

WORLD TAMILS UNITE

Presidential Address by
PALA. NEDUMARAN



WORLD TAMIL CONFEDERATION

6, South Lock Street,
(Near Kotturpuram Railway Station)
Kottur, Chennai - 600 085.

WORLD TAMIL CONFEDERATION

Inaugural Conference
July 20 & 21, 2002 – Chennai

Presidential Address by

PALA. NEDUMARAN

Translated by

M.S. VENKATACHALAM, Trichy



WORLD TAMIL CONFEDERATION

6, South Lock Street,
(Near Kotturpuram Railway Station),
Kottur, Chennai - 600 085.

Bibliographical Data

- Title** : *World Tamil Confederation,
Inaugural Speech*
- Author** : *Pala. Nedumaran*
- Transcreator** : *M.S. Venkatachalam, Trichy.*
- International Edition** : *January, 2005*
- Publishers** : **WORLD TAMIL CONFEDERATION**
*6, South Lock Street,
(Near Kotturpuram Railway Station),
Kottur, Chennai - 600 085.
Phone : 91-44-52182433.*
- Price** : *Rs. 10*

WORLD TAMIL CONFEDERATION

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To Protect the Physical Welfare of Tamils**
- 2. To Protect the Cultural Identity of Tamils**
- 3. To Protect the Civic, Political and Human Rights of Tamils.**

WORLD TAMIL CONFEDERATION

Inaugural Conference

July 20 & 21, 2002 – Chennai

Presidential Address by PALA.NEDUMARAN.

Dear Tamils' who have assembled here from all over the world, with abundant enthusiasm and love of Tamil! Respected savants of Tamil, who have been insisting upon the unity of Tamils in your learned speeches delivered during the past two days! Respectful delegates representing various countries of world! Brothers and sisters of Tamil soil! Let me at the outset offer you my humble regards and express my gratitude for having given me this valuable opportunity.

“World Tamils’ Confederation” has been the long-dreamt plan of Tamil scholars and the earnest lovers of Tamil. Today, it has taken shape. **Rev.Fr. Thaninayagam** and **Dr. K.P. Rathinam** have got the credit of sowing the seed for the unity of World Tamils. We are proud to assert that both of them belong to Tamil Eelam.

It was Fr. Thaninayagam had the honour of uniting all the Tamil scholars of the world and thereby he paved the way for organizing a world-level conference for the research studies of Tamils. For the purpose of establishing a Research Centre for Tamil, for organising International Conferences for this purpose and to co-ordinate the research activities conducted by

the various Universities of the world, that saint-cum-savant toiled with great far-sightedness. As a result of his tireless toil, there is ample progress in the research studies pertaining to Tamil.

With the purpose of uniting all the Tamils who lived in the various parts of the world, **Dr.K.P. Rathinam** formed “**World Tamil Forum**” (உலகத் தமிழ் மன்றம்) in Singapore during 1963.

Mr. David, a leader of the Tamils of Malaysia formed an organization which was named as “**World Tamils’ Federation**” (உலகத் தமிழர் மாமன்றம்).

Mr. Thani Seran, a leader of the Tamils living in the United States, organized **World Tamil’s Organisation**. (உலகத் தமிழர் அமைப்பு)

During 1980, when I was a member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, I insisted that the Government of Tamil Nadu should take all measures to unite the various Tamil organizations of the world, to increase co-ordination among them and to organize a World Tamil Confederation. Mr. M.G.R., the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu accepted my suggestion and made a historic announcement of the formation of WORLD TAMIL SANGAM, during the Fifth World Tamil Research Conference, held at Madurai during 1981. He allocated Rs.10 crores for this purpose. A place was located at Madurai for this organization and even officials were appointed for running it. Tamils all over the world were highly delighted at this. But after his demies, the entire scheme came to a standstill!

During the past 20 years, whenever I had the opportunity to go abroad, I had discussions with the Tamil organizations of various countries. All of them unanimously lent their support to my suggestion that an “Umbralla Organisation” should be formed uniting all the organizations functioning now in various countries. They even assured me to extend their helping hand.

During 1999, **7th International Conference on Tamil Culture** (உலகத் தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டு 7வது மாநாடு) conducted at Chennai. Mr. **R.N. Veerappanar**, the president of this Organisation requested me to inaugurate the conference. I accepted his invitation and during my inaugural speech I announced a Five Point Programme.

1. Formation of an Umbralla organisation for the World Tamils.
2. Designing a Tamil flag common to Tamils living through the world.
3. Preparing a common Tamil Anthem.
4. Designing a National dress for World Tamils.
5. Starting a Monetary Fund or Bank to cater to the needs of World Tamils.

ORGANISATION OF TAMILS

Tamils are living in more than fifty countries throughout the world. In the States of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry in India, the majority of the people are Tamils. A considerable number of Tamils live in the states of Kerala , Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Some of them are legislators – even ministers! Again a considerable number of Tamils had gone to some other States in India, and to the cities like Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Bhopal and Delhi in search of jobs and they are eking out their livelihood there.

In countries like Burma, Malaysia, Singapore, Mauritivs, South Africa, Guiana, Reunion, Sechiles, Thailand, Kampurchea, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia and Fiji Islands, Tamils are living with Citizenship Rights and as legally recognized minorities.

In Singapore a Tamilian occupies the prestigious position of Presidentship of that nation. Some Tamils are ministers in Singapore government. In countries like Malaysia, South Africa, Mauritius, Guiana and Sechiles, Tamils are high level officers, Members of Parliament and even Ministers.

In the European countries, the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Arabian Countries, Tamils live in scattered places. A small number of Tamils live in countries like China, Japan and Philippines.

No effort has till now been taken either in Tamil Nadu or in Tamil Eelam or elsewhere to safeguard the rights of Tamils. There is no way to foster bondage among them on the basis of language, culture, art, literature or history.

There is *Arab League* to echo the voice of the Arabians living in 27 countries. There is the *Pan African Confederation* to voice the grievances of the Africans. But, pity it is, that there is no Organisation to voice the grievances of Tamils who live in more than 50 countries!

In all the Southeast Asian countries, Chinese people live in considerable numbers. No nation is bold enough to ignore them as aliens, or to exploit their toil or even to forfeit their rights. It is because China happens to be a powerful nation. Hence it remains a strong fortress to all the Chinese people living abroad. But, there is no power to safeguard the interests of Tamils. At this crucial juncture, an umbrella - like organisation for the world Tamils is an indispensable need.

“ ‘Tamils of all the countries of the world! Unite!’ – this clarion call is not against humane spirit. Rather it is based on the philosophy of life. For the purpose of coordinating the services rendered by Tamil organizations functioning in the various countries of the world, for strengthening our relationship on the basis of language, culture, art, literature and

history, in order to face all our future problems with the help of the countries of the world and to find out solutions for those problems, the formation a World-level Tamil Organisation is the dire need of the hour.

FLAG OF TAMILS

“The ancient Tamil kings – Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas – have their own flags, each having a different symbol. The Jaffna rulers had designed their own flag. Yet, till now, is no common flag for the Tamils living in different countries of the world.

ANTHEM OF TAMILS

“Tamil Nadu has got its own Anthem which eulogises Tamil. Tamil Eelam also has got such an Anthem. But there is no common Anthem as yet to be sung by Tamils, who live in the various countries of the world. It is also a must.

NATIONAL DRESS FOR TAMILS

“People of each country have got their own distinct dress which is suitable to their culture and traditions. But the National Dress of Tamils is no more in use. When so many tribes of the world were not civilized enough to have a proper dress, Tamils used sophisticated dress materials for their daily use. Even three thousand years ago, textiles woven by Tamils reached Greek and Rome in the west and China in the east. It is shameful that such a civilized stock remains till now without designing any proper National Dress The National Dress of a race bears testimony to its stature and culture.

A MONETARY FUND OR BANK FOR WORLD TAMILS

“Tamils are engaged in trade and industry in a number of countries throughout the world. But there is no separate Monetary Fund or bank to offer financial assistance for their progress. They have to bank upon the banking organizations belonging to the people of other races!

“Jews, who are widespread in a number of countries of the world, have got their own banks and financial institutions, through which they are able to enhance their trade and industry. Armenians also have similar organisations and enhance their business activities. Establishing a separate Monetary Fund or Bank for Tamils for financing them to enhance their business, is an indispensable need”

- Thus I voiced my feelings in the International Conference on Tamil Culture, and I thought that my job was over with that. But Mr. **R.N. Veerappanar** tabled a resolution welcoming my Five Point Programme and asking me to undertake the task of implementing the programme and had it adopted.

Then I hosted a dinner to the delegates who had come from abroad to participate in the conference. There a **Steering Committee** (அமைப்புக் குழு) was formed under my Presidentship. In furtherance of this, during the past two years we have been contacting Tamil Organisations and eminent Tamil personalities throughout the world by E-mail, telephone, Fax and letters soliciting their consent for the programme and also their suggestions. All of them expressed their enthusiastic support to the Five Point Programme and advised that it should be immediately implemented. They had offered some valuable suggestions also. I was astonished and even highly elated at the response. I could then understand that the same kind of feelings, frustrations and expectations existed in the minds of Tamils throughout the world.

Kavignar Kasi Anandan of Tamil Eelam headed the Committee for preparing a Tamil Anthem and has composed a splendid verse for that purpose.

Pulavar K.T. Pachayappan headed the committee for designing a World Tamil Flag. Artist Mr. **Veera Santhanam** has given us a good design for the Flag.

The committee headed by Mr. **Ilampirai**, Mr. **A. Rahman** undertook the task of designing a National Dress for the world Tamils.

Dr. S.N. Deivanayagam headed the Committee entrusted with the task of establishing a Monetary Fund or Bank for World Tamils.

The Committee for drafting the Rules and Regulations of the World Tamils' Confederation was headed by **Dr. Suba Veerapandian** and **Prof. C. Ramamurthy** furnished us the concerned Draft.

The programme of the conference was chalked out by a Committee headed by **Dr. K. Nedunchezian** and the members of the committee, while discharging their duty, were duty-conscious and acted fully realizing their responsibility. They wanted to invite all the Tamil savants, poets and leaders living in the various countries of the world. They were particular that none of them should be missed or ignored. In their words and deeds, they proved beyond doubt that the World Tamils' Confederation should be a real Forum of World Tamils transcending all the existing barriers.

All the Tamils of the world should be the true lovers of Tamil. This trait we should develop through this conference. If we, the Tamils get united at the time of crises, and have the will to cross the barriers of castes, creeds, territories and political affiliations, there is no force on earth to defeat us!

A race that is united can withstand all sorts of crises and the British race is the best example for this postulate. During 1930s, Mr. Chamberlain, the then Prime Minister of Britain signed a Peace Treaty with Mr. Adolf Hitler in Munich. But within a short span, Hitler repudiated that treaty, which act highly irritated the Britishers. They formed a National Government and chose Mr. Winston Churchill to lead that government during the Second World War. They pinned their faith upon

him and felt that he would lead them on the path of victory. The entire British race stood united. The British descendants living in America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand lent their support to Great Britain. As a result, Britain got a tremendous victory in the war. This spirit of unity, we, the Tamils should inherit from the Britishers. Whenever a problem arises to Tamils living in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia or South Africa, it should be considered as a problem to the entire Tamil race and every Tamilian has got a bounden duty to wipe out the tears of his suffering brethren!

World Tamils' Confederation is a broad-based organisation with far-reaching ambitions about its future activities. After two years of our unstinted efforts and toil and also with the active co-operation of all the Tamils of the world, we came forward to conduct the Inaugural conference. Without understanding this background attempts were made to nip it in the bud! They hurled at us a wild charge that the conference was intended to lend support to the LTTE. I was pained very much at their ignorance! I didn't want to clash with them and thus magnify the issue. So, we approached the High Court and with the permission of the Court we are now successfully conducting the conference.

I don't want to elaborately discuss about the "intended hurdle" to conduct this conference. Yet I want to categorically assert one thing. During the past 20 years, I have been delivering speeches in support of the LTTE. Never did I hide anything – rather I am not accustomed to it! Whenever any Tamilian suffers in any part of the world, I consider it as my bounden duty to express my concern over that! Never would I play one and the same tune irrespective of the occasions concerned! I won't shed tears during a wedding ceremony nor would I be jovial during a condolence meeting. If, during my speech, I want to support the LTTE, I would do so in the proper forum. Fearlessness is my in-born trait – it is a hereditary one!

The purpose of this conference is not to lend support to LTTE alone! The purpose is to study the problems of Tamils' living throughout the world and not house of Tamils living in Sri Lanka alone. Those who attempted to ban this conference did not realise this basic truth. The purpose of this conference is to unite all the Tamils without any prejudice or predilection! It is to voice the grievances of all persons, including those who tried to ban this! This fact they should fully realize!

In fact, we are in no way irritated against those who tried to put hurdles. They have, in fact, indirectly helped us! Three days prior to the conference, my friend Mr. **V.C. Guhanathan**, a film director expressed his apprehension that the publicity for the conference was not sufficient and insisted that full-page advertisements should be made in all the dailies. I looked at my friend **Mr. S. Chandresan**, the Treasurer of the conference. His eyes betrayed the insufficiency of our funds for that purpose. We were at a loss to understand the way out. Perhaps, those who banned the conference had rendered us a timely help by banning just two days prior to the conference. They have incidentally given us a free and wide publicity and I, therefore, profusely thank them!

Through you who have assembled here in large numbers, I wish to elaborate the ideals of the **World Tamils' Confederation** to the entire world. This Confederation has undertaken the onerous task of the following five liberations.

1. Safeguarding the language
2. Preserving the culture.
3. Writing the history of our race.
4. Preserving the identity of our race.
5. Establishing our rights on the soil.

All of us should realize that unless the above-said tasks are completed, Tamil and the Tamils would be doomed once for all!

1.SAFE GUARDING THE LANGUAGE

Tamil is a highly refined and a classical language. It has got ancient literature and well-defined rules of grammar. It is a hoary tongue having a history of more than three thousand years. It has been a language of literature and a language of the masses – both spoken and written. In spite of its antiquity it remains still fresh, withstanding all the ravages of time. More than the antiquity, the broad outlook of Tamils is the pride of our culture. Even on those days, thoughts of Tamils were broad-based and they were concerned about the whole world!

Even before the World War II Mr. **Wendel Wilky**, an American thinker, dreams of the formation of a World Government. But, even 2500 years ago, Tamils had such a broad out look. “EVERY WHERE I AM AT HOME – EVERY-ONE IS MY KIN” (யாதும் ஊரே, யாவரும் கேளிர்) – these famous words are the outcome of the broad mind of the ancient Tamils and this lofty ideal is the motto of the World Tamils’ Confederation.

Thiruvalluvar whom we consider as our philosopher and guide, has not mentioned the name of either “Tamil” or “Tamilian”, anywhere in any of his 1330 couplets. Does it mean that he was not a lover of Tamil? No! Not that! He did not write his treatise for Tamils alone! Instead, it was intended for the people of the whole world. That is why all the scholars of the world unanimously declare that it is a precept of the world. **Fr.Besky** of Italy came to Tamil Nadu and after learning Tamil, he assumed a new Tamil name as “**Veerama Munivar**”! As he studied Thirukkural he was wonder-struck and translated it into Latin. **Fr. G. U. Pope**, a Christian Saint of Britain translated Kural into English. As a result the grandeur of that treatise spread all over the world.

The term “World” was often used by our ancient Tamil poets with a far-reaching thought. They have invariably begun their

literature with the word, "World". **Thiruvalluvar** refers to the world even in his first couplet. **Nakkeerar, Kapilar, Ilango Adigal, Sekkizhar, Pavanandi Munivar** – all of them use the term "World" in their literature. **Poet Kamban** begins his treatise with, "All the worlds". Thus our ancient poets had a broad view of the entire world.

During the days of **Tholkappiar**, Tamil Nadu ranged from Vada Venkadam in the north to Cape Comorin in the south. Now the frontiers have changed. Tamils are every-where in the world. So our realm has broadened. A situation has arisen wherein Tamils live in almost all the countries of the world. In the population of the world, Tamilian is one in every thousand. **Nom Gamsky** a famous linguist of the U.S. recently came to Calcutta and there he declared, "**For all the languages of the world either Tamil or Aftrican spoken Swagili can be the origin language i.e. Mother tongue**". The same view was expressed by **Prof. Devaneyya Pavanar**, a number of years back; but he was then ridiculed. His view was then described as a figment of his imagination and it was ignored. When the same view is expressed now by an American scholar, our people are really astounded at the antiquity of our language!

Tamil music also is very ancient. It is the forerunner of Carnatic music and even the music of western countries. Some research scholars have expressed the view that Tamil music reached Greece through Alexander the Great!

But, what is the position of our language now? A report of the UNESCO reveals that Tamil finds place in the list of languages which would extinguish from usage. Our children are not given proper opportunity and so they switch over to study English. Children of Tamils living abroad have begun to learn the languages prevailing there. A Tamil savant of Australia **Dr. Pon. Sathlanathan** has made shocking observation as follows:- "Our children living in European countries use 60% of Tamil words and

40% of the words of other languages during their conversation. But in Tamil Nadu, our children use 60% of English words and only 40% of Tamil words". If this situation continues, our Tamil would soon face extinction!

From the days of **Tholkappiar** Sanskrit has been making incessant attempts to disfigure Tamil and thereby to cause damage to it. Our kings and poets have successfully thwarted those attempts. Yet, during the 14th century, more and more Sanskrit words came to be used under the pretext that a text with such a mixture of words would be like a gem-studded ornament! The usage of Sanskrit terms increased more and more making Tamil suffer under its stranglehold. At this critical juncture **Maraimalai Adigal** emerged in the scene and liberated Tamil! More and more Tamil savants followed his footsteps and preserved the purity of Tamil.

During the past three thousand and odd years, attempt was made to obliterate Tamil using Sanskrit as their formidable weapon. Since that weapon has now been blunted, they have switched over to the weapon of English for achieving their purpose! Distressed at this, our renowned poet **Kasi Anathan** made the following sarcastic remark. He said, "During their conversations, Tamils make a curious mixture of Tamil and English words and thereby speak an altogether new language which can rightly be dubbed as '**Thamingilam**'"

Tamils followed several religions and creeds like Christianity, Islam, Saivism, Vaishnavism, Buddhism, Jainism and Asivagam (a creed practiced earlier to Jainism). Those creeds were instrumental for the development of Tamil. The saints of these religions and creeds added lustre to the literature of Tamil. Tamils, who were divided by their religious faiths, were actually united by the common bond of Tamil! But, castes were never instrumental for the growth of Tamil! Rather, they effectively divided the Tamils!

So, our language should be safeguarded from the danger of extinction. This is the first and foremost task in the Five Point Programme. Tamils are now spread over throughout the world and hence there is the imminent danger of the native languages mingling with Tamil. If such a mingling is left unchecked, Tamil would get disfigured and take different shapes from country to country. So, both literary Tamil and colloquial Tamil should be one and the same throughout the world. When the world is marching towards an era of science and technology, the new terms coined by us should be uniform throughout the world. It is a must. In linguistic reform and in coining new scientific and technological terms, our scholars all over the world should sit together and arrive at a consensus. In this scientific age when the influence of computer is increasing more and more, whatever reforms we make, should be uniform throughout the world. If we undertake such a well-planned and concerted effort, we can safeguard our language from extinction.

But today Tamil is considered as a fenceless field and hence all kinds of cattle enter and graze in it! During his speech Mr. **Venkatakrishnan** pointed out this fact. He delved at large as to how our Tamil journals recklessly use English words. It is nothing but a part of a Master Plan to obliterate Tamil. Our children also begin to imitate and follow them. They are forced to speak faulty language. This situation should be put an end to at all cost.

The late-lamented scholar **K.A.P. Viswanatham** thought of forming a high-level committee with necessary powers assigned to it. For this purpose he organized **A Committee of Tamil Savants of Tamil Nadu**. It consisted of 49 Tamil scholars belonging to different departments and different subjects of study. If the Govt. of Tamil Nadu had recognized that Committee and had given it the power of coining new technical terms, it would have developed into a formidable organisation like the **French Academy**. But the efforts taken by him with far-reaching vision could not receive proper support either form the Government of Tamil Nadu or from the people

and hence the organisation became defunct. **For developing Tamil and for safeguarding it, a high-level committee should be formed. The world Tamils' Confederation would take proper steps for that purpose.**

In a number of Universities of the world Tamil is being taught. Research activities also are going on. These functions should be extended to other Universities also.

In the Asian countries, Tamil alone is used in web sites. Next to English, Tamil is gaining importance in this field. The need to teach Tamil to the Tamils who have migrated to some far-off countries and to their children, is on the increase. The role of such web sites is very important to take Tamil to their home and to create a sense of oneness or unity among the Tamils living in different countries of the world. Proper steps have to be taken in this arena also. These steps should be immediately taken.

2. PRESERVATION OF OUR CULTURE

In each and every sphere of Tamil culture, there is a decay. There is no need to elaborate this fact. There is a planned onslaught on our culture with a view to ruin it altogether. An unwanted and highly-poisonous culture is being introduced and our youngsters are increasingly becoming the victims of that alien culture.

When such a situation arose in Turkey, **Mr. Kamal Pasha** emerged in the scene and became instrumental for the resurgence of the Turkish culture. His organisation rang death knell to all sorts of fads and blind faiths. Till his emergence, Turkey was dubbed as a "Sick nation of Europe" Through his cultural revolution Kamal Pasha was able to make Turkey an advanced nation like any other country of Europe! In Red China, **Mr. Mao TSe Tung** spear-headed a revolution terming it as "Cultural Revolution" and it gave a new impetus to the advancement of his nation. Likewise we have to lead a cultural revolution and pave the way for preserving our culture.

Tamil culture was widespread in Southeast Asian countries, even before the birth of Christ. Historical monuments and archeological findings establish this fact beyond doubt. The late scholar Dr. **K.T. Thirunavukkarasu**, in his treatise, “Tamil Culture in South-east Asian countries” (தென்கிழக்காசிய நாடுகளில் தமிழ்ப் பண்பாடு) has furnished ample evidence for this assertion. During the 5th Century, Tamils migrated into the Southeast Asian countries. Pallava kings established their kingdoms there. Combodia kings of those days used the title “Varman” as appendage to their names. After Pallava kings, Rajendra Chola led expeditions to these countries and thousands of Tamils belonging to Chola territory migrated to those lands – even established Tamil kingdoms wherever possible! And when did we lose all of them? When the relationship between Tamil Nadu and the migrated Tamils was lost, we lost everything!

Later Chola and Pandya kings were pouncing upon each other for about 300 years and their main objective was obliterating their rivals. So, both the kingdoms became weak and they had to face onslaughts of some aliens. As a result Tamil Nadu went under the regime of Telugu speaking Vijayanagar kings. Since the Chola and Pandya kingdoms in Tamil Nadu became weak, the scattered Tamil Kingdoms of Southeastern countries also became weak. No assistance could they get from Tamil nadu. Other countries took advantage of this situation and the Tamil kingdoms there perished once for all. This is a tragic fact of history.

One important act of history we have to bear in our minds. Before the 15th Century, the island of Britain is unknown to the entire world. Only after the 15th Century, that small island, England, grew leaps and bounds because of the upsurge of the Britishers. Form 15th century onwards it won a number of wars and extended its imperialistic hold over Canada, America, Australia, Africa and over a number of Asian countries including India. Only on 15th century, the supremacy of Tamils came to an end while that of Britain made its beginning!

3.WRITING THE HISTORY OF OUR RACE

History of Tamils has not been fully written. Tamil Nadu has got its own history and Eelam land also has got. Yet, the history of Tamil race has not yet been written. If such a history has to be written, the historic relics and monuments scattered all over the world and the stone inscriptions should be collected.

The history of Tamils starts in the continent of Lemuria which is now submerged in the Indian Ocean. It goes upto the Indus Valley. It is linked with the Sumerian and Egyptian civilizations of Africa. There was trade link with Greece and Rome. The civilization is spread all over the Southeast Asian countries. A number of historical evidences remain buried underneath in all these countries. For writing our history by compiling and analyzing those pieces of evidence an international committee of scholars should be formed. This task should be commenced immediately. Shameful it is that we are ignorant of ourselves! To this, we have to put a full stop.

The late-lamented scholar **Prof. Devaneyya Pavanar** wrote the history of Tamils without any assistance from the government or from any of the universities. Based on that, our entire history should be written. It is our duty. This world Tamils' Confederation would definitely insist upon the government to do that job.

When the Europeans set foot in Asia, no race was bold enough to challenge their intrusion. Even then in Tamil Nadu valiant persons like **Puli Thevan, Kattabomman, Oomaithurai and Marudu Pandiar** raised their voices of protest against the alien rule! In the Eelam also **Sangili and Pandaravannian** protested against them. Even in the beginning of 20th century, persons like **Mr. Shenbagaraman, Mr. V.O. Chidambaranar and Thillayadi Valliammai** made history by their selfless sacrifice.

It was **Mr. Shenbagaraman**, who from his exile, formed the First Independent Government of India. **Mr. Singaravelar** was the first ideologist of Communism in

Asia. When anybody happened to go to Moscow from India, the first question put to him by **Mr. Lenin** was "How is Singaravelar?" It was **Kala Yogi Ananda Kumaraswamy** who was responsible for propagating in the entire world, not only the greatness of Tamil art and culture but also of those of entire India. So the Tamils have sacrificed a lot and have rendered invaluable service! But, is there due recognition for all the sacrifice rendered? Our history is blacked out! By writing our entire history containing all these details we can make our younger generation feel proud of our heritage! Such a pride we should infuse in their minds!

4. PRESERVING THE IDENTITY OF OUR RACE.

The upsurge of the race should take place with the conscious feeling that we all belong to Tamil race. The identity of the race is getting spoiled step by step. Tamils living in the various States of India are slowly forced to forget their mother tongue and converse with the local language, both in home and outside. This is a pathetic condition. Those living in Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have already become Karnatakites, Keralites and Andhra people. Situation that prevails abroad is more heart-rending. In Sri Lanka, Tamils living in certain places like Puthalam are, by the efflux of time, forced to speak Sinhala language only and hence they have altogether become 'Sinhalese people'. Tamils in Mauritius converse in French or Giryoli language and as such a transformation has taken place. Those living in British Guinea have altogether forgotten their language and have lost their identity. So, we have to liberate the entire Tamil race by making our people realize their identity. If a race becomes the target of such transformation, it means that race is heading fast towards disaster. Tamils should not become victims for such a disaster! Transformed persons should be restored to their original position. We should also ensure that no such calamity takes place again.

Though Jews were scattered throughout the world, wherever they settled they established their own educational institutions and cultural organisations and thereby could preserve their identity. Never did they abandon their habits or customs! So, even after the lapse of 2000 years they could retrieve their lost homeland, Israel and form their own government!

This salient lesson, Tamils have to learn from the Jews. Never should we lose our identity and it should be retrieved wherever we have lost.

5. ESTABLISHING OUR RIGHTS ON THE SOIL

If all the four afore-said ambitions are fulfilled, this ambition will become an easy task. Be it the Tamils of Sri Lanka or those living in India, their rights over their native soil should be established. A race which loses its hold over its soil will become a nomad. Losing this right is nothing but losing the right to live.

World Tamils' Confederation has been formed with the solemn ambition of achieving the above solemn ends! The organisation is to function with a far-sighted vision and to proceed on clearly demarcated limes. Please don't view this organisation with narrow mind. **It does not belong to the Tamils of any particular country. It belongs to the Tamils living all over the world. Surely it would achieve the goals enumerated herein.** Apart from this we have got no purpose in organizing this confederation. If we can achieve these goals within our life time, we would be highly delighted. Even if we fail to do so, our descendants would definitely achieve the purpose. We are pinning our faith upon the younger generation of our race.

In Sri Lanka, our valiant youngsters – both boys and girls – are making miraculous strides! Due to their supreme sacrifice, our

race has become well – known in the entire world! The world has begun to give us due regard and recognition. There are some who denigrate their fight for freedom, matchless valour and supreme sacrifice! This attitude enhances our mental agony! Do these persons possess an iota of valour, which those young warriors do? Even when they emerge out of their home to join the liberation force, they know fully well that they are fast heading towards the jaws of death! Disaster, they might face any time- today or tomorrow. They also possess their kith and kin who shower their love and affection towards them. They also have their own dreams of life. Everything they sacrifice for the liberation of their homeland. So, don't denigrate their sacrifice. Lend your support, if you can! Or else get aloof from the issue! Kindly don't make use of this for your petty political gains!

Let our thoughts be broad. **Mao Tse Tung** said, "Let hundred flowers blossom!" Let millions of flowers blossom in the minds of Tamils and let all of them be for the advancement and welfare of the world Tamils. I am proud to announce that our confederation will strive hard towards this end! We have successfully routed the attempt to nip it in the bud. Let it flourish like a huge banyan tree with numerous props to support it!

Throughout the past 20 years, our leaders and savants of Tamil have been working hard to infuse deep love towards Tamil in the minds of Tamils. If we do not infuse such a spirit to our younger generations nobody else would do it and achieve the goals of our organisation. We should not miss this opportunity bestowed upon us. If we take a lead now and make some progress, our future generations would continue the task and lead the Tamils on the path of victory. I have got unshakable faith in this! With this faith in my mind I assume the office of President of the World Tamils' Confed-

eration. I fully understand that this office is a crown of thorns! If by bearing this crown of thorns, I can retrieve the Tamil race, we should be prepared to bear even a thousand such crowns and even prepared to undergo crucifixion a thousand times!

Though the Tamils leaders who have come here from various countries of the world are more competent than myself to assume the office of Presidentship, they have come forward to propose my name. I assure at this juncture that I would be truthful to their faith upon me and I would get myself properly equipped for the purpose. With the fond hope that you who have assembled here and the world Tamils would give me an unstinted support, I assume the office. You have also given me the liberty of appointing other office bearers. I wish to fulfil this obligation in consultation with all the Tamil organisations of the world. Yet, for the present, let me make this announcement:- **Dr. Govindaswamy** (South Africa) **Dr. Indrakumar** (Britain), and **Dr. K.P. Aravannan** (Tamil Nadu) have been appointed as Vice Presidents. **Dr. S.N. Deivanayagam** (Tamil Nadu) and **Dr. Pon. Sathianathan** (Australia) have been appointed as Secretary - Generals. Other appointments I would do in consultation with others.

I profusely thank the Master Music Director **M.S. Viswanathan** for having given a splendid tune to the Tamil Anthem and thank **Dr. Sirkazhi. Sivachidambaram** for having sung made a superb recital of the same.

I thank **Kavignar Kasi Anandan**, a soul-stirring poet for having given the world Tamils, a number of Revolutionary songs and I thank **Thenisai Chellappa** for having them with his melliflu-

ous voice.

World Tamil Confederation has honoured **Dr. Govindaswamy, Dr. K. P. Rathinam, Pulavar Ilankumaranar and Film Director BharathiRaja** with the prestigious award of “World Renowned Tamilian” (உலகப் பெருந்தமிழர்). I profusely thank them for having accepted this award. These awards are given to them for having rendered various services for the advancement of Tamil and for the upliftment of Tamils living all over the world. Such awards would be continuously given to competent persons in all the conferences of World Tamil Confederation.

I thank Mr. **K. Rajaram**, the President of the Reception Committee, Messrs. **Dr. K.P. Aravanan, Dr. Manavai Musthafa, N. Arunachalam, Kavignar Kasi Anandan, Justice Sethu Murugabhoopathy, M.N.S. Manian, M. Arthanari**, Vice Presidents, Mr. **S. Chandresan**, the Treasurer, and Secretaries Messrs **Dr. S.N. Deivanayagam, Ilampirai M.S. Rahman, R. Padmanabhan, Prof. C. Ramamurthy** and **S. Shahul Hameed**. I thank **Mr. Ramachandra Marudupandiar**, President of the Finance Committee and its members. I also thank **Mr. V.C. Guhanathan**, President of the Cultural Programmes Committee and its members. My thanks are due to **Mr. K. Nedunchezian**, President of the Programmes Committee and its members. I thank **Mr. V.K.T. Balan** who presided over the Committee that looked after the Boarding and Lodging arrangements for the delegates and the members of that committee. President of the Publicity Committee **Mr. Sevvian** and the members of the committee deserve my word of appreciation. I also offer my thanks to all the members of the Reception Committee, to the

volunteers who rendered their service day and night and to the Management of Don Bosco Higher Secondary School who offered their premises for conducting our conference.

Finally, one word. This is a common organisation transcending all political affinities and even acrimonies. Some of our friends, while delivering their speeches in the conference goaded by emotion and referred to some of the present political problems. Perhaps they would have forgotten that this is not the proper forum to do so. If the mind of anybody is wounded, due to their inadvertent speeches, I, in the capacity of the President of this conference, beg his pardon.

Let me make this fervent appeal all the Tamils of the world to rise above the petty differences of castes and creeds and ever preserve their love of Tamil and the pride of being a Tamilian!

Let all the Tamils get united!

Let us march ahead in the world with pride!

