

The following is the text of a statement made to the Government (U.N.P.) Parliamentary Party by His Excellency J.R. Jayewardene, President of Sri Lanka on Tuesday 3 July 1979.

" I wish to inform the Government Parliamentary Party of the action the Government has taken, is taking and intends to take with regard to the movement for the division of Sri Lanka and the terrorist activities which are directed towards the achievement of the same objective, viz. Eelam.

" I have said before and reiterate now that this Government will not permit our Motherland to be divided. I do not think any Government in the future will change this position.

" In the United National Party Manifesto under the heading "Problems of the Tamil Speaking People", we said that - " The Party, when it comes to power, will take all possible steps to remedy their grievances in such fields as, (1) Education, (2) Colonisation, (3) Use of Tamil Language, (4) Employment in the Public and Semi-Public Corporations.

We will summon an all Party Conference as stated earlier and implement its decisions."

ALL PARTY CONFERENCE

" Unfortunately all the recognised parties which contested the General Elections were not returned to Parliament. We, however, invited the parties represented in Parliament, namely, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF); and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), to join us in drafting the new Constitution. The TULF refused to join the Select Committee. If they had, all the matters mentioned above could have been discussed and solutions found within the framework of the unitary Constitution. We did, however, decide on the use of the Tamil Language and came to decisions which were acceptable to all Parties and incorporated them in the New Constitution.

" The question now remains to implement the provisions of the New Constitution dealing with Language. We are doing so, with the help of an ex-member of the TULF, who is now a member of the Cabinet, The Honourable C Rajadurai in charge of this subject.

" To summon an all party Conference outside the parties represented in Parliament may lead to chaos and the remedy may be worse than the disease. The Government may, however, consider appointing either a Parliamentary Committee or a Presidential Commission to consider some of the other matters needing decision, namely, the question of the decentralisation of the governing process.

EDUCATION

"With regard to Education, standardisation was abolished but we must appreciate that entry to the Universities has always to be restricted as Universities cannot take all those who seek University Education. This is so throughout the world. But we have decided that such restrictions should not be based on race or language but purely on raw marks. We have also decided that certain privileges should be given to underdeveloped areas where the best educational institutions are not available.

" We have decided that on raw marks a percentage should be admitted from the whole island, a percentage from the Districts and a percentage from the Underdeveloped Areas, such as Batticaloa, Vavuniya, Honaragala, etc.

" We are also permitting Open Universities and recognised Universities giving University Education to prepare students for University Degrees. This subject too can be considered by the Committee or Commission mentioned earlier.

EMPLOYMENT

" We are considering employment in the public and corporation sectors to be based on a racial basis according to the racial composition of the population.

COLONISATION

Schemes of Colonisation can also be considered on a similar basis giving preference to those who live in the districts where Colonisation Schemes are being undertaken, and next, to people living throughout the island, without disturbing the population ratio of the district. This too can be considered by the above Parliamentary Committee or Presidential Commission.

TULF

" The members of Parliament of the TULF have been treated for two years by the Government as if they have been members of the Government Parliamentary Party and their electorates considered for development and appointments in a similar manner. They have not responded to the hand of friendship that has been held out to them.

" The Leader of the Opposition who is a member of the TULF has been given a status which no leader of the Opposition enjoyed earlier. He has been given the status of a Minister of Cabinet, both in the island and outside it. He has been given a house; a Security Officer; a Motor Vehicle, and he travels on a Diplomatic Passport and is accorded all facilities that Ministers enjoy abroad.

" The Leader of the Opposition, however, has used his position to criticise the Government and the Sinhala people; preached the division of the country though ^{he} has taken an oath accepting the unitary Constitution; and attempted by himself and with his colleagues when abroad to poison the minds of foreign Governments and people against the people of this country in order to prevent foreign aid and thus sabotage our development programmes. This is the least that can be said that he and his party have done.

TERRORISM

" Their speeches and attitude have encouraged and helped the Terrorist Movement which has murdered in cold blood a number of Sinhalese and Tamil Public Officers and other innocent citizens.

" This Government has therefore decided to introduce Legislation as has been introduced in other countries where similar movements have existed; as in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, the Continental Countries, Japan and India, where democratic institutions and the Multi-Party System prevail, to combat the terrorism and wipe it out for the betterment of the majority of the people whatever race they may belong to.

" The demand for the creation of a separate state, Eelam, has not the support of the majority of the Tamil-Speaking people, both Tamils and Muslims. The Muslims have definitely through their leaders, political and other organisations, தற்போதே தமது ஆளுணர் சுவரிகள்

The Tamils living in the provinces in the centre of the island do not support this demand. The Tamils living outside the provinces mentioned above do not support this demand. The voters of the Eastern Province returned thirteen members of Parliament, today only two of them are members of the TULF and the other eleven Members are members of the Government Parliamentary Party, of whom two are members of the Cabinet, four are District Ministers and one a Deputy Minister. Therefore it is correct to say that the vast majority of the Tamils living in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and the Provinces in the centre and the rest of the island are not in favour of a separate state or Eelam. Further, in the Northern Province the majority of the voters did not vote for the TULF though it won the majority of the seats.

" Representations have been made to me by a large number of organisations, religious, political, and social, from all parts of the island and by leaders of Religious Organisations that the Eelam Movement should be banned and the TULF proscribed. One and all they fear that communal passions will be raised and are being raised and may end in blood, a conflagration throughout the island. Innocent Tamil people may be harmed because of the campaign of the TULF and its supporters.

" I must take note of these representations. It is with great difficulty that the members of my Cabinet, you the representatives of the people and I have been able to preserve law and order in this situation. We intend to do so whatever the provocations we may have to encounter. I do wish to appeal to all to show tolerance and friendship to the vast number of the Tamil People living in our midst who are not parties to the propaganda of the TULF and the violent activities of some of its supporters. We have to follow the way of peace and friendship and I am sure that that way alone will lead to the achievement of our objective.

" I therefore want the support of the Parliamentary Party in the course of action that we intend to take and through them the support of all law-abiding citizens to help this Government to maintain the unity of Sri Lanka and the welfare of its people irrespective of religion, race, creed or any other consideration.
