

# EPRLF EELAM SPOKESMAN

Official Organ of the Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front

Vol. 2

April 1987

No. 2

## Operation 'Giant Step' Towards Genocide?

The latest military offensive by the Sri Lankan armed forces, apparently code-named Operation "Giant Step," following in the wake of the economic blockade imposed on the Jaffna Peninsula on 2nd January, has all the characteristics of a genocidal situation. While the economic blockade was clearly aimed at demonstrating the 'dependent' nature of the Jaffna economy, the military offensive that followed had the main objective of terrorising into submission, the civilian populace in the Tamil Homeland.

Contrary to the claims of the Sri Lankan propaganda machinery that the main targets of the offensive were "terrorist hide-outs and camps", the architects of Operation "Giant Step" were clearly instructed by the warmongers in Colombo to adopt the strategy of a "genocidal war". The facts speak for themselves.

The military assault by the Pakistan/Mossad trained Special Task Force (STF) on Kokkatcholai in Batticaloa beginning 28th January, led to the massacre of an estimated 200-250 civilians, while thousands were displaced

from their domicile and forced to seek refuge in the jungles. Similarly, the Sri Lankan armed forces launched a major offensive, both, within the Jaffna peninsula and in the mainland Districts of Vavuniya, Mannar, Killinochchi and Mulaitivu. The stated objective according to the Sri Lankan state was to "clear" these districts of armed "terrorists", as a prelude for the 'invasion' of the Jaffna Peninsula. A total of 20,000 troops were used in these operations, backed by aerial cover and bombardment. While the move against the four mainland District commenced on the

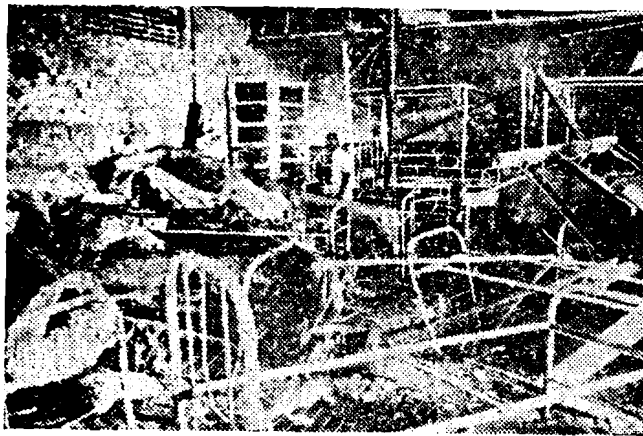
6th February, the Sri Lankan armed forces began its thrusts into the Jaffna Peninsula on 10th February, by fanning out of their army camps in Palaly, Thondamanaru and Valvettithurai.

Hereagain, the so-called military offensive began to assume the character

Jaffna civilian populace. The shelling of the Jaffna General Hospital on 30th March by the army, from within the Jaffna Fort, tells the whole story. Two complete wards of the Jaffna General Hospital were reduced to rubble. More than 10 patients were killed and another 25-30n wounded

private and public property. Neither were places of worship spared. Numerous temples and churches suffered structural damage. The Murugan Temple at Mavittapuram, venerated by the Hindus, was badly damaged in the shelling.

It is now clear that the racist and degenerate in J. R. Regime committed to waging a genocidal "war" against the Eelam people. This is despite the fact that the murderous conduct of the Sri Lankan State came under severe criticism and condemnation by, both, the Government of India and at the United Nations Human Rights Commission recently held in Geneva. As to whether pressures from the Government of India and democratic and progressive forces in the international arena will succeed in restraining the Sri Lankan government from pursuing its "genocidal war" against the Eelam people remains to be seen. However, given the backing that the J. R. Regime enjoys from international forces of reaction and the Imperialist bloc, and given the strategy of these forces to destabilize the Indian sub-continent, all indications point towards a worsening of the genocidal situation facing our people-and the inevitable intensification of armed resistance.



Jaffna General Hospital A Ward Devastated in The Shelling

of a "genocidal war." The artillery shelling from within the army camps, the aerial bombardment and shelling from naval gunboats, has taken a heavy toll on the lives and properties of the

by exploding mortars and debris. It is also reported that many children who were in an adjoining ward suffered permanent damage to their ear drums due to the deafening sound of mortars exploding.

In the murderous aerial and naval bombardment by the Sri Lankan armed forces in densely populated areas in the Jaffna Peninsula, which preceded the shelling of the Jaffna Hospital, more than 20 civilians were killed and an estimated 100 injured or maimed for life. In addition to the loss of lives, the artillery shelling and aerial bombardment resulted in the massive destruction of

## The 'Man-Eating' Tiger-Whose Sole, Legitimate Representative?

The 'man-eating' Tiger is on the prowl again. Following an attempt by unknown assailants to assassinate the Jaffna Regional Commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), 'Kittu', the Tigers launched a bloody reprisal against

the cadres of those organizations "proscribed" by them in their fiefdom - the Jaffna Peninsula. In addition, around 300 cadres and civilian-sympathizers of these organizations (ie TELO, PLOT and EPRLF) were rounded-up. The

official statement issued by the LTTE in Madras, admits to these mass-arrests and killings.

The fact that the cadres and sympathizers of TELO, PLOT and EPRLF were subject to mass-murder and an orgy of

Continued Page 2

UNITE TO STRUGGLE — STRUGGLE FOR UNITY



# EPRLF EELAM SPOKESMAN



Mid-April in Sri Lanka heralds the New Year celebrations of the two distinct nationalities - the Tamil and the Sinhala Peoples. SPOKESMAN EXTENDS ITS GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR A PEACEFUL AND HARMONIOUS NEW YEAR.

Our greetings and wishes, however, remain a mere hope, not grounded in reality. The harsh 'ground reality' in the Island is one of Destruction, Despair and Deceit. Let us on this occasion, which remind the Tamil and Sinhala Peoples of the Island of their respective cultural heritage, also remind ourselves of the danger of the awareness of one's cultural heritage degenerating into forms of cultural chauvinism.

Every People, who constitute themselves into distinct nationalities or ethnic formations, possess a cultural heritage. As Professor Eleazer Baller, a leading Soviet culturologist, once wrote: "The creative Time condensed throughout the lives of many generations of People in the values of spiritual culture and embodied in books, works of art, scientific discoveries, and the production of goods, is the greatest treasure owned by mankind, a treasure amassed over thousands of years." Unfortunately and tragically, the history of mankind is also replete with instances and periods where, this "greatest treasure" of mankind, is abused and distorted as a justification for cultural chauvinism. It is this aberration of cultural heritage into forms of cultural and linguistic chauvinism, that has constituted the ideological basis for national oppression and institutionalized racism - all in the name of preserving one's cultural "purity" and identity.

As far as the Island of Ceylon (later renamed Sri Lanka to symbolize the "Sinhalanization" and the Sinhala - Buddhist hegemony) is concerned, the process of revivalism and the re-awakening of Sinhala and Tamil cultural and linguistic identities during the era of colonialism, had a distinct anti-colonial character. It also symbolized the need for an oppressed Peoples to reassert their distinct, linguistic, cultural and national identity. Unfortunately and tragically, the anti-colonial and progressive aspects of the various revival movements, amongst the Sinhala and Tamil Peoples, began to degenerate into forms of cultural chauvinism and the proliferation of myths. The above tendency was particularly acute amongst the ruling economic and social stratum and their parliamentary representatives, who were more keen on pursuing their narrow parochial and electoral interests. The National Question and the genocidal-situation facing the Tamil-speaking Peoples of the island and the emergence of the "Eelam" demand is a direct outcome of the above. We do not wish to labour over this, since the future issues of the SPOKESMAN will carry scholarly-works by Tamil and Sinhala social scientist, on the genesis of the National Question.

In conclusion, however, we wish to make a slight digression. It is, often, asserted by the ideologues of the conservative, ruling classes, that communists are "anti-culture" and that the main task of socialist revolutions is to "annihilate", the "barbarous" world culture. We wish to end this editorial with a quotation of Lenin in response to the criticism levelled against the Russian Marxists by Narodniks that Marxists do not acknowledge any continuity with the past and emphatically renounce cultural heritage. Comrade Lenin's emphatic response was that "Marxists are more faithful and consistent guardians of heritage... yet they do not guard heritage in the way an archivist guards an old document."

All Letters To The  
Editor Should Be Directed

To

SPOKESMAN  
20 Main Road, Zakariya Colony,  
Choolai Medu Madras - 600 094.

Continued Page 2

violence, is in by itself barbaric. But, to justify these murders by stating that those held under 'house arrests' were killed while attempting to escape, is not only unjustifiable under any norms of civilized behaviour, but also constitutes a diabolic lie. Firstly, there was no attempt, by those held in captivity by the LTTE, to escape. And, secondly our field reports and independent sources do confirm that the cadres and sympathizers of EPRLF and the other organizations, who were here in captivity, were in fact massacred. It was a swift, brutal bloody massacre carried out, ostensibly, in retaliation for the attempt on 'Kittus' life. We now have reasons to believe that these massacres could have been carried out to cover-up and neutralize the widespread belief in Jaffna, that the attempt on 'Kittus' life was the direct outcome of an on-going power-struggle within the LTTE leadership.

This is not the first time that the LTTE has engaged in massacres similar to that of the Sri Lankan armed forces. Further, the propaganda machinery of, both, the LTTE and the Sri Lankan State seem to follow identical and stereo-type explanations to the perpetration of a genocidal situation against Tamil civilian population. It may be recalled that when 20 civilians were massacred in a Sri Lankan army camp in EERAPERI-YAKULAM; in the district of Vavuniya, the explanation given by the Sri Lankan propaganda machinery was that the killings took place when those who were held in custody in the army camp tried to escape.

The blood-curdling and the degenerate conduct of the LTTE aside, we wish to focus on yet another issue of political significance. We are referring to the proud boasts of the LTTE from within the confines of their "feudom" in the Jaffna peninsula, that they constitute the sole and legitimate representatives of the Eelam

people. We wish to remind the "brain trust" behind the LTTE that the concept "sole and legitimate representatives" does not imply the 'patent right' to 'manufacture' myths and render 'obsolete' sections of the Eelam patriotic forces who constitute a threat to their 'monopolistic' position in the 'market'. We have deliberately used the jargon of the Monopoly Capitalist as well as that of the Mafia! We do so since this is the only language that is understood by the Tiger "brain trust", which includes the most reactionary and degenerate sections of Tamil bourgeoisie - both, expatriate as well as indigenous. In addition, the symbiotic relations that exist between LTTE's "brain trust" and the agencies of Imperialism and Zionism, is now a well-established fact.

As far as the patriotic, democratic and progressive forces amongst the Eelam People are concerned, they do recognize the historical necessity for the emergence of a politico-military force, which can proclaim itself as the sole, legitimate representatives of the oppressed Eelam People. However, they totally reject the fratricidal attempts by the LTTE to project itself in that role, by militarily liquidating all other patriotic forces which refuse to submit to the dictatorial and hegemonic designs of these "man-eating" Tigers. Further, the broad toiling Eelam people and the radical intelligentsia fully realize that given the present conjuncture of social, economic and political forces, the emergence of a sole, legitimate representative of the oppressed Eelam People (both, for the purpose of intensifying on the mass-based armed struggle as well as for the purpose of launching a political and diplomatic offensive against the racist and neo-fascist Sri Lankan State), can only take the form of a United Front or an umbrella organization which would embody all patriotic, progressive and democratic forces. To extend to the LTTE, the dubious role of the sole, legitimate representative of the Eelam people, by anyone would tantamount to an endorsement of 'Pol Pot' type terrorism and romantic-fanaticism.



The Tamil-speaking political prisoners at the Welikade Prison have commenced another struggle. They commenced their struggle on 25th March, with a token hunger strike to be followed by a fast in rotation, batch by batch. If their demands are not met by the 5th of April, a fast-unto-death will be launched from that day onwards.

Their decision, highlighted in a Memorandum addressed to J. R. Jayawardena, the President of Sri Lanka, follows a month-long fast-unto-death held between 7-9-1986 and 3-10-1986, in solidarity with a fast launched by the political prisoners at the Boosa Camp. It may be recalled that this fast was called-off on the basis of an assurance given by Fr. Tissa Balasuriya, and consequent to a meeting they had with senior officials of the Defense Ministry. The main demand placed by the political prisoners at, both, the Boosa Camp and the Welikade Prison was that all those who had been kept under detention for over 18 months be released. It must be pointed out that the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act was enacted in July 1979 with the approval of the Constitutional Court, on the understanding that it would be a temporary measure for only 3 years. The PTA was, thereafter, made permanent in 1982 without obtaining the concurrence of the Con-

stitutional Court. The main demand of the political prisoners, in addition, to constituting a struggle for the repeal of the PTA, includes the specific demand for the observance of Section 9(1) of this draconian law, which empowers the Minister of Defense to detain a person for only upto 18 months for "investigation on suspicion."

Despite the assurances given by the officials of the Defense Ministry that visited the Welikade Prison on 13-10-86 that their demands would be looked into, there were no indications of any respite for the political prisoners suffering long periods of incarceration and torture in the prisons. In addition, the recent announcement by the Sri Lankan government, that it had decided to speed-up on the release of political prisoners, remains a mere eye-wash to hood-wink world opinion.

Consequently, the Tamil-speaking political prisoners sent a Memorandum dated the 21st March, 1987, addressed to the President of Sri Lanka, J. R. Jayawardena, placing forward their demand that all those who have been arrested under the PTA and detained over 18 months, should be released forthwith or be indicted before a Court of Law immediately. The Memorandum also specifically refers to the plight of 6 persons in the Tamil ward of the Welikade Prison, who are under detention without any indictment being served on them. One of them had completed over 14

months under detention, while four persons had completed 36 months and the sixth had been kept in incarceration for 34 months. Of the total of around 3,000 Tamil-speaking political prisoners, the majority are being kept at the Welikade and Magazina prisons in Colombo, the Tangalle prison, the Bogambara prison and the Boosa Camp. In addition, several persons are being kept incommunicado at other Army Camps and police Stations. Further, all the Tamil-speaking women political prisoners at the Galle and Negombo prisons are under long detention, with no signs of any respite from physical abuse and mental torture.

The response by the degenerate Sri Lankan government, was a deafening sound of silence and more arrests. In view of the intransigent and inhumane stand of the Sri Lankan government, and in accordance with the counter-measures that they had contemplated and indicated in their Memorandum to J. R. Jayawardena, the Tamil-speaking political prisoners at the Welikade Prison launched a token hunger strike on 20th March, followed by a fast in rotation and in batches. If their demands are still not met, then the a fast-unto-death would be launched on 5th April.

We call on all Democratic, Progressive and peace-loving Peoples in Sri Lanka and in the international arena to extend their full solidarity with the struggle of the political prisoners, both

Tamil-speaking as well as Sinhala-speaking. We call on Human Rights Organizations, Action Groups and Solidarity Committees all over the world to formulate a concrete programme of action in support of the just and legitimate demands of the political prisoners in Sri Lanka.

### Political Prisoners Appeal For Solidarity.

Tamii Ward  
Welikade Prison,  
Colombo - 9,  
Sri Lanka,  
21st March 1987.

Dear Sir,

*Fast Unro Death Demanding Immediate Release Of Persons Arrested Under The Prevention Of Terrorism Act (P. T. A.) And Detained And Remanded Indefinitely Over A Period Of 18 Months*

We always remember the timely help with gratitude your goodself, your esteemed Organisation and some of the broad hearted humanitarians rendered to bring about a settlement with considerable successes when our last hungerstrike unto death, in support of the reasonable demands of our brothers in the Boosa Army Camp who were compelled by their grave situation to launch a fast unto death, reached a crucial state.

However, we do not see any responsible steps taken by this Govt. regarding the above matter which was one of our main demands during the last struggle. As a result we are compelled to launch another struggle for the immediate release of our inmates here detained for over three long years and persons in other Prisons, Army Camps and Police Stations, arrested under the PTA and detained or remanded indefinitely for over 18 months without trial.

Herewith we are attaching a copy of the detailed memorandum sent to the President regarding this matter.

We have decided and scheduled to commence our struggle on 25th inst with a token hunger - strike, then to continue it in rotation, batch by batch, and to launch fast - unto - death on 5 - 4 - 1987.

We request your goodself to render your service as in the manner you have served us during our last struggle and alleviate our grievances as soon as possible.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

A Ward - T. A. Rajmohan  
B1 Ward - S. Santhiralingam  
B2 Ward - P. Sritharan  
C Ward - G. A. Fellex  
Cell - T. Kirupaharan

(On behalf of the Tamil speaking political prisoners)

## GORBACHEV PROPOSAL AND MAGGIE'S VISIT



The most recent proposal of February 28 of the U. S. S. R made public by the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, has once again made it difficult for the Reagan Administration and its NATO allies to drop out of the on-going talks on Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament. It may be recalled that although the Reykjavik Meeting of last year opened the prospects for a nuclear-free world, it was effectively sabotaged by the military-industrial complexes of the U. S. and Western Europe, who were opposed to accords. Despite these set-backs, the U. S. S. R has once again thrown open all doors for further talks by agreeing to single out the issue of medium-range missiles as the first step towards the elimination of all Soviet and American medium-range missiles within the next 5 years. The Gorbachev proposal also agrees to the delinking of the Euro-missile Question from Reagan's pet project - "the Star Wars". However, the U. S. S. R is firm that the conclusion of any agreements on the Euro-missiles, should be conditioned by a decision on the prevention of deployment of weapons in outer space, "in view of the organic interconnection of these issues."

What is important and significant about the Gorbachev proposal is that it has exposed the hypocritical and deliberately ambiguous stance of the U. S. and its NATO allies, which appear to

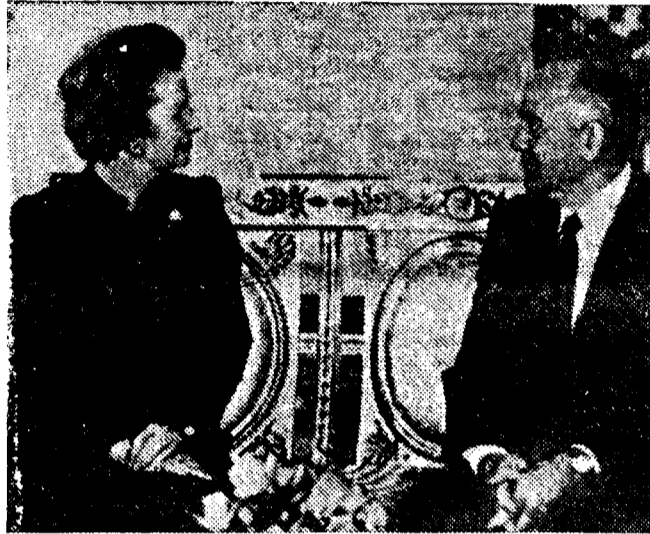
be more intent on neutralizing the mass-based Peace Movement in Western Europe. In addition to exposing the insane designs of the Reagan Administration and its allies in Western Europe, in pursuing its policy of increasing the production and deployment of nuclear arms, the Gorbachev proposal is a direct ideological assault against the "Nuclear Deterrence Theory" propagated by the ideologues of the military-industrial complexes.

The recent visit to Moscow by the Prime Minister of Britain, Margaret Thatcher, reflects the on-going ideological conflicts between the capitalist and socialist systems. Maggie's characterization of the Soviet proposals on nuclear control and the ultimate elimination of such weapons as a "dream" was based on her faith in the Nuclear Deterrence Theory. This Theory, far from constituting a base for Nuclear Disarmament, is nothing short of a vulgar justification of the militaristic designs of U. S. Imperialism and its policy of "neo-globalism". Comrade Gorbachev, in his speech at the Dinner Reception extended to "Maggie", hit back by branding the Nuclear Deterrence Theory as the 'fuse of charge which could destroy civilization'. He further added, that the nuclear deterrence theory constituted a policy of blackmail and threats and a constant source of arms race and escalation of tensions.

Although the February 28 Gorbachev proposal has been hailed the world over for its "tactical brilliance", it is incorrect to see it purely as

tactics. Instead, the Gorbachev proposal is a concrete manifestation of the Basic Aims and Declarations of the Foreign Policy of the U. S. S. R

Coexistence, enunciated by Comrade Lenin in his Decree on Peace, soon after the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution.



elaborated in the Political Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 27th Party Congress. The Gorbachev proposal is also based on the principle of Peaceful

Coexistence, as the saying goes it needs two hands to clap. As to whether the Capitalist System led by the U. S. is serious about Peaceful Coexistence and a nucl-

ear-free world is very much in doubt, given its track-record. As Mikhail Gorbachev aptly pointed out in his speech before the Dinner Reception extended to Margaret Thatcher, "the next few weeks will show if NATO really wants to remove a whole range of nuclear weapons from Europe in accordance with the wish of its peoples, or if it is again trying to find a decent way of disguising its desire to retain Pershings and Cruise missiles in Europe and even increase their number, or replace them with something more novel"

### FLASH

Soviet leader, Gorbachev, announced on 11th April in Prague that the U. S. S. R was agreeable to having separate talks on the reduction and elimination of short-range missiles.

## Release Azmi Khawaja

At this juncture when the progressive, democratic forces amongst the Tamil-speaking and the Sinhala-speaking peoples of Sri Lanka have launched a world-wide campaign to secure justice to all political prisoners in Sri Lanka, it is important that we do not forget the patriots and freedom fighters of other national liberation movements who are languishing in prisons. SPOKESMAN wishes to bring to the attention of its readers, the plight of Comrade Azmi Al Khawaja, a distinguished nationalist leader and member of the PFLPs' politbureau,

the Palestinian National Council and the Jordanian Peace and Solidarity Committee. Comrade Azmi Al Khawaja, who was arrested by the Jordanian authorities on January 12th has been placed in solitary confinement at the General Intelligence Jail in Amman. He suffers from kidney and stomach diseases which make the fact of his detention raise concern over his state of health. The General Secretariat of the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Freedom in Jordan issued a communique upon Azmi Al Khawaja (Abu Isam.) strongly

condemning his arrest, and calling on all democratic, juridical and humanitarian institutions to issue statements of condemnation and to contact the Jordanian government, demanding the release of Azmi Al Khawaja and all political prisoners in Jordan's jails.

SPOKESMAN calls on the representatives of EPRLF and other Eelam Organizations, engaged in their respective tasks in the international arena, to start immediately a campaign for the release of Comrade Azmi Al Khawaja.

## EPRLF Extends Greetings to Polisario

EPRLF extends its greetings and solidarity with the Sahrawi people and their sole, legitimate representatives, the POLISARIO FRONT, on the occasion of the 11th Anniversary of the proclamation of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. We reproduce below extracts of the speech delivered by the Ambassador of the S. A. D. R, His Excellency Aliyen Habib Kenataoui at a public meeting organized by the Congress(I) in New Delhi on 27th February:

"It is not random to see India and the Congress(I) party firm in their position of supporting a people which is struggling for its freedom and dignity, against a colonial aggression and occupation. This position of principles is dictated by the history of the Indian people itself

which has struggled and tolerated enormous sacrifices and sufferings to regain its freedom after an exemplary battle which shook the foundations of the end of the colonial empires and meant the beginning of the end of the colonial era. That combat has been and still is a source of inspiration for millions of freedom fighters all over the world.

Despite the difficult moment in which it was proclaimed and the danger threatening its people in those days, today, S. A. D. R. is a reality recognized internationally because justice and legality are on her side, and its people based on this legality and justice is struggling to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This international support is shown by the recognition of 67 countries to the Sahrawi Government and the admission of the S. A. D. R. in the organization of African Unity as a full member State..... The right of self-determination and independence and the respect of borders have prevailed in the historical process of the OAU. It is in this framework that the OAU maintained its unshakable position in defense of the inalienable right of the Sahrawi people, and based on this right and on this historical experience recognized SADR and adopted its historical resolution 104 during its summit as a peace plan for the peaceful solution to the conflict

between SADR and Morocco; this plan unanimously endorsed by the U.N.O. and the N. A. M. consist basically in direct negotiations between the two parties to the conflict, the Polisario Front and the Kingdom of Morocco, and in allowing the Sahrawi people to choose freely its own destiny, without any interference or presence of the colonial forces of occupation. Today the only stumbling block to the implementation of this peace plan is the attitude of Morocco... Despite the deployment of all its military might, Morocco is far from achieving its ambitions. More than that the war is taking a heavy toll on the Moroccan economy

and on the morale of its troops. This situation explains the unholy alliance between Morocco, South Africa and Israel which provide weapons training and military advise to the illegal aggression of Morocco. This alliance is not intimidating the Sahrawi people. Our people are determined more than ever to continue its legitimate struggle to restore the legality and respect of its national rights, and at the same time extends its hand to Morocco in order to give peace a chance and allow the OAU and the UNO to implement the peace plan.

## Col. Qadhafi Stands with the "Revolt of the Feeble"

"The feeble of the world will continue to revolt against all forms of State Terrorism practised by the United States and Western Europe" challenged the Libyan leader, Col. MAUMMAR QADHAFI, in an address to an International Conference on Terrorism held in Geneva on March 22.

In his address to the Conference which was carried via satellite, Col. Qadhafi observed that "when the weak revolt, the world is quick to condemn their act as

terrorism, but the root causes are never eliminated." The Conference which was organized by the Vienna-based International Progress Organization was attended by eminent academicians, jurists and scientists from all over the world to examine terrorism in all aspects. In the key note address delivered by the Nobel Laureate, Mr. Sean Macbride, the views expressed by Col. Qadhafi was fully endorsed in the following manner: "Military might coupled with a hold over information and communication

does not give the strong the moral right to practice State Terrorism." The organizers of the Conference, further took the stand that Col. Qadhafi was invited to address the Conference, since Libya had been the target of several terrorist attacks in the past. This was a clear reference to the State Terrorism resorted to by the Reagan Administration in a bid to destabilize Libya, to the extent of hatching plots to assassinate Col. Qadhafi and his family.

## CPSL Convenes ITS 13th Congress

The Communist Party of Sri Lanka (CPSL) held its 13th Party Congress during the 3rd week of March. The address to the Congress by its General - Secretary, Comrade K. P. Silva included an outright condemnation of the J. R. Regime for its pursuance of military solution to the National Question. He further highlighted the fact that the Sri Lankan Government's reliance on a military solution to the National Question was not only continuing to aggravate the problem, but also dislocating the economy further.

Referring to the decision by the Sri Lankan government to increase its budgetary allocation for the Sri Lankan armed forces, Comrade K. P. Silva said, "it casts more and more burden on the working People to sustain the war." On the military option being pursued by the racist J. R. regime, Comrade Silva made the following observation: "Answers have to be found to the basic questions underlying the problem. The cooperation of the Tamil People cannot be obtained by threats, intimation and causing privation. This can happen only where their due rights are recognized, they are treated as equal citizens and the process of negotiations become the medium of settlement."

## Release All Political Prisoners In Sri Lankan Jails

## Peaceful Coexistence Among Nations and the Class Struggle

The struggle for peace and for peaceful coexistence among nations is the main task of all the progressive forces of today. Some people argue that peaceful coexistence is the antithesis of revolution, and that a struggle for peace is sure to lead masses away from class struggle against world Imperialism. Some people even argue that peaceful coexistence plays into the hands of Imperialism, alleging that it leads to a reconciliation with it, and to a decline in the class struggle. But in fact the situation is quite different.

Marxists have never shared the opinion that social revolutions could be born only of wars, nor have they ever regarded wars as a prerequisite or a precondition for revolutions. Socialist revolutions are not invariably linked to war. In the present day conditions, with the socialist system becoming the decisive factor of world development - with the colonial system collapsing under the deadly blows of the national liberation movements, and with the international working class having universally strengthened its position, socialist revolutions do not require wars to emerge victorious.

Marxism utterly repudiates any attempt to provoke armed conflicts which can lead to the defeat of the revolutionary avant-garde. At the same time, Marxists spare no effort opposing any attempts to give up the revolutionary struggle in the name of "preserving peace". To uphold peace means waging an irrec-

oncilable struggle against Imperialism, which is its viscious enemy, strengthening the might of the socialist community, successfully building socialism and communism and expanding the class struggle, as well as the revolutionary workers, and national liberation movements. The struggle of the exploited against their exploiters represents an objective law of the development of all the antagonistic formations. There can be no peaceful coexistence between the exploited and the exploiters, between the oppressed people and the colonialists' or between communists and bourgeois ideologists. The

exploiter society can be abolished and a social revolution emerge victorious only as a result of a struggle which may assume a great variety of armed or non-violent forms.

The fact itself that Imperialism is preparing for war and is whipping up the arms race runs counter both to the immediate and to the prospective interests of the workers. All of this creates difficulties for the peoples of the socialist countries involved in intensive peaceful construction, and paving the way for their society's transition to communism. In capitalist countries, the arms

race and the military hysteria leads to a drastic reduction in the workers' living standards, hinder the growth of the political consciousness of the working class, and strengthen the position of reaction. The working people of the developing countries suffer most from the aggravation of the international tension, which drags these countries into an arms race with its concomitant continuing poverty and backwardness, starvation and disease, as a result of

which their dependence upon Imperialism increases while their socio-economic and political development undergoes a dramatic slowdown. The objective interest of the working people throughout the world in creating a just and humane society turns them into resolute advocates of peace among all nations and ardent opponents of aggressive wars and arms buildup. ●

Source: **Classes and the Class Struggle.**

Progressive Publishers.  
Moscow 1987.

## U.N. Human Rights Commission Sri Lanka

The following resolution was passed on 12th March at the session of the Human Rights Commission, held at Geneva, Switzerland.

*GUIDED by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the universally accepted rules of international Humanitarian Law.*

*RECALLING its decision 1984/III of 14th March 1984.*

*TAKING NOTE of the report of the special rapporteur on torture and the report of the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances,*

1. *CALLS UPON All parties and groups to respect fully the Universally accepted rules of Humanitarian Law.*

2. *CALLS UPON All parties and groups to renounce the use of force and acts of violence and to pursue a negotiated political solution, based on principles of respect for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.*

3. *INVITES The Government of Sri Lanka to Intensify its Cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross in the fields of Dissemination and Promotion of International Humanitarian Law and invites the Government of Sri Lanka to consider favourably the offer of the International Committee of the Red Cross to fulfil its functions of protection of Humanitarian standards, including the provision of assistance and protection to victims of all affected parties.*

4. *EXPRESSES THE HOPE That the Government of Sri Lanka will continue to provide information to the commission on Human Rights on this Question.*

## Militarization And The Sri Lankan Economy

The Government's defense and security budget for 1987, which already amounts to Rs 10 Billion, will be enhanced by a further supplementary estimate of Rs 2 Billion. Defense-related expenditure is also expected to amount to about Rs. 3 billion, pushing defense and security spending by another Rs. 5 Billion.

This would mean that about 35 percent of the domestic budget, excluding foreign aid and local loans will have to be allocated for defence and security this year. Faced with this quandry the Government will have no alternative but to reduce the capital expenditure this year by re-ordering and re-phasing its debt priorities. Finance and planning Ministry sources estimate that an immediate 12.5 percent cut in capital expenditure will be necessary to meet this defense expenditure. The situation is said to have been further complicated by the fall in prices of the principal export commodities like tea, rubber and coconut which has seriously eroded Government revenue. The debt service ratio is also rising and is likely to be around 30 percent this year due to the bunching of the repayment due on commercial loans.

The Finance Ministry is now preparing the Public Investment Programme, 1988-1992, which has to be presented to the Aid Group Meeting in Paris in June this year.

(Courtesy, LANKA GUARDIAN; 15th March, 1987)

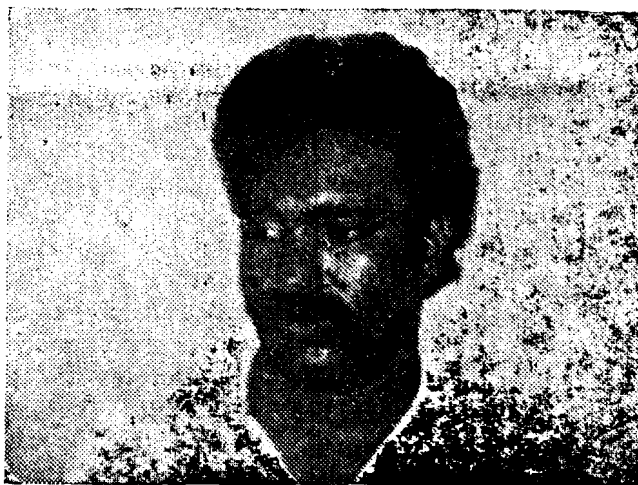
## Our Revolutionary Salute To Comrade Kumar

EPRLF announces with deep sorrow, the demise of a Central Committee Member, Comrade V. Shanmugan Sathasivam, alias Kumar 4th March 1987. Others who attained martyrdom with Comrade Kumar on the same day are Comrade Palimalaraja alias Arul, the Batticaloa Regional Commander of our military wing, the People's Liberation Army (PLA), and Comrades Naveenan and Kamalan. Their deaths occurred following a heroic battle with the Special Task Force Commandos (STF), near the village of MARUTHAMUNAI in BATTICALOA, when the STF set-up a cordon around a house where our Comrades were at a Meeting. The loss of these comrades at the present critical stage of our struggle will be deeply felt by not only the EPRLF, but the entire liberation struggle.

Comrade Kumar hails from an ordinary peasant family. During the relief work organized by the General Union of Ealam Students (GUES), after a cyclone had devastated the District of Batticaloa in 1978, he joined the G. U. E. S volunteers and worked tirelessly amongst the victims of the cyclone and in their rehabilitation. From 1978 onwards Comrade Kumar, stood in the fore-front of organizing G. U. E. S activities in Batticaloa. During his training period at the Amparai Agricultural School, he actively engaged himself in resettling the refugees from the Tea plantations in KANCHIKUDIYARU. With great dedication, he organized the political classes conducted by the EPRLF in the Amparai District, towards the raising of political and class consciousness amongst the poor peasantry

and landless agricultural workers.

Comrade Kumar was arrested in March 1983, together with 12 other EPRLF members whilst attending a political class in SATHURUKONDAN in Batticaloa. These classes were being conducted in



commemoration with Karl Marx Centenary, which was being observed all over Sri Lanka. In September 1983, he was freed from the Batticaloa Prison along with 52 other political prisoners, in the historic jail break, planned and executed by our military wing, the PLA.

After completing his military training in a PLA camp, he was appointed the Political Commissar responsible for the politicization of the PLA cadres who were undergoing military training. In 1984, at the First Party Congress of the EPRLF, he was elected into the Central Committee.

Comrade Kumar returned to Batticaloa at the end of 1984, to organize the party work in the Eastern province. During this period, he succeeded in recruiting and politicizing the youths. In addition, he continued to work tirelessly and with

dedication for the rights of the peasants and workers and towards a worker-peasant alliance. In the successful strike by the workers of the MANDOOR tile factory demanding lesser working hours and equal pay for women, the contribution made by

Comrade Kumar was significant. In addition, he organized the workers of the "Serendib" Sea Food Processing plant into trade unions and launched an agitation against the arbitrary dismissal and retrenchment of workers. He was also in the forefront in organizing the poor peasantry and the landless agricultural workers to fight against exploitation and oppression by the landlords and rich capitalist farmers.

The role played by Comrade Kumar in building the EPRLF into an effective politico-military force in the Eastern province stands as a guide line and a source of inspiration to all cadres of EPRLF. In addition, Comrade Kumar demonstrated in practice, leadership qualities by combining discipline with motivation. Although, he is no longer with us, he will continue to be a constant source of inspiration to all of us.

## Colonization And State Terrorism Spreads To The Plantations

The racist and neo-fascist J. R. Regime has, since 1977, intensified on Colonization of the Plantation areas and state-terrorism against the Tamil plantation proletariat. This follows four decades of state-aided colonization of the traditional homeland of the Tamil-speaking people in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

The heroic resistance by the Plantation Tamils against their displacement and the settlement of these areas by Sinhala goondas, has been typically branded by the J. R. Regime as constituting terrorism. It must be noted that the anti-Tamil Pogroms in the plantation areas in 1977, 1981 and 1983 were led by the Sinhala thugs and goondas who had recently been settled there by the Sri Lankan state.

The state-aided Sinhala settlements are mainly concentrated in areas like Hattori, TALAWAKKELA, BAGAWANTHALAWA, N'ELIYA, NANU OYA, DIYATALAWA, DAYAGAMA, NAWALAPITIYA and HEWAHETTA. What needs to be highlighted here is that these new Sinhala settlements enjoy all State infrastructural facilities. In addition, new Army camps and Police-commando units have been established and arms provided to the sinhala settlements.

Earlier, the only army camp in the Upcountry was in DIYATALAWA, which functioned mainly as a training camp. New Temporary army camps have now been established in Hattori and Bagawantalawa.

The above developments have created fear and a feeling of extreme insecurity in the minds of the Upcountry Tamils. However, the recent strikes and agitations by the Tamil plantation Proletariat is indicative of their firm resolve to fight against State Terrorism and all forms of oppression. This also indicative of an increasing identification with the struggle of their brethren in Northern and Eastern Provinces.

## Justice for Pulsara Liyanage

1. We, members of The Feminist Study Circle, remain deeply concerned about the continued detention of Kelaniya University Lecturer Ms. Pulsara Liyanage at the Slave Island Police Station. Ms. Liyanage was taken into custody on Saturday, November First. No charges have yet been brought against her.

She has not been produced before any judicial authority nor has she been brought up before the Advisory Committee set up under the P. T. A. She has remained solely in the custody of members of the security forces with limited access to counsel family and friends. Her continued detention without charges or due process of law violates the basic tenets of international human rights law as promulgated under the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Sri Lanka is a signatory.

2. In addition, we understand that, Ms. Liyanage is suffering from ill health

due to a recent operation and that humanitarian considerations require that she be removed to more suitable conditions of confinement. We are also aware that in certain instances over the past few weeks, permission has been granted by higher authorities either for her to be removed to hospital or for her to visit her parents on Christmas day.

However, harassment on the part of the more immediate authorities and demands for signed condition declarations have not allowed for the implementation of these requests.

3. Given the above circumstances, we, as

concerned citizens and women interested in the protection of human right in this country join the appeal for immediate steps to be taken to secure justice for Ms. Liyanage.

a. Two (months detention solely in the custody of the security forces is more than adequate time for criminal interrogation. Under the normal criminal law the period is forty-eight hours. Ms. Liyanage should either be charged by the State and be brought before the judicial authorities or be unconditionally released.

b. If for some reason, it is imperative that her interrogation continue, such interrogation should receive the written consent of the Attorney General and or members of the Advisory Committee of the P T A In view of her frail

health, humanitarian considerations require that such interrogation take place under 'house detention.

4. We recognise that Ms Liyanage is not the only political detainee who is being denied her basic rights during this period of our history. However, we put her case forward as an example of the need for urgent action to be taken on the part of concerned citizens to prevent the State from callously disregarding the rights of the many detainees who remain for months, even years, in police custody, uncharged with a crime and with no opportunity to defend themselves before any court of law.

Signed  
(Executive Committee of the Feminist Study Circle)

Kumari Jayawardena  
Radhika Coomaraswamy  
Serena Tennekoon  
Tara De Fonseka Coomaraswamy  
Sepali Kottegoda

## The Political Prisoner

*Spend no tears  
Say no prayers  
for the man in  
the concrete cage*

*True, no glimmer  
of light beckons  
at the end of  
the long corridor  
of his "future"*

*Even a whisper  
of a trial never  
reaches his ear*

*True, no visitor  
calls at his moss-  
lined cell to tell  
him the time and  
integer of year  
Only the gaoler  
bringing his meagre  
ration of mildewed  
biscuits and piss-  
like tea that start  
up painfully again  
his festering ulcer*

*Still, say no prayer  
Spend no tears  
for this comrade in  
the concrete cage  
He has his honour*

*But for you and I  
who daily stroll  
under the sun with  
fear-locked tongues*

*You and I who have  
doubly pawned  
our lives for lies*

*You and I  
who bicker at  
the government  
yet pay our taxes  
rant against  
the censor yet  
subscribe to the  
national newspaper*

*For you and I, mister  
who walk these  
city's barren streets  
in a midday stupor  
save your prayers  
and shed your tears  
for you and I  
walk without honour*

—Cecil Rajendra

(COURTESY:  
LANKAGUARDIAN

## Colombo refuses visas to goodwill team

A five-member goodwill mission from India, led by an eminent jurist, due to visit Sri Lanka was not granted visas to enter the island. Reasons for barring the entry of the team which felt it can help in the attempts to solve the ethnic tangle have not been given. The leader of the delegation, Mr. V. R. Krishna Iyer, former Judge of the Supreme Court left for Cochin disappointed.

Besides Mr. Krishna Iyer the team is made of Messrs. (Justice) Sachar, Tarkunde, T.N. Gopalan (journalist) and Henry Timpagni (Advocate). Their mission — called the "Independent Initiative" was scheduled to go to Colombo to meet leading personalities like President Jayewardene and Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike as well as the leader of the Opposition and representatives of the Tamil community.

This attempt is pursuant to a "national consultation" which assembled in New Delhi two months ago. There should have been a similar national consultation in Colombo on April 11 on the "tragic and escalating" dispute but while the members of the team were ready to fly, visas were not forthcoming. "One is left to speculate why the Jayewardene regime is allergic to a goodwill mission by five of us. We are definitely against any quarter to secessionists. Our only purpose is to ensure peace in the island, with justice to the Tamil community. Everything else was left flexible. But things could not take off, apparently because the Sri Lankan Government is not too keen on any goodwill move from well-meaning individuals of India or Sri Lanka." Mr. Krishna Iyer said.

(The Hindu, Madras, April 8)

## Food For Thought

Boasting is easy. Solving a problem is difficult. If boasting is stopped and a sincere attempt is made, it may not be impossible to solve Sri Lanka's ethnic problem. One factor has to be clearly understood: without India's good will no lasting solution is possible. If India's assistance was enlisted at the beginning this wound need not have been allowed to fester. Even though we need not stooge or subjugate ourselves to any other nation, big or small, it is a fact of geopolitical life that small nations in any region must co-operate with the big powers of the region.

Yet what happened here? From the time the ethnic issue took a turn for the worse, the leaders here adopted an attitude of "hit if you dare". The Prime Minister threw this challenge at India and boasted that the Sinhalese would die to the last man rather than submit (his son who is in England is not included.) Before that the President boasted that we would not be frightened by even four or five Indias. Leaving aside four or five Indias, we can imagine how they will run if even one battalion of Indian Gurkhas arrive here.

So, we ask the Government to at least now stop all this idle boasting and come down to earth.

— Editorial, *ATHTHA*, Sinhala daily (6/3)  
of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka  
(CPSL)

# VICTORY TO THE EELAM LIBERATION STRUGGLE