

# இலங்கை பீரரசியை 765

இலங்கை பீரரசியை 765... மலர் 76-05-27

## சிறி விடுதலை

குடியரசு வர்த்தமானப் பத்திரி  
அதி விசேஷமானது



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| 5,681 0  | 12,248 0   |
| 49,600 0 | 1,16,600 0 |



"உலக சமத்துவம்" (சுற்றுப்படை)



"இ. போ. ச. கொள்ளைக்க சுற்றுப்படை"

1. செலுத்தல்  
2. வித்யாகம  
3. இலையுரு

1976 ஏப்ரல் 14 தேதி லே.ஓ லைவ் லைவ்  
1976ஆம் ஆண்டின் 10ஆம் இலக்க  
பத்திரி சுற்றுப்படை.

பி. சாந்திரன்,  
செலையாளர்,  
நகரசபை, சாவகச்சேரி.  
20.11.74.

# DEMOCRACY RULES IN SRI LANKA

தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்

# DEATH OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN CEYLON

Before 1948, under the British, all people in Ceylon i.e. the Ceylonese, whether they were Tamils, Sinhalese, Malays, Muslims, Burghers or Veddahs, were equal subjects. The British left Ceylon as rulers in 1948 without any safeguards for the Tamil speaking minorities, particularly the Tamils, who through sheer hard work and merit had established themselves at the top in many fields. Historically Ceylon had at least three kingdoms before the Portuguese first invaded the island in 1495. The Tamils had their own regions in the North and East of Ceylon. These parts are inhabited by Tamils, almost 100%. Some Sinhalese colonies have been created by Sinhalese ministers, against the wishes of the Tamils.

Listed below are a few of the atrocities committed against the Tamils (including Muslims)

1. About 850,000 Tamils - almost all of them tea plantation up-country Tamils - who had voted in the post-independence elections and returned 7 Tamil M.P.s., were stripped of their votes in 1949 and made stateless. These tea plantation workers, whose ancestors had been brought to Ceylon by the British in the 1830's, had lived in poverty in terrible conditions but had exercised their votes, in the past. To the eternal shame of the indigenous Tamils, from the North and the East, they raised little protest at the biggest constitutional crime of all time against their Tamil cousins, who provided semi-slave labour in the tea estates.
2. Having deprived the Tamils of central Ceylon of their political rights the Sinhalese began to systematically colonise Tamil areas in the East. So-called crown land - in traditional Tamil areas - was handed over to the poorer Sinhalese, who were helped financially and otherwise by the Ceylon Government.
3. In 1956 the official language which was English, was changed to Sinhala 'Only' even in Tamil areas. Under the British the Tamil speaking people had been administered in Tamil in their areas and the Sinhalese people used Sinhalese. For centuries millions of Ceylonese and Indians in India have not learnt English because 80% of Asia's millions live in the villages. For their needs their own languages were sufficient. But Ceylon forced Sinhalese or tried to force Sinhalese - the language of one region and of one race - down the throats of the Tamils and the Tamil speaking people. In 1956, there were violent incidents between these races.
4. In 1958, the Tamils who lived in Sinhalese areas and in Colombo, the capital of Ceylon, were attacked, killed and their property looted. A Sinhalese journalist, Mr. Tarzie Vitachi wrote 'Emergency '58', in which he laid the blame on Sinhalese government ministers for leading the holocaust against the defenceless Tamils. This book was banned in Ceylon. Many thousands of Tamils fled to the North and East - their ancestral home. The army restored law and order and it is believed that the Tamils lost several hundred dead. The mad dogs of racism, language and religious domination had been released and a Buddhist monk shot dead the racist Sinhalese Prime Minister Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, for not going far enough against the Tamils.
5. Since 1958, there has been discrimination against the Tamils in all walks of life. Merit took second place to race and language. Large numbers of Tamils, Sinhalese Christians and others left Ceylon for good. The fair skinned Burghers, of mixed descent, who had qualified to become White Australians had already emigrated in hordes. Several representations had been made to the British, the United Nations and the Queen about the sufferings of the Tamils, who face decimation in the land of their birth.
6. In 1976 innocent Muslims, while meditating in a mosque were attacked by the Sinhalese armed forces. As a result seven died. Since then there have been numerous other attacks on Muslims. Even two weeks ago they were attacked.
7. In August 1977, the Tamils of Ceylon were once again attacked, murdered, their women raped, houses burnt and the world press took little notice. Silver Jubilee year, Human Rights year - Callaghan's condemnation of the Chilean killings, President Carter's championing of human rights and Freedom - but the genocide of the Tamils of Ceylon goes on. Who will help this small but ancient nation? Remember the Bangladeshis, the Turkish Cypriots, the Israelis!!!! Is Might Right?
8. Mr. J.R. Jayawardene, the present Prime Minister, who will become President on 4th February 1978, will kill parliamentary democracy in Ceylon, once and for all. He will become a dictator, who will not even allow the Tamils to hold elections on the "One Man, One Vote" principle. He prevented any compromise between the Tamils and the Sinhalese in 1957, by leading the Buddhist priests on a march against the Bandaranaike - Chelvanayagam pact. That such a man will do anything to improve the conditions of the Tamils, is utterly impossible and unacceptable. The Tamil speaking people of Ceylon, (including Muslims) want freedom.

We, Ceylon Tamils of the U.K. call upon the British people to help us to retain our freedom, in the land of our ancestors, AND ACHIEVE A SEPARATE STATE CALLED THAMIL PALAM.

Tamilar Viduthalai Paerani

(Ceylon Tamil Liberation Movement)

## CEYLON TAMILS DEPRIVED OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

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தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்

Our sincere apologies for confusing you with the incredible statements given on the previous page! We attached it to our hand-out for two very good reasons :

- i. to give you a 'real taste' of the kind of utterly vicious and false propaganda carried out by some extremist Tamil groups in the U.K., and
- ii. to show you the inconsistency and lack of purpose or aim of these groups which, to use a common Sri Lankan simile, sprout like 'mushrooms on rubbish dumps!'

In an earlier leaflet - 'Racial Discrimination in Sri Lanka - Fact or Fiction?' - we dealt with some of the issues raised by the Tamil extremists in their propaganda literature. The present leaflet attempts to reiterate the observations we made earlier and also to provide a candid answer to the mystifying statements found on the previous page.

#### FALLACY OF A SEPARATE TAMIL STATE IN SRI LANKA

The Tamil racist organizations have relied upon the ruthless invasions of the South Indian rulers to establish the claim that the North-Eastern regions of Sri Lanka belong to them and that there has always been a separate Tamil State. We must, in turn, ask them a simple question : Who, do they think, were the original inhabitants of these areas? Why should they forget that the region they claim as their own homeland was the very centre of the original Sinhala-Buddhist civilization of Sri Lanka? The Tamil campaigners are very liberal in making their claims to the ancestral land of the Sinhalese. Take, for example, their map showing the proposed Tamil Ealam. With a single stroke of their mad cartographer's pen they have conveniently captured a sizeable part of the North-Central, Western and Eastern regions of the country!! Could there be anything more idiotic than trying to carve out two separate States out of a tiny Island which is smaller than, say, Scotland?! Perhaps a better proposition would be for the Sinhalese to claim those parts of South India which, at times in the past, were captured by Sinhalese rulers?

The whole idea of a separate Tamil State in Sri Lanka is not a serious proposal to be argued against but a temporary gag to be laughed at.

## SETTLEMENT OF SINHALESE FAMILIES IN THE NORTH

The fear has been expressed that the Tamils would soon become homeless as a result of the government's land settlement policy under which Sinhalese families are settled in certain areas bordering the North and the North-East. It must be stated in no uncertain terms that the entire scheme is one aimed at agricultural development and, by no means, a disguised plot to oust the Tamils. The area selected for settlement comprise, in the main, the ancient 'raja rata' - the heart of the country's agricultural economy - so well known for the massive irrigation schemes constructed by the ancient Sinhalese kings. The Tamil extremists further claim that their land has been grabbed by the government and handed over to the Sinhalese. We challenge them to prove this wild allegation. We strongly maintain that every inch of land that has come under this scheme is land that belongs to the State - what is known as 'crown land.' The Tamils violently accuse the British of their colonial land policy. Yet there is an important question which to date remains unanswered : Who, in fact, were the worst affected by the British land policy and their extensive tea and coffee plantation programmes? No, not the Tamils. It was the Kandyan peasant who became landless and was forced to live in impoverished villages surrounded by massive tea plantations.

This talk about the Sinhala infiltration into the North is yet another hallucination of the Tamil racist groups. Do study the following figures showing the pattern of population distribution in some of the major Districts. Note the high percentage of Tamils living in the predominantly Sinhalese areas as against the negligible number of Sinhalese living in the Districts of Jaffna, Batticaloa and Mannar - a clear case of Sinhala hospitality and Tamil hostility.

Table APercentage Distribution of Population by District and Race

| <u>District</u> | <u>Sinhalese</u> | <u>Tamils</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Colombo         | 83.2%            | <u>8.6%</u>   |
| Kandy           | 62.2%            | <u>28.7%</u>  |
| Nuwara-Eliya    | 41.3%            | <u>56.4%</u>  |
| Jaffna          | <u>2.9%</u>      | 95.5%         |
| Batticaloa      | <u>4.4%</u>      | 70.8%         |
| Mannar          | <u>4.6%</u>      | 68.5%         |

(Source: Statistical Abstract for 1970/71)

## ONE MAN ONE VOTE

It is refreshing to see the Tamil groups discarding their jealously-guarded caste and class complexes and prejudices to promote the cause of the Indian tea plantation worker. Living in London and Oxford, there is, of course, no risk of their ever getting close to the Indian worker whom the local Tamils regard as 'untouchables!' The question of franchise for the Indian worker is exploited merely as additional ammunition against the governments headed (not surprisingly) by the Sinhalese and as an easy means of capturing the attention of the British public. The truth is that there is absolutely no discrimination against anyone who has a legal right to exercise his or her vote.

It is worth recalling the situation in 1946. The estimated population at the time was 6,657,300. Out of this 780,600 were Indian Tamils. In the electoral registers there were 3,048,145 who were qualified to vote, and out of them 211,915 belonged to the category of Indian plantation workers. The ratio of voters (this is a most interesting revelation) to the total population so far as the indigenous people were concerned was 1 : 2. The ratio in the case of the immigrant Indian Tamils was 1 : 3 !! One could well imagine the situation with regard to parliamentary representation in the Central Province (the last of the Sinhalese Kingdoms) had the immigrant minorities in this region been given the franchise with no qualification whatsoever. More than half the constituencies in this area would have returned a parliamentary candidate representing NOT the indigenous people but some alien immigrant group.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

An interesting observation we made in our first hand-out was that Sri Lanka is unique in that she is a nation where discrimination has been exercised against the majority, especially in such areas as education and employment. Given below are figures showing the number of executive-level officers employed by three of the most important government Departments. Please bear in mind that the Sinhalese constitute 71.9% of the population and the Tamils a mere 20.5%.

| <u>Department</u> | <u>Sinhalese</u> | <u>Tamils</u> | <u>Proportion-Tamil/Sinhalese</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Railway           | 124              | 63            | 1 : 2                             |
| Postal Services   | 416              | 193           | 1 : 2                             |
| Labour            | 61               | 31            | 1 : 2                             |

(Figures are for 1975/76)

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

One often hears of a policy of 'double standards' in some multi-racial nations when it comes to the allocation of central government funds for economic development and social overheads. What happens in Sri Lanka is best seen in the following tables. There is no need for a lengthy analysis as these figures speak for themselves. We have selected some vital areas : Budgetary allocations for major development projects in a representative group of Districts (Table B); Expenditure on education (Table C) and Provision of credit facilities for the farming communities (Table D).

Table B. Budgetary Allocations for 1970

| <u>District</u>  | <u>Population</u> | <u>Allocation in Rupees</u> | <u>Amount per head</u> |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Colombo          | 2,672,620         | 54,000,000                  | 20.2                   |
| Kandy            | 1,187,170         | 30,000,000                  | 25.2                   |
| Galle            | 737,451           | 18,000,000                  | 24.4                   |
| <u>JAFFNA</u>    | 704,350           | 16,000,000                  | 22.7                   |
| <u>BATTICLOA</u> | 258,104           | 11,700,000                  | 45.3                   |
| <u>MANNAR</u>    | 77,882            | 3,000,000                   | 38.5                   |

Table C. Expenditure on Education 1973-75 (Millions of Rupees)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Total Budget</u> | <u>Jaffna and Batticaloa</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1973        | 558m                | 73.8m                        | 22.8              |
| 1974        | 568m                | 76.6m                        | 23.5              |
| 1975        | 645m                | 91.1                         | 22.5              |

(Special note : Going strictly on the basis of allocating funds according to the strength of the population, it is not difficult to see that the two predominantly Tamil Districts of Jaffna and Batticaloa have received more than the actual quota they are entitled to).

Table D. Agricultural Credit 1974/75 (Thousands of Rupees)

| <u>District</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>District</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Anuradhapura    | 1,748         | Jaffna          | 5,979         |
| Eadulla         | 4,427         | Batticaloa      | 4,174         |
| Kandy           | 683           | Mannar          | 1,848         |
| Ratnapura       | 2,243         | Vavuniya        | 5,347         |

(Source: District Agricultural Implementation Programmes).

## THE MUSLIM CONNECTION

Every Sri Lankan would have had a hearty laugh - the loudest guffaws coming from the Muslims themselves - over the Tamil extremists' attempt to woo the country's Muslim community! The funniest joke, of course, is to suggest the setting up of a separate State not only for the Tamils but for the Muslims as well!! If we remember right the racist Ealam Association had resolved to invite some 50 million Tamils living in other parts of the world to this proposed 'ealam.' Perhaps on second thought they are opening their doors to the Muslims too! The Tamil intentions are pretty evident : this is a fine gimmick to win the sympathy of the Arab world. (Who, after all, wouldn't like to befriend them nowadays!?). Again, this is a deliberate attempt to create a rift between the Sinhalese and the Muslim communities who have for centuries been living in great harmony and friendship.

## AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC

We are fully aware of the tactics followed by the Tamil extremists in order to create political unrest in Sri Lanka and to tarnish the country's image abroad. They have infiltrated into various extremist groups in the U.K. and elsewhere posing themselves as genuine 'freedom fighters.' The worst damage is done in England's Polytechnics and other educational institutions where even the teaching staff have been misled. Public contributions are being collected regularly for the nefarious activities of these Tamil groups. Our appeal to the British public is :

DON'T SUPPORT THEM AND DON'T BE MISGUIDED BY THEIR PROPAGANDA. YOU HAVE KNOWN SRI LANKA AS A PEACEFUL COUNTRY - A TRUE DEMOCRACY. SHE STILL IS. SUPPORT OUR MOVEMENT AGAINST THE EXTREMISTS' ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE THE COUNTRY.

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ISSUED BY THE

SINHALA ASSOCIATION

OF SRI LANKANS IN THE U.K.

For further information  
write to :

89 KILMARTIN AVENUE  
LONDON SW16 4RA

THE COVER of this leaflet carries a design which is a direct reply to the allegation that the Tamil language has been ignored as a medium of official communication. EVERY official document - from a railway timetable to an Act of Parliament carries a Tamil version. Compare also our map with the one handed out with Tamil propaganda literature.

தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்