

PLOT

BULLET-IN



FEBRUARY '84 Vol. I No. II A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ORGANISATION TAMIL EELAM

COMMENT

The post-independence period of the Tamil people of our country has been a tale of legislative, administrative and physical discrimination. The dawn of independence in 1948 marked the opening of this dark chapter in our history.

The Citizenship Act of 1948 made the plantation Tamils (estate workers) a stateless minority.

The 1948 Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act deprived nearly 95% of them of their citizenship rights, and the Ceylon (Parliamentary) Election Amendment Act deprived these people of their right to vote.

Hand in hand with these vicious pieces of legislation commenced a policy of state-sponsored colonisation of traditional Tamil home-lands aimed at reducing the Tamils to a minority in their own areas.

In a similar manner the Official Language or Sinhala Only Act of 1956, which made Sinhala the official language throughout the island resulted in causing severe hardships to Tamil public servants, and forced them to retire prematurely. It also had the effect of effectively barring the Tamil community from the public service.

In 1957 the then Prime Minister entered into a pact with the Tamil leader of that time Mr. Chelvanayakam. But we watched on helplessly as he unilaterally abrogated it.

1958 saw the enactment of the Tamil Language (Special Provisions) Act which has remained a dead letter to date.

In 1960 we saw the enactment of the Language of the Courts Act, which made Sinhala the only language of all Courts throughout the island.

From 1961 the 'Sinhala Only' act was rigorously implemented causing grave hardship to our people.

Again between 1960 and 1961 after nationalising the schools, we watched as helpless spectator's

when government proceeded to close down Tamil memium classes in the Sinhalese majority districts.

In 1964 the Prime Ministers of India and Sri Lngka entered into the now infamous Sirima-Shastri Pact. Through this pact a majority of the plantation Tamils were forced out of the country. Misguidedly termed 'repatriation', in practice it was eviction.

With the dawn of 1965 emerged a so-called National Government. Yet another pact along the lines of the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact of 1957 was drawn-up between the Tamil party and the Government of Dudley Senanayake.

We watched humiliated once again, as our leaders were taken for a ride. This pact too was abrogated in the face of Sinhala racism.

1971 saw the introduction of a process known as 'Standardisation in Education'. The aim of the standardisation was to provide preferential treatment to students in Sinhala majority areas to the detriment of those in Tamil areas. The formula was simple, Tamil students had to receive higher marks than their Sinhala counterparts to gain entrance into the universities.

Merit would no longer be the criteria for selection to the universities. The basis was purely racial.

1971 also saw the unilateral adoption of a new Republican Constitution without the consultation or consent of the Tamil community.

Under this Consitution, in a multi-lingual, multi-religious society the foremost place was given to Buddhism and Sinhala, the religion and language of the Sinhalese. What was worse, was that safeguards providing for the protection of the minorities which existed in the earlier Constitution were withdrawn.

In 1975 the government nationalised the foreign-owned estates. While this measure in itself was commendable, the government utilised the opportunity to cause unimaginable hardship to the estate Tamils. They were starved and driven out of the hovels they called homes on the

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FOR THE BENEFIT OF...

In our last issue we accused Sri Lanka's President Jayawardana of bending over backward and inviting the TULF to the round-table conference only to please his lord and master in the United States. But we must admit that we were not wholly correct. For while Regan tweaked Jayawardene by the ear, the common people in different parts of the world gave old J. R. J a lot to think about. They literally kicked him in the seat of his pants, or cloth should we say. Little wonder the old man got so jittery and began contradicting himself.

Trade Unions from all over the world, action groups and many ordinary people from both the western as well as from socialist countries commenced a series of actions, some of which were aimed at making the populations of their own countries aware of the oppression of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka. Others like the trade unions, threatened direct action like calling on their national trade union movements to take necessary action to protect the Tamil community.

In this issue we publish samples of the actions taken by different groups in

Waterside Workers Federation of Australia MELBOURNE BRANCH

Pigott Street, West Melbourne-3003

Mrs. R. A. Ratnatunga

Acting Consul

High Commission of the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

35 Empire Circuit

FORREST A. C. T. 2603.

Dear Mrs. Ranatunga,

I am writing to express my personal and my Union's concern in regard to the atrocities committed against the minority Tamil community, organised by the Sinhalese majority government in Sri Lanka.

We condemn any form of government, that allows minority groupings in their community to be treated in the way the Tamil population have been. It is in violation of basic human rights, laid down by the United Nations' We demand the 'Prevention of Terrorism Act' introduced in 1979 be repealed, and the Tamil population of Sri Lanka be allowed to live in peace.

Failing to get that undertaking, we would seriously consider calling on the Trade union movement in Australia, to take such action, necessary to protect the Tamil community.

Yours sincerely,
SECRETARY

Australia in solidarity with the Sri Lanka Tamils.

(see page 4 for picture)

The Sri Lanka 'kept press' of course did not make any comment on these letters and actions which were taking place. Instead they chose to publish a crazy, childish, letter written a by a Sinhala group (Sri Lanka United National Association of Canada) whose members do not exceed five, and the reply of the Indian premier. Unfortunately, the editors of and reporters of these disreputable English rags ('God bless their souls') cannot understand English and failed to get the Indian Premier's point. We publish only Mrs. Gandhi's letter and a comment on it. The SLUNC's letter is too long-winded and crazy to find space in any reputable journal.

Dear President of S.L.U.N.A.,

I have your letter of 19th October.

The People of Sri Lanka know better than anyone living outside, that expect for a handful of extremists, no one advocated a separate Tamil state until the recent carnage and destruction. The highly organized attacks and harassment of the Tamils have given encouragement to the extremists.

I have repeatedly said that we firmly support the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. We do not support the secessionist movements. There is no truth in reports that th. Sri

(contd page 6)

Foreign Affairs Policy Committee Report

SRI LANKA: Amended Resolution

Conference deplores the recent outbreak of racial violence against the Tamil people in Sri Lanka and condemns the failure of Sri Lankan Government to protect lives and property adequately.

Conference calls on the Sri Lankan Government to:—

1. Give full compensation for the loss of Tamil lives and property during the riots.
2. Grant citizenship and full political rights to all Tamils, resident in Sri Lanka.
3. Repeal legislation which bans the advocacy of a separate Tamil State and which has the effect of outlawing Tamil based political groups and preventing Tamils from participating in public life or from practising in many of the professions.
4. Lift the ban on political parties advocating self-determination of the Tamil people.
5. Repeal repressive legislation such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act and Emergency Regulation 15A under the Public Security Ordinance.

Conference congratulates the Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Bill Hayden, for his prompt response in welcoming Sri Lankan refugees to Australia and calls on him to raise the above matters with representatives of the Sri Lankan Government.

We believe that the Australian Government should support appropriate forms of inquiry and action being taken with respect to the events in Sri Lanka by either the Secretary General of the United Nations under Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations by referring these matters to the United Nations Security Council or by the Human Rights Commission or by any other appropriate international body.

Moved: Morris Milder

PLOT on the hunger strike

Education is one of the most basic human rights. But for the poor and oppressed people it has become more of a privilege than a right. In capitalist societies rules and regulations are formed making education compulsory. Acts are promulgated making education 'free', offers of scholarships and grants are made available to help the underprivileged students receive an education. The value of education is always emphasised

Yet in fact, it is in these very societies that the oppressed or the poor people are forced out of education. These societies are so structured that only a small minority will ever have the opportunity of entering the highest halls of learning. The rest have to make do with a lesser education which fits them into factories and other minor posts, which the capitalist society has created for them.

The denial of education to the mass of the people is not surprising. They, the elites in our society realise that the only way in which they can maintain the present exploitative system is by denying the people an education. They realise that if the people were educated, they would naturally rise up against the system which condemns them to a life of drudgery and monotony which they are forced to accept for eternity.

Denial of education is therefore a means of keeping the people in subservience. It makes their minds stagnate, and it creates a sense of apathy and helplessness.

The Tamil community of Sri Lanka more than most other oppressed people the world over have been subjected to the denial of this basic right. Throughout more recent history, there has been a systematic and

concerted effort to deprive our community of this basic and essential right.

While the oppression against us has had many faces and many-phases, the attempts to control the community through control of the mind, via deprivation of education has been the most insidious, constant and has had a set pattern.

Despite these difficulties a few of our people have still managed to enter the "hallowed precincts" of higher education. Having entered, in more recent times, they have found a new and more serious obstacle in their path.

Racism raised by government Ministers, university lecturers, deans of faculties students, and the majority community at large, led to the general break down of security for Tamils in general on the one hand, and the total lack of security in the southern universities for Tamil students in particular. This has now made it impossible for Tamil students to go back to the original campuses and faculties they were attached to.

The government in persuance of its policy of depriving Tamils of educational opportunities, pretends that no security risk exists. It demands, that all students report back to their campuses forthwith.

Unable to return, and in some instances being even physically intimidated on return to their to their places on the campus, the students found all avenues of appeal blocked to them.

The Sri Lanka government's "kept press" very dutifully trumpeted government warnings to the students to either return to the southern campuses or face dismissal.

As in the case of any oppressed body, the students having exhausted all options left to them,

turned to the final peaceful mode of protest open to them to make known their grievances, and government intransigence on the matter. Failing to move government, the students appealed to the conscience of all right minded people the world over. They used the final and most dramatic weapon left to them.

Unless their demands were given a hearing they would fast, and unto death if necessary.

This action has many sides to it. Firstly and most importantly the problem was the problem of the students. They knew the value of their education and the risk the action involved. The cause was theirs and they were committed to it. Therefore it was their inalienable right to use whatever means they felt necessary to achieve this end—even the use of armed struggle.

Being students, and wanting to go back to university they did not opt for the use of armed struggle, but sought to use the non violent means available to them.

Again, the success or otherwise of the hunger-strike was, and is not the most important aspect of their action. It is to focus attention on their problem and in this way force the authorities to heed their demands.

Moreover the J. R. Jayawardent regime which is still smarting under the weight of criticism of world opinion for authorising the horrifying killings of July '83 was finding the attention the student action was attracting very embarrassing.

Finally, since it is the students who took the decision to embark in the hunger-strike it could only be they who ultimately decide whether to call off the action or not.

It is time we got out of the habit trying to be heroes, of

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COMRADE UMA SPEAKS

We are not against Sinhalese non-violent actions important part of struggle

On the 24th February comrade Uma Maheswaran who led a goodwill delegation of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamileelam to Mauritius returned to India.

Comrade Skantha of the Voice Of Tamil Eelam (VOTE) interviewed the leader of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamileelam on a number of wide-ranging subjects, important issues and future plans of the organisation.

We tabulate below the text of the interview.

Q: *Could you tell us the reasons why you chose to visit Mauritius, and what the visit achieved?*

A: The main reason for our visit to Mauritius was to win the sympathy and moral support of the government and people of Mauritius for our cause. At the same time we wanted to thank both the people and the government of Mauritius for taking up the cause of the Sri Lanka Tamils at the United Nations Organisation.

We were also able to explain further, the details and ongoing atrocities against the Tamils in Sri Lanka which are continuing even today.

Our mission was very successful. After our visit the people and government of Mauritius came to realise the truth of the matter. We are now sure that the people of Mauritius will back our cause on humanitarian grounds.

They even allowed us interviews on national television and radio.

Q: *While you were in Mauritius a few incidents occurred in Jaffna which put Sri Lanka back in the news.*

While the university students were on hunger strike to win certain demands, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam kidnaped the fasting students at gun

point, force-fed them and broke their fast.

The People's Liberation Organisation of Tamileelam condemned the action of the Tigers.

Why do you condemn this action of the Tigers, especially when the Tigers say that they did it to save the lives of the students?

A: When I heard that the strike of the students was broken by one of our own underground movements, I was shocked.

We condemned the action of the Tigers for a number of reasons. In the first instance it must be remembered that the students were protesting the denial of one of their most basic rights—the right to an education.

Again it must be kept in mind that the students were struggling to re-enter university. As such the options open to them were limited.

To expect them to take up arms as a means of gaining this target is foolish. If they took up arms, they could never hope to re-enter

Commonwealth Games Tea Is Bitter

The refreshing cuppa being served at the Brisbane Games is going to have a bitter taste - a taste no amount of sugar will hide.

And it won't just be because the price you pay for it will be more than the daily wage of the Sri Lankan workers who produced it.

This tea, provided to the Games organizers by the Sri Lankan Government, is:

- produced by the most exploited group of Sri Lankan workers.
- grown and harvested by Tamil workers who are refused the vote and Sri Lankan citizenship.
- netting 60% of Sri Lanka's foreign exchange yet worth only 50 cents a day to the Tamil workers.
- enriching a few while field workers are forced to live in substandard accommodation which wouldn't be considered suitable for the average Australian pet.

ACTION - Sugar is not the answer!

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Committee Against Repression in the Pacific and Asia.

university, they would have to go underground and the objective of their struggle would have been lost.

Our role, that is those of us involved in the armed struggle should have been supportive of the students cause. In other words we should be working towards creating a situation or climate where their action would be successful.

The economy and education are the basic needs for a people fighting for their freedom.

It is true that the present system of education is geared to helping the capitalist cause. But simply for this reason we should not condemn it out of hand. Rather we should tailor it to meet the needs of the socialist society we plan to set up.

On the question of saving the lives of the students, I think we must accept the fact the they (the students) are mature people capable of taking responsible decisions.

As a supportive organisation or organisations in solidarity with the grievances of the students, we may advice them to call off their agitation, explaining our reasons for doing so.

But I must emphasise that we have absolutely no right to arbitrarily barge in and terminate their action.

If, as the Tigers now claim that they acted with the consent of the students, then there was no need for them to kidnap the students to end the fast. The students would have called off their action by themselves.

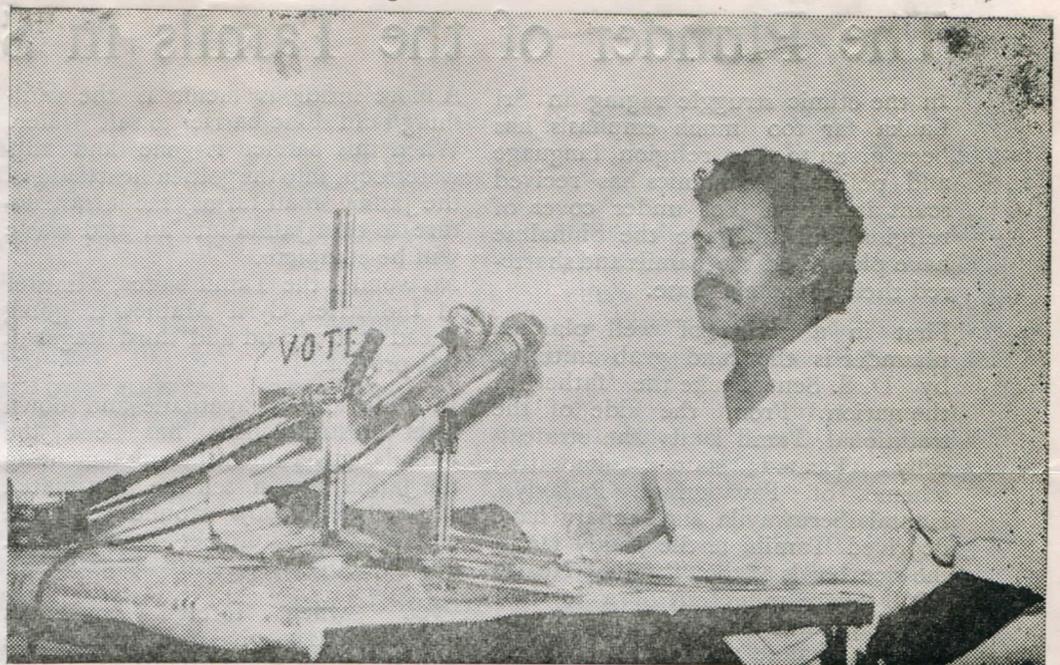
Q: The Tigers claim that non-violent actions today serve no purpose. In fact it is pointed out that even in democracies like Britain, hunger strikes have proven useless.

Would you like to comment on this?

First of all I would like to point out that we do not accept that Britain is a democratic country.

I ask you in which democratic country will a rulers allow one of its citizens, and one of the elected representatives of the people at that to starve to death.

Again in a revolution all member of that society do not actively participate in the armed struggle. The total revolution is many-sided and multi-faceted. In this



Comrade Uma at the Studio Of Voice of Thamil Eelam

struggle non-violent actions have a large and important role to play.

For example the role of the trade unions is to mobilise their membership in mass actions such as strikes, go-slows and similar activities, not burning down their places of work.

I would say that non-violent mass actions have a very vital role to play in the revolutionary struggle of a people. It has to go hand-in hand with the armed struggle. It is the other side of the coin so-to-say.

Q: As you have mentioned, the present system of education helps promote the capitalist cause. A number of persons have condemned this system and said it is useless.

Would you advise students to abandon their studies and participate in the armed liberation struggle? Also do you feel that the present education system is counter-productive and ought to be scrapped?

A: Education is most important for us if we are to recognise the real problems and to take important decisions, as well as to mobilise the people.

For those involved in the armed struggle education is of great importance. They must have a wide and comprehensive knowledge ranging from guerilla tactics to a thorough knowledge of world affairs, the political situation and power alignments.

For all this an education is a must.

Q: Going on the premise that the present education system serves only the capitalist class, does the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam have any concrete plans for changing this system once you come into power.

Again does your organisation have any experience in the field of education, to change the content and direction of the educational system to suit the needs of socialist aspirations?

A: Our organisation does have some experience in the field of education, especially in changing it to suit the needs of a socialist society.

Our cadres worked together with the Ghandhyam Society education programmes and the results are there for all to see.

Q: Finally is there something you would especially like to say..... a message or anything else?

Yes, there are a number of points I would like to stress. Each and every person has an important role to play. As individuals we cannot escape from the problems. We must therefore get together and fight for our rights. Each individual is important, so we must take some form of action each in our own way, no matter how small it may seem. I must repeat what our organisation has always been emphasising. We

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The Plunder of the Tamils in Sri Lanka

In the ethnic struggle raging in Sri Lanka far too much emphasis has been given to race, religion, language and politics. Economics has received scant attention. Yet under cover of religion and language the Sinhalese have plundered the Tamils and shattered their economic base.

First in a series of well planned plunder is the land grab initiated by D. S. Senanayake the 'father of the nation.' From the side of the traditional Tamil lands the strategically located state colonisation schemes of Pavatkulam, Padaviya, KantalaiSeruwavila, and Amparai have deprived Tamils fertile paddy lands, the rice bowls of the Tamils. Nearly 3,000 square miles out of a total of 7,000 sq. miles have been given over to the Sinhalese and that too to the dregs of the Sinhala race who have heaped death and desolation in periodical riots on the Tamils. Now, with the completion of the accelerated Mahaweli Project another 1,000 sq. miles of Tamil lands will be taken over by the Sinhalese. Only the very arid north and patches of unfertile areas around Trincomalee and Batticaloa will remain for the Tamils. Even this is to be colonised with 260 Buddha Vihares, Buddhists to support the Vihares and the army to defend the Vihares and the Buddhists.

Letters

to the editor

The sea board on the north and the East also not been spared. Sinhala fishermen from Negombo are settling down in Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Batticaloa with army protection to deprive the Tamil fishermen their traditional preserves. Fishing in the north and the east which is estimated to be 60% of the total catch in Sri Lanka will go into the hands of the Sinhalese.

The ilmanite project at Palimodai has sent away thousands of tons of precious mineral valuable for nuclear power to the Japanese.

It is high time someone worked out the cash equivalent of this wholesale plunder from the Tamil area.

The Cement factory at Kankesanthurai is not only a symbol of plunder of the rich sandstone of Kankesanthurai but also the rich black agricultural soil of Murugan. The cement dust that is pilling up on the thickly populated Northern coastal town is a threat to the health of the people.

A more insidious factor is the vanishing sand stone barrier to salt water. When this barrier is gone and salt-water seeps into the golden heartland of the Jaffna small farms; the infrastructure, to turn Jaffna into an arid waste will be complete.

No wonder the Tamil baiter, Minister of Industries, Cyril Mathew is going ahead with second and third stages of this project.

In contrast how apathetic and down right obstructionists has been the Sinhala government in implementing the Jaffna lagoon scheme. Estimated at Rs. 10,000,000/- around 1960, the cost of the project now is Rs. 50,000,000/-.

Even when foreign agencies are prepared to give the money the Sinhala government is refusing to start this project. Apart from the agricultural benefits, this project will help to solve the ever threatening salt water problem in the peninsula.

The salt taken way to enrich the British and Sinhala coffers for the past 60-70 years from the Elephant Pass salterns could alone have helped the Tamils to lay a firm economic base. Studies made by Jaffna College Economic Faculty reveal that salt and salt based industries could finance a major section of foreign exchange for Eelam.

The valuable timber taken away from the forests of Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Batticaloa by the government and recently by illicit means by Sinhala government officers, police, and army personnel could amount to a sizable part of the wealth of Eelam.

The deliberate negligence of the palmyrah palm, while billions in subsidy are given to coconut, rubber, tea and spices in the south has left this immense source of income to the Tamils in a state of total collapse. The palmyrah palm alone, estimated at 7,000,000 in a population of 3.5 million people could become the backbone of Eelam economy.

The plunder of the sweat and blood of Tamil labourers on tea, rubber, and coconut estates in the south is beyond reckoning. For nearly a hundred years these unfortunate people have laboured to produce 65% of the foreign exchange earnings of Sri Lanka. The British Raj and now the Sinhala Brown Sahibs are fattening on the misery of these Tamils and repaying them with murder, rape, arson and looting.

How can one compute the worth and value of the intellectual contribution the Tamils have made in the top echelons of government service and in the technical administrative and

supervisory services in the south. For generations they lived and worked in south, some have even lost contact with the north and east.

Billions have been plundered from the Tamils in the south in cash and kind in ever recurring race riots since 1956. Thousands of lives have been lost. Womenhood has been despoiled and desecrated. Wealth of Hindu temples taken away by thugs.

There has to be a day of reckoning the billions lost by the Tamils together with interest has to be collected. This alone is sufficient to finance Eelam for a hundred years.

Let the Tamil youth to wake up to this massive plunder of their lands and people and make resolve to bring justice and fair play to a people who have been wronged beyond endurance.

S. A. David

For the benefit of ...

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Lankan Tamils are receiving military training and assistance in South India. It is for the Government of Sri Lanka to solve the problem. We have offered our good offices in good faith.

*Yours sincerely,
Sgd Indira Gandhi.*

Commenting on Mrs. Gandhi's letter, columnist 'Don Mithune' of the WEEKEND, Colombo wrote in the issue of January 8th 1984:-

"If one were to take Mrs. Gandhi on her word she would ensure that Lanka's self-determination and sovereignty are left unimpeded... While commenting candidly about her policy of non-interference Mrs. Gandhi had blamed a 'small group of extremists' who have been demanding a separate state in Lanka. Now everyone in this country knows who has been demanding a separate state. And Mrs. Gandhi must also know who they are. Most encouraging news indeed from the Indian Leader...one wonders how the TULF would react to the statement by Mrs. Gandhi:-

Editor

Mrs. Gandhi talks in the PAST-TENSE not in the present, when she says 'except for a handful of extremists, no one advocated a separate Tamil state until the recent carnage and destruction. Since the whole sentence has to be read together did it not strike the Daily News or Don Mithuna of the Weekend that what possibly Mrs. Gandhi means is that after the 'recent carnage and destruction' it is not merely a handful of extremists but the whole Tamil nation advocating a separate Tamil state?

COMMENT...

Page 1 contd.

plantations. Thousands were rendered homeless and destitute. They could be seen helpless on the streets of Kandy, Matale and Nuwara Eliya. Hundreds upon hundreds of them died of malnutrition and hunger during this time.

From 1956 onwards in addition to the various discriminatory acts legislated against us, we and our people have from time to time suffered bloodshed, death and numerous acts of arson unleashed by the state itself.

We have witnessed our mothers and sisters defiled and gang-raped by racist Sinhala mobs. We watched as our leaders were humiliated, betrayed, imprisoned and tortured.

One important thread ran through our history. At one time or another while all these acts of discrimination were being enacted against members of our community, our leaders were also sitting in the very governments which kicked, booted and discriminated against us. We were a divided people.

Finally we decided that enough was enough. It was we, who brought our community together under one umbrella organisation. Then we, the young people forced our leaders to take the final decision to set up a separate state within the Tamil nation.

It was we, the youth, who worked in the refugee camps/settlements when government did not lift a finger to help our brothers and sisters who were forced to flee their wretched homes on the estates. We lived with them and helped them become human beings once again.

It was and still is the flower of the Tamil nation who face the guns, rifle butts, whips and torture chambers of the racist state forces without flinching.

Again it is we, who defend and protect our people when they are at the mercy of hooligans in uniform.

Our cause has always been, our people our culture, our language our religion and our homeland.

It was this love that pushed us onwards. It brought us together under a common umbrella organisation and it closed the door we thought, on an era of deceit deception and betrayal.

With the coming together of the bourgeois parliamentary parties, together with the revolutionary masses under the leadership of the young people, the Tamil nation progressed rapidly forward. Today we stand on the threshold of freedom. Yet, sadly we must admit that once again our unity is being threatened.

The main seeds of disunity are being sowed by the gangly son of a leader revered by the whole Tamil people.

Using large funds which have been made available to him by well meaning organisations which support the Tamil cause, this uncouth son of a famous father is attempting to build his personal power base at the expense of the Tamil nation.

But he, together with his new found surrogates, some of whom mouth Marxist phrases have forgotten an important lesson.

Real power lies in the people, and in the people alone. The heroic people who for years patiently bore the brunt of racist attacks both physical and legislative have today moved beyond the shadow of these bourgeois politicians.

In all fields they are uniting and involving themselves in peoples actions. Be it the students, the peasants or the workers, on all fronts actions mobilising all sectors of the people are taking place.

The students through their agitation and hunger strikes have attracted world-wide attention and the national solidarity of the Tamil people.

The peasants, that is the plantation Tamils resettled in the north and east have decided that they will not quit their lands as ordered by government.

Here again through their action they have mobilised their people. They are participating, and they have turned the spotlight of world attention on their cause.

Daily hundreds of letters, telegrams, cables and messages supporting the rights of the plantation people keep pouring into the office of J. R. Jayawardena.

Yes, Jayawardana is now afraid, despite military might on his side, despite the American dollars at his back and call, Jayawardana is, in his own way quite helpless. He is now faced with the power of people..., the common man...the worker and the peasant and the women.

Yet today Jayawardana is not alone in his fear sections of the Tamil bourgeoisie whose only interest in the national liberation struggle was their own selfish search for power and wealth see the writing on the wall.

This is what has turned sons of revered leaders into saboteurs of unity, and changed Appapillai's historic role of leading the Tamil nation to freedom to bartering away this precious gift for a mess of pottage called a post of "Chief Minister".

Yes, a pattern is emerging, and the real revolutionaries can now be distinguished from the bourgeois politicians.

PLOT ON...

(Contd from page 3)

thinking that it is only **WE** who can solve the problems of the people. The problems of the farmers or peasants cannot be solved by a group of intellectuals who have nothing in common with either their way of life, problems or the needs of the peasantry.

In similar manner the problems of the students cannot be solved by gun-fighters and cowboys.

These actions only serve to take away from the people. It makes them feel helpless, and builds a spirit of dependence. This is dramatically opposed to the spirit of the revolution. In fact they are counter-productive and are the actions of adventurists.

The problems of the students can only be solved together with the students and those immediately concerned in the field of education. In similar manner, the problems of the peasants, the women and the workers.

In this light the action of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in kidnapping the fasting students, force-feeding them and breaking their action can only be regretted.

The only person who benefitted by the action of the Tigers was

COMRADE UMA...

(Contd from page 5)

must come together in this struggle for freedom from the chauvinistic capitalistic forces arranged against us. All progressive groups and forces must come together on a common programme, to be most effective.

J.R. Jayawardene who was in quandry as to how to deal with non-violent activists.

The poor judgement of the Tigers is further exposed by their comparing the fasts of Bobby Sands and his comrades in the British prison with the fast of the students at Jaffna campus.

In the first instance whereas Thatcher was faced by people who were convicted, no doubt in bourgeois courts, Jayawardene was faced by students who were victims of violence.

Another misconception of the Tigers is their belief that Britain is a democracy, and the trend of thinking which follows '.....if even in a democracy like Britain...'

Whoever heard of a democracy waging war against another country and claiming sovereignty over a land thousands of miles away. Or to quote the Tigers own example of Bobby Sands, who other than a fascist will heartlessly watch a fellow-human being starve to death! These misconceptions are caused by a lack of analytical thinking and poor knowledge.

I would also like to say a few words to the Sinhala masses. I want to assure them that our struggle is not against any of them. Our struggle is not against the Sinhala people, their language, religion or culture. Our struggle against the bourgeoisie state which is oppressing both of us. But it is using the Tamil issue to take the minds of the

While we agree that the present system of education is geared towards perpetuating a capitalistic mode of production and value systems, there is no gain saying the fact it inculcates in us, a mental discipline which helps us analyse our actions and foresee the results of these actions.

What we should strive to do is not to condemn out of hand education as such, rather to tailor it to suit the needs of the society we are working towards.

When we are talking of liberation and revolution, education plays an extremely important role. For education is vitally important if the workers and the peasants are to play an active role in the ongoing revolution, to shape their lives and destinies.

To make this a reality we are even now preparing a new educational system to promote socialist values as well as to help the people recognise the structures of society, and in this way recognise their enemy.



Sinhala people away from the numerous burdens and hardships it is heaping on them.

Finally it is my sincere wish that we will one day be able to come together as comrades to overthrow the evil forces of imperial monopoly capitalism which is keeping our people in bondage and poverty.



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