

JR The mafia type free-thinker

The 15th death anniversary of Sri Lanka's first Executive President Junius Richard Jayewardene was commemorated on 1 November 2011. Had he been alive and still leader of the United National Party (UNP), there might not have been a struggle for leadership change that has splintered the Party and turned it into an impotent opposition in Parliament. Ceylon Today, in a two-part series, revisits the political brilliance of a leader whose dignity, vision and statesmanship were recognized internationally.



Junius Richard Jayewardene (1906 - 1996)

BORN 17 September 1906
FATHER Hon. Justice Eugene Wilfred Jayewardene KC, a Chief Justice of Ceylon

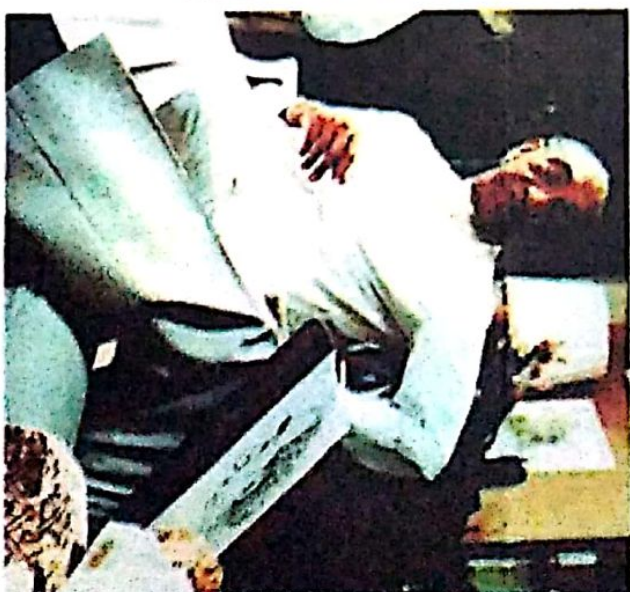
SPOUSE Elina Jayewardene (nee Rupasinghe)

SON Ravi Jayewardene
EDUCATION Royal College, Colombo (plays cricket, football and boxing)
Ceylon's school rugby team in 1925
Becomes head prefect in 1925
Enters University of Ceylon in 1926

Joins United National Party in its formation in 1946
Becomes Finance Minister in the island's first Cabinet in 1964

HEAD-OF-STATE Executive Prime Minister - 1977
First Executive President - 1978

CONTROVERSIES Passed Prevention of Terrorism Act in 1979
Sings Sirima Bandaranaike's off her heels rights
Holds a referendum to cancel



stability in Sri Lanka was greatly shaken. On 14 June 1984, J.R. at the US White House Cabinet Office met Vice President George Bush, the Secretary of State, George Shultz, Secretary of the Treasury, Donald Regan, US AID Administrator M. Peter McPhee and talked about the difficulties the war brings. He openly stated to Regan that the terrorists are fighting to gain a separate state and establish a Marxist government.

activities in Tamil Nadu. Mrs. Gandhi needed votes from Tamil Nadu for her election as Prime Minister but this cannot go on. Mrs. Gandhi must stop the terrorist tests from taking refuge in Tamil Nadu. If Tamil Nadu does not harbor them, then terrorism will die a natural death in Sri Lanka. Jayewardene also addressed the House Foreign Affairs Committee at the Rayburn House building where he urged Dante R. Paswell,

Part I

By Ravi Prasad Herat

No Sinhala leader has done so much to help the Tamils as President J.R. Jayewardene. Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi