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The LTTE delegation in Colombo for the second round of talks with the government met President R. Premadasa on 15 June at his residence.

★ LTTE IN COLOMBO AS JVP LAUNCHES ANTI-INDIA 'WAR'

★ India & Sri Lanka in Diplomatic Showdown

★ A Major diplomatic row has broken out between Sri Lanka and India on the question of the continued presence of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in the island.

President Premadasa's unilateral announcement of the deadline of July 29 for a total IPKF pull out has apparently received short shrift from New Delhi which insists that the withdrawal of its troops must be linked to a satisfactory devolution of powers to the Provincial Council in the Tamil dominated North-East of the country and the time frame for the pull out must be set not unilaterally but by mutual consultation.

Faced with a violent anti-Indian campaign by the Sinhala ultra-nationalist JVP, and the demand for an immediate IPKF withdrawal by the LTTE with which the government is presently engaged in negotiations, Colombo has threatened to raise the matter at UN level.

★ EMERGENCY REIMPOSED – Transport Paralysed

Whether or not Delhi's response is a reflection of its unhappiness about it being sidelined in the current talks between the Colombo government and LTTE, or being enraged by Premadasa's clumsiness in unilaterally setting a deadline for the IPKF pull out without prior consultation with Delhi, what is obvious is that an unseemly open diplomatic showdown is in the making.

★ President Premadasa has reimposed a State of Emergency in Sri Lanka giving the country's security forces virtually unlimited powers in the wake of severe violent unrest, industrial action by transport workers which has virtually paralysed the public transport service. Most private operators and even motor-rickshaw drivers have been ordered off the road. Railway services also were severely disrupted.

CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Colombo Newsletter | 3 |
| The New Political Equation | 5 |
| On Withdrawal of IPKF | 6 |
| Devolution Bill Passed | 11 |
| News Round-up | 12 |

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CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Readers Forum | 16 |
| Jaffna Revisited | 19 |
| Carnatic Music Recital | 20 |
| Sabathipillai – A man with a vision | 21 |
| Classified Advertisements | 22 |

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ON THE JVPs MESSAGE TO THE TAMIL PEOPLE

The recent 'Message From the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna to the Tamil People' (page 7) must be considered for not only what it conveys but also for what it conceals.

Firstly, the JVP says that all people of Sri Lanka are one, nationals of one nation, the struggle should be for equal rights and not for separatism, and all would gain equal rights only under a socialist system. No one disputes that, as human beings, all the peoples in the island of Sri Lanka fall into one category. But that does not deny that they do speak different languages, profess different religions, possess their own cultural heritage and they do have and desire to protect their separate identities. The Tamil speaking people of the island have been unequally treated since independence by successive governments – deprivation of citizenship and voting rights for almost fifty per cent of them, their language was relegated to unequal status with the imposition of Sinhala only as the official language and there was further unequal and discriminatory treatment in employment, education and allocation of land even in the predominantly Tamil areas. As and when these occurred, the Tamil people demanded and peacefully struggled for 'equal rights', but they were denied those rights by various means including violence. The question of 'separatism' arose as a consequence of the continued rejection of 'equal rights'. When the JVP says that equal rights can be gained only under a socialist system, does that mean that the Tamil people should have waited patiently until Rohana Wijeweera and Company established their promised land of socialism? Besides, recent developments, particularly in relation to the nationalities question, in the Soviet Union and other east European countries which have functioning 'socialist systems' for decades, have exploded the received wisdom among even genuine socialists that ethnic and nationality problems are only a by-product of capitalism and that they would disappear with the advent of socialism.

The JVP leader, Rohana Wijeweera, studied in Moscow in the early 1960s until he defected to the Maoist camp when the ideological rift between Moscow and Peking split the Communist camp. However, during his days in Moscow, Mr. Wijeweera must have learnt about the right of self-determination of nations which was then entrenched in the Soviet Constitution for the different Soviet Nationalities. But

in the context of Sri Lanka, the JVP says that 'the struggle for self-determination by one community is negative'. The sheer deceit of the JVP is in the use of the term 'community' in relation to the Tamil people. Not only does the JVP fail to show why it regards the Tamil people's struggle for self-determination is negative, but it also denies to the Tamil people the status of a nationality or a nation.

The Tamil people, in the context of their experience under successive governments, are seeking to protect their identity as a people in areas in which they have historically and traditionally lived which they regard as their homelands. But to the JVP, 'there cannot exist homelands for each community within one nation-state'. To the JVP which seeks to cloak its chauvinistic interior with a liberal use of Marxist rhetoric, the capitalist concept of 'nation-state' has become so sacred that even the establishment of Provincial Councils is claimed to be dividing the people and the country, and hence its demand for their dissolution!

One will be very touched that the JVP is concerned about the repression of the Tamil people by the Indian army if not for the fact that the JVP was very eloquent in its silence when for years the Tamil people were being tortured and killed in their thousands by the Sri Lankan security forces. In fact one cannot forget the JVPs denunciation of the late Wijaya Kumaranatunga (who was later murdered by the JVP) for having gone to Jaffna and being photographed in the company of 'terrorist Tigers who were killing our heroic Sinhala soldiers'!

To confront a government which seeks to remain in power through rigged elections, to engage in armed resistance against the repressive machinery and agents of the state, and to campaign for the departure of a foreign army are legitimate and supportable. But what the JVP is doing is to raise the flag of 'patriotism', and in its name to campaign against even the limited rights granted to the Tamil people by seeking the repeal of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution and the dissolution of the Provincial Councils, to engage in a brutal campaign of political assassination of individuals belonging to opposition parties, and to be aligned with the most reactionary and chauvinist sections of Sinhala society. In short, the JVP has become the sword-arm of Sinhala chauvinism in its most violent forms.

COLOMBO NEWSLETTER

by Chinra

LTTE DELEGATION IN COLOMBO AS JVP LAUNCHES ANTI-INDIAN 'WAR'

June 15 – The capital of Sri Lanka was paralysed and all activities came to a halt yesterday, the day on which the Sinhala ultra-nationalist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) called for a hartal – a total shutdown – in the country to commence its much publicised campaign against what it describes as 'Indian imperialism' and its interests in the island. Shops, offices and all mercantile establishments remained shut and transport services came to a grinding halt. The situation was no different in most towns in the south of the country.

Bus services had already been disrupted during the previous days due to industrial action. JVP inspired student unrest accompanied by demonstrations covering many schools had already compelled the authorities to order the closure of schools. Although the issues which kept the universities of the country closed for the last two years had been resolved, a JVP inspired strike of the non-academic staff of the universities ensured that universities continued to remain closed, and undergrads were employed as the battering ram of the JVP in its campaign of violent disruption. Groups of students supporting the JVP 'invaded' various schools calling upon the student population to boycott classes and participate in demonstrations demanding the release of youths taken into custody in the course of security operations and the withdrawal of the Indian Peace Keeping Force.

The JVP's campaign against 'Indian imperialism' has taken the form of a call addressed to all Sri Lankans to boycott Indian goods and sever all links with Indian business interests including dealings with Indian banks, insurance companies, use or import of Indian goods and the screening of Indian films. The JVP edict declared that those who defied its call would be treated as 'enemies of the fatherland'. It also demanded that all those of Indian origin who had received 'distinguished citizenship' to leave the country. "Those who do not leave as ordered will be considered as conspirators, remaining behind to conspire against our fatherland. The DJV (Patriotic Peoples movement – the military wing of the JVP) is hereby ordered to treat them and act as such", the JVP threatened.

The deadline given by the JVP was June 14 which was marked by the 'hartal'. No one could afford to take the

JVP's threats lightly because it has demonstrated in the past its determination to enforce its 'calls to the people' by the ultimate penalty known to man – summary executions. Although the government offered protection, the staff of the Indian High Commission took 'refuge' in hotels. The government's panic was palpable. In the run up to the JVP's deadline of June 14, the authorities announced the Mysoor Dhal (which people normally associate with India) was no longer being imported from India, but from Turkey, and that 'Bombay Onions' hereafter should be called 'Sri Lankan Big Onions' as they were locally grown!

It was the backdrop of the continuing violent campaign by the JVP and its projected 'war against Indian imperialism' ('US or Western imperialism' would appear to have disappeared from the lexicon of the JVP), that President Premadasa's much publicised 'Battaramulla pronouncement' requesting the withdrawal of the IPKF by the end of July was made.

The question of the IPKF pull out was already on the agenda. In the same speech he made on June 1, Premadasa himself confirmed that several thousands of Indian soldiers had already been withdrawn from the island and thanked the Indian Prime Minister for doing so even before a request was made. As far back as April 24, Rajiv Gandhi had in a well publicised speech at an Army Commanders Conference in New Delhi that the government had to 'think seriously of getting back the bulk of the IPKF as soon as practicable'. The Indian weekly magazine, SUNDAY (14-20 May 1989) gave a comprehensive account of the IPKF presence and the role in Sri Lanka and the Indian government's unannounced pullout that was already underway under the title 'COMING HOME, THE SECRET PULLOUT FROM SRI LANKA'.

This being the case, many thought that it was indiscreet, indeed bizaare and gratuitous provocation, for Premadasa to have made the request at a public meeting without first raising the matter through normal diplomatic channels. If he wanted to put New Delhi on a diplomatic spot, he certainly succeeded. Not only was Rajiv Gandhi puzzled but furious, according to sources close to him. After all, India had spent enormous sums of money, sacrificed the lives of over a thousand

of its soldiers in the course of its Sri Lankan adventure. It was at Colombo's urging that the IPKF had to confront its erstwhile protege, the LTTE with which Premadasa was parlying now. Worse still was that the episode was grist to the mill of the opposition National front in its campaign against Rajiv Gandhi who has to face a general election before the end of the year not in the most favourable circumstances.

Then why did Premadasa act in the way he did? Many do not believe that he did so due to lack of knowledge of diplomatic rules governing inter-state relations. Many a reason is being attributed to Premadasa's action.

The North-East Provincial EPRLF-led administration has been carrying on a well publicised campaign for greater devolution of powers and it was becoming more and more critical of the central government and particularly Premadasa's failure to act effectively and expeditiously in this field. There was evidence of a growing strain in the relations between the centre and the N-E administration. The attempt by the EPRLF to bring pressure upon his government through New Delhi did not endear to Premadasa. It is rumoured that the LTTE delegation during the first round of talks vouched the correctness of Premadasa's suspicion that New Delhi was endeavouring to have a continuing stake in the internal affairs of the island by propping up the EPRLF.

The LTTE, driven by its own political and organisational compulsions, would appear to have demanded that the government should make its position clear on the question of the departure of the IPKF before the second round of talks.

The other reason, which observers believe to be the most important, was the failure of the security forces to contain the JVP whose violent campaign was gathering momentum day by day. The demand for withdrawal of the IPKF was the cutting edge in this campaign behind which the ultra-nationalist forces were being mobilised. The JVP had already set the date for the commencement of the 'war of liberation of the motherland from Indian imperialism.'

Shrewd as he is, Premadasa took a calculated risk by publicly calling for the withdrawal of the IPKF himself setting a deadline. The consequences of such a public pronouncement were deliberately intended – to give the impression of confronting India and seeking to achieve maximum political mileage in the country. By this action, he was hoping to run away with the JVP's clothes and pre-empt its campaign by neutralising its motive forces.

After all, Premadasa was known to have opposed the Indo-Sri Lanka accord at the time it was signed and he even refused to attend the signing

ceremony. Of late, he has begun to disown many things done during former President Jayawardene's tenure although Premadasa was his loyal Prime Minister. At a recent Executive Committee meeting of the ruling United National Party, Premadasa said, "The present crisis is none of my doing though I am saddled with the responsibility of resolving it. If my advice was accepted, it would not have been as serious as it is today."

In terms of diplomatic behaviour it might have been unorthodox, but by unilaterally demanding the pullout of the IPKF and characterising its presence as a 'slur' on the nation's self respect, Premadasa was seeking to reassert the image of a 'true nationalist and patriot' and regain lost ground among Sinhala chauvinist sections, the traditional hunting ground for all 'successful' Sinhala politicians.

Although taken unawares and pricked by the clumsy manner in which Premadasa had approached the subject, New Delhi has, while reaffirming its commitment to effect a pullout of the IPKF, predictably linked the question to certain fundamentals of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement, namely effective devolution of powers to the North-East Provincial Council and assurance of the physical security of the Tamil population in the island. India would appear to have virtually rejected the July 29 deadline primarily on grounds of logistics, but agreed that conditions be continued to create the conditions to facilitate early withdrawal.

The Tamil groups, EPRLF, TELO and ENDLF, which went along with the implementation of the Accord and participated in the PC elections, have expressed total opposition to the IPKF withdrawal prior to effective devolution and the setting up of a law and order machinery in the North-East and have organised demonstrations in Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticaloa in protest.

It is reported that EROS, which has friendly relations with the LTTE, is in favour of a phased withdrawal as opposed to an immediate pullout and are averse to the dissolution of the North-East Provincial Council before devolution of more effective powers. EROS's view is that, for strategic and practical reasons, India has a role to play in fulfilling the aspirations of the Tamil people. They fear that the Sri Lankan government will, sooner than later, deploy Sri Lankan troops in the north and east in massive numbers once the IPKF leaves particularly in the context of the bloodbath that would inevitably result when the LTTE attempts to settle scores with its hostile Tamil groups.

New Delhi's qualified and unenthusiastic response to Premadasa's request for an IPKF pullout by the end of July has served as an invitation for the

intensification of the anti-Indian campaign by the JVP and its allies. The war cries against India at a well attended public rally held in Colombo on June 9 by the Inter-University Student Federation, University Bhikku Federation and Eksath Lanka Janatha Party were accompanied by the burning of the Indian national flag and an effigy of Rajiv Gandhi. Violent demonstrations and calls for national protests are being predicted in the coming days.

Against this background of violence and potential anarchy, an LTTE delegation headed by Anton Balasingham and Lawrence Thilakar arrived in Colombo on June 11 for the second round of talks with the government. They are expected to be joined by others including Dilip Yogi and Krishnakumar (Kittu).

Even before the arrival of the delegation, in criticising the Indian response to Premadasa's request for IPKF's pullout, the LTTE in a statement dated 5 June said, "The Indian Prime Minister has repeatedly stated that the Indian army was sent to Sri Lanka purely on a peace-keeping mission at the request of the government of Sri Lanka, and that the army would be withdrawn if Sri Lanka makes such a request. And now the Sri Lankan government has made that request calling for the total withdrawal of the Indian troops. Therefore, India has no option other than withdrawing its troops. But strangely enough the Indian government seems to be very reluctant to pull-out its troops. We wish to know what grounds India wants to keep the army on our soil when the entire people of this island - the Tamils, Muslims and the Sinhalese - want the Indian army totally withdrawn?". The statement also branded, 'all those who wanted the Indian occupation army to stay in the island as traitors to the cause of the Tamil speaking people'.

It is ironic but seems true that the LTTE's uncompromising hostility to the IPKF presence is virtually similar to that of ultra-nationalist Sinhala chauvinist sections which have all along opposed the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord and demanded the repeal of the 13th amendment to the constitution which gave birth to the Provincial councils, the dissolution of the PCs and the delinking of the now merged North-East Province. In fact in a recent statement, the JVP categorically denounced separatism as no solution to the national question, the struggle for self determination by one community as negative, the Provincial Councils as dividing the people along linguistic lines, and rejected the idea of a traditional homeland within one nation-state.

Reliable sources indicate that during the round of talks between the LTTE and the government which

lasted nearly three weeks, the parties did not go into any substantive issues. It would seem that the LTTE's view was that it would be fruitless to talk about a permanent or final solution as the problem was deep-rooted and historical. They were for seeking an 'optimal solution' in the present context, that is to identify the immediate problems facing the people and take action to solve them. As a precondition to solving these problems, peace and normalcy would return.

Besides the presence of the IPKF, the human rights violations suffered by the Tamil speaking people including the destruction of the economic infrastructure, and the 'puppet role' played by the EPRLF to India, the LTTE delegation reportedly raised the issue of colonisation in the eastern province which had 'changed the social pattern and ethnic composition' in some areas.

Although not found in the joint communiques issued by both parties, it is reliably learnt that there was agreement on two other matters - the proposed referendum to be held on July 5 in the eastern province would definitely be postponed and there was to be an unannounced unofficial ceasefire between the Sri Lankan security forces and the LTTE. The fact that the government has not taken any practical steps nor given any instructions to the Commissioner of Elections so far in regard to the holding of the referendum and the fact that there has not been a single incident of violence between the LTTE and the security forces since the talks commenced are suggested as evidence of agreement between the parties on these two points. However, a cease fire between the LTTE and the IPKF was specifically ruled out.

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The New Political Equation

Rita Sebastian, Colombo

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam versus Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), seems to be the new political equation in the island and a number of likely scenarios are being predicted.

The joint communique issued at the end of the month-long dialogue between the Tamil Tigers and the government indicated in no uncertain terms the positive rapport between the two parties.

The talks, said the communique, were constructive and conducted in a "free, frank and friendly" atmosphere and opened the doors to greater understanding and appreciation of the issues involved. The Tigers also expressed the hope that the government would help bring peace and normalcy to the north-east region.

The second round of talks expected to resume shortly, will spell out the basic framework for the Tigers to enter the political processes.

Strange though it may sound, even the diehard Sinhala chauvinists have a sneaking admiration for the Tigers, who in the last two years pursued with relentless ferocity by the Indian Peace Keeping forces have not thrown in the towel, making it quite clear that they would die fighting rather than go down on their knees.

The decision to talk directly to the Sri Lankan government without Indian mediation, (a sorry tale of failure) was a significant shift in Tiger strategy.

The overriding issue during the talks, it is reported, was the withdrawal of Indian troops from the island. The President and the Tigers were single-minded on this issue. The President to honour his election pledge that if the IPKF was still in the country when he assumed office, he would see that they left and the Tigers to clear the way for what they term meeting the true aspirations of the Tamil people. In that scenario the EPRLF now dominating the north-east council has no place.

EPRLF's Chief Minister Varatharajah Perumal, already frustrated at government inaction in devolving power to the north-east council now finds himself in a new power game where the very survival of the north-east council is at stake.

One of the main demands of the Tigers is the dissolving of the north-east coun-

cil which it had dubbed as a puppet regime of the Indian government."

Where does all this leave the EPRLF and its fraternal allies the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO)? And more significantly, is President Premadasa's July twenty ninth deadline for Indian troop withdrawal from the island. India already feeling left out in the cold over the LTTE-government talks, which the Tigers maintained was not meant to cause a rift between the two governments, was not only taken aback by the President's surprise announcement but has also been considerably disturbed.

India argues that the July nineteen eighty seven Indo-Lanka accord was an agreement between two governments and as such consultation should have preceded the announcement. Besides the Indian contention is that one of main provisions of the accord, the devolving of substantial autonomy to the north-east council is yet to be implemented. One of the continuing

It cost the Sri Lankan government 1.7 million rupees to host the Tigers at Colombo's plush five star Hilton hotel where an entire floor was reserved for the Tiger delegation and their bodyguards.

concerns is the absence of an effective law and order machinery to fill the vacuum when the IPKF leaves. The Sri Lankan government however does not share that concern pointing out that it has the capacity to look after the security of all its citizens.

These issues that dominated the discussions between the EPRLF and the Sri Lanka government have lost momentum in the face of the LTTE-Government dialogue. EPRLF disillusionment at the turn of events has now led to their taking on a very belligerent position looking no doubt to India for support. Their argument is that they surrendered their arms, and gave up the demand for a separate state, and entered mainstream politics on the understanding that India would guarantee and underwrite the main provisions of the accord which was the devolving of provincial autonomy to the north-east region.

According to an EPRLF spokesman they are confident that the 'Rajiv Gandhi government will not cheat them like successive Sinhala governments have done'. Chief Minister Perumal

has even hinted at a unilateral declaration of independence in the north-east region in the event of things not going his way. But in no way could he do that without Indian support. But will India already accused of playing one group against the other, stoke the fires again.

The next few months are critical in Sri Lanka's political history. If the Tigers strike a deal with the Sri Lanka government and the IPKF withdraw the Tigers will be back on centre stage. The possibility has never been as near as it is today, and in a way a major victory for both the government and the Tigers. The loser of course will be India in terms of men, money and goods.

In the last two years, since India launched its offensive against the Tigers it has lost credibility as a peace keeping force in the face of the massive destruction of both civilian life and property. Innocent civilians trapped between the Tigers and IPKF became the victims, every Tamil suspect of being either a supporter or sympathiser of the Tigers.

The IPKF had an unenviable task, arriving as friends and turning foes and many of them paid with their lives.

But now when the time has come to leave they should make it sooner rather than later. By leaving now they will take the wind out of the sails of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP) campaign against Indian business interests and a boycott of Indian goods and services.

Although India has already started the process of withdrawing from the country, seven to eight thousand troops are reported to have already left, a substantial number still remain together with the military hardware. Indian officials point out that logistically it is not possible to fit into President Premadasa's timeframe for withdrawal, but the main point at issue seems to be that India feels it is being unceremoniously kicked out.

The real fear however is that when leaving, India might leave behind some of its military hardware with the EPRLF. That would of course create more problems than it would solve and the civilian population would once again become the hapless victims of the internecine warfare between the Tamil groups. We thought the clock could not be put back. The Tigers with their tenacity of purpose could still prove us wrong.

ON WITHDRAWAL OF IPKF

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR IPKF PULLOUT BY END OF JULY

Speaking at a religious ceremony in the outskirts of Colombo on 1 June, President R Premadasa stated that he would ask the Indian government to withdraw the Indian Peace Keeping Force by the end of July. He added that there should be no foreign forces in the island when the SAARC Conference is held in Colombo in November. The following are relevant extracts from his speech:

These days many people ask me when the Indian Peace-Keeping Force will leave our country. We must reflect on the reasons that made the Indian Peace-Keeping Force come here. One reason was that we took up arms to fight among ourselves to solve our problems. I like to state at this moment that the Indian Peace-Keeping Force has started moving out. This commenced when I became the President. You may remember that I told you during the Presidential Election campaign that when I become the President I will take steps to send the Indian Peace-Keeping Force out of the country.

I like to state that even before I made this request Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi started pulling them out. His High Commissioner met me and told me that they knew the promise I had made and that it should be kept. He told me that they are prepared to fall in line. He further told me that they will take them back in stages. India responded even before I requested them. I was very happy about it.

I was grateful to Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi and the Indian Government for making arrangements to take the Indian army back. Already between 7000 to 8000 soldiers have left Sri Lanka. Now what is required is to expedite this process and send them back early. All of us must assist in this process.

At a time when the foreign force which came here is moving out from our motherland, we must work with patience. We must not become violent. Having a foreign force in an independent country is a slur on its self-respect. It devalues the freedom of the country. At this moment we must work peacefully and patiently. We must expedite their departure. I will inform India about it in a day or two.

India sent this Peace-Keeping Force to restore peace in the North and East at the request of our former President. We all know that India has repeatedly assured us that anytime the President of Sri Lanka were to make a request they will take their forces back. They started pulling them back even before I told them.

I intend to ask India to take their forces back. It has become a necessity

now. Even recently Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said that they will be pulling out the Peace-Keeping Force from Sri Lanka. The Indian Government has assured us that they will do so at any time we want.

We must remember an important incident that happened during the recent past. We must not forget that a number of groups who were directing an armed struggle have come into the democratic process. In July the Indian Peace-Keeping Force will be completing two years in our country. In fact the IPKF which came to restore peace had to engage in fighting. We all know that a large number of Indian soldiers also died as a result. Some suffered serious injuries. Their kith and kin have become orphans.

It is not only the soldiers of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force who died. Many of the soldiers of the Sri Lanka Army as well as police officers who proceeded to the Northern and Eastern provinces to restore peace in those provinces had to sacrifice their lives. Their families and children have become orphans and are really suffering.

We are bringing disrepute to ourselves and our independence if we continue to keep a foreign army within our country because of conflicts among ourselves. It will also be an act of treachery perpetrated on our country. Therefore, I intend, as I stated earlier, to expedite the withdrawal of the IPKF. I hope to make such a request soon to Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi and to the Indian Government.

The end of July 1989 will mark two years since the IPKF came to Sri Lanka. Therefore, I will request the Indian Government to try as far as possible to complete the withdrawal of the entirety of the IPKF troops by the end of July. I would like to see the last of the IPKF troops leave Sri Lanka by the end of July. Today there are about 45,000 IPKF troops in Sri Lanka. Therefore, it is not possible to withdraw them in a day or two.

They have to leave by ship. Therefore, I believe that if the troops withdrawal is expedited it would be possible to complete the withdrawal by end of July. We will never forget the assistance and help given by the Indian Government to Sri Lanka. Even the Buddha Dhamma was a gift from

India. It was Emperor Dharmasoka who took steps to establish Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

While it was a great help to have sent the Peace-Keeping Force to this country at the request of our former President, recalling the Peace-Keeping Force back to India will also help us greatly at this moment. India's action to call back the Peace-Keeping Force during the next two months will be considered as a favour. I have no doubt that India will do so. I hope to make a friendly request to that effect shortly.

There is another reason as to why the Peace-Keeping Force should be taken out of this country. Last year's SAARC Conference – was scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka. However as you are already aware it could not be held here owing to the uncertainties that prevailed in this country at the time. Hence the conference was held in Pakistan.

This year's conference has to be held in Sri Lanka. It is our duty to do so and we have assumed this responsibility and we must fulfil it. This regional association has been formed by India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka; the seven independent South-Asian countries. We must strengthen our regional co-operation.

Leaders of governments of these countries will arrive in Sri Lanka in November this year.

Our people are eagerly waiting to welcome these leaders. We hope to accord cordial and rousing welcome to all the Heads of State and the Heads of Government including Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi. However, how can Sri Lanka host such a Summit with self-respect when a foreign army is operating in the country? This time it is also not possible to do away with it. We must hold this conference as an independent and sovereign country.

It is also because of this reason that I thought that it is extremely essential that the entirety of the IPKF be withdrawn by the end of July. We as an independent country must have the self-confidence to play our role as equal partners and work unitedly with other brother nations. You will admit that it is difficult for us to host and participate in such a Summit conference while keeping a foreign army in our country.

At a time when we are working to send back the IPKF troops to India I would appeal to all not to say anything or act in a manner which will obstruct this move. Everyone who wishes to safeguard the sovereignty of the country should assist to make this program a success by desisting from violence and provocative action.

You are aware that it is because of our own faults, disputes amongst us, our own provocative actions and our own militant actions that resulted in a foreign army coming to our country. But this is what people of all communities, Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim and Burgher say now: - 'We might well be grateful to India for sending this Army to help us. The Army which came to keep the peace had to wage a war itself. As a result, a large number of its members too lost their lives. But the problem is very much still with us... Now we have had enough of this peace-keeping by the IPKF. Now let us sort out our problems ourselves. Let us do everything possible to help the early withdrawal of the IPKF.'

You will realise the type of confusion that will prevail if we escalate violence and disturbances. I am confident that everyone who honestly wishes to see that the IPKF troops are withdrawn will see to it that they do not indulge in violence or provocative actions.

I would appeal to all to make a firm resolution to act with patience and desist from violence during these two months. Let us be determined to send back the IPKF troops, maintain our self-respect and host the forthcoming SAARC Summit with self-respect and dignity as a free and sovereign state.

"THOSE WHO WANT THE IPKF TO STAY ARE TRAITORS" - LTTE

The Political Committee of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a statement issued from its headquarters on 5 June branded all those who wanted the Indian occupation army to stay in the Island as traitors to the cause of the Tamil speaking people. 'No self-respecting person, whether he is a Tamil, Muslim or Sinhalese will permit a foreign army to continue to occupy this country,' the statement declared.

'The Indian Prime Minister has repeatedly stated that the Indian army was sent to Sri Lanka purely on a peace-keeping mission at the request of the Government of Sri Lanka and that the army would be withdrawn if Sri Lanka makes such a request. And now the Sri Lanka Government has

made that request calling for the total withdrawal of the Indian troops. Therefore, India has no option other than withdrawing its troops. But strangely enough the Indian Government seems to be very reluctant to pull-out its troops. We wish to know on what grounds India wants to keep the army on our soil when the entire people of this Island - the Tamils, Muslims and the Sinhalese - want the Indian army to be totally withdrawn' the LTTE's political committee asked.

'The Provincial Council members and Parliamentary representatives who have been nominated in the fraudulent elections stage managed by the Government of India have failed to address the grievances of our people, nor have they highlighted the inhuman atrocities and mass murders committed by the Indian army. These quislings will not open their mouth and speak the truth because they have become slaves to their Indian masters and have to survive on the favours given by the Indian Government. Now these Indian-backed groups are lamenting over the safety and security of our people. They are crying out that the Indian army should stay and protect the Tamils and Muslims. It is these murderous gangs who collaborated with the Indian occupation army in the senseless slaughter of more than five thousand innocent Tamil and Muslim civilians, in the mass scale rape of Tamil and Muslim women, in the destruction of billions worth of Tamil and Muslim property. These quisling groups are now involved in a campaign collecting signatures from the public, through intimidation and terror, in favour of Indian military presence. The Government of India, in utter desperation, is utilizing its puppets to seek legitimacy for its continuous military occupation under the slogan of security for Tamils and Muslims. We wish to state that the Tamils and Muslims can live in peace and in security only when the Indian troops are withdrawn. Long ago, the LTTE demanded a referendum in the North and East on the issue of Indian troop withdrawal. But the Government of India, at that time, refused to hold a referendum fearing that the public opinion would turn against them. It is rather strange that India, which refused a referendum, is now encouraging its quislings to seek public opinion by methods of intimidation, threat and blackmail' says the statement.

'The LTTE has been firm and consistent in its view that we should be self-reliant and fight for our cause without relying on foreign military intervention. We always said that foreign armies should not be allowed to fight for our freedom. We told the Government of India on several occasions that we will never function as their puppets and that we will look after the security of our people. It is because of our self-reliant and inde-

pendent attitude that the Government of India despised us and finally launched a war against our movement and against our people. The Government of India wanted to teach us a lesson. But now, it is the Government of India which has learnt a bitter lesson. The whole world has now become aware of the grave injustice done to our people by India. The supreme sacrifice made by more than 500 of our cadres has effectively challenged the threat of Indian imperial domination in our region,' the political committee declared.

JVP'S MESSAGE

The following is a text of a message recently issued by the Janatha Vimukthi Peruma (JVP) addressed to the Tamil people of Sri Lanka:

'We accept that all people in our small island are one, whether they are Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Malay or Burgher. We are nationals of one nation. Our struggle should be for equal rights and not for separatism.

'The fight for separatism led to mass killings by the Sri Lankan army, Indian imperialist army and their agents: EPRLF, PLOTE etc; Separatism is no solution to the national question as it is the prevalent unequal society which is the cause of the insanity in our multi-communal nation. Any community whether in the majority or as a minority will be able to gain equal rights only under a socialist system.

'The struggle for self-determination by one community is negative in the present context. Our combined efforts should be directed towards the struggle for national liberation by defeating the Indian occupying forces. The right for self-determination is synonymous with the struggle for liberation of all communities in the nation.

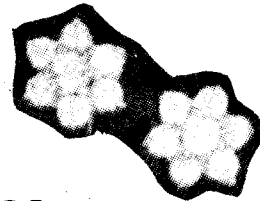
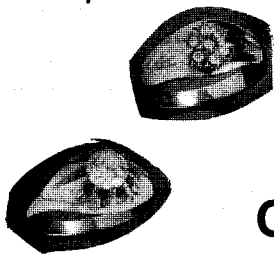
'The struggle for separation led to an aggression by Indian imperialists. Those who invited India to invade Sri Lanka are equally responsible for the massacres by the Indian army. The Indian army repressed Tamil, Sinhala and Muslim people in the north and the east and are repressing them even now. Also, the struggle for separatism led to the creation of Provincial Councils that divide the people along the lines of languages which will always benefit the needs of the ruling class. There cannot exist homelands for each ethnic community within one nation-state. Sri Lanka is for all, Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Malay and Burgher Communities.

'There will be no liberation for any one community when an outside force is present on our soil. Invariably as any invading army, the Indian army too would not voluntarily withdraw from Sri Lanka. Hence they must be made to withdraw through an united struggle.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

"The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam must relinquish separatism and join with progressive patriotic forces led by Janatha Vimuthki Peramuna to defeat Indian imperialism and their local agents and fascism."

EPRLF OPPOSES IPKF PULLOUT

Secretary General Pathmanabha

Sri Lankan Government has unilaterally declared that the IPKF should pull out before 29.7.89. This would not bind us in any manner. We would like to clarify this point beyond any doubt. We feel that it is our duty to tell the Sri Lankan Government that this kind of approach on its part would only lead the nation towards the division of the country.

If the Sri Lankan Government feels that it is free to act according to its whims and fancies and take decisions unilaterally, it should not fail to understand that others are also very much free to act in the same pattern. But it is also our duty to point out that this kind of approach would not help to find a just and lasting solution to the problem.

On no occasion the elected North-Eastern Provincial Government was consulted before taking any such decisions by the Sri Lankan Central Government. The Sri Lankan Government has taken this decision unilaterally. Even the Indian Government which is also one of the signatories to the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord has not been consulted before taking this decision.

The IPKF came to Sri Lanka on the basis of the accord and on the invitation of the Sri Lankan Government. But the doubts expressed by us during the course of the signing of this accord that the Sri Lankan Government won't be sincere in implementing the accord have come to be true. This attitude of the Sri Lankan Government is very much against the accepted norms and forms of international law and justice to put it simply, it is a breach of trust by the Sri Lankan Government.

Though more than six months have passed after the inception of an elected provincial Government in the North-Eastern province, the powers were not fully devolved as agreed upon. The Sri Lankan Government is adopting delaying tactics and attempting to sabotage the normal and effective functioning of the provincial government unless and until the powers are fully devolved to the Provincial Government, and proper arrangements are made under the direct control of the provincial Government for ensuring the protection of the Tamil people, the IPKF should not pull out. This is also the desire of the Eelam Tamil people.

We won't agree to the pull out of the IPKF until we feel that we are capable of protecting our people on our own, with our own law and order system and police set up under the power and control of the Provincial Government.

The Tamil people have not forgotten the atrocities and injustice committed to them by the Sri Lankan Government, its Police and Army. Hence, our people's indignance and suspicions towards the Sri Lankan Government and its machineries of power are so alive in the heart of the people as before. And, that is why they don't want the same Sri Lankan Police and Army entering the North-East Province. Our people are very much concerned about this.

It is because of this reason that our people welcomed, laid their hopes in the 'Indo-Sri Lankan Accord', and the IPKF for return of peace and democracy to them.

In any context where the Sri Lankan Government tries to shatter the hopes and confidence of our Tamil people, we would like to make it very clear that in such context we are determined to face the challenges whatsoever.

The LTTE was solely responsible for the deviations and deterioration of the Eelam struggle. So far as we are concerned, we supported the Accord just to get our people peace and democracy that was needed immediately by the people. And, we earnestly continue our struggle to ensure peace and democracy to our people.

In these circumstances we have to make it more clear to all parties concerned and, to the world at large that we would not hesitate to take the required measures to check any challenge from any quarters and protect the interest of the Tamil people.

We won't remain silent spectators hands folded, in the event of any unilateral imposition of such decision by the Sri Lankan Government.

MRS B WELCOMES IPKF PULLOUT CALL

The leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike in a statement issued yesterday welcomed the decision by the President to call for the withdrawal of the Indian Peace Keeping Force by the end of July.

The statement said: We have always taken the view that internal problems of Sri Lanka should be solved internally.

Even at the time the IPKF was brought into Sri Lanka in July 1987, we vehemently opposed it and continued to do so.

However, the then UNP Government under the leadership of President

Jayewardene chose to ignore our demand for the withdrawal of the IPKF. At that time Mr. R. Premadasa who was Prime Minister too did not deem it necessary to call for the withdrawal of the IPKF, publicly.

It is the UNP that has to take the full responsibility for the IPKF presence on Sri Lankan soil today. From the very inception of the UNP administration in 1977 they went on an anti-India tirade.

None other than the present President Mr Premadasa took it upon himself both in Parliament and outside to attack India thereby seriously straining the good relations Sri Lanka had built with India during my tenure of office. In fact the anti-India tirade by the UNP was started prior to the 1977 general election.

The end result was the destabilisation of Sri Lanka and the Government being forced to be a party to an agreement which not only sacrificed our unity but also our independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Directly linked to this Indo-Lanka Agreement was the IPKF presence on our motherland. Here too Mr. Premadasa acquiesced in the government decision.

It is now six months since Mr Premadasa assumed the office of Executive President.

We are happy and welcome the President's decision even at this late stage to call for the withdrawal of the IPKF.

EPRLF'S APPEAL TO RAJIV GANDHI

An Appeal from the people of North-East.

1. While thanking Your Honour and your Government for having come to the rescue of the Tamil speaking people of Sri Lanka at a critical time when the government of Sri Lanka and its armed forces were killing innocent Tamil speaking people, we beg to state that your good mission to Sri Lanka has not yet fulfilled its objective for which it came. The SLG which can only be described as a snake under grass, is resorting to all sorts of manoeuvres to send back the IPKF to India. We are, therefore, compelled to place the following facts for your earnest consideration and action:

(i) The Government of Sri Lanka has still not implemented the provisions of the Indo-Sri Lanka Pact in full.

(ii) The devolution of powers that had been agreed upon by the Sri Lankan and Indian Governments has still not been completely vested in the NEP Government.

(iii) A firm declaration has not been made by the SLG on the merger of the North and Eastern regions into one

province. On the other hand, the Sri Lankan Government is using all means to break up the continuity of the Tamil Homeland.

(iv) The safety of the Tamil speaking people is not guaranteed. The Sri Lankan forces and other home squads are waiting to take revenge on the Tamils.

2. Without settling the above issues, the President of Sri Lanka has begun secret talks with the LTTE. Every Tamil speaking person is today wondering as to why the LTTE has volunteered to have secret talks with the Government of Sri Lanka when several appeals were made earlier by Your Honour to them to have peace talks to find a permanent solution to all of the problems confronted by the Tamil speaking people of Sri Lanka.

3. The President of Sri Lanka who is notorious for his political stunts and somersaults is now:

(i) Having secret talks with the LTTE who, in the past, had turned a deaf ear to the requests and appeals of all to marching towards peace and democracy.

(ii) Creating numerous clashes between the Tamils and Tamil speaking Muslims of Sri Lanka.

(iii) Clandestinely giving weapons and financial aid to the LTTE to attack the IPKF and to kill innocent Tamils including civil servants and to create communal clashes between the Tamils and Muslims.

(iv) Engaging the Sri Lankan security forces to work hand in glove with the LTTE to fight against the IPKF and other democratic forces among the Tamil speaking people.

(v) Finally, taking action to send back the IPKF to India and expose the Tamils to danger.

4. Hon'ble Sir, in the good name of your great country from which we draw inspiration, we beg of Your Honour:

(i) Not to withdraw the IPKF out of Sri Lanka till such time every Tamil speaking person feels safe and secure in his own land.

(ii) To appeal to the Government of Sri Lanka to vest full powers on the North-Eastern Provincial Government.

(iii) The dismantling of State aided colonisation in the North-East Province.

(iv) To compel immediate withdrawal of the Sri Lankan security forces stationed in the North-East Province.

(v) To condemn the Sri Lankan Government for having secret talks with the fascist LTTE with the ultimate aim of annihilating the Tamil speaking people.

5. Sir, if Your Honour feels that the Sri Lankan Government will not agree with us on the above issues, please help us to declare an independent sovereign state for the Tamil speaking

people of this land for, we cannot suffer any longer in the hands of the chauvinist Sinhala leadership.

'Withdrawal no solution'

Dr Chanaka Amaratunge,
Liberal Party Leader

It seems evident that the government has not consulted the Indians over this. It is wise to have the IPKF withdrawn as soon as possible, but one cannot conduct diplomacy in this fashion. It is a very foolish way to conduct affairs as, if India wants to be difficult, it can be.

That is one aspect. The second is that without the government, the LTTE, the Provincial Council, the EPRLF and the other militant groups all arriving at a consensus, the withdrawal of the IPKF will in itself, solve nothing.

If the government is then forced to re-deploy the Sri Lankan army in the North and East without a political settlement it will be disastrous. We support the withdrawal of the IPKF, but not irresponsibly.

'Now is not the time' TELO

The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) maintains that though there is no dispute about the withdrawal of the IPKF from Sri Lanka, such a withdrawal should not be effected at present 'when the ethnic problem still remains unsolved and the situation in the North and East continues to be a matter of grave concern.'

In a statement issued in response to President Premadasa's call on Thursday for a total withdrawal of the IPKF by July, signed by S Kugan on behalf of its Central Committee TELO said the group had welcomed the recent Government-LTTE talks. But to ask the IPKF to quit now would be fraught with unpredictable consequences.

'What next and who would be in charge of the Tamil-speaking people in the North and East would certainly complicate the controversial issues which are already there and create fresh problems', the statement issued from the group's Vavuniya headquarters said.

TELO, which has accepted the Indo-Lanka peace accord, claimed that instead of identifying the cause of the current conflicts and evolving a lasting and permanent solution what was occurring now was 'an anxious effort to erase the effects of these conflicts'.

'This is not going to help any party to these conflicts. Two birds with one stone is a marvellous proposition but more often than not it turns out to be a case of missing both,' it pointed out.

'PULLOUT SHOULD NOT LEAVE A VACUUM'

- Vasudeva Nanayakkara, NSSP

Anything short of this smacks of suspicious intention or design as far as the Western imperialists are concerned, the government is embarking on a dangerous course, a course for which the government alone will be held responsible.

As regards the discussion with the LTTE, we expect a full statement from the government. The LTTE has said that it is opposed to the present Provincial Councils system, on the grounds that the powers of these councils are inadequate. When the government is withholding the transfer of power to the present Provincial Councils, what can the government discuss with the LTTE? We have very serious doubts about the government's position in all this.

We want the IPKF out of this country as soon as possible. We have been opposed to the IPKF having been brought here at all and blame the government totally for this action. We are anxious to see them out of the country.

But if anybody is serious about their withdrawal or if Mr R Premadasa, the President, is serious in wanting to see them go, he must first stabilise the existing government in the North and East - that is the Provincial Council. The IPKF withdrawal should not leave a vacuum. The North-East government must be strengthened so that the IPKF is not missed.

'First to call for IPKF withdrawal'

Rukman Senanayake (Leader of the ELJP)

We have been asking for the withdrawal of the IPKF for a very long time. We were the first to ask for it. We see it as a most welcome move. From the time the IPKF came violence has spread from the North and East to the whole country. We are a sovereign nation and the government had no justification to invite any foreign nation to guard any part of it. It is the responsibility of the government to provide security for the country.

In Afghanistan and Vietnam, too, the governments of those countries invited the armies of other countries to guard their borders though the world condemned their actions. The former President, Mr J R Jayewardene did the same stupid thing. It is our duty to help the present President, Mr R Premadasa in his endeavour to get rid of the IPKF.

'Move should not harm Indo-Lanka relations'

Ossie Abeygunasekera (Leader of the House, Western Provincial Council and National Organiser, SLMP)

From the very start, from the day the IPKF landed in Sri Lanka, we said they had come for a specific purpose and once that purpose on the terms of the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord - had been fulfilled the IPKF must leave.

We are happy the leadership of the country has decided that it is time the IPKF left. However, the manner of departure must not in any way harm

relations between the two countries. The IPKF's departure must also not permit the separatist elements in the North and East to declare Eelam.

Sending the IPKF away by the 29th of July is not the problem. The creation of Eelam is! We must always bear in mind that there were so many militant groups advocating separation. Once the IPKF landed we were able to get 6 out of 7 of these groups to join the mainstream.

Now these groups are in a predicament. Both India and Sri Lanka must act in such a manner as not to risk the lives of these people or groups. If we allow this to happen we will be asking for a lot of trouble in the months ahead.

Sri Lanka - Slip sliding away

FROM A CORRESPONDANT IN COLOMBO

In a sulky mood, Sri Lanka reopened its talks with the International Monetary Fund this week. It had declined to go to Washington to take part in the spring meeting of the Fund. The finance minister, Mr. Dingiri Banda Wijetunge, said he had to stay at home for the budget. But that did not explain why the governor of the central bank and the secretary to the treasury, who usually go to the meeting, decided to stay at home too.

The real reason appears to be that the government was miffed at the Fund's decision to suspend payment of the second instalment of a structural adjustment loan on March 8th. Sri Lanka desperately needed the money, \$87m. It also needed the Fund's seal of approval, to reassure bankers and the donor countries on whose aid Sri Lanka has become so dependent.

The opportunity for fresh talks was provided by the routine visit to Sri Lanka of a three-man mission from the Fund. The mission is worried that the conditions it attached to the structural adjustment loan have not been observed. The \$184m loan, to be drawn in stages over a three-year period, was negotiated in 1987 by the then finance minister, Mr Ronnie de Mel. Since then Sri Lanka has broken just about every promise it made to the Fund

The government's budget deficit was to be reduced to 11% of GDP in 1988. It soared to 15% that year and is likely to exceed 17% this year. The current-account deficit was to be contained at 6% of GDP. It is now running at 9%. The annual inflation rate was to be held at 7.5%. It is now around 20%. GDP growth was to be maintained at 5.5%. Last year it was 2.7%. Privatisation was going to whittle down the large public sector, where the return on capital is only 1.5%. It has not happened because neither the huge bureaucracy nor the trade unions want it.

The IMF is taking a hard line. Sri Lanka has twice before refrained from bringing in structural reforms, pleading 'political difficulties'. Indeed it has these, the most difficult of them being the civil war with the Tamil Tigers, who continued to demand a separate state in this small country. Government and Tiger negotiators are at present locked up on the 14th floor of the Hilton hotel in Colombo trying to agree on terms for peace, but few people believe they will be successful. The Tigers continue to kill. In a shoot-out on May 21st in northern Sri Lanka they killed some 40 members of a rival Tamil group and lost 11 of their own men.

But Sri Lanka's racial problem is no excuse for economic mismanagement, and the Fund is asking the country for a complete break with its improvident past. Sri Lanka has recently got away with ignoring the Fund by borrowing heavily from the offshore banking units of the two state banks; this borrowing far exceeds the next \$87m it wants from the Fund. But Sri Lanka now has to listen: its reserves are sufficient to pay for only six weeks' imports. The Fund is likely to demand tight fiscal and monetary policies. One condition may be a 20% devaluation of Sri Lanka's rupee to boost exports. Incredibly, the rupee has been rising against almost every currency save the dollar; it is strengthening even against the yen.

One beneficial result of the crisis is that President Premadasa has not launched the 'poverty alleviation programme' he promised during his election campaign. More than 1.4m poor families were to get a gift of 2,500 rupees a month for two years. Someone seems to have persuaded the president that this would raise inflation more than incomes. As things stand the plan has been put off until July, when, if it happens, it will be restricted to the 'really deserving'.

Devolution Bill passed amidst opposition

A Bill to streamline the devolution of powers to the Provinces was passed by Parliament after a stormy debate during which Opposition members attacked the Provincial Council system and the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement as measures which would divide the country.

The last time the Bill was debated, on May 12, tempers rose to such an extent that the police had to come into the House after the Opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party members protested at not being allowed enough time to speak. Yesterday as well, there was a heavy police contingent around Parliament, leading to the Opposition protests, which led to their withdrawal. The legislation, titled The Provincial Councils (Consequential Amendment) Bill was passed with 130 votes for and 66 against, with the TULF and the United Socialist Alliance (USA), voting with the Government, and the SLFP and the nationalist Mahajana Eksath Peramuna voting against.

The Bill seeks to provide executive powers to the Governors, Board of Ministers and senior officials of the Councils.

The Bill was introduced to cover the shortcomings in the existing legislation of Provincial Councils, to allow them to exercise legislative powers in respect of provincial subjects.

Though the passage of the legislation was a foregone conclusion given the Government's majority in Parliament, the debate was an important pointer to the deeply entrenched suspicion and antipathy that still exists across a wide spectrum of Sinhalese opinion towards the Provincial Council system, the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and the Indian presence in the north and the east.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, declared that she would 'campaign vigorously against the merger of the north and the east,' even if she was killed, and hoped that the President, Mr R Premadasa, and the former President, Mr R Jayewardene, would join her. Many speakers concentrated their fire on what they described as the inability of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) to maintain law and order in the Eastern Province, which has been plagued by Tamil-Muslim violence that has caused several thousand people to leave their homes and take refuge in mosques, schools and temples:

Mrs Bandaranaike declared that the Provincial Councils had aggravated the situation in the Eastern Province and said that 'hundreds of Muslims and Sinhalese' had been killed while the thousands who were in the refugee camps would not be able to go home as long as the IPKF was there.

NEWS ROUNDUP

THE PRESENT STRENGTH of the 32,000 Sri Lankan armed forces is to be doubled. According to the Army Commander General Hamilton Wanasinghe (quoted in *The Weekend* of 28 May), the doubling of the strength is to meet the new challenge in the north and east and fill the vacuum that will be created by the withdrawal of the Indian Peace Keeping Force.

As a first step the army would immediately increase its presence in the eastern province by 5000 men. Their main task would be to protect Sinhala settlers. New recruits would be absorbed into the Ceylon Light Infantry, Sinha Regiment, Gajaba Regiment, Gemunu Watch and the Engineers (Infantry) Regiment. A thousand soldiers and 35 officers would be recruited to each of these units with immediate effect.

Two new divisional headquarters are to be established at Amparai and Malwatte and will be gradually spread to other areas where the Sinhalese population requires protection. The Army has already established divisional headquarters at Horawapathana adjoining Vavuniya, Dehiattakandiya and Padaviya.

A CENTRAL Committee member of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, P.D. Wimalasena was shot dead, allegedly by JVP/DJV gunmen, on 26 May at a printing press at Maradana in Colombo. The victim, a foreman at the press, was having a bath when he was dragged out and shot. The gunmen set fire to the press before they got away.

AT MORAWAKA, an armed gang allegedly belonging to the JVP/DJV attacked the residence of a southern Provincial Council member with grenades and set fire to his Pajero jeep on 26 May. On the same day, a doctor identified as P. Fernando was shot dead by an armed gang at Kadugannawa. In separate incidents, four persons were killed and a Provincial Council member's son seriously wounded as 'subversives' (JVP/DJV) and 'anti-subversives' (armed groups which are normally pro-government and anti-JVP/DJV) continued their violent campaign.

THE EXISTENCE of notorious 'anti-subversive' organisation known as Black Cats came to public knowledge when it killed seventeen persons including a woman and a Buddhist monk in the Eppawala area in reprisal against the killing of two policemen in a landmine attack. The Black Cats to whom over one hundred killings have been attributed in the past was believed to be an unofficial death squad comprising some security service personnel.

New 'anti-subversive' death squads have sprung up in several areas in southern Sri Lanka. 'Gonuusa', 'Nee' and 'Kesara Sinhayo' are three of the groups. The 'Gonuusa' group is reported to have claimed responsibility for several killings in the Kuliypitiya and Kurunegala areas. Recently two dead bodies were recovered at Galhenmanhandya and Gonapola junction. At Kurunegala two youths were killed and their bodies set on fire. A few days earlier two young men were shot dead and their bodies burnt at Nabodawewa near Nikaweratiya. All these killings have been attributed to the Gonusa group.

EIGHTEEN university students reported missing cannot be traced. According to the University Grants Commission (UGC) records, two students from the university of Colombo, two from the university of Jayawardanepura, one each from the universities of Moratuwa and Kelaniya, seven from the university of Ruhuna and five from the university of Peradeniya have disappeared without trace.

The UGC are unaware as to how long these students have been missing. A spokesman for the UGC said that nobody knew the details of their arrest.

TWO GUNMEN who arrived in a motor cycle shot dead a private medical practitioner, identified as Dr. Alan de Silva, in his own dispensary at Homagama on 27 May.

FIVE UNIDENTIFIED youth wielding a single barber's razor staged a Rs.1.4 million robbery on 27 May having entered the Ceylon Tobacco Agent's shop at Kurunegala and locked up all shop employees in a room.

SECURITY FORCES carried out an early morning raid at Somerset estate, Nanuoya during the early morning hours on 28 May and are reported to have arrested four Tamil youths suspected of being members of EROS, and seized an AK-47 rifle, some magazines and militant literature.

OVER 200 JVP/DJV suspects were taken into custody in a two day army flushing out operation on May 28 and 29 in south Sri Lanka. The suspects were held at Talalla, Matara, Polhena and Kekendura army camps for interrogation. Among those arrested was a young undergraduate Buddhist monk. The 'flushing out operation' which was reinforced by special units from Colombo covered Dickwella, Nilwella, Kottegoda, Lunukalapuwa, Gandara, Kapugama, Devinuwara, Wellagoda, Kirilawella, Wawwa, Hanwella, Udupilla and Mirissa.

IN THE KILLING FIELDS OF SRI LANKA...

1001 KILLINGS: In six weeks of violence throughout the country from 22nd of April to third of this month (June) 1001 killings were reported to the security forces, who attributed 493 of them to subversives (a reference to the JVP). - *The Sunday Times*, 11 June.

AN ARMED GANG shot and chopped to death the former chairperson of the Panadura Urban Council, Mrs. Dorothy Dharmage, at her residence on 28 May. On the same day in a separate incident, two soldiers of the National Auxiliary Force were killed at the residence of the United Socialist Alliance Provincial Council Member, K.S. Tillekeratne at Nikaaweratiya. Five Shot guns were removed by the attackers while the PC Member's Pajero jeep was set on fire. At Rukmalgama in the Homagama police area two UNP supporters, Sena de Silva and Premasiri Perera were killed. At Pitigala in the Galle district, a person who tried to flee when security force personnel ordered him to stop was shot at and a gun was recovered from him. In Kandy a civilian was killed when soldiers and an armed gang fought a gun battle in a residential area. At Dodangoda in Kalutara, two dead bodies of persons, reportedly connected with the JVP, with gunshot injuries were recovered. The last two killings have been attributed to pro-government death squads.

A BUDDHIST MONK identified as Akurugoda Dharmaratne of Urmutta Sri Sunandarama temple was shot dead by armed men in Akuressa on 28 May. A gang of eight men arrived at the temple at about 10pm and shot the monk within the temple.

A HEADLESS body of a youth was recovered at Habbakala, Induruwa on May 28 while a partial burnt human head was also recovered near the Athuruwella bridge along the Galle Road the same day. Suspecting that the head and the body belonged to the same person, they were despatched to the Balapitiya Hospital for post-mortem examination.

A LANDMINE, allegedly planted by the JVP/DJV exploded at Karagahatenne in Matale on 28 May blowing up an army jeep killing three soldiers and a civilian and injuring two other soldiers. The dead were identified as Ranjith Prematilleke, R.U.M. Silva and G.D. Gamini of the army and M.A. Wickremasinghe, a civilian driver. Following the incident, the security forces launched a house to house search operation.

REFERRING to the North-East Provincial administration calling itself the Provincial Government, President Premadasa addressing a conference of Government Agents of all 25 districts on 2 June said, "Make no mistake that there is only one government and there is no central or provincial governments, but only Provincial Councils".

THE SUPREME court on 29 May overruled the preliminary objections taken by Counsel for President Premadasa and the Commissioner of Elections and held that the presidential election petition filed by Mrs S. Bandaranaike should be inquired into beginning 19 June. Mrs. B. had in her petition challenged the election of Premadasa on the grounds that there was general intimidation and non-compliance with electoral laws. The preliminary objection taken by Counsel for Premadasa was that the petition must be dismissed 'in limine' as it did not conform to the mandatory provisions of the law.

THREE ARMED men robbed Rs.400,000 from the Pugoda Textiles showroom at Bambalapitiya in Colombo on 29 May. A short while later, Rs.66,000 was robbed from a car sales agent on Havelock Road. It is believed that the same gang had carried out both robberies. On the same day, in another incident soldiers recovered Rs.603,349.00 hours after an armed gang had staged a heist on a van transporting money from a multi-purpose co-operative shop to Gampola.

THE EASTERN Province which was returning to near normalcy after weeks of violence became tense again when on 29 May five Muslims on their way to Akkaraipathu from Thirukovil were abducted by an unidentified armed gang, dragged them into a nearby jungle and shot them dead.

TWO ARMED men who arrived on a motor cycle waylaid and robbed the principal and vice-principal of Wan Ela School on 29 May as they were returning from the Peoples' Bank at Kalmunai carrying the school teachers' salaries amounting to Rs.64,114.10

THE ASIAN Development Bank has assured to release 53.12 million US dollars for the North-East Provincial Council through the central government and an agreement to this effect had already been signed, the Provincial Minister of Rehabilitation Mr. C.M. Ganeshalingam said at a meeting held at Trincomalee. Restoration of Agricultural Credit Centres, construction of buildings, supply of furniture and equipment, vehicles, minor irrigation works etc. are some of the rehabilitation work to be undertaken with this money.

UNIVERSITIES remained closed on 30 May for the fifth successive day as the strike by non-academic staff of universities continued in consequence of failure of negotiations on their demand for a minimum wage of Rs.2500 per month.

THE TAMIL militant group, ENDLF, declared a hartal in the north and east on 30 May in protest against the alleged kidnapping of one of their leaders, Balan allegedly by the LTTE. All shops and schools were closed in Batticaloa district and there were no train services along the northern line beyond Anuradhpura. Normal civilian life was disrupted.

IN A DARING day-light robbery on 31 May at the Mascons Factory in Ratmalana in the outskirts of Colombo an armed gang got away with eight hundred thousand rupees. The money was being packeted for payment of salaries to the employees when the gang over-powered the security personnel at the gate, entered the premises, threatened the officers at gunpoint and exploded a bomb before they fled with their loot.

In Parliament . . .

PRESIDENT'S PREROGATIVE

Mr. Anura Bandaranaike (SLFP): When will they (IPKF) go?

Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne (Minister of Foreign Affairs): When the President asks them to leave. There are certain logistics involved.

Mr. A. Bandaranaike: Is it not possible to give a fair time framework during which the IPKF would move out from Sri Lanka?

Mr. Wijeratne: That should be worked out through consultation. There is no question of the IPKF not being withdrawn . . .

Mr. Stanley Tillekeratne (SLFP): Why didn't the government negotiate all this before making the Battaramulla announcement (Premadasa's speech regarding IPKF pull-out on June 1)?

Mr. Wijeratne: As is the President's prerogative. Don't teach us diplomacy.

EX-PRESIDENT'S SECURITY

Jeyaraj Fernandopulle (SLFP): Ward Place had remained closed for a long time. A lot of inconvenience is caused to the people as a result . . . Will the Minister explain as to why it stays closed.

Ranjan Wijeratne (Minister of Foreign Affairs): The entire road is not closed for traffic. However at a point where former President J.R. Jayawardene lives, the road had been closed for security reasons. If the Member wishes to see Mr. Jayawardene, I as the General Secretary of the UNP, am willing to accompany him.

Mr. Fernandopulle: Will steps be taken to re-open this road?

Mr. Wijeratne: A mature politician would not ask a question of this nature.

Speaker M.H. Mohamed: Former Presidents all over the world enjoy certain privileges. It is immaterial to what party a President belongs. He is afforded certain privileges.

THE MINISTER of Health informed a deputation of the government Medical Officers Association that the government had decided to pay compensation to the dependants and next of kin of 63 medical personnel killed by the IPKF personnel within the Jaffna General Hospital in October 1987.

AUSTRALIA is to provide a grant of 3 million Australian dollars over a four year period to assist Sri Lanka's Emergency Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programme for the northern and eastern provinces. The assistance is aimed at helping to restore economic and social infrastructure activities in the affected areas to facilitate a return to normalcy. A feature of the agreed programme is the involvement of non-governmental organizations to help in the identification of recipients in distribution of supplies.

PROFESSOR A.P.B. Aluvihare, Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, stated that 'some persons in army uniform' had assaulted two university students, one of whom was grievously injured, during the night on 31 May. His statement added that the deans, student counselors, and other members of his university staff were greatly disturbed by this incident and urged the authorities to investigate the incident and ensure that immediate steps were taken to prevent such incidents in the future.

SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT of Police, D. Bennet Perera (57), who is the Head of the Special Investigation Division (SID) and his police driver, Nandasiri, were gunned down on 1 June on their way to police Headquarters. Mr. Perera's wife who was also in the car at the time of the incident escaped unhurt having jumped out of the car. Although many people were present in the vicinity, no one had ventured to help.

Mr. Perera had left his residence at 7.30 am in his official car and was turning to the main road when a van blocked the way and two gunmen, allegedly belonging to the JVP/DJV, waiting in ambush opened fire. Police later said that the victims had been hit by bullets from an American made 9mm revolver at very close range, Mr. Perera, a former Director of the CID, was recalled to service from retirement to head the SID.

MR. LESLIE RANAGALA, a UNP member of the Western Provincial Council and the Colombo Municipal Council, and a friend named Upali were shot outside Mr Ranagala's residence at Borella in Colombo on 1 June. Mr. Ranagala died on the spot and Mr. Upali was seriously injured. The two assailants, allegedly belonging to the JVP/DJV had arrived on a motor cycle, first flung a grenade and then opened fire. Police found eleven shells believed to have been fired from by a T-56 automatic weapon.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

A GRENADE was thrown at the American embassy building in Colombo housing the USAID and USIS on 2 June by an unidentified person. On the same day, a bomb exploded near the Indian High Commission building.

TWO DEAD bodies of Tamil youths were recovered at Pattailai in the Kalmunai area in the eastern province. One of the victims was identified as K. Ranjan suspected to be a member of the TELO militant group. The identity of the other group was not known.

THREE SRI LANKA Transport Board buses were set on fire by unidentified persons at Kalmunai on 3 June. The buses which had been donated by India recently were completely destroyed.

A MUSLIM Member of Parliament, M.H. Amit, speaking at the all Ceylon Muslim Educational Conference, stated that in the long run it would be beneficial to the Muslim community if the medium of instruction in schools was Tamil. The Conference also resolved that, since Sinhala and Tamil were now official languages, all circulars from the Education Ministry and Regional Departments of Education to Muslim schools should be in Tamil Language also; and since Tamil-medium technical colleges were available only in the north and east, there should be Tamil medium courses in at least one technical college in each of the other provinces.

A FOURTH YEAR woman undergraduate of the Ruhuna university, who was alleged to have conducted as many as 52 lectures on behalf of the JVP/DJV was arrested on 4 June at Dickwella.

TWO MUSLIMS were shot dead, allegedly by Tamil militants, on 4 June at Weeracholai in Samanthurai. The victims were identified as Abdul Lebbe and Sulaiman Lebbe.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL Member, Ivan Jayasekara and his driver identified as C. Munasinghe, were shot dead allegedly by JVP/DJV men at Pamunuwa on 4 June. Three body guards with the PC Member were seriously injured.

AN ARMED GANG entered Craig and Liyangahaawela estates in Bandarawela on 4 June and removed 15 guns issued to Home Guards. A 32 year old woman, Karunawathie, and her ten year old son, Sujeeva, were killed and their bodies set on fire by armed persons at Gampanguwaa in Wellawaya. J.S. Cyril (39), a driver of a SLTB official, and one his associates were abducted by an armed gang and killed at Boralanda. At Agalawatte, an armed gang tied Suni Shantha, an ex-soldier, to a lamp post and shot him dead.

THE PEOPLES BANK branch at Maggona was stormed by an armed gang on 5 June who got away with cash and jewellery worth Rs.700,000. Two guns and some ammunition belonging to the security guards were also removed by the gunmen.

INTENSIFIED military operations by the IPKF and increasing number of gun battles and landmine attacks by the LTTE were in evidence during the first week of June in the Jaffna and Vavuniya districts. While the IPKF claimed that a number of LTTE men were killed, reliable reports indicate that many of the casualties were civilians. Two IPKF men including a Major were killed in clashes in the areas of Kokkuvil and Kopay. After the death of these men, IPKF personnel are reported to have gone on a rampage in retaliatory action against civilians and their property. At Puttur in Jaffna, the IPKF claimed that five LTTE men including the Achchuveli Commander 'Nehru' were killed. But reports from Jaffna indicated that 8 civilians were killed and several houses were set on fire by the IPKF. In the Vavuniya area, IPKF operations have caused many civilians casualties and a number of houses have been damaged by shell attacks.

SEVERAL THOUSANDS of people of Trincomalee participated in a demonstration organised by the Tamil militant

groups, EPRLF and ENDLF, on 6 June to protest against the move to withdraw the IPKF and demanding more devolution of powers to the North-East Provincial Council. These groups are also organising a memorandum expected to contain over a million signatures in support of their demands and to be sent to the Indian Prime Minister.

TWO POLICEMEN including the inspector in charge of Wellawaya police station, E.M. Nihal de Saram were killed and four others seriously injured at Siyabalagoone in the Moneragala district on 1 June when assailants, allegedly belonging to the JVP/DJV, armed with rifles, one pistol and some ammunition. Subsequent to this attack, security personnel went on a rampage in retaliation, Mrs. Sumedha Jayasena, SLFP MP, said in Parliament on 8 June that thirty persons were killed and a large number of houses set on fire following the killing of four police officers at Wellawaya recently. The bodies of those killed had been burnt. Abductions continued to take place in the area. The MP read out the names of those who were killed.

THE POLICE fired tear gas cannisters to disperse a group of Muslims claiming to be supporters of a new organisation called 'Muslim Liberation Front' who demonstrated in Maradana in Colombo on 2 June. Police claimed that the demonstrators had become unruly and violent and attacked passing vehicles including buses. Following the use of tear-gas, the crowd had become more violent and the police had to open fire several times over the heads of demonstrators when they tried to advance on the Maradana police station and attacked policemen with bottles, bricks and other objects.

The leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress denying that his organisation had anything to do with the organisation of the demonstration, appealed to all Muslims not to get involved in violent demonstrations. He said that rumour mongers and vested interests were trying to manipulate the emotions of innocent Muslims in order to bring about a confrontation between the Muslims and the police.

AROUND 5000 Tamils are reported to have demonstrated in Batticaloa on 7 June demanding the continued presence of the IPKF in the north and east of Sri Lanka. The procession which began from St. Michael's College made its way to the IPKF Camp at Mandressa where a memorandum demanding that the IPKF should not withdraw and that Sri Lankan police or army should not be deployed was delivered to General Metha, the Officer commanding the IPKF in Batticaloa.

CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATION, and transport were completely disrupted following the hartal call on 7 June by the North-East Provincial Council in protest against President Premadasa's call for IPKF withdrawal and the failure of the government to devolve more powers to the Provincial Council.

All shops and other establishments remained shut and all government departments, corporations and boards including the Provincial Council secretariat did not function.

EDUCATION MINISTER, W.J.M. Lokubandara ordered the closure of all schools on 7 and 8 June and schools remained closed even on the following days due to continued student unrest.

A group of young men, allegedly supporting the JVP, invaded many schools in Colombo and other areas and disrupted classes on 7 June. Some of the schools invaded were the Royal College, St Pauls Milagiriya, Nalanda, Lumbini, Isipathana, Dharmapala and Ananda. Demonstrations were later held in protest against detention of students, and the presence of the IPKF. At Thummulla Junction in Colombo, the police fired teargas cannisters to break up a demonstration. Student demonstrations were also held in Badulla, Bandarawela, Matara, Hambantota, Anuradhapura, Matale, Piliyandala, Kegalle and Kandy.

READERS FORUM

'AYUBOWAN' SRI LANKA, WHEREVER YOU ARE, 'VANAKKAM'

The 'Time' magazine of 22 May 1989 published a disturbing and thought-provoking article on Sri Lanka titled 'Bless you Mom and Dad' and 'Against cultural corruption' for traditional values'. It points out that after the new Premadasa government came into power the Cultural Affairs Minister, Mr W Lokubandara has forbidden the customary English salutation of 'hello' to be used by his staffers in answering the telephone. Instead, they have been told to use the word 'Ayubowan' – the formal greeting among Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese. I remember they tried to introduce this in 1959 soon after the Sinhala Only policy was introduced by Bandaranaike, but it didn't catch on. While this may be a good thing, considering that English is now officially considered a link language and all children are taught English in schools – this imposition on the people seems chauvinistic. Eradication of chauvinism is one of the ways by which Sri Lanka could defuse its ethnic problem, but here we see something that is antithetical. Since Tamil is now an official language, it is presumed that the Tamil equivalent 'Vanakkam' will be acceptable in Sinhala society.

Minister Lokubandara has also interfered with TV programming, censored news stands and spread dismay through the school system, when he took on the portfolios of Education and Information. He has ordered the strict imposition of pornographic laws. The raiding of illegal video parlours that feature raunchy movies and seizing of erotic magazines from street corner kiosks is certainly a good thing, but one must not go over the top by even censoring friendly pecks between family members from the local TV broadcasts of the 'Cosby show'.

He has enforced the revival of the old custom of children worshipping their parents. He has asked the parents to visit the schools of their children so that the youngsters could express filial adoration by bowing, kneeling, and touching their elders' feet. They were also required to pay obeisance to their teachers. The 'Time' shows a picture of a little boy kneeling and touching the feet of his sari-attired lady teacher, in obeisance.

According to an article on the Third World by Ken Mountjoy for the Third World to make progress, there must be a change in their society, in ways of life, in political and institutional patterns and the grasping of new concepts and new sets of values.

'Development is no simple straightforward process of economics but strikes at the very roots of social and institutional patterns. This is the heart of the matter and may explain why the enormous efforts and dedicated enthusiasm of a massive band of international experts have seemingly made such moderate impact on this world problem.'

Only Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia and Brazil have shown any marked advances in economic development. This is because they have modernised their ways of life and have now a society that is eclectic and in harmony with the world of today.

Reminiscent of the Bandaranaikes

The 'Time' also points out that, according to the local newspapers, Minister Lokubandara, who refuses to speak anything but Sinhala in public was sending his children to an exclusive international school in Colombo, where the language of instruction is English. Unperturbed by criticism, Lokubandara plans to continue his clean up campaign. This is reminiscent of the Bandaranaikes who imposed the 'Sinhala Only' policy but educated their 3 children in England and France. It is like saying 'do as I say but don't do what I do'.

It is regrettable that, despite the upheavals and 2 revolutions in the country these last few years and the lessons taught, there doesn't appear to have been any change in the thinking of the politicians who still continue to do things for purely selfish political reasons and among whom corruption is still high. This bigoted behaviour by ministers misleads the people. What is lacking is good leadership by the leaders and the elders of society and the Sangha to shepherd them along the path that will lead to peace and prosperity. Unless this happens Sri Lanka will continue to be a backward Third World country plagued with internecine and ethnic discord, and progress will be impeded. Sri Lanka will lose credibility with donor countries and organisations who will be disappointed and make their goodwill sour. After about 20 years of international effort and the investment of millions of pounds, there has been no appreciable effect in Sri Lankan society, which is now retreating into a middle-eastern type of country where there is intolerance and communal violence.

Although Buddhism is non-militant and is a religion that preaches peace

and understanding among people, the followers of the Buddha have been militant in South East Asia in recent years. The clean up campaign and efforts at restoring Sinhala Buddhist values is laudable but it is hoped that Buddhist fundamentalism will not be like Islamic Fundamentalism which, according to 'Time' magazine, is making certain Muslim countries incompatible with Western culture and the rest of the non-Muslim world. President Premadasa must safeguard against this to prevent Sri Lanka from being bogged down in the quagmire of the Third World, especially now when according to 'The Economist' of 27 May 1989 'its reserves are sufficient to pay for only six weeks' imports and the IMF is likely to demand tight fiscal and monetary policies'. 'Ayubowan' Sri Lanka, wherever you are and 'Vanakkam'.

Lt. Col. Anton Selvadurai

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INDIAN MOTIVES

I was pleased to read Mr Bernard Wijedoru's letter (Tamil Times, May 89) on Indian expansionism and Nepal. Indian's expansionist schemes and hegemonic ambitions were not understood by some of its neighbours and not many recognised India's motives when it gave support to just causes like the struggle of the people of Bangladesh and that of the Tamils of Sri Lanka.

Nepal is more vulnerable to Indian expansionism than many other nations of South Asia; it is not Sikkim or Kashmir. The Nepalese will, sooner than later, teach the Indian expansionists the bitter lesson that every aggressor deserves to learn. There are, however, more important lessons for the neighbours of India: It was the oppressive regime of Pakistan which made it necessary for the people of Bangladesh to rise in struggle and for India to intervene; and it was the chauvinism of the UNP government in Sri Lanka which enabled India to make the Tamil people's struggle an excuse for its ugly interference in Sri Lankan affairs. Sri Lanka had, in fact, preserved its national independence and sovereignty for a very long period despite its internal problems, and if anyone really undermined the position of Sri Lanka as a sovereign state, it is the Sinhala chauvinist state and the UNP regime especially since 1977. I am sure Mr Wijedoru will agree.

S. Sivasegaram

Flat 8, Milton House,
Coombe Lane
London SW20

INDIA'S LEGITIMATE INTERESTS

In return for the years of tireless efforts of India to end China's international isolation and obtain its entry into the United Nations, Mao's China invaded a non-aligned and military weak India. To justify his military adventure, Mao invented 'Indian expansionism' and 'Indian hegemonism'. Ever since, Maoists of all varieties have used these expressions to lambast India.

Bernard Wijedoru (Tamil Times, May 1989) is shedding crocodile tears about the alleged Indian blockade of Nepal concealing the fact that India has continued to make available two access points along its boundary to land-locked Nepal. The other unrestricted access points that Nepal enjoyed under previous treaties with India have been temporarily suspended due to Nepal's unilateral violation of the treaties. One wonders whether people like Mr. Wijedoru shed even crocodile tears when China carried out and continues to carry out its genocidal rape of Tibet and its people.

Although Mr Wijedoru refers to the 'Indian Reich', India is a vibrant democracy with a vigorous free press and strong opposition parties including those owing allegiance yet to the departed Mao. Being a Sri Lankan and working in Hong Kong, I suppose Mr. Wijedoru would not have failed to notice the tragedy and blood bath let lose by the People's Army of the truly functioning Chinese Reich against several thousands of Chinese students and workers in Tiananmen Square and the rivers of blood that was flowing along the Avenue of Eternal Peace in Beijing only a few days ago.

Indian direct intervention in Sri Lanka occurred at a time when the Sri Lankan government had launched a massive bombing and destructive military operation in northern Jaffna peninsula. In fact, before the operation was stopped, Vadamaradchi was reduced to rubble and hundreds of civilian Tamils were killed and their homes destroyed. If not for the timely Indian intervention, the whole of Jaffna would have been in ruins and several thousands would have been killed, and most importantly Tamil resistance to Sinhala chauvinist majority domination would have been militarily suppressed. The IPKF's present military confrontation with the LTTE is regrettable, but it is one of LTTE's seeking. The LTTE is hell bent on eliminating all other Tamil political parties and groups and set up a dictatorship over the Tamil people as a whole.

India is an independent democracy encompassing diverse nationalities held together by a secular ideology, but it is surrounded by not one genuine

democracy. Until recently Pakistan was ruled by a ruthless dictator, and Bangladesh is still under a dictator and both are Islamic 'republics'. Nepal is ruled by a feudal monarchy. There are continuing efforts to turn Sri Lanka into a theocratic Buddhist state, and if not for Tamil resistance, it would have become one long ago. The Burmese are unable to free themselves from the stranglehold of the dictatorship established several decades ago. The destabilisation of India has been a grand design of US imperialism and its chief ally in the region has been Pakistan which also has had active encouragement and support from Peking. Under President Jayawardene, Sri Lanka too was fastly becoming an outpost for US-Israeli-Pakistani designs against India. Surrounded by countries and forces such as these, it is the bounden duty of the Indian government to act to protect the country's legitimate interests, security, independence and territorial integrity.

S. Manoharan

Madras
South India

Tamils, A Pawn in a Chess Game

The political history of Sri Lanka is a very tragic episode, if one analyses the anarchy and anguish the Tamils underwent after the so-called Independence of 1948. Just after the 10th Independence Day celebrations in 1958 under the great Leader and esteemed son of Sri Lanka, the late S W R D Bandaranayake, the Oxford scholar, more than two thousand innocent Tamils and only Tamils, were butchered by the majority community, the Sinhalese. Mr Vittachi in his book 'Emergency 58', clearly indicates the extent of life and property lost by these unfortunate people of Sri Lanka.

From then, we Tamils have been suffering in communal riots off and on in 1961, 1966, 1971, 1977, and last but not least in July 1983. There is an old Tamil saying that even water gives three chances to a person before he or she gets drowned. We gave double the chances to our Sinhalese brethren, but they do not seem to realise that they are playing games with human lives. We, the Tamils have been the victims and they have always been the victors. All these and many more unjust and unreasonable acts are the exploits of the Sinhalese community. The new President Premadasa hopes to solve his problems by withdrawing the Indian forces from Sri Lankan soil.

It is always not advisable to be accommodative to foreign army occupation. Sure, they must go. But, why and how did they come to our land? This question has to be well understood and answered, before the President requests the Indian Peace Keeping Force

to pull out from the North and East of Sri Lanka.

The atrocities of the Sinhalese army cannot be described in words. I was one of the direct victims of the Sinhala army's behaviour. The President thinks that this operation offers him and his party their last and may be the best chance to orchestrate substantive change in image and mobilise the masses before the real pull out terminates. But the result and the repercussions have to be faced by the Tamil people directly, not the Sinhala politicians.

When the peace talks with the LTTE alone was initiated by the present regime of Sri Lanka without the participation of the Indian Government, we Tamils are being moved like pawns in a chess game. The President is well aware of the multiple movements involved in this struggle for the self determination and self respect of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka; but he preferred to talk to the LTTE only and thinks that he has succeeded in the move in ending this struggle. He thinks that he is very clever and capable of silencing the Tigers by his talks and inviting them alone to the negotiating table. If he is a good and genuine politician, he should have invited all the groups in this struggle if he is interested in a lasting solution.

We cannot afford to fall into his pit and start killing each other which is what he exactly wants done. Already our 2.5 million population has dwindled to less than 2 million now. Should we bring down this total further. Why do not the so-called Tamil leaders come to our rescue. Why do not they think wisely and act early to attain our aim without further escalating into a backlash and a blood-bath. United we stand, divided we fall.

S Sivasundaram

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JAFFNA REVISITED

by Paul Caspersz, s.j.

Significantly, my visit this time began on Good Friday, in the company of the silent and meditative JJK. The journey in a large, comfortable overcrowded CTB Express – it now leaves Kandy for Jaffna and Jaffna for Kandy every day at 6.45 a.m. – took each way 10½ hours. The bus delayed a full hour at the point of departure in the Kandy depot because of some intractable engine defect which the not unusual ace of an 'ordinary' CTB mechanic, arriving at 7.30 for his day's work with a beedi in his mouth and a small cloth parcel of tools under his arm, took only seven minutes to put right. I must admit that I was not quite convinced by the man's mechanical magic and resigned myself to reaching Jaffna the next morning, or never at all. But the driver made up for the hour's morning delay with some excellent manoeuvring at the wheel and we alighted at the Jaffna terminal shortly after 5 p.m. About JJK's feelings as the bus got on its way I cannot tell. It was Good Friday, he insisted, one should welcome the opportunity of sharing silently in the Passion, and told me he would neither eat nor drink, not even plain bread or black tea, till 12.

It must have been just past noon when, after the first perfunctory check by Sri Lanka forces at a checkpoint at Rambawewa, we arrived in Vavuniya. From there on and all the way to Jaffna there was the atmosphere and the evidence of people and land both besieged and besieging. Just past Vavuniya as we looked out of the window on the east there was as far as the eye could see an ocean of canvas army tents from which occasionally armed jawans would emerge to move to a sentry point or to other tents. The very hot period of the hot season of March-May was beginning and I pitied these soldiers, so far away from sweating in their khaki, tight at the ankles and buttoned up nearly to the neck.

At one of the numerous check points manned by Indian soldiers between Vavuniya and Jaffna I deliberately took last place in the queue and, as I zipped open my bag for the usual inspection, I hazarded a few words with the Indian soldiers who, I found, had a smattering of English.

"Where going?" he asked me in an effort to respond to my show of friendliness.

"Today Jaffna," I said. "Next week Bombay."

"Bombay," his eyes sparkled. "My home near Bombay railway station."

"Like Sri Lanka," I ventured.

"Sri Lanka not bad," he answered.

"Like the LTTE?" I risked a further question.

"No."

"Like the EPRLF?"

"No."

"Like the IPKF?" I placed my lucky lips on the block for what I decided would be the last risk of the encounter.

"Ha, ha," he replied, as he zipped back my bag to me. "Come again," and he looked the other way.

JJK was still impassive, though he had had his first cup of tea for the day and a lozenge when the bus made its first stop at Vavuniya. So I was forced into reminiscing privately about my previous visit to Jaffna, only three weeks before the Indo-Lanka Accord of 29th July 1987.

Operation Liberation has taken place at Vadamarachchi between 26 May and 3 June. Seventy per cent, at the lowest estimate of the local population had fled the area, and those who dared to return had found Operation Goodwill or Operation Minds and Hearts to be anything but what the words indicated. The feeling then was that the people has seen the ultimate in atrocity. Beyond it there was only the merciful escape of death. No wonder they welcomed the fact and the symbol of Delhi's air-lifted food aid. Later, once the Accord was so unexpectedly signed, they greeted with kiribath and plantains the first contingents of Indian soldiers to arrive in Jaffna to keep the Sri Lankan Army at bay and restore peace to the people and security to their homes. To the Jaffna person home is home and home is castle, and each home is carefully screened off from its neighbours by closely thatched fences.

Then with amazing rapidity what happened? The Accord began to show symptoms of breakdown in late September and in October actually to run counter to all it had promised. In less than three months what entered as an army of liberation stayed on as an army of occupation. At least so it seemed to the people increasingly to be.

With all the signs of such an army: ignorance of local language, customs and culture, high-handedness of manners, isolation, nervous over-reaction to what seemed like the wilful non-cooperation of the local people. The jawans would also have noticed the contrasts between the high levels of education of the Jaffna people and their own lack of it. Language and religion may have been used to better advantage by the planners of strategy

in Delhi but, at least at the beginning – may be to allay the suspicions of the Sinhalese South – there were hardly any Tamil speakers among the Indian soldiers, few South Indians, and too many non-Hindus. Some said that the Sri Lankan Army was not as bad: "At least it was then possible to talk to and complain to someone."

However, we found during our visit that the mutual alienation from each other of the people of Jaffna and the Indian forces was probably less in open evidence and certainly less heart-breaking than the deep and growing divisions among the people themselves. The EPRLF has the support of the Indian Army and for that very reason had lost the confidence of the people. The LTTE was against the Indian Army and for that very reason won the support of the people. The EPRLF with its continuing creation, the Civilian Volunteer Force (qualifications for admission: Std VII, age 18-25, pay the now mystical Rs 2500/- p.m.) and other militant groups, opposed to the LTTE, were being used by the Indian Army – sometimes with the technique of the masked face – to identify and to hunt down LTTE. At some sentry points on the way no attempt seemed to be made to conceal armed or unarmed EPRLF youth flanking the jawans.

On a wall along Hospital Street in Jaffna town I saw a poster of a film called 'Instant Justice'. The irony was too evident to be missed. The militant groups not merely used Instant Justice against one another; they often made it follow Intense Torture. The once so disciplined and law-abiding Jaffna society was being rent asunder by internal dissension, violence and murder.

Three weeks before we arrived in Jaffna, the local Tamil daily had carried on its first page a banner headline: SODA BOTTLE IN STOMACH OF STUDENT. The paper went on to say that two days earlier a youth had been admitted to Jaffna hospital with excruciating pains in the stomach. Surgery was performed. An empty bottle of aerated water was found in the stomach, apparently forced through the anus. The youth was still in hospital when JJK and I were in Jaffna. We learnt that the bottle was a bottle of Fanta. As someone told us the horrifying story another interjected that the Elephant House bottle would probably have been rejected because of its wider diameter. The youth was only 18 and was in the middle of his Ordinary Level examination when, upon suspicion that he was a Tiger, another group had arranged to deal with him. We could not help feeling that in his case Instant Justice would have been compassionate after torture so intense. But the doctors were using all their skills to save the youth's life: he will live, but maimed, probably forever.

After our visit to Jaffna in the immediate pre-Accord period, the present writer stated:

'... it is agonizing for the people to know that the groups can be even more ruthless to each other than to the common enemy. The militant groups are fighting for freedom from the Sinhala army. But how much freedom will they allow the Tamil people - to dissent, to propose alternatives, to choose their own leaders? Will the people of Jaffna shake off one set of oppressors only to saddle themselves with another? Someone must have the courage to speak up against violence for violence' sake, to recall the youth to their initial idealism and to the mainsprings of the ancient noble culture of the Tamil people'

More urgently than then, someone must stand up now and tell the youth, Enough! The forces of evil must not be allowed any more to destroy the people of Jaffna and their land. A second person will take up the call, even if the first has paid for it with life itself. And so on and on until Jaffna is saved from catastrophe. Will someone stand up? If so who?

But Jaffna still remains a charming town. Jaffna mangoes and Jaffna ripe

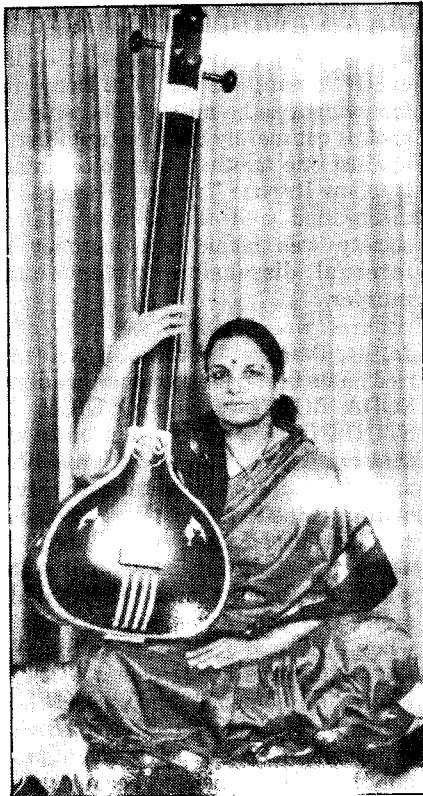
jak were not in season but vegetables were being sold at moderate prices, with brinjals quite cheap and good sour plantains at Rs 5/- only a kilo. The main roads are in many places broken up, with the nervous speeding of drivers of heavy army trucks and armoured vehicles, then of the Sri Lankan Forces, now of the Indian Army, said to be the fourth largest army in the world. But turn away from the main roads into the lanes and alleys which wind their way one into the other like intricate embroidery on a broad scarf. Into these lanes and alleys the Forces are wary of entering, except in times of well mounted massive cordon and search operations. Along these byways youth gather to chat in small groups of four or five at garden gates, some even play soft-ball cricket with umpires and all, and girls cycle gracefully to or from school or tutoring or the shops in town. After dusk, however, even these alleys tend to be as silent as footpaths in a cemetery and people keep doors and windows closed, hoping that there will be no dreaded knock at the door, summoning

someone, usually a son or brother as suspect or hostage.

So the charm of Jaffna is today tinged with unspeakable anguish. People ask, how much longer, and await the dawn with the classic steadfastness of the Jaffna people. Many have lost all human hope: in the governments of either Sri Lanka or India or in any of the militant groups. Every possible deliverer seems to have hands stained with the blood of innocents. Many do not see light at end of the tunnel, only the tunnel getting longer and longer and blacker and blacker every day.

A few others do not agree. They are grieved that those who should have led and guided the people of Jaffna in this critical time have been frightened either into the safety of foreign lands or into silence. They believe that each one can light in the gathering darkness the little light of one's own life of truth, justice, beauty and love. And one light will summon up another. Finally, though it may take years, dawn will break again upon the now benighted land.

CARNATIC MUSIC RECITAL - in aid of T O T



The post 1984 period saw the establishment and proliferation of organisations in the UK striving hard to collect aid (in the lines of Band Aid, Sport Aid and Comic Relief), but in this case the funds were to be sent to the unfortunate victims of the Civil War in Sri Lanka. One such organisation established in early 1988 and recognised as a Charity by the Charity Commission is the TAMIL ORPHANS TRUST more aptly described as T O T - because, as the name suggests, it is an organisation caring for Tamil children

orphaned by the unrest in Sri Lanka. The T O T raises funds by sponsoring cricket matches, organising cultural events, and obtaining donations.

One such fund-raising event organised by the T O T recently was a Carnatic Music Recital by a well known Musician from Sri Lanka - Srimathi Nageswari Brahmananda, a student of maestros like Nagercoil S Pathamanaban, and S Hariharan, Sithoor Subramaniam, D K Pattammal and Maharajapuram Santhanam. Acclaimed as a 'nightingale of Sri Lanka' Srimathi Nageswari Brahmananda has thrilled thousands of music lovers for many decades in live concerts and radio recitals.

She was accompanied by her daughter Varatha. Instrumental accompaniments were by Srimathi Laxmi Jeyan on violin, Adayar Balu on Miruthagam and Sri Muthu Sivarajah on Ganjira.

The audience sat through an enjoyable two hours of classical songs mainly in Tamil. She started off with a dedication song to the Tamil Orphans in Sri Lanka and proceeded through Gajanana (Raga: Chakravaham - on Lord Ghanapathy) 'Ka Va Va' (Raga: Varali; on Lord Murugan) 'Mahalaxmi' (Raga: Sangaraparanam; on Goddess Laxmi) and various other songs including a composition by Jaffna Veeramani Iyer. Of particular mention is a song composed by the sage of Colomboturai - His Holiness Yogar Swamigal starting with the words... 'Sothi Pilambey... Smt. Brahmananda's superb rendition of this virutham brought memories flooding to my mind about this great Saint's ashram where we used to sit at his feet - prior to his attaining Maha Samadhi in 1964 - approximately 25 years ago.

Srimathi Brahmananda - a super grade artiste of an older generation by her unflinching stamina pleased the audience and proved that she is equal if not better than her South Indian counterparts.

The Chairman of the T O T - Mr V Sellathurai in his address told the audience that the Tamil pogram of 1984 has resulted in 1500 children losing both parents and 6000 children losing one parent (mostly the father and that the Trust has donated funds to the various established orphanages in Jaffna.

Mr Rasanesan - Secretary of the Trust proposed a Vote of Thanks.

WIMAL SOCKANATHAN

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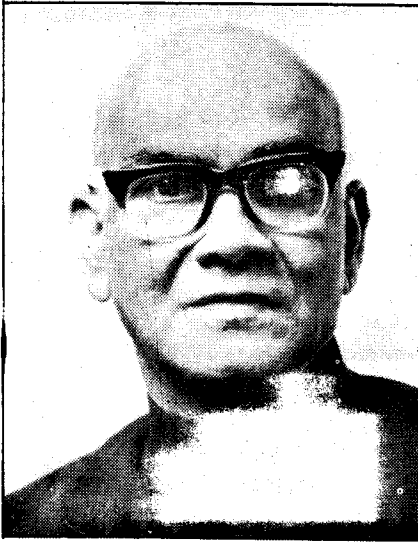
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SABAPATHIPILLAI

A MAN WITH A VISION



In 1965 a family arrived in England. In all respects it was like any other professional family leaving Sri Lanka in those 'swinging 60's' to start a new life in the UK - except that the head of this family was a man with a vision not about himself or his family but about the rest of his community living in a land far away from home.

He sought to unify all Hindu Saivaites living in UK - those who had settled in UK originally having come from India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa and Fiji. He thought out and planned a gigantic project to benefit the future generation and to protect and save the young children from forgetting their roots, religion, faith and traditions while growing up in a totally different environment. His dream was fulfilled twenty one years later with the consecration of the largest Hindu Temple complex in Europe comprising a Temple on the top floor incorporating many features of Indian Temple architecture, a conference/concert hall, Priest's living quarters, and a wedding hall with kitchen in the lower floors.

Having accomplished his grand mission he was called to eternal rest on Wednesday 17th May.

The late Mr Sabapathipillai - 'Aiya' as he was affectionately called by all those who knew him, was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka in 1910. After receiving his early education in Colombo he was sent to London at the age of 21 where he obtained his degree in mathematics from the London University. At the age of 24 he qualified as a Barrister of Law in England.

When he returned to Sri Lanka he served as a Lecturer at the Law College and as a mathematics lecturer in the Ceylon Technical College while practising at the same time as a lawyer in the Colombo Courts.

Aiya's life was influenced by a great scholar in Saiva Siddantham - which is a religio philosophic system of ethics, religion and philosophy practised in South India and Northern Sri Lanka. His Holiness the late Easana Sivachariyar from whom Aiya obtained 'Theed-chai' thus enabling him to do Siva Poojai which he had continued to do for the past 40 years.

When Aiya arrived in England again in 1965 as a mature 55 year old senior citizen he brought with him his wealth of knowledge and experiences in Saivism which he was determined to preserve and spread in the UK. As a first step he established and founded the Hindu Association of Great Britain within one year of his arrival in the UK. Aiya himself conducted Poojas, religious services at private homes, conducted weddings and officiated at funeral rites. Funds began to pour in and the next stage in Aiya's dream was fulfilled. The Hindu Association of Great Britain gave birth to a Trust today known as the Britannia Hindu (Shiva) Temple Trust with Aiya as its Chairman. Twelve years later - in July 1986 the grand Kumbabishekam of the Temple took place.

Aiya's Tamil School in Wimbledon (the first of its kind to be established in the UK) which was started by him in 1969 today continues to function and boasts of many talented graduates in dance, drama and music.

Aiya also took an active part in social and community activities in Wimbledon. He served as the Chairman of the Merton Community Relations Council, and as a member of the Merton and Wandsworth Racial Harassment Unit Management Committee. Aiya's role in receiving and resettling several hundreds of Tamil refugees who landed in London during the exodus of 1985 cannot be forgotten.

Aiya was to receive the coveted award - 'The Cyril Black Prize' for services to education and community relations in 1987/1988 presented by the London Borough of Merton. It was an irony of fate that he passed away a mere seven days before the grand award presentation ceremony.

Aiya may not be with us today but the great Temple in the hilly part of Highgate (acclaimed as the seventh hill Temple of Lord Murugan) continues to remain with us as a living monument to his spirit and dedication which will be remembered by many for several years to come.

WIMAL SOCKANATHAN

(Secretary, Hindu Association of Great Britain)

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Tamil Senior Citizens Fellowship in Australia

The Tamil Senior Citizens Fellowship is an active wing of the church at Murrumbidgee, Australia, where Rev A J C Selvaratnam is the priest in charge. A lunch and a variety entertainment with Professor C J Eliezer as chief guest was organised by the Fellowship on 16.4.89.

A Tamil Drama 'Poli Gowravam' was put on board by the members. The actors were Rev S N Subramaniam, Messrs George Vaithianathan, S Kandasamy, Balaratnam, Mrs Athysayam Vyravapillai and Mrs Sothi Swaminathan. A Kummi dance followed with Mrs Grace Joseph, Mrs Ranji Selvaratnam, Mrs Arunthathi Handy, Mrs Lukshmi Gnanapiragasam, Mrs M Satkunam, Mrs S Kunanayagam, Mrs J Champion, and Mrs P Kanapathipillai performing to a chorus of encores.

The fellowship meets on the second Sunday of every month. Mr A S Joseph is president and Mr N Pathmarajah is the secretary.

The Ceylon Tamil Association of Victoria (President - Dr Rajan Rasiyah) hosted the members of the Fellowship on 12.5.89.

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Matrimonial

Jaffna Hindu parents seek partner for their daughter, 22 years, British citizen and employed. Please reply with details to M 299, c/o Tamil Times.

Jaffna Tamil Hindu medical consultant would like to hear of a suitable groom for 22 year old daughter qualifying as doctor next year. M 300, c/o Tamil Times.

Jaffna Hindu parents seek suitable professional partner for son, 31 years, management accountant in Colombo. M 301, c/o Tamil Times.

England settled Tamil Hindu family seek groom for their girl, 25, civil servant, British citizen. Interested similarly situated families. Relevant details, photograph to M 302, c/o Tamil Times.

WANTED FLAT

Wanted a flat in Bambalapitiya or Wellawatte area, Colombo for £10,000 or equivalent Sri Lankan money. E 34 c/o Tamil Times

WEDDING BELLS

We congratulate the following couples on their recent marriage

Illangovan son of the late Mr & Mrs T Thambiratnam of Chunnakam, Sri Lanka and **Priyadarsani (Brahatha)** daughter of Mr & Mrs P Narendranathan of 53 Crossways, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8JQ on 4.6.89 at Selsdon Hall, Selsdon, Surrey, UK.

Joseph son of Mr & Mrs M J E Pancratius, 3 Deburgh House, Nelson Grove Road, London SW19 and **Goretti (Jeeva)** daughter of Mr & Mrs G Anthonipillai, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei on 20.5.89 at St Paul the Apostle's Church, Woodgreen, London N22.

Ajlith son of Mr & Mrs S Satkunam, 42 Taunton Drive, Bundoora, Victoria 3083, and **Kumudini** daughter of the late Mr N G Thamotheram and of Mrs Nancy Thamotheram, 6 Millan Court, Glen Waverly, Victoria 3150 on 20.5.89 at St Peter's Church, Murrumbidgee, Australia.

Thevanasan son of Mr & Mrs T Thevasagayam of Erialai South and **Sunethra** daughter of Mr & Mrs B C Balasingham, Attorney at Law, Kaddaively on 12.4.89 at Kaddaively Methodist Church, Sri Lanka.

Earl son of Mr & Mrs S A Solomons of Chavakachcheri and **Kirupa** daughter of Mr & Mrs William Thevathasan on 15.4.89 at the Uduvil Church, Sri Lanka.

OBITUARIES

M Muthiah (Retired chief clerk, Hapugastenne Group, Ratnapura) beloved husband of Grace, loving father of the late Maisy, Ranji (Canada), Dr Mahen Muthiah (UK), father in law of Albert Santhiapillai (Canada), and Chrisanthi (UK) passed away on 27.4.89 at Madduvil South, Chavakachcheri, Sri Lanka - 5 Babworth Crescent, Retford, Notts, UK.

S R Kanaganayagam (85) Former Senator, Sri Lanka, Beloved husband of Sathyammal, father of Savitri Devi (Sydney), Kanag-iswaran (Colombo), and Maheswaran (Sydney), father in law of Dr A Balasubramaniam, Ramani and Surya passed away in Sydney on 15.5.89 - 12 Fitzwilliam Road, Vancluse, N S W 2030, Australia.

Donald Nicholas Selvaratnam beloved husband of Chandra, loving father of Shyamala, Dushyanti and Hiren; father-in-law of Preethi Harasgama, David Smoker, and Sherine Selvaratnam; brother of the late I P Thuraiatnam, Mrs E J Jeyarajah, P E Jeyaratnam, E J Rajaratnam, and Mrs A H Ariaratnam; brother-in-law of Amirthan Devarajan, Mano Cumaraswamy and the late Mohan Cumaraswamy departed 21.5.89 - 26 Gylly Edge, Lancaster Park, Morpeth, UK.

K V Mylvaganam (86) Retired teacher, Jaffna Hindu College; husband of the late Alagammuttu; loving father of Pathmanathan (UK), Radha Perinpanayagam (UK), Chandra Jahn (West Germany) and Manoharanathan (India) passed away in Trichy, South India on 10.5.89 - 10 Harefields, Oxford OX2 8NS.



Maheswary Sabaratnam (75) of Vaddukodai formerly of the staff of Uduvil Girls College, Sri Lanka, wife of the late M. Sabaratnam (Surveyor, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia); mother of Menakai, Sarojini, and Sakunthalai; mother-in-law of Thanabala-sooriar, Sothinathan, and Sivaramalingam; grandmother of Sumathy, Sriharan, Sriram, Sivane, Subathra, Shanthy, Tilly, and Arjunan; great grandmother of Sivagajan, Sivakumar, Luxmi, Radha, Jonathan and Jennifer; this wonderful lady passed away peacefully on 21.5.89 in London. - 29 Fairlawn Court, Cherry Orchard Estate, Charlton, London SE9, Tel: 01-319 2913.

S Karthigesu, Retired Surveyor General, husband of Ketheravally, father of Sita Selvadurai, Lakshmi Jeganathan (both of Sri Lanka), and Dr Rama Karthigesu (New Zealand) died in Colombo on 6.5.89 - 5 Sumner Place, Colombo 8.

J M K Hensman Chartered Architect (formerly of P.W.D. Sri Lanka and recently Department of Housing, Nigeria), beloved husband of Shirley nee Stork; loving father of Malcolm, Johann, Cedric, Roger and Mark; brother of Kamala de Mel (Australia), Saraswathy Ariyanayagam (West Germany), Dr John Kanagasooriam (UK), Vijayalakshmi (Sri Lanka) passed away on 3.5.89 in UK - 392 Upper Elmers End Road, Beckenham, Kent, UK.

Somasundaram Sabapathipillai (78), well known and widely respected Saivite Hindu leader in UK, husband of Maheswary, father of SM Srikantha, SM Sathanathan and Mrs Sarojini. Ramanathan passed away on 17.5.89. His remains were cremated before a very large and representative gathering on 28.5.89 - 20 Fairway, Raynes Park, London SW20.

A tribute to his memory appears on page 21

IN MEMORIUM

First anniversary of Mr S S Bastiampillai who passed away on 14th June 1989.

You were a great man

So noble and great

Whom we all miss

And will never ever forget

Sadly missed and fondly remembered by his loving wife Ruby; children Vinothini, Pathmini and Rajan and grandchildren Tilan, Arosha, Sumithra, and Suthashini - 81 Windsor Road, Harrow Weald, Middx UK.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

July 2 12 noon Saiva Munnetta Sangam (UK) presents a Building Project Open Day of Variety Entertainment and Lunch at Central Labour Hall, 400 High Road, Ilford Essex, UK. Admission free. All welcome. For details Telephone 0268 766624.

July 8 7.00 pm South London Tamil Welfare Group presents a Cultural Evening at Graveney Secondary School Hall, Welham Road, Tooting, London SW17. For tickets and information telephone 01-879 7716

July 15 6.30 pm West London Tamil School Annual Prize Giving at Greenford Town Hall, Ruislip Road, Greenford, Mddx, UK.

July 22 6.00 pm International Tamil Organisation presents a Cultural Musical Evening at Copland Community School, Cecil Avenue, Wembley, Mddx, UK. Admission free. For complimentary tickets telephone 01-903 3249.

July 29 7.00 pm Tamil Talent '89 at Wembley Town Hall, London SW19. For tickets and information telephone 01-640 0271.

July 29 7.00pm League of Friends of University of Jaffna presents a Flute Recital by Dr. Thamotharam Nimalaraj at Bentleywood School Hall, Bridges Road, Stanmore, Middx, U.K. For details telephone 0923 223987

At Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 4A Castletown Road, London W14 9HQ. Tel:01-381 3036/4608

July 7 7.30 p.m. Carnatic Classical Vocal by B.Rajam Iyer

July 14 7.30 pm Hindustani Classical Vocal by Sharad Sathe

July 28 7.30 pm Lecture: Nehru, the Builder of New India by Rohit Mehta

Tamil Broadcasting Services in UK

A licence for the broadcasting of ethnic programmes inclusive of Tamil has been awarded to West London Radio Ltd. on 24.4.89. The necessary preparations regarding studios, transmitters, staff training are being made and it is hoped that the new Radio Station would be launched in early September 89. Those interested or have experience or have useful ideas about Tamil programmes are requested to contact Dr. R. Nithyanathan, 179 Norval Road, North Wembley, Middx, Tel: 01-904 3937. Dr. Nithyanathan is functioning as the co-ordinator of Tamil Broadcasting Services.

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KOFTA CURRY

ELU MAS CURRY
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MALLUNG
GOVA MALLUNG
DRY VEGETABLE CURRY

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