms MP & MEPs

★National Lottery Charities Board

★City Parochial Foundation

★Tudor Trust

★Age Concern

★Carlton Trust

★London Borough of Newham

★Newtrain Bursary Fund

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★London Borough of Newham Education & Leisure Services Departments,
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Little Ilford School and Kensington Primary School

★Confederation of Indian Organisations (UK)
British Refugee Council
LVSC & NCVO

★Our Auditors Ableman Shaw & Co and Our Accountant

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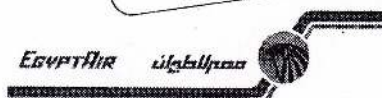


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