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## Communist Federation of Britain (ML)

# Ceylon

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"THE MASS OF MISINFORMATION on Ceylon that took place during the last year is so great that to explain all the problems is a formidable task."

This is how Comrade N. Sanmugathasan, General Secretary of the Ceylon Communist Party, began a series of meetings he addressed in London in June to explain the events of April 1971 in his country and draw people's attention to the severe government repression that followed.

Recent political developments in Ceylon (now "Sri Lanka") began he said with the sweeping victory in the elections of May 1970 of a "United Front" government led by Mrs. Bandaranaike and including Trotskyists and revisionists on a programme of lavish popular reforms, a programme which they were not long in demonstrating they had no determination or ability to carry out. Then in April of the following year an armed rebellion of young rural people led by an opportunist organisation called the J.V.P. provided the government with the opportunity to introduce massive political and economic repression as a way of getting out of their difficulties.

### 'PEACEFUL TRANSITION'

Until April 1971 Ceylon was supposed to be a model parliamentary democracy based on the British pattern, in which bourgeois politicians alternated with each other as nominal holders of power in the state, and Ceylon was said to be unusually blessed with political peace. In fact when Mrs. Bandaranaike's "United Front" government came to power it was hailed as an example of peaceful transition to socialism by the revisionists (Chile was not the first country to receive this honour, he pointed out!)

The repression that followed

