



**THE  
J.R. JAYEWARDENE  
GOVERNMENT**

**FIRST THREE YEARS  
July 1977 - June 1980  
a  
Diary of Events**

Ministry of Plan Implementation  
7th Floor, Central Bank Bldg.,  
Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.







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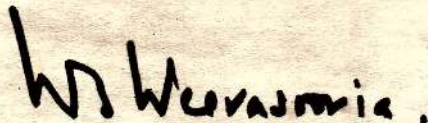
## INTRODUCTION

The public is aware that this Ministry publishes a Quarterly Performance Report on the Public Sector of Sri Lanka. The Performance Report is published within six weeks of the end of each Quarter and we have done this continuously, observing the strict deadline, from September, 1977.

Apart from this, our Ministry has also compiled, with the assistance of Line Ministries, an account of the activities of each Ministry of Government for every year commencing July 1977. These accounts have also been published by our Ministry every year commencing July, 1978.

This publication serves a different purpose. It contains a Diary of Events depicted chronologically for the period of three years since the United National Party Government of Mr. J.R. Jayewardene's was elected to office on the 22.7.1977. This particular publication relates to the period 24.7.1977 to 30.6.1980. We hope to update this Diary of Events from time to time every year and then publish it.

Our Ministry will be grateful for any comments which can assist us to improve this publication.



Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria

Secretary

Ministry of Plan Implementation.

1st June, 1981.







JULY 1977

July 23rd

Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, Leader of the United National Party is sworn in as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka after his Party won 139 of the 166 seats declared at the General Election held on July 21st, 1977. There is no parallel in the history of parliamentary elections of any democratic country where a party Leader had won such a large number of seats.

Almost the entire Cabinet of the former Government of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike was wiped out at the polls.

The Cabinet of Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the Jayewardene Government were sworn in the afternoon and the first Cabinet Meeting was held immediately thereafter.

The first decision taken by the New Cabinet was to return the Maha Maluwa to the Kandy Temple of Tooth Authorities from whom it was taken over by the previous Government.

July 25th

The first working day of the new Government. The Ministers and Deputy Ministers assumed duties in their respective offices amidst welcome speeches and celebrations by public servants who pledged to extend their co-operation. The Ministers requested hard work from the public servants for the sake of national development.

July 27th

Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, the Prime Minister arrives in Kandy, the ancient hill Capital.

In the afternoon the first formal weekly Cabinet meeting is held in Kandy, the first occasion such a meeting had been held outside Colombo. Some of the decisions taken at this historic Cabinet Meeting are:

The levy of 25 cents which patients seeking treatment at Government hospitals had to pay, is abolished. (This levy was introduced by the former Government in 1972).

A code of conduct for all Parliamentarians announced. Only one Cabinet Minister to attend Embassy Cocktail parties.

District Ministers to be appointed to take charge of development activities in districts.

Import of milk foods, other essential food items and textiles to be liberalised.

July 28th

The Prime Minister pays his respects to the Mahanayaka Theras of Asgiriya and Malwatta and invoke their blessings. The Prime Minister also pledges to take all steps to protect and preserve Buddhism.

In the afternoon the Prime Minister delivers his address to the Nation from the Octagon of the Dalada Maligawa before an estimated crowd of over 1 million. The Address, which was broadcast to the nation through the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, indicates among other matters the following:



Queues will be lessened by selling essential commodities at co-operatives and private retail points.

Exchange will be released soon to import essential goods.

Exemplary conduct will be maintained by the Prime Minister, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Members of Parliament.

Steps will be taken to amend the Constitution to meet the aspirations of the people.

July 29th

The Order Paper of the National State Assembly released, announcing that the Opening of the National State Assembly has been advanced to August 4th, 1977.



AUGUST 1977

August 1

The Prime Minister attended the re-vesting ceremony of the Law Society building which was taken over by the former government on the orders of the then Minister of Justice, Mr. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike. Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, Prime Minister attended in his capacity as a member of the Law Society of Sri Lanka. The building was opened by Mr. H.W. Jayewardene, President of the Sri Lanka Law Society.

Mr. M.H. Mohamed directed the CTB to accept for transport the newspapers published by Leftist political parties. The previous government had banned the transport of such newspapers by the state owned CTB.

It was announced that the age limit of children for admission to Grade I in schools would be reduced to 5 years in 2 stages, i.e.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  years by 1978 and 5 years by 1979. The previous government had raised the age limit to 6 years.

August 2

The Prime Minister appointed a 3 member Committee to probe post - election violence. The Committee consists of Mr. D.B.I.P.S. Siriwardena, Mr. R. S. Perera and Mr. Bernard Soyza.

At a meeting held at the Ministry of Food and Co-operatives it was decided to issue 2.03 ozs. of corriander to ration book holders. The price to the consumer will remain at Rs. 1.48 per lb. despite the price increase in the world market. It was also decided to purchase at least 40,000 cwts. of dried fish per month.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands decided to remove FEECs from milk foods and tractors with immediate effect to reduce the prices of these items.

The Government acquired the Times of Ceylon under the Business Acquisition Act to ensure continued publication of its newspapers and to safeguard the interests of its employees.

August 3

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet at its weekly meeting:

- \* Fertilizer subsidy granted to farmers will be increased from 50% to 75%.
- \* Administration of Justice Law will be reviewed.
- \* Issue of textiles will be de-rationed; textiles will be issued through CWE, Salu Sala, Co-ops. and private retail points. A total of 11 million yards will be issued to consumers through retail outlets.
- \* All private paddy mills will be utilized and steps will be taken to establish new mills.
- \* Since there are no political authorities at present, G.A.'s will proceed with programmes of work in consultation with M.P.P.
- \* Reports of audited statement of accounts of all Corporations and Statutory Bodies to be made available within 6 months after completion of the financial year.



- \* Special Cabinet Sub-Committee appointed to make detailed report on liberalization of imports of all essential consumer items. The Committee consists of Ministers of Trade, Finance and Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs.

#### August 4

The ceremonial opening of the Second National State Assembly by His Excellency the President, Mr. William Gopallawa.

Earlier, the National State Assembly meets and elects the following for the distinguished posts:

- (a) Hon. Speaker - Mr. Ananda Tissa de Alwis, M.P.
- (b) Hon. Deputy Speaker - Mr. Bakeer A. Markar, M.P.
- (c) Hon. Deputy Chairman of Committees - Mr. C.R. Beligammana.

Some of the features of the Policy Statement of the Government read out by His Excellency the President are:

- \* The Statement of Policy embodies in to the UNP's programme of action released before the General Elections. The Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians reiterated.
- \* The Government assures that an adequate supply of nutritious food including a minimum of cereal content of 8 lbs. a week would be made available.
- \* The Government will remove the artificial price control of farm products.
- \* Oppressive legislation such as Lands Betterment Tax Law will be radically altered.
- \* Special benefits will be granted to farmers to maximise and commercialise their output.
- \* Discriminatory practices in Education will be removed.
- \* Measures will be introduced to relieve frustration among intelligentsia and highly qualified personnel through incentives.
- \* Elimination of unemployment and underemployment will be treated as a matter of utmost priority and national importance.
- \* **Industrial development** through foreign collaboration or direct involvement will be encouraged and promoted by way of Free Trade Zones geared to exports.
- \* The Government accepts that there are numerous problems confronting Tamils for example, Education, Colonization and use of Tamil Language, Employment in public and semi-public Corporations.
- \* As independent foreign policy opposed to imperialism and colonialism in all their manifestations and a policy which will seek to preserve and protect the sovereignty, integrity and freedom of Sri Lanka will be pursued.

#### August 5

The Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. E.L. Senanayake indicated that all victims of land alienation through Land Reforms or Land Kachcheries will have their cases reviewed and compensation will be paid where necessary.



An 8 - point plan for the Plantations was announced by the Ministry of Plantation Industries. It covers such areas as, economic integration between villages and estates, training and research deficiencies, distribution facilities, slowing down of replanting programmes, provision of health and housing facilities.

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Ronnie De Mel appointed 3 worker directors to the State Distilleries Corporation, National Lotteries Board and the National Savings Bank in keeping with the new government's policy.

#### August 10

The Indian Government gifted 2 Tube Well Drilling Rigs. Minister of Irrigation, Power & Highways, Mr. Gemini Dissanayake accepted the gift on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka.

The Cabinet decides on the following measures at its weekly meeting:

- \* Government Departments and Corporations should be authorised to advertise in all the national newspapers and also in the newspapers of political parties. The quantity of advertisement would depend upon the circulation of each newspaper.
- \* A completely new system of elections to Local Bodies would be introduced by abolishing wards and with provisions for proportionate representation.
- \* The P.M. observed at the Cabinet Meeting that the position of the Leader of the Opposition in a democratic government should be recognized and it was agreed that the Leader of the Opposition should be provided with an official residence in Colombo and also an official car.

The P.M. has directed that all Ministers should consult the Ministry of Plan Implementation on any major project.

#### August 11

The process of reversing politically motivated land acquisitions was begun when a 28 acre plot in Galle was returned to its former owner by the Minister of Agriculture and Lands. This is in keeping with the Government's pre-election pledge.

#### August 12

The Special Anti-Cost of Living Cabinet Session decided on the following measures:

- \* Immediate reduction of a loaf of bread from 75 Cts. to 60 Cts. from today.
- \* Sugar issued on ration increased to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. per person a month.
- \* 4 lbs. of flour to be issued on ration every week at 60 Cts. per lb. In addition, consumers will receive 4 lbs. of rice on the ration.
- \* Allocation of Rs. 66 million in foreign exchange for the import of milk products, infant milk and condensed milk.
- \* Allocation of Rs. 24 million for the import of dried fish.
- \* Allocation of Rs. 60 million for the import of textiles.



- \* Allocation of Rs. 25 million for the import of sugar.
- \* Allocation of Rs. 113.5M for the import of fishing gear like nets, for spares, fertilizers, drugs, motor vehicle and motor cycle spares, sewing thread, plate glass, base metals and tractor spares.
- \* The private sector has also been permitted to import these essential items to ensure there is no shortage of these items.
- \* In the past State Printing Corporation and Government Press made a profit of 60% on school text books. In future text books will be sold at cost price.
- \* A sum of Rs. 1.6 million has been allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands for paddy milling and storage.
- \* The government also decided with the view to ending corruption and other irregularities in MPCS to pass in future copies of invoices of food items sent to M.P.C.S. to M.P.P., G.A.A., A.G.A.A. Commissioner of Co-op. Development, so that they could be aware of the food items despatched and their quantity.

The Government decided to give the Government Doctors the right to do private practice at any nursing home with immediate effect. This assurance was given by the Minister of Health, Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya when he met a delegation of G.M.O.A. and A.M.S. at the Health Ministry.

A high powered Committee has been appointed by the Minister of Irrigation, Power and Highways to make a full study and recommend ways of averting an impending power crisis after 1981.

The Bank of Ceylon has liberalized all credit facilities to exporters of Sri Lanka produce.

The P.M. has given an assurance that everything possible would be done to make the Colombo Plan even more effective as a co-operative organization for social and economic development. This assurance was contained in his reply to the message of felicitations sent by the President of the Colombo Plan Mr. Justice Abdul Hakkim of Bangladesh.

#### August 15

The Government has commenced preparing the ground-work for the establishment of the Free Trade Zone. Mrs. Wimala Kannangara, Minister of Shipping, Aviation and Tourism today appointed a high powered committee to recommend ways and means of ensuring the effective working of the Port of Colombo.

#### August 17

The Cabinet at its weekly meeting decided on the following:

- \* Draft Law for the amendment of the Constitution of the Republic of Sri Lanka to provide for an Executive President and matters incidental thereto, and the appointment of Ministers who need not be Members of Cabinet.
- \* A Select Committee of the National State Assembly should examine comprehensive changes that are desirable in the Constitution.
- \* It was decided to abolish the present system of standardisation of marks in regard to admission to the University.
- \* It was also decided that statues of Late Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike and Late Mr. Dudley Senanayake should be erected in the N.S.A. premises.



Curfew was declared in the 2 Districts of Anuradhapura and Kurunegala from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. The P.M. has directed Service and Police personnel to deal firmly with looters and rumour mongers.

#### August 18

The P.M. informed the NSA that the Government will appoint a Committee to probe the causes of racial violence. P.M. also mentioned that more laws if necessary will be imposed to curb the spate of violence. All M.P.P. were requested to return to their electorates and to assist the security personnel to help maintain law and order.

"We are one nation and I am the leader of a Government for the whole country, even the part for which TULF wants and Eelam" declared the P.M. at the NSA.

The P.M. also informed that the curfew had been extended to the entire NCP, Kurunegala, Matale and the Panadura Town. It was also mentioned that the strike at the Jaffna Kachcheri is continuing.

After an emergency Cabinet meeting held at the NSA, 20 Co-ordinating Officers were named to be in charge of security matters in 20 Districts. They were briefed to work in close liaison with Ministers, Deputy Ministers and law enforcement officers to prevent escalation of violence.

#### August 19

Curfew declared in Kegalle effective from 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. Earlier curfew imposed in Kandy from 11 a.m. to 5 a.m.

#### August 23

Full day curfew imposed in Trincomalee. The Government ensures food and fuel supplies.

#### August 24

The Government announced that there is a political conspiracy behind the recent acts of violence and looting. "Some people who were in power, and have now lost that power, have attempted to obstruct the endeavours of the Government to provide speedy relief to the mass of people". - the official communique said.

3 Vessels of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation, Lanka Rani, Lanka Rathna and Lanka Kalyani left the Colombo Port with 1,800 refugees to Jaffna. According to official reports there were 5,000 Tamils in refugee camps.

The I.G.P. announced the formation of a Civilian Volunteer Scheme to protect people.

#### August 26

The Government appointed Mr. G.P.S. de Silva, Deputy Solicitor General as counsel to assist the Commission of Inquiry into racial violence. Mr. Sansoni, one time Chief Justice will be appointed as the one-man Commissioner, it was reported.

#### August 29

According to reports, about 11,000 refugees who opted to leave Colombo have been provided all possible assistance and transport facilities by the Government. 12,000 refugees have left Colombo by train from Jaffna and Batticaloa. Another 800 had left for up country areas by bus.



SEPTEMBER 1977September 1

The curfew throughout the country was lifted with effect from yesterday.

September 2

The P.M. has placed Mr. R. Premadasa, Leader of the House in charge of rehabilitation work arising out of recent incidents of violence.

September 5

It was reported that Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Irrigation, Power and Highways has given priority to another major irrigation project namely the Iginimitiya Scheme. This Rs. 170 million scheme which is to be launched with Japanese Aid will bring under cultivation 63,000 acres of virgin land and irrigate a further 800 acres already under cultivation once the reservoir across the Mee Oya is constructed.

A special Cabinet Meeting was held to discuss the blue print for a short term program to provide employment for 250,000 persons. Meanwhile, the Ministers have been requested to prepare proposals to generate employment opportunities in their respective Ministries.

September 7

Mr. E.L. Senanayake disclosed that -

- \* West German Government has offered to build 22 rice milling plants in every district and also a fertilizer complex at Maho for storage, mixing and distribution of fertilizer.
- \* The US Government has offered Rs. 5.4 million dollars for the construction of storage space and mills in the Island.

September 8

The Land Reforms Commission (LRC), it was announced, has decided to distribute land to about 500,000 youths. According to the proposed programme, each youth will be given  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres of land, a house, a cow, a beehive and 25 hens. At the commencement of the programme each youth will be given Rs. 13,500 as initial capital. About 2,000 youths will be selected from each electorate under this scheme which according to the LRC Chairman will be started in the Central Province.

September 10

It is reported that about Rs. 22 million will be spent within the next 6 months to improve and expand the fishing industry in Sri Lanka. Rs. 15 million of the total will be utilized to purchase fishing nets since it had been found that 50% of boats do not have adequate nets.

Sri Lanka State Trading Corporation has placed an order for the immediate shipment of 786 four-wheel tractors and 600 two-wheel tractors at a cost of Rs. 60 million. A further 2,000 tractors are expected to be imported early 1978.

Trawlers of the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation have resumed fishing operations after a lapse of several years it was reported.



September 12

An exchange of letters took place at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs. According to this agreement the Government of Japan will provide the Government of Sri Lanka a loan of 4,500 million yen or about US dollars 16 million.

September 13

It was reported that a 5 member team will prepare a blue print on the lines on which the proposed Free Trade Zone should function. The P.M. has already appointed 4 members namely Messrs. H.W. Jayewardene, Paul Perera, Samuel Gnanam and Upali Wijewardena.

The Pottuwil election was held. (The election of this 2 member constituency was postponed due to the death of one of the candidates just before the General Election of July 21, 1977). The two members elected were:

A.M. Jamaldeen (UNP)	- Majority 30,315
M. Canagaratnam (TULF)	- Majority 23,990

September 15

The P.M. has instructed the Ministers concerned to take early action to have the paddy supplies in a number of outstation government granaries, milled and the rice distributed to consumers on the weekly ration.

September 16

The P.M. addressed the Government Agents at the Central Bank Auditorium. This is the first G.A.A. conference held after the new Government assumed power. Addressing the Conference, P.M. observed that all liberties of the individual would be guaranteed by the new Government. Every citizen would be given equal opportunities irrespective of race, religion, caste and to make a united Sri Lanka.

September 17

More than 600 prisoners were granted Presidential Amnesty at the request of the Prime Minister whose Birthday is celebrated today.

The Prime Minister signed an agreement with Prima (Ceylon) Ltd., a Singapore firm for the setting up of a wheat flour milling complex at Trincomalee.

The West German Government has made a grant to Sri Lanka of commodity and amounting to DM 100,000 for the financing of the import of goods for current civil requirements.

September 21

The Government decided that all children who have reached the age of 5 by December 1977 should be admitted to Grade I of the schools next January.

September 23

The P.M. disclosed at the NSA that the Government would repeal the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) Act. He made this announcement while presenting the Bill to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Sri Lanka.



September 26

A consignment of 9,000 tons of cement from Philippines arrived in Sri Lanka today. The first consignment of 5,000 tons was delivered on August 16, 1977.

Mr. S de. S. Jayasinghe, Minister of Fisheries and M.P. for Dehiwela died after a brief illness. He was 66.



OCTOBER 1977

October 3

The Cement Factory at Kankesanturai went into full production of 850 tons per day last week after a lapse of nearly 7 months, it was reported.

October 5

The Charge d' Affairs a.i. of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. G. Heisch and Mr. C.P. Channugam, Actg. Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning signed an agreement covering a commodity loan of DM 10 Million.

The Leader of the House Mr. R. Premadasa informed the National State Assembly that the Cabinet had decided on a specific request made by the Prime Minister not to use machinery where human labour could be employed. This would generate more employment opportunities to the jobless, he added.

October 7

The P.M. assured full freedom to all political parties to hold public meetings and reiterated that the government would safeguard all other democratic rights including the freedom of the press. Mr. Jayewardene added that for the first time members of the Opposition including the former P.M. Mrs. S. Bandaranaike were allowed to broadcast speeches on the SLBC.

The Import Controller has doubled the foreign exchange allocation made available for book imports for 1978 compared with the amount allowed in 1976.

October 11

The Political Victimization Investigation Unit set up by the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs will begin this week interviewing 15,000 persons with a view to granting them redress and compensation, it was reported.

Addressing the First Orientation Seminar for M.P.P. on the National State Assembly sponsored by Leader of the House, Mr. R. Premadasa, the Prime Minister Mr. J.R. Jayewardene declared that the government would usher in a new society, not one based either on capitalist or Marxist theories, but purely on new concepts that would suit our people and meet their aspirations.

October 14

A Youth Agricultural Service on the lines of the National Military Service functioning in other countries is being contemplated by the Government, the Minister of Irrigation, Power & Highways, Mr. Gemini Dissanayake said at Pattiypola. Mr. Dissanayake observed, it is high time that the youth of begin to realise that their energy and strength is needed to revitalise the socio-economic development of our mother land.

October 15

Major-General Dennis Perera assumed duties as Commander of the Sri Lanka Army. He is the first Army Commander to have been trained at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

The P.M. expressed his desire to have close and very friendly ties with all Arab and Muslim countries in the world, when an Arab delegation met him at his Ward Place residence.



October 18

Mr. Ronnie De Mel, Minister of Finance returned after a 5 week aid mission which took him several countries. In an exclusive interview with a Ceylon Daily News reporter, Mr. De Mel said, "The World's political leaders are convinced that the J.R. Jayewardene Government comprises a set of serious minded and responsible persons who are capable of delivering the goods. They have therefore pledged an unprecedented amount of financial aid to help us develop and bring about a socio-economic resurgence in Sri Lanka".

October 19

Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Irrigation, Power & Highways observed that there was a possibility of the country facing a severe power shortage in the future unless all her resources were developed in the possible time. The Minister was the Chief Guest at the 71st Annual Conference of the Institute of Engineers of Sri Lanka.

Development Finance Corporation of Ceylon has set up a special unit to assist small industrialists especially with foreign exchange for the import of machinery to set up new units and to expand or modernise existing units, it was reported.

October 20

The Speaker Mr. Ananda Tissa de Alwis certified the Amendment to the Constitution making it law. The Amendment allows for the election of a President of Republic of Sri Lanka and the nomination of District Ministers. The certifying, held at the Speakers Chamber was witnessed by the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet.

Mr. A. Abdal Majeed, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Lands replying to a question raised by Mr. Weerasinghe Mallimarachchi M.P. for Kolonnawa disclosed at the N.S.A. that the former Minister of Agriculture and Lands Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa had been the first to receive compensation from the Land Reform Commission Tribunal. The amount awarded to Mr. Kobbekaduwa was Rs. 89,018/-.

October 21

The P.M. said at the N.S.A. that the repeal of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) Acts will wipe out from the statute book one of the most sadistic and obnoxious laws ever enacted in this country by the previous regime with the sole purpose of victimising political opponents. "I will not lay my hands politically on any single member of the previous government" declared Mr. Jayewardene.

October 22

All 19 Superintendents of Health Services (SHSS) met the Minister of Health Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya and apprised that the country's health services, both curative and preventive are threatened with a breakdown. The SHSS pointed out that there is an acute shortage of drugs, equipment, personnel and transport.



October 27

The P.M. inaugurated the Vap Magul ceremony at the ancient Sinhala Kingdom city of Panduwasnuwara by ploughing a paddy field according to customs of the ancient Sinhala Kings.

Later the P.M. made his Address to the Nation from a paddy field at Divulwewa in Panduwasnuwara. In his Address Mr. Jayewardene requested the people to put their hands on the plough and help the Government achieve self sufficiency in good.

The IGP issued a special message to the 17,000 strong Police Force stating that it was the duty of every policeman to collect information about subversive activities that endanger the Security of the state and the promptly alert the government.

October 28

In Peking, Sri Lanka and China signed their sixth Five Year Trade Payments Agreement and an annual protocol covering two-way trade worth about US \$ 160 million for the 1978 calendar year. The Agreement and Protocol were signed by Sri Lanka's Trade Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali and China's Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Li Chang.

The air strip at Palavi in Puttalam used during World War II and abandoned immediately thereafter was re-opened by the Air Force Commander, Air Chief Vice Marshall Harry Gunatilleke at a special ceremony.

October 29

The Appropriation Bill for the financial year 1978 has been gazetted on the orders of the Minister of Finance. The Bill is expected to be tabled in the N.S.A. shortly by the Finance Minister. According to the Bill the Government's estimated total expenditure for the financial year 1978 is Rs. 8,316/- million. The highest allocation has been made for the Ministry of Irrigation, Power and Highways totalling Rs. 694 million. The respective figure for 1977 is Rs. 463/-.

October 31

The Ministry of Defence has launched a top level probe headed by General Sepala Attygalle, Additional Secretary, Defence to look into the whole question of legislation of firearms in the island. The purpose of this exercise is to ensure that these weapons are issued only to persons who are found to be in genuine need, and only after a security check.

The Commissioner of Labour announced at the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Labour Officers Union that the co-operation extended by the Labour Officers has enabled the Labour Department to clear about 1,100 out of a backlog of 1,200 labour disputes that had accumulated during the last few years.

November 1

The Government Parliamentary Group meeting presided over by the P.M. decided to establish "Job Bank" for the impartial appointment of youth for government jobs without taking into consideration, the political affiliation of job seekers.



The P.M. has directed a probe into the alleged commission earnings of a high official in an important department who was permitted to resign a few weeks before the General Election. The alleged offences involved illegal commissions running into nearly Rs. 50 million in foreign exchange, it was reported.

### November 2

Rohana Wijeweera, Leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and 136 others who were convicted by the Criminal Justice Commission (Insurgency) for attempting to overthrow the Government in 1971 were released from Jail after being granted a pardon by the Government. Mr. J.R. Jayewardene during the last election campaign criticized the provisions of CJC and promised that he would abolish the CJC and also review the cases of those convicted under that law.

The Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, Mr. Cyril Mathew has approved the construction of a Rs. 25 million Aluminium Extrusion Plant which would meet not only the full requirements of aluminium in the major industries of the country and domestic use but also has a potential for the export of aluminium products, it was reported.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Lanka, Prof. P.P.G.L. Siriwardena appointed two top level committees to work out the details for the establishment of 2 Campuses in the Matara and Batticaloa Districts.

### November 3

"I am going to stake the entire future of the UNP on the successful completion of Mahaweli Scheme within the next 5 years. If necessary I will bring legislation to set up a compulsory national service scheme to complete this project". So observed the P.M. speaking on a supplementary estimate on the Ministry of Irrigation Power and Highways in NSA.

All school text books prescribed for use by students from the beginning of next year will be ready by the middle of December, it was reported. It further added that 4 million compulsory text books to be used by pupils in Grade I to 9 will be made available to students well in time.

### November 5

A high powered team from the US agency for International Development is currently in Sri Lanka to assess the programmes and future plans of the Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Sri Lanka with the view to strengthening its teaching and the development of its programmes, it was reported.

Mr. Wijepala Mendis, Minister of Textile Industries has decided to reduce the price of cambrics and synthetic textiles produced by the Government owned Wellawatte Spinning and Weaving Mills with immediate effect. Accordingly the price of a yard of Cambric 1,800 has been reduced from Rs. 6.75 to Rs. 6.50.

### November 6

"There is a communication gap between officials and the people and this must be bridged in the interests of development and welfare of the people". This was stated by Mr. R. Premadasa, Minister of Housing, Construction and Local Government when he addressed the conference of Government Agents, Asst. Commissioners of Local Government and Heads of various Departments, Chairmen and Board of Corporations under his Ministry.



November 8

Sri Lanka will receive 200,000 metric tons of rice from China at prices far below the World Market price and even below the price paid for rice last year. In return Sri Lanka will also supply China with a lesser quantity of rubber namely 49,000 tons. This was revealed by Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade when he addressed a press conference at his Ministry. The Minister returned the previous night after a successful visit to China.

"Of 80,000 persons who were remanded for alleged offences in 1975, only 15,000 were convicted. This meant that only 20% of the number of persons remanded were convicted and it amounted to a gross injustice on innocent people". This was revealed by Mr. J.P. Delgoda, Commissioner of Prisons when he spoke on "Offenders and the Community" at a meeting organized by the Ceylon Association for the Advancement of Science.

November 9

Mr. Ola Visten, Swedish Minister of International Development arrived in the Island on a 4 day official visit.

Sri Lanka signed 3 agreements for an outright grant and 2 loans amounting to Rs. 189 million with USA, Britain and Canada.

November 11

The former Minister of Finance, Mr. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike and his wife Mrs. Lakshmi Bandaranaike drew from the Sri Lanka High Commission in London a total of £ 5,014.55 (approximately Rs. 128,412) in foreign exchange at various times between 1973 and 1977, without the authority of the Exchange Controller. This was disclosed in the N.S.A. by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Ronnie de Mel replying to a question raised by Mr. Harin Corea, M.P. for Chilaw.

The Government had appointed Mr. M.C. Sansoni, a former Chief Justice as one man Commissioner to probe the events that took place between August 13 to September 15, it was announced.

The Dehiwela By-election was held, following the death of Mr. S. de S. Jayasinghe M.P. and Minister of Fisheries. The By-election was won by Mrs. Sunethra Ranasinghe (UNP) by a majority of 10,484 votes.

November 14

Sri Lanka has decided to extend full diplomatic recognition to the Republic of Korea (South Korea) with effect from today, the Foreign Office announced.

The Asian Development Bank expressed its willingness to help finance the Lunugamwehera Project to the tune of Rs. 206 million (US \$ 24 M).

November 15

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Ronnie De Mel presented the first budget of the UNP Government. Some of the main features are:

- \*Increase in the Guaranteed Price Scheme with immediate effect from Rs. 33 a bushel of paddy to Rs. 40 a bushel.
- \*An overall increase in wages and salaries of government and public Corporation employees including pensioners by 25% up to a maximum of Rs. 50 per month.



- \*A Scheme of income support to persons who have no gainful occupation. Each person under this scheme will receive a monthly income of Rs. 50 per head.
- \*Reduction of the price of off ration sugar from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 3/- per lb. for all. The sugar ration will continue in respect of children under 12 years of age whose parents income is below Rs. 300/-.
- \*BTM on Kerosene reduced.
- \*Increase in the rate of interest paid on the Employees Provident Fund balance increased to 75% with effect from 1977.
- \*A unified rate of exchange at an appropriate level to be brought in with immediate effect from midnight.
- \*Termination of the FEECs scheme with effect from midnight.
- \*Abolition of CRA scheme with effect from midnight.
- \*Changes in import tariffs and BTM rates. The present BTM rates range from 1% to 35% - there will be only 3 rate bands of 1%, 5% and 10% with only a few exceptions.
- \*Continuation of one lb. of rice free and 3 lbs. at Re. 1/- per week as at present. Also children under 12 years of age will receive sugar ration of one and a half lbs. at 72 Cts. per lb. per month.
- \*The food rationing scheme for rice which will help to stabilize the open market price of rice around the GPS price.

#### TAX PROPOSALS

- \*Increase in the personnel income taxation to 70%.
- \*Ceiling of a monthly salary even in the private sector to Rs. 3,500 and also to restrict the entertainment allowance and special allowances.
- \*Abolition of Expenditure Tax.
- \*Abolition of the present capital allowances and to allow instead with effect from the year of assessment of 1976-79, lump sum depreciation allowances amounting to the full cost of plant, machines, fixtures in business and 50% of the cost of construction of agricultural and industrial buildings which now qualify for lump sum depreciation allowance.
- \*Abolition of ad hoc tax rebates introduced in 1976.
- \*Incentives to the agricultural sector by granting to companies formed for agriculture, exemption of tax from their profits for a period of 5 years.
- \*Incentives to small scale industries.
- \*Tax concessions to fisheries industry.
- \*Incentives for housing.
- \*Total Wealth Tax and Income Tax as from the year of assessment 1978 - 79, the tax payer is called upon to pay will not exceed 80% of his income from all sources including exempt income.
- \*A single rate schedule for both Estates Duty and Gift Tax.
- \*Abolition of the tax on capital gains that is levied on gifts and on death. In future only the realised capital gains will be subject to income.



\*Compulsory savings second instalment of repayment falls due next year and payments made for the year 1973 will be refunded.

\*Appointment of a Tax Commission.

\*The price of coconut arrack and molasses increased by Rs. 1 per bottle.

\*Excise Duty on beer and other country made foreign liquor will be increased by 50 cents to Rs. 1 per bottle.

\*Increase in the price of imported liquor.

\*Cigarette prices to remain the same.

\*Abolition of Transfer Tax on motor cars - a tax of 80% of difference between the landed cost and the appraised value on the transfer of a car by an importer within 7 years of such importation. Instead a transfer fee of Rs. 5,000 on motor cars 17 cwt. and below in weight and Rs. 10,000 on motor cars above 17 cwt. will be imposed. This fee will be charged on the 1st transfer.

\*Export Duty on tea increased.

"What was the legacy bequeathed to us by the Sirima Bandaranaike Government? I regret to state that we have been left with a country and an economy which have been completely run down over the last 7 years. In the first place, our economy has been run down almost to breaking point. Production declined considerably in the main spheres of activity", declared the Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech. He also observed, "Great tasks and mighty challenges are ahead of us. There is universal confidence both in this country and abroad that Mr. J.R. Jayewardene Government will not fail to meet these tasks and these challenges".

#### November 16

Rates of Custom duties have been reduced and import control licences will no longer be necessary in the case of bona fide gifts and personal effects. This is one of the reliefs given to incoming residents which came into effect from midnight of November 15, it was announced.

Over 3 million school children will now be able to buy all their school text books at reduced prices. This follows a government decision to reduce the price of all school text books by 15% with immediate effect.

Sri Lanka envoy in Manila and the President of the Asian Development Bank signed a US \$ 17.5 million Loan Agreement for the Ceylon Electricity Board, it was announced.

#### November 17

The Government decided to make arrangements to sell rice outside the ration at Rs. 2.90 a measure at all co-operatives in the country.

#### November 18

The government has decided to transfer the ownership of all flats and houses belonging to the Department of National Housing, to the tenants immediately, Mr. R. Premadasa, Minister of Housing, Construction and Local Government announced.

The Government of Netherlands has offered to Sri Lanka a special soft loan of DFL 35 million (about Rs. 233 million) for the year 1977. It is expected to utilize this loan for the import of capital and intermediate goods for development activity.



The Finance Minister disclosed in the N.S.A. that the International Monetary Fund had agreed to accommodate Sri Lanka to the extent of Rs. 6,000 million.

The P.M. has ordered that the Port of Colombo and the International Airport at Katunayake be fully operational and at peak efficiency when the Free Trade Zone projects get underway early next year.

#### November 20

Dambulla Oya Irrigation Project (Dambulla Electorate) designed to develop 6,000 acres of new land under stage II of the Mahaweli Development Project will be ready for cultivation for next Yala, MDB announced. Over 20,000 acres under Stage II have already been developed and a total of about 30,000 acres will be ready before the next Maha cultivation season.

#### November 21

Mr. E.L. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture & Lands has negotiated with the World Food Program and has agreed to supply 6,000 tons of milk powder per annum to Sri Lanka for school children. As a result of the Minister's successful negotiation nearly a million children will benefit.

The Federal Republic of Germany has donated 1,170 metric tons of white sugar valued at Rs. 5.4 million to the Sri Lanka Freedom From Hunger Campaign Board. The arrangements for this donation which is being given through the West German Freedom from Hunger Campaign was made by the Ministry of Economic Co-operation of the Federal Republic of Germany.

#### November 23

At a meeting held with the Controller of Prices, bakers, hoteliers, confectioners and manufacturers of aerated waters agreed to reduce the prices of their products.

3,005 housing units will be completed by the Department of National Housing before February 1978, it was reported. Nearly 1,000 units will be constructed in Colombo and the suburbs. The Ministry is also planning to open 22 training centres for masons, carpenters, brick layers and other skilled labour in all the administrative Districts.

A joint Air Service Agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of Korea to operate air service between and beyond their respective countries by Korean Airways and Air Ceylon.

#### November 24

The Ministry of Food and Co-operatives announced that off ration rice would be freely available to the people. Country rice would be sold at Rs. 2.90 a measure and par boiled rice at Rs. 3.10. This would be made available through the CWE, Co-ops., authorised dealers and Marketing Department staff. The Minister disclosed this when he addressed the Govt. Agents at the Central Bank Auditorium.

"More than 22,000 people employed in the textile industries are assured of their jobs" said Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade after his arrival at BIA after his successful talks with the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community on the export of textile production from Sri Lanka to these countries in 1978 and thereafter.



November 27

The Ministry of Trade has approved the purchase of 1,000 new lorries as part of a program to reduce the cost of living, it was reported.

November 28

The Prime Minister informed the N.S.A. during the Budget Debate that a scheme will be implemented to give relief to families who lose their rice and sugar subsidies. Relief will come in the form of employment to 18 year olds and above. Salary increases will be given to such families.

A press release issued by the Minister of Finance said "Our country should be set on the path of production, economic development and finding employment to youth while ensuring systematic consumption and subsidies to a considerable portion of the population". According to the press release, the 1978 Budget has set apart funds to create jobs for 100,000 people apart from the Mahaweli Scheme which will provide employment to 3 lakhs each year. The Free Trade Zone will provide employment opportunities to 100,000. The Ministry of Housing will construct 100,000 and this construction program will offer additional 100,000 jobs.



DECEMBER - 1977December 1

The P.M. has expressed his deep concern over the incidence of gang and armed robberies in the city of Colombo and has instructed the Police that all necessary measures must be taken to make the city safe for the Police.

The Leader of the House Mr. R. Premadasa gave an assurance to the N.S.A. that the government would not hesitate to change any features in the Budget if it were convinced that the greater masses of the country were adversely affected by.

Colombo Consumers Price Index for August 1977 has decreased by 0.49% compared with the previous month's figure of 204.2% according to the September issue of the Central Bank Bulletin.

The first Budget of the U.N.P. Government was passed in the N.S.A. by a majority of 107.131 voted for while 24 voted against it. The TULF member for Pottuvil Mr. C. Canagaratnam voted with the Government.

December 3

According to statistics collected so far by the Political Victimisation Unit over 6,000 public servants were victimised by the last regime. This includes over 1,300 who had been either dismissed from their jobs or had their appointments cancelled for political reasons.

The P.M. hold out a stern warning to saboteurs who caused damage to public property and informed that such persons would not be tolerated but regarded as traitors to the nation. He was speaking at the annual sessions of the U.N.P.

December 4

The P.M. yesterday called for the dedication of 1978 for development and the resolution of the unemployment issue. He said that from the government's standpoint, several projects would be launched and every endeavour would be made to provide jobs for the unemployed. These would be government's priorities. These remarks were made by the P.M. when he addressed a public meeting at Kolonnawa held in connection with the U.N.P. Annual Sessions.

Sri Lanka is the world's largest importer of dry fish, and needed 720,000 tons annually in order to distribute to the consumers on a ration basis alone. Although Sri Lanka is prepared to buy both dry fish and maldive fish at any price, the world does not have it. These observations were made by Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali in an exclusive interview with the "Ceylon Daily News".

December 5

The P.M. told the N.S.A. that the previous government had issued DPL passports to 441 persons some of whom were not eligible to hold such passports. The P.M. mentioned this in replying to a question raised by Mr. V. Dias M.P. for Badulla.

Addressing a seminar on Development for Plantation Managers in Colombo, the Minister of Plantation Industries Mr. M.D.H. Jayewardene said that a master plan to revamp the plantation industry would soon be introduced.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands is finalising arrangements to launch a crop diversification project in the mid country where thousands of youth could be given employment in the cultivation of minor export crops, it was reported.



December 6

Mr. A. Amirthalingam, Leader of the Opposition said in the N.S.A. that the present government had not only become heir to a bankrupt economy, a broken down development scheme, but also it had inherited a government machine which was far from satisfactory.

The P.M. told the N.S.A., "Personally I have no social or communal feeling. It does not matter to me one bit of a person is a Sinhalese, Tamil, Burgher or a Muslim. I have treated and will treat all persons as equal and nothing will change this.

The Government has imported 2,000 tons of gram (Konda Kadala) from Pakistan for the first time after several years, it was reported.

The Land Reform Commission has launched a major programme to make land reform meaningful to the rural landless", it was reported. They will be allocated at least one acre of land each, the income from which will sustain them.

December 8

"I have in my custody matters relating to the land transactions of the former P.M. which will shock the conscience of every man in the country. I will expose these facts when the Royal Commission is appointed to inquire into these matters", disclosed Mr. E.L. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Lands when he raised a breach of privilege matter relating to a news item published in the SLFP daily "Dinakara" of December 7.

The Government last week had decided to implement the proposals made by the Salary Committee appointed in 1975, it was reported.

The P.M. has ordered the National Youth Services Council to expedite the formulation of the scheme to employ 22,000 jobless youth in the 22 districts, it was reported.

December 9

The Government announced the creation of the Agricultural Development Authority, a new statutory body to handle all developed and undeveloped agricultural land throughout the country.

The Speaker of the National State Assembly, Mr. Ananda Tissa de Alwis announced in the National State Assembly that in both matters of privilege raised recently on certain news items published in the SLFP daily "Dinakara", he had ordered the Editor to carry apologies.

December 11

"The Marxist policy of state monopolize in the trading sector pursued by the previous government was an utter flop. They did not fully implement the pattern in Russia and China because they feared reprisals from the masses". This was said by the Minister of Trade, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali when he addressed the inaugural meeting of the Sinhala Vanija Mandalaya (Sinhalese Chamber of Commerce).

The total number of teachers transferred by the present government immediately after the general election in July this year is less than one sixth of the total number of transfers effected by the previous government immediately after it was elected in June 1970, according to the Minister of Education Mr. Nissanka Wijeratne, it was reported.



December 13

The Governments high priority accelerated Mahaweli Development Programme will be launched next month with the "Victoria Project" which seeks to develop 200,000 acres in 1978, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake revealed this in an exclusive interview with the "Ceylon Daily News".

The Galle Fisheries harbour built at a cost of Rs. 50 million and kept idling since 1972 will soon play a significant plan aimed at boosting the fishing industry, it was reported.

The Minister of Irrigation, Power & Highways, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake told the N.S.A. that the World Bank had promised its full support to the J.R. Jayewardene Government to complete the Mahaweli Scheme in 6 years.

December 14

Strictures have been made against Mr. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike, former Minister and Mr. A.H.M. Fowzie former Mayor of the Colombo Municipal Council, in the Interim Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Malpractices in Local Bodies. The Interim Report revealed that Mr. Bandaranaike had to a certain extent abetted Mr. Fouzie in committing some of those irregularities. Both Mr. Bandaranaike and Mr. Fouzie have been found to have given false evidence.

The Government has been apprised of an attempt by a group of anti-social elements in the Railway to bring the Government to public disrepute by disrupting the train services, it was reported. The report added that Mr. M.H. Mohamed, Minister of Transport has ordered a top level inquiry into this matter.

December 15

Mr. T.B. Werapitiya, Deputy Minister of Defence recommissioned the Sigiriya air strip which was built during World War II and abandoned after the war.

"On August 26, 1972, the Land Reform Commission was appointed and under the Act all land in excess of 50 acres was vested with the Land Reform Commission. This was passed on August 8, 1972 and became Law on August 26. In between this period of 18 days the then P.M. Mrs. Bandaranaike, her son Anura Dias Bandaranaike, her daughters Sunethra and Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike signed 12 deeds", said Mr. Cyril Mathew, Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs in the N.S.A.

December 18

A major step towards communal harmony was achieved in Jaffna when TULF leaders rallied round to accord a rousing welcome to Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade on his official visit to the Jaffna Peninsula. This is the first occasion TULF leaders have participated in a state reception to a Minister of State since they started their protest boycott of such occasions during the previous regime of Mrs. Bandaranaike.

Substantial assistance and collaboration from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have been pledged to Sri Lanka to launch the governments high priority accelerated Mahaweli Development Programme following successful negotiations made by Mr. Raju Coomaraswamy, P.M.'s special representative who returned home yesterday after talks in Washington and Manila, it was reported.



December 19

"The Tamil people have the greatest confidence in Hon. J.R. Jayewardene's leadership. I firmly believe that he will solve the problems facing the Tamil People". This was stated by Mr. Canagaratnam, TULF 2nd M.P. for Pottuvil making a statement in the N.S.A. before joining the Government ranks.

Mr. R. Premadasa, Minister of Housing and Construction, and Local Government said in the N.S.A.; "This is a critical era in the political history of Sri Lanka. The people have come to the limit of their endurance and that is why they have given the UNP such a mandate. The people expect drastic changes in their lives and we must live up to these aspirators".

A special Police unit will be set up next month to combat the illegal manufacturing of firearms and explosives which has reached alarming proportions, it was reported.

December 21

Mr. E.L. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture and Lands told the NSA that a Committee will be appointed to probe the activities of the Janawasa set up by the previous regime whereby Rs. 100 million worth of produce sold to brokers remains unaccounted. The money from this produce sold during the period of the previous government has not been deposited in the bank.

Spare parts worth nearly Rs. 100 million which cannot be used on any of the CTB buses are lying in warehouses of the CTB in various parts of the country, it was reported. The report further added that Mr. M.H. Mohamed, Minister of Transport has appointed a special committee to investigate this matter.

According to an agreement signed between Dr. Lal Jayawardena, Secretary, Finance and Planning and the British High Commissioner, His Excellency D.P. Aiers, Britain will give a total of Rs. 112 million on outright grants to Sri Lanka. This money will be used for improving health and transport services and for agricultural storage.

December 22

Electricity for every village in Sri Lanka. This is the target of the Minister of Irrigation, Power & Highways, it was reported.

December 23

The Third Reading of the UNP Government's first Budget was passed in the N.S.A. without a division. However SLFP and TULF members expressed their opposition.

A bill to establish the Greater Colombo Economic Commission was gazetted by the Ministry of Finance and Planning. Some of the objectives of the Commission are, the generation of economic development, encouraging foreign investment, the widening of the base of the national economy, diversifying sources of foreign exchange and increasing export earnings, fostering the establishment and development of industrial and commercial enterprises in Sri Lanka.

December 26

Mr. A. Amirthalingam, Leader of the Opposition, in an exclusive interview with the Daily News said that the TULF is keeping its doors open for any dialogue with the government.



Mr. R. Premadasa, Minister of Housing, Construction and Local Government was to make Colombo a garden city of the East, it was reported. Development of roads, improvement of facilities in the Vihara Maha Devi Park, a face lift for roundabouts are some of the features of this plan.

December 27

Dr. V.T. Herat Gunaratne, WHO Regional Director for South East Asia, addressing a press conference in Colombo said that the WHO has allocated \$ 2 million for Sri Lanka in its bi-annual budget for 1980-81, the highest allocation in its regular budget to improve health services in the country.

December 30

All employees of the Railway will get a New Year gift of Rs. 300 before January 10th 1978, Mr. M.H. Mohamed, Minister of Transport announced.



JANUARY 1978January 2

The Government has approved a scheme of uniform salaries for planters employed by the Janawasama and State Plantations Corporation, Mr. M.D.H. Jayawardena, Minister of Plantation Industries announced.

January 3

The 1,800 employees of the Lake House were made shareholders to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Ceylon Daily News which falls today.

According to the Ministry of Housing and Construction a security service known as the "Red Army" at the State Engineering Corporation had intimidated and harassed the technical staff resulting in the resignation of 159 senior engineers and 104 technical officers during the period 1972 - 77.

The Government will spend Rs. 761 million to provide good drinking water to a large section of the country under 49 urban and 76 rural water supply schemes to be completed within the next 2 years with financial assistance from the World Bank and UNICEF, it was reported.

January 4

Mr. R. Premadasa has decided to revive and revitalise the community centre movement which had hitherto been largely neglected, it was reported.

January 5

The P.M. has called for top priority for the accelerated Mahaweli Development Programme to be completed on schedule. In a note addressed to all Ministers, M.P.P. and officials involved in the Mahaweli Programme the P.M. has requested their fullest co-operation. "Unemployed persons at present count over a million and the annual addition to those seeking employment will be about 250,000. This vast reservoir of human resources must be put to the benefit of the development of the country as soon as possible. If this is not done the large number of unemployed will continue to be a source of social unrest" P.M.'s note adds.

January 6

"As P.M. of the country I would request school children to extend their fullest co-operation to the Government to preserve the democratic traditions of the country and reconstruct our nation from the debris it had fallen into the past". This was said by the P.M. Mr. J.R. Jayewardene at the public meeting held to mark the opening of the Ananda College playground.

Crockery production at the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation Factory at Piliyandala reached a record 223 tons last month, it was reported. This was 32 tons higher than the previous best achieved in the factory.

The intake of students to the two medical faculties in Colombo and Peradeniya is to be increased so that the shortage of doctors would end soon. The government also proposed increasing the intake of nurses so that the problem of shortage of nurses too will be solved, it was reported.



January 8

Mr. Percy Samaraweera, Deputy Minister announced that the activities of political Authorities of the former Sirima Bandaranaike government will soon be fully investigated. This follows several complaints concerning the misappropriation of millions of rupees under the Decentralized Budget Scheme of the former government.

"There are 1.2 million unemployed in this country. My intention is to find every one of them jobs", said the Prime Minister after declaring open a Seema Mandiraya at Saddhamakara Privena, Pinwatte, Panadura.

January 9

The Government has approved a proposal to establish Employment Placement Committees in all electorates. The function of these Committees will be to select unemployed persons for appointment in government departments and other public sector organisations at both electorate and district levels.

Sri Lanka and the USA signed a PL. 480 Title I Agreement for the sale of 100,000 metric tons of wheat flour to Sri Lanka on concessionary terms.

January 11

The Government last night Gazetted the establishment of the Agricultural Development Authority. The Authority is broadly designed to co-ordinate and improve the development of all cultivated and cultivable agricultural lands. It is intended to give, in this way, a major boost to the island's production of food crops and dairy products in the national effort towards self-sufficiency.

A Central Committee consisting of the Secretaries of Plan Implementation, Health, Local Govt., Cultural Affairs, Education, Justice, Labour, Information and Broadcasting has been appointed to work out a program in connection with the International Year of the Child (IYC) 1979.

January 13

3 UN Agencies - UNDP, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and the World Bank - have agreed, it was reported, to provide planning, advice and also conduct feasibility studies on the Export Processing Zone of Sri Lanka.

January 15

All M.P.P. will receive Rs. 1 million each year for development work this year. The Ministry of Plan Implementation has allocated a total sum of Rs. 168 million for this purpose under the Decentralized Budget.

January 16

India has granted credit to the extent of Rs. 300 million - the highest ever level of credit given to Sri Lanka by her - to finance the purchase of capital and intermediate foods and 50,000 tons of wheat, disclosed Mr. Ronnie De Mel, Minister of Finance after his recent visit to India.

The Agricultural Insurance Board will be decentralized to streamline its activities to help the farmer, on a directive given by the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. E.L. Senanayake, it was reported.



January 17

The construction of the right bank canal of the Higher Victoria Project will herald the accelerated Mahaweli Program. The work, expected to be inaugurated on January 30th Will provide jobs for 5,000 persons for 2 years, it was reported.

January 18

Tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka reached in all time record of 153,665 in 1977, it was announced. This is an almost 30% increase over the previous highest of 118,971 recorded in 1976.

January 19

The P.M. announced in the N.S.A. that he was deleting every single section in Greater Colombo Economic Commission that the Constitutional Court had objected to. "I want to go with the good consent and happiness of this House with regard to this Bill", P.M. said.

14 Sri Lanka films will make their debut on overseas screens consequent to the entry of 23 films at the Madras, Film Market Festival held from January 3 - 17th.

The government has decided to go ahead with its original proposal to withdraw rice and sugar ration from those whose income exceed Rs. 300 per month, it was reported.

January 20

The P.M. said that the employees in Corporations, and private sector will soon be mobilized in the management and administration of their institution. He made this remark when he addressed trade union representatives and staff officers of the National Textile Corporation at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute.

January 22

All major towns in the Island will have direct dialling facilities within 2 years, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications announced.

January 23

A report prepared by the Central Bank has revealed that the foreign exchange used for luxury goods is less than 1% of the total amount released for imports.

The development of 71,000 acres of new land under the Mahaweli Development Programme will be completed before the end of this year in the Kala Oya basin, it was reported.

January 24

The Govt. of Canada signed an Agreement with the Govt. of Sri Lanka whereby they have undertaken to provide to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands a team of Canadian Advisers in dry farming techniques.



January 25

Enhanced penalties, including terms of improvement will be imposed on persons producing adulterated food items, according to a new draft Food Law Bill which had been prepared by the Committee appointed to study the Food and Drugs Act, it was reported.

January 26

The Singithi Uyana, the kiddies park in the island in Beira Lake was opened by the Prime Minister at the invitation of the Minister of Housing, Construction and Local Government, Mr. R. Premadasa. This former lonely island has now been transferred to a wonderland for children with merry-go-rounds, water fountains, coloured lights etc.

Japanese Government made an outright grant of 1,100 million yen (Rs. 71 M.) for construction of a teaching hospital at Peradeniya.

January 27

All drugs required by government medical institutions will be supplied in future, irrespective of cost and Rs. 100 million will be released for this purpose, it was reported.

January 30

The accelerated Mahaweli Development Programme was launched by the Prime Minister by cutting the first sod on the Minipe right bank canal today. This project is expected to cost about Rs. 440 million.

A Central Bank report has disclosed that land reforms ruined around 60,000 acres of tea. 60 per cent of this tea land were not fertilized for the last 3 years, report adds.



FEBRUARY 1978February 1

A 15 Member Parliamentary Committee headed by Mr. G.M. Premachandra, M.P. for Mawathagama to study a sustained increase in the prices of essential consumer items will launch a major offensive this month against profiteers and hoarders it was announced.

A daily paper reported that a Swedish Housing Company will invest Rs. 30 million in this country in a joint venture with a Sri Lankan private company to build prefabricated housing units.

February 2

The Ekanayake Commission which is currently inquiring into the activities of the SLBC during the past 7 years has proposed major changes in the Interim Report. Among the changes proposed are the appointment of an independent Chairman and the appointment of a Director General of Broadcasting.

An agreement was signed today between the Government of Sri Lanka and the United States Agency for International Development by which US Aid will provide US \$ 5.4 million in conjunction with Sri Lanka Government support of Rs. 71 million to assist the development programs of the Paddy Marketing Board.

February 3

The Japanese Government has agreed to grant increased assistance to Sri Lanka by providing commodity aid on a grant basis amounting to Rs. 80 million for the purchase of fertilizer, tractors and agro chemicals, it was reported.

5 categories of prisoners serving jail sentences ranging from the death penalty to simple terms of imprisonment will be given a Presidential Pardon on February 4th, it was announced.

Mr. N.A. Wanyayev, Minister of Fisheries of the Russian Federation and Chairman of the Board of USSR - Sri Lanka Friendship Society writing to the local papers announced that the "Soviet people together with Lankan people are preparing to mark Sri Lanka Independence Day tomorrow. Meeting and rallies of friendship will be held in Moscow, Leningrad, in Uzbekistan, Georgian, Azerbaijan, Kirghiz, Tajik, Turkmen and Armenian Republics".

The National State Assembly at a historic session today unanimously adopted a joint government and Opposition resolution felicitating the Prime Minister Mr. J.R. Jayewardene on his departure from the legislature after nearly 30 years of service in it to assume the Office of the first elected President of the Republic of Sri Lanka.

"Turn the searchlight inwards. Be a lamp unto yourselves. Hold fast to the truth. No harm can come to you in this life or after it". These were some of the last words of Mr. J.R. Jayewardene who addressed his colleagues in his short farewell speech.

February 4

At the auspicious time of 8.58 a.m. Mr. J.R. Jayewardene took his oaths as First Elected Executive President of the Republic of Sri Lanka before Chief Justice Mr. Neville Samarakoon. The historic event took place



at Galle Face Green before a record crowd of over one million.

Earlier Mr. William Gopallawa in his last official ceremony attended the Independence celebrations and inspected the troops. The Prime Minister Jayewardene's last public appearance took place early in the morning when he attended a religious ceremony at Sri Dharmakeerti Aramaya, at Polwatte in his Colombo West constituency.

After the swearing in ceremony the new President Jayewardene took his salute at the march past of all service personnel, cadets and school children from nearly 50 schools representing various parts of the country. An Aerial display by the Sri Lanka Air Force brought the ceremony to the close.

Later the President opened the Janadhipathi Vidyalaya in Torrington Square. Addressing the students he said "Schools build a nation. Therefore schools which educate the children according to principles based on our nation, tradition, culture, religious morals and discipline render a great service to the country".

The President was mobbed by cheering crowds when he toured his Colombo West Electorate to say good-bye to his constituents. A Guard of Honour was given by all 3 service personnel to the President when he arrived at the Janadhipathi Mandiraya, the official residence of the President.

In the afternoon the President was the Chief Guest at the All Island Sports Festival organized by the Sports Ministry.

In a special message to all Sri Lankans abroad, President Jayewardene declared "In this national effort towards the economic resurgence of our country, we require the unfailing co-operation of every Sri Lankan whether he be in Sri Lanka or abroad".

A special 15 cents stamp was released to mark the assumption of office of Mr. J.R. Jayewardene as the First Elected Executive President of the Republic of Sri Lanka.

### February 5

In keeping with the tradition of ancient Sinhalese Kings, President J.R. Jayewardene visited Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy to pay homage to the Sacred Tooth Relic. Later he called on the Mahanayake Theras of Asgiriya and Malwatte and took their counsel. The President pledged that he would act according to truth and discipline.

In the afternoon the President made his historic Address to the Nation from the Pattiruppuwa of the Sri Dalada Maligawa. In his address the President pledged that he would as head of the country and its people, carry out the heavy responsibilities of his office devoid of racial, communal or religious bias. He also promised that it would be his endeavour to bring about unity, peace, prosperity and progress to the country.

The Cabinet of Ministers were also sworn in today. There were no changes in the subjects assigned to the Ministers. A colourful national pageant was held in the evening in Kandy to mark the historic occasion. Dancers and drummers from all 22 districts of the Island participated in the pageant which was witnessed by a record crowd of over one million.

February 6; Mr. R. Premadasa took his oaths as Prime Minister and Minister of Housing and Construction and Local Government before the President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene at the Janadhipathi Mandiraya at the auspicious time of 11.30 a.m. Afterwards the newly appointed Prime Minister attended a religious ceremony at Purwaramaya, Dias Place. Addressing his voters of Colombo Central



at Sri Sucharitha Hall, Mr. Premadasa said "It is your duty to keep the Government in its endeavours to solve the pressing problems of unemployment and the cost of living".

### February 9

The Minister of Agriculture and Lands will shortly appoint 3,000 Cultivation Officers to accelerate the food production programme of the government it was announced.

The Prime Minister Mr. Premadasa visited Kandy and paid homage to the Tooth Relic and later called on the Mahanayake Theras of Malwatte and Asgiriya. Replying to the counsel given by the Mahanayake Theras the Prime Minister said that the constitutional changes will not only enshrine fundamental human rights but also allow any member of the public to go to courts in the event of the violation of these basic rights.

### February 11

Housing loans up to Rs. 40,000 each would be given by the Department of National Housing to persons who do not own houses, it was reported.

The President has appointed five members to the Greater Colombo Economic Commission it was announced. The Commission consists of Mr. Upali Wijewardena (Chairman), Dr. Sivali Ratwatte, Mr. A.Y.S. Gnanam, Mr. Alavi Macan Markar and Mr. Paul Perera.

The President and Mrs. Jayawardena left the Island to attend the Asian and Pacific Regional Meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Sydney, Australia.

### February 12

The Government announced that more than 50% of the population which included 400,000 children will continue to receive the rice and sugar subsidies issued on the ration books.

### February 14

It was announced that Mr. Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister of Australia gave an assurance to Sri Lanka's President during a 45 minutes discussion on Sunday (February 12th) that Australia would increase her aid to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene in his key note address entitled "World and Regional Political Trends" to the Regional Commonwealth Conference, called for the creation of a World Disarmament Authority within the United Nations System to control the production, sale and use of arms. Recalling that about 100 armed conflicts had taken place since the Second World War, President Jayewardene declared "If the Commonwealth believed in human race living in peace, then, because it is a peaceful organisation, it should consider total disarmament".

### February 15

According to a decision taken today by the Directorate of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission substantial incentives by way of several tax rebates for the local and foreign investors in the Free Trade Zone will be offered.

### February 16

Mr. Andrew Peacock, Foreign Minister of Australia, announced in Sydney



that Australia has decided to give 1 million Australian dollars to Sri Lanka which will be channelled through IDA.

### February 17

It was reported in the local press that international banking institutions and investors have sent special envoys for discussion with the Sri Lanka Government with a view to making heavy investments in this country.

The Government has approved the establishment of a Rs. 160 million non-residential University Campus in the South, it was announced.

### February 20

A five member Cabinet Sub Committee has been appointed to report on the import and distribution of essential food items and the quick issue of existing stocks to ensure uninterrupted supplies to the consumers, it was announced.

### February 21

The President and Mrs. Jayewardene returned to the Island after attending the Regional Commonwealth Heads of States meeting in Sydney, Australia.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has agreed to grant aid both in the form of loans and <sup>outright</sup> grants up to a total of Rs. 784 million this year, it was reported. This is the highest ever economic assistance granted by the West Germany and is about treble the amount granted last year.

### February 22

It was announced that all schools in the Island will be closed tomorrow (February 23rd) and the day after (Feb. 24). Mr. Nissanka Wijeratne, Minister of Education said that there had been false and misleading statements that Sinhalese students who would have been admitted to the University this year in terms of the previous policy of standardisation would now be kept out due to the government's new policy of abolishing the standardisation.

The non repayment grant of Rs. 140 million allocated to Sri Lanka for the 2 years 1978 and 1979 by the Swedish Government will be increased by a further Rs. 33.5 million, it was announced.

The Prime Minister informed the N.S.A. today that, "no section in this country will be allowed to create trouble. This Government treats all people alike. It is the duty of all democratic parties in this country to prevent the exploitation of this type of issue for political advantage".

### February 23

The Govt. Parliamentary Group unanimously decided to appoint the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa as Leader of the House. The Meeting was presided over by the President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene.

### February 24

Mr. Gemini Dissanayake, Minister of Irrigation, Power & Highways announced that the Government will soon launch Rs. 450 million Ianugamvehera Project, Ruhunu's largest irrigation scheme.

### February 27

The Government has made arrangements to distribute 500,000 imported sarees in time for the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year.



MARCH 1978March 1

A six point plan for national integration has been formulated by the State sponsored National Integration Unit, it was reported. Among the activities reported are, sports events, drama, shramadana, student conferences, cultural activities and the teaching of link languages.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has approved several new proposals made by the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Authority for 1978, it was reported.

March 2

The President has directed the IEP that in future state drives will cause least inconvenience to the public and motorists, it was reported.

The Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr. Pham Van Dong arrived on a four day official visit. He is the first foreign dignitary to visit Sri Lanka since the present Government came into power.

March 3

Earnings from industrial exports last year was nearly one thousand million rupees, it was announced. The exact figure for 1977 was Rs. 995.1 million. This is a substantial increase compared with 1976 earnings from this sector of Rs. 835 million.

According to Lankapuwath, Ceylon Fisheries Corporation this week exported a consignment worth one and a half million rupees. This is the first shipment effected after the prawn processing centre was re-organised by the Minister of Fisheries Mr. Festus Perera.

March 5

The Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong after visiting Polgolla expressed the hope that Sri Lanka would become the largest rice producing country in Asia - "Give us rice after the Mahaweli Scheme is completed in 6 years" he declared.

The number of passports issued by the Department of Immigration and Emigration has shot up to about 12,000 per month it was reported.

March 7

A US State Department document on American security assistance prepared for presentation to the US Congress has said that "an independent Sri Lanka which is economically stable and secure is important to the overall peace and stability of the South Asia region".

Sri Lanka's second largest hydro power scheme (next to Mahaweli) the Samanalawewa Project will be launched soon it was announced. This Project which will tap the power potential of the Walawe Ganga is expected to add 120 MW of electricity to the national grid.

March 8

Job Bank forms were issued to 140 Government M.P.P. for distribution among the unemployed in their electorates. This is in keeping with Government's crash programme to solve the country's employment problem.



A two month target has been set up by the government to clear the backlog of general cargo clogging the Port of Colombo. General Sepala Attygale has been appointed by the President as Chief Co-ordinating Authority, for this purpose.

### March 9

Post and Telecommunications Department loses Rs. 3,000 a day due to faulty lines, it was reported.

It was announced that Sri Lanka will receive 27,000 tons of cereal in 1978 as a grant from the European Economic Community.

A panel of experts from Netherlands will commence on exhaustive in depth study of the Mahaweli Development Scheme next month to update the Master Plan and lay down priorities for its execution within the new time limit of 6 years.

### March 10

A local daily reported that Sri Lankans employed abroad in Middle East have begun remitting foreign exchange into bank accounts opened in their names in the two State owned banks - People's Bank and the Bank of Ceylon. This is due to the new scheme introduced by the banks which permits Sri Lankans abroad to maintain current accounts here with deposits either in sterlings or dollars.

The police, it was reported, believe that the current spate of robberies taking place in several parts of the country are connected with a subversive movement and that these robberies are a means of raising funds. Suspects taken into custody have made confessions to that effect, according to Police authorities.

Mr. R. Premadasa, P.M. said at the N.S.A. today, "It is wrong to assume that our people want everything free. They are prepared to offer their toil and sweat to any government which launches a programme of work for the benefit of the country and the nation". This government is determined to offer such a programme to the people.

Mr. H.W. Jayawardena, Q.C. has been elected to the UN Sub Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at the elections held in Geneva on March 9, it was announced. Mr. Jayewardene's nomination was based on his professional reputation and his outstanding performance in the legal field and in the sphere of human rights.

### March 12

US Congressman Clement J. Zablocki speaking before the House of Representatives in Capital Hill, Washington DC, paid a glowing tribute to Sri Lanka. He said that the 30th anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence was a proper occasion for the United States "to acknowledge the many economic, political and social achievement in Sri Lanka". Congressman Zablocki also paid a tribute to Sri Lanka's President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene whom he described as an outstanding public servant since the 1940s. "His national and international achievements are many and long standing. I look forward to even greater success in the coming years" he declared.

Water front history has been created after the ultimatum issued to government departments and corporations to clear the backlog of imports in the Colombo Port following a surprise visit of President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene



and Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa, it was reported. According to the Port Cargo Corporation Chairman warehouses and yards of ports will be empty within the next two weeks.

### March 13

Mr. Nissanka Wijeratne, Minister of Education said at a press conference that technical education in the country will be broad based with the support of national and international agencies.

The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa met the President of Canadian International Development Agency Mr. Michael Dupvy and the Vice President (Policy) of CIDA Mr. William Jenkins along with a delegation of ADB officials. Later P.M. declared, "They were particularly interested in our projects with regard to housing and slum clearance, water and power supplies and labour intensive industries in Greater Colombo Economic Commission".

### March 15

The 67 year old theatre Tower Hall was taken over by the Government and handed over to Colombo Municipal Council at a ceremony attended by the Prime Minister and Artistes who had performed at this theatre decades ago.

A special fund was launched for the development of the City of Colombo and to provide better amenities to its people. The President and the Prime Minister contributed Rs. 1,000 each. The Fund which has a target of Rs. 2.5 million will also give financial assistance to retired radio and theatre artistes, writers and also help the destitute who have contributed to national culture and religion.

Dr. Davind Hopper, Vice President for South Asia of the World Bank has during his talks with the President, indicated World Bank assistance for the country's major development project - the Accelerated Mahaweli Development Project, it was reported.

### March 16

Dr. Davind Hopper, Vice President of the World Bank met the Minister of Finance and Planning and expressed his appreciation at the realistic economic and financial policies adopted by the UNP government. Dr. Hopper also declared his confidence that if these present policies are continued, Sri Lanka would be able to obtain the long sought for and much needed turn around in economic growth and development.

The Greater Colombo Economic Commission announced a 5 year tax holiday to licenced enterprises within the proposed Investment Promotion Zone. The incentives offered by GCEC will be on a graded scale according to such factors as, siting of factories in IPZ, creation of employment, export orientation, capital investment and development of technology.

Sri Lanka has received 560 pure bred friesians and MRY heifers as part of a gift from the Government of Netherlands to help develop the dairy industry here, it was reported.

### March 20

Aeronautical communications and radio navigational facilities at Sri Lanka's major airports - Katunayake and Ratmalana, will reach international standards following a project now being undertaken by the Department of Civil Aviation. This US \$ 1.5 Million project is funded by UNDP.



It was announced that the General Treasury has been instructed by the Minister of Finance and Planning not to offer any further guarantees to corporations and boards. In the past these statutory bodies used to draw government funds to keep themselves going whenever their financial position was unstable.

#### March 21

According to Lanka Puvath, the Director General of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission has stated that 16 foreign firms have made application for investment in the Investment Promotion Zone.

Mr. Anura Bastian of the United National Party won the by-election of the Colombo West Electorate by a majority of 10,132 votes.

According to Health Department officials a general improvement in the overall working of the Colombo General Hospital has been noted after it was brought directly under the administration of the Department from January 1st this year, it was reported.

#### March 22

The 26th Death Anniversary of the late Mr. D.S. Senanayake, the first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka was commemorated throughout the Island. In Colombo the President laid a wreath at the foot of the statue of Mr. Senanayake at the N.S.A. premises. The statue was garlanded by the Prime Minister.

#### March 24

A mission of the FAO/UNDP Investment Centre is in Sri Lanka to study project possibilities for investment in the coconut sector, it was reported.

Mr. Rafael M. Salas, Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities held talks with the President.

The Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation at a conference of Government Agents conveyed to them a directive of the President that the G.A.s should launch development and agricultural expansion projects which are employment generating and which could be completed within a space of one year.

#### March 27

A study undertaken by the Public Interest Committee has revealed that Colombo's sewerage system is nearing bursting point. It further reveals that the city's water borne sewerage system constructed 65 years ago has over-run its designed period by 27 years.

CID has warned the government that losses through pilforage in the Colombo Port will reach Rs. 11 million by the end of the year, according to a report in a daily newspaper.

It was announced that the Government has completely banned the removal of all species of wild life from Sri Lanka.

The President declared open the new office of the Agricultural Development Authority. The President addressing those who attended the Ceremony said that the British planters used to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day and taught the people of this country how to do a full day's work. It was unfortunate, President declared, that today agricultural officers were not available when farmers need their services.



According to a survey carried out by the Public Interest Committee among telephone subscribers "Not one subscriber who answered the questionnaire expressed satisfaction with the system", it was reported.

March 28

The Parliamentary Committee on Bureaucracy headed by M.P. for Ratnapura Mr. G.V. Punchi Nilame has handed over the Interim Report to the President. The Report has warned the Ministers to be extra vigilant when acting on the advice of the bureaucracy. It adds that some members of the bureaucracy have continued to misguide leaders of successive governments and that subtle attempts are being made even now.

March 30

Private sector firms are now working out a plan to give employment to 50,000 unemployed. This is being done on the initiative of the President, it was reported.

The President today appointed a 3 member Special Presidential Commission of Inquiry to inquire into and obtain information regarding misuse or abuse of power during May 1970 to July 1977. The Commission is headed by Justice G.T. Weeraratne. The other two members are Justice S. Sharvananda and Mr. K.C.E. de Alwis, District Judge.



APRIL 1978

April 3

The Government will launch a 3 pronged attack to reduce the fish prices, it was announced. Accordingly the Fisheries Corporation this week will start releasing quantities of fish from its buffer stock of 34,000 tons. The second strategy will be to sell fish at reasonable prices only on a retail basis. Thirdly, the Corporations buying staff will go into fishing wadies to purchase at least 75% of the fish.

April 4

It was reported that the Job Bank Scheme whereby about 160,000 are to be given jobs on a crash programme is being delayed since several M.P.s have yet to return the 100 forms handed to them recently.

The Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank have distributed Rs. 550 million as agricultural loans to farmers during the first 3 months of this year, it was announced.

The Chairman of the Tyre Corporation announced that the Tyre production has shown a remarkable progress, especially during the first quarter of this year. The capacity utilization, according to the Chairman, has increased from 61% last year to 83% in 1978.

April 5

A survey of indebtedness in public service carried out by the Department of Credit Councils in association with the Department of Census and Statistics has revealed that 86% of the public servants are in debt despite various measures taken by the Government to reduce indebtedness among them.

CWE will distribute adequate quantities of garlic, corriander, boxes of matches and dates to co-operatives for issue to consumers for the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year, it was reported.

The Prime Minister Mr. Premadasa said at the N.S.A., "I make this categorical statement on the floor of this House as Prime Minister, that we have full faith and confidence in our youth and we are prepared to place them in positions of power. We are aware that the country's youth is our national asset and we will take all steps to protect and cherish our children".

April 6

The Food Commissioner announced that 500,000 will get their rice ration books following appeals made by them after revalidation.

A survey carried out by the Dept. of Labour and supervised by UNDP/ILO on 10,000 major establishments both in public and private sectors has revealed that there was a sharp drop in jobs from 1971 to 1976.

April 7

The President said that as <sup>an</sup> incentive to small scale industries the Government has decided not to open up large industries in the country except within the Free Trade Zone. He made this remark after opening the Sri Lanka Handicrafts exhibition organised by the Dept. of Small Industries.



April 8

In an exclusive interview with a local daily published today Mr. Ronnie De Mel, Minister of Finance & Planning has declared that the World Bank and IMF will back Sri Lanka to the hilt at the Aid Group meeting to be held in Paris early next month. He said he had received this assurance from World Bank and IMF after both organisation had made an "in depth" study of new economic and development policies of UNP government.

April 11

A daily paper reported today that Major Montague Jayawickrema has ordered a probe at district level to ascertain the extent and manner of the disbursement of grants made by foreign agencies for rural development in Sri Lanka.

The Delimitation Commission has suggested the creation of 8 new administrative districts, it was reported. It has also recommended that there should be 22 Municipal Councils, 83 VOs and 336 Rural Councils.

April 12

The President has appointed a 8 member Law Commission to undertake research into existing laws and to recommend reforms necessary to meet present day needs, it was announced. The Commission is headed by the retired Chief Justice Victor Tennakoon.

JANAWASA announced that it had provided over 67,000 jobs on its estates from August 1977 to end of January, 1978.

April 13

The messages of the President and the Prime Minister in connection with the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year were published in all the dailies today. The President declares in his Message; "We have already made a beginning for a new era of development with new emphasis on human and spiritual values. I sincerely hope the people of Sri Lanka as a whole will have the opportunity to celebrate this New Year in peace and happiness with emphasis on human values, not forgetting our cultural and religious values".

The Prime Minister declares in his Message; "We pledge to re-introduce a feeling of amity, concord and harmony among all the races, religious and communities of this country. We want every citizen to feel that he belongs to the land of his birth".

4 European Economic Community countries - Norway, Sweden, France and Netherlands - will increase their aid to Sri Lanka by 70% over last year's aid, it was reported.

There will be no discrimination between Sri Lanka investors and foreign investors in the F.T.Z., it was reported. All terms, conditions and facilities will be available equally to both local and foreign investors.

April 14

The Minister of Irrigation, Power & Highways has told the Ceylon Daily News that the Accelerated Mahaweli Scheme has gained overwhelming international support especially from Britain, Sweden, Federal Republic of Germany and Japan who have agreed to finance 4 major projects of this scheme.



April 15

Singapore Prime Minister arrived in the Island today accompanied by several of his Ministers and senior officials.

April 16

A delegation of Singapore Ministers - Acting Minister of Culture Mr. O.T. Cheong and Senior Minister of State (Finance) Mr. G.C.Tung met the Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel. They discussed a basic formula by which Sri Lanka and Singapore will receive far reaching economic benefits.

April 17

The President opened the National Agricultural and Horticultural Show at Nuwara Eliya today. The Government has alerted security services, specially Customs and Naval patrol to keep a sharp eye on attempts to smuggle paddy and rice from Sri Lanka to India, it was reported.

April 19

A five year programme to establish and run a University in South at an estimated cost of Rs. 160 million has been formulated by a Committee headed by Prof. M.B. Ariyapala.

April 20

For the first time, Sri Lanka Bhikkus will chant seth pirith at Rastrapathi Bavan, official residence of the President of India, at the handing over of the sacred Kapilavastu Relics to Sri Lanka for exposition in this country it was announced.

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew addressing a press conference prior to his departure from Sri Lanka declared that the ASEAN group of countries will consider Sri Lanka's entry into its group if and when Sri Lanka responds to the declarations by the ASEAN Secretariat that has been made from time to time for neighbouring countries to join the Association.

April 22

The President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene and the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa today received the Sacred Kapilavastu Relics which was brought from India in a Sri Lanka Air Force plane. The President made the first offering of flowers after the sacred relics were brought to the VIP lounge of the air port. All Nayake Theras of the Malwatte and Asgiriya chapters and Ramanna and Amarapura Nikayas were present at this historic ceremony. Later the casket carrying the sacred relics were brought in a motocade to Colombo.

April 24

New University term opened today. There was full attendance at lectures and no incidents were reported.



April 25

It was reported that the government has begun handing over deeds of ownership of 10,000 houses to tenants who paid rents below Rs. 25 per month.

April 26

A five year phased programme to establish and run a University campus at Batticaloa at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 million has been suggested by a Committee headed by Prof. V. Appapillai.

Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation will sell 27,000 tons of brown sugar produced at its factories in Kantalai and Hingurana, it was reported. The ex-factory wholesale price would be Rs. 2.55 a lb. while the whole sale price at the Corporation Vauxhall Street stores would be Rs. 2.70 a lb.

April 27

The British Government has gifted 150 Land Rovers to Sri Lanka to use in the Anti-Malaria drive, it was reported.

April 29

The International Marketing Group - the organisers of the Sri Lanka's forthcoming Trade Fair in New York is promoting American investments in the Free Trade Zone in a series of advertisements in New York Times and Wall Street Journal.



MAY 1978

May 1

May Day celebrated throughout the country. The President in a May Day Message declared, "It is the objective of the UNP, while protecting and guaranteeing the reasonable rights of the working population to eradicate unemployment and to provide for every person in this country employment in accordance with each persons ability.

In the morning the President unveiled a statue of late Mr. A.E. Goonasinghe, a pioneer labour leader, in Pettah. Addressing the gathering he said that the Government will introduce legislation for those who managed state institutions and corporations to be elected by the votes of the workers of such places.

In the afternoon meetings were held in Colombo by all political parties. Addressing a largely attended May Day Meeting of the UNP, the President pledged that by next year the UNP Government will provide jobs for 700,000 youth in fulfilment of the pre-election promise made by his party.

Excerpts of speeches made by politicians of all major parties on May Day were relayed over SLBC for the first time in the history of broadcasting in Sri Lanka.

May 2

The President advised members of the Governments Parliamentary Group to fully investigate matters regarding public officials before complaints were made against them.

Mr. A.C.S. Hameed, Minister of Foreign Affairs replying to a question raised by Mr. Premaratne Gunasekera, M.P. for Maharagama said at the N.S.A., that the former government of Sirima Bandaranaike spent foreign exchange totalling Rs. 1,769,449.57 Cts. including FEEDS on foreign trips undertaken by Mrs. Bandaranaike and her Cabinet Minister during their tenure of office.

May 4

According to the Ministry of Finance and Planning the country's inflation rate and the present problem of the high cost of living are directly attributed to the previous government printing Rs. 500 million in paper notes in excess which it claimed had been warranted in the national interest. This printing of notes wrecked the economy, it was pointed out.

Mr. K.W. Devanayagam, Minister of Justice told the N.S.A. that the former Minister of Justice Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike had personally supervised the destruction of a number of documents and files at the Justice Ministry while he was in office.

May 5

Addressing the Asian Development Bank Board of Governors held in Vienna, Sri Lanka's Minister of Finance and Planning Mr. Ronnie De Mel declared; "We have given up economic policies based on out-moded dogma and outmoded ideology and adopted a realistic and pragmatic approach to solve our problems in keeping with needs and aspirations of the people of our land".



May 6

The 14th Sri Lanka Aid Group Meeting held in Paris had pledged a record financial aid package amounting to Rs. 6,000 million for Sri Lanka, it was announced.

The Ceylon Leather <sup>Products</sup> Corporation has earned an income of Rs. 2.4 million in March 1978, creating an all time record in sales per month, it was reported.

May 8

According to a press release of the Ministry of Finance and Planning an Aid Protocol for further aid from Sweden to Sri Lanka was signed in Stockholm between Sri Lanka's Minister of Finance and Planning Mr. Ronnie De Mel and the Minister of International Co-operation and Deputy Premier of Sweden Mr. Ola Ullston.

May 10

The Food Department began purchasing paddy for the first time on tender system direct from farmers in the seven paddy growing districts in the Island.

The President appointed a one man Commission to probe administrative malpractices or abuse at the University of Sri Lanka during the previous regime. The Commissioner Mr. D.G. Dayaratne <sup>informs</sup> informed Secretary to the Ministry of Education.

May 12

A massive training operation will soon be launched to revitalise rural development activities in the 22,000 villages, it was reported.

The President has ordered the IGP and Service Commanders to launch a massive combined operation to stamp out the Liberation Tiger Movement, an extremist organisation which is terrorising the areas in Jaffna, Vavuniya and Manner.

May 13

It was announced that the government will take stern punitive action to prevent the thefts of agricultural produce and livestock. Besides normal punishment, those convicted of these offences will be whipped as prescribed under Penal Code.

The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa will launch a Rs. 252 million national programme next month to improve about 84,000 rural houses, it was announced.

The President addressing a meeting at Kalaeliya, Mirigama said that the Government will ensure that every school pupil would have the opportunity to study English which is an international language along with their mother-tongue and other languages of the country.

May 15

The Hatton and Maskeliya Police arrested Vamadevan alias Thanabalasingham, one of the 4 men wanted in connection with the murder of 4 CID officers at Murunken.



May 16

The Katunayake Airport, which functions directly under the President will soon be one of the most modern airports, it was reported.

May 17

Professor W.S. Karunaratne, Sri Lanka's Ambassador to USA told a gathering of American buyers at New York Stratler Hilton that there is a parallel between the Presidents of USA and Sri Lanka - they are both inspired by religious ideals and altruistic motives.

May 18

The dailies reported that several villages have been marooned and thousands homeless following floods in many parts of the Island. A large acreage of cultivated land have also gone under water.

Sri Lanka State Trading (Tractor) Corporation will import Rs. 400 million worth of tractor spares and 3,000 two wheel tractors, it was reported.

Sale of drugs at State Pharmaceutical Corporation's Osu Sala selling points in the city have increased two fold in the last few days since the prices were slashed by 40% on directive from the President.

Business Week, the prestigious American journal in a recent issue referring to the FTZ - "the welcome net for foreign investment - says, "Not since the early 1950's has there been anything like it among the less developed countries".

The Prime Minister speaking on the Prescribing of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelan and other similar organisations and the Criminal Procedure Special Provisions Bill at NSA, that the UNP Government was committed to preserve law and order and will not condone or tolerate "elements perpetrating acts of violence in the name of democracy in certain parts of the country". The Bill was passed with a majority of 109 (132 for and 23 against).

May 21

Vesak celebrated throughout the country. In a Vesak Day Message, the President appealed that "If the people could practice the Buddha's precepts to the best of their ability, it would be the greatest honour and respect they could pay to the Buddha".

May 23

According to a cable sent by Mr. S.B. Herat, Minister of Food and Co-operatives now in London, Sri Lanka has been black-listed by a number of international shipping lines for the non-payment of freight on consignments ordered by the previous government.

May 24

It was announced that the Ministerial Meeting of Non-aligned Co-ordinating Bureau has taken note of President M.A.J.R. Jayewardene's proposal to create a World Disarmament Authority to function as a permanent institution within the UN system.

The Government has advised Bank of Ceylon to liberalise credit facilities for the import of essential commodities.



Aid provided under Colombo Plan has exceeded US \$ 50 billion by end of 1976, it was announced.

Mr. T.B. Werapitiya M.P. took his oaths before the President as a Minister.

#### May 26

Greater Colombo Economic Commission has approved 15 major investment proposals in the Katunayake Investment Promotion Zone it was announced.

The Government has decided to clear the backlog of all incomplete development projects undertaken at district level under the Decentralized Budget.

Mr. A.C.S. Hameed, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister addressing the current UN special session at New York said, "It is the view of President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka that the World Disarmament Authority should play the role of controlling and regulating the production and distribution of armaments".

#### May 29

A daily reported that remittances by Sri Lankans abroad have reached record levels. Quoting banking sources it said that this had reached a monthly average of about Rs. 20 million.

It was reported that the President has responded immediately to a letter addressed to him by the leader of the LSSP Dr. N.M. Perera concerning the obliteration of tank villages through land reform in the NCP in the course of execution of the Mahaweli Development Programme. The report added that the President had met Dr. Perera and expressed his deep concern. The LSSP leaders are expected to accompany the President to NCP on June 10 at the invitation of the latter.

#### May 30

The prestigious journal Christian Science Monitor has said that the physical quality of life index (PQLI) is used to measure the success of Third World countries it is surprised to find that Sri Lanka, one of the poorest countries in terms of per capita, was one of the most successful countries.



JUNE 1978

June 2

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the proposal of Sri Lanka's President to establish a World Disarmament Authority within the UN System was included in the Disarmament Section of the final communique adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Bureau meeting in Havana.

June 3

A three member team from Saudi Arabia is now in Sri Lanka to identify and discuss projects for possible financing by the Saudi Arabia Development Fund, it was reported.

Canadian government will make available Rs. 22 million for the purchase of rice mills and spares out of the existing Canadian Aid Programme, Ministry of Finance and Planning announced.

June 4

The Island Revenue (Amendment) Bill offering many incentives has been gazetted. The incentives cover such areas as FTZ, agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry certain classes of real estate and paddy mills.

It was reported that the government will shortly introduce legislation to bring about changes in the existing labour laws to provide better financial and retirement benefits to all sections of the working class.

June 6

The liberalisation of imports has resulted in a massive imports boom, it was reported. Since November 15 when import policy was drastically changed upto and of April 1978, Letters of Credit valued over Rs. 3,000 million have been opened.

The Central Bank has launched a credit Guarantee Scheme by which guarantees will be provided to approved credit institutions in respect of loans granted by them to small scale industries, it was announced.

Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning informed the N.S.A. that foreign financial support has been undoubtedly assured for our development projects including the telescoped Mahaweli Programme. However, Minister noted, what was important was the dedicated efforts of our people, the maximum use of our resources to turn our dreams into reality. "I would like to appeal to every man and woman in this country and more particularly to the youth - young men and women of our land to put their shoulder to the wheel and give their best in the name of Sri Lanka to which we all belong" the Minister added.

June 7

According to a scheme drawn up by the Ministry of Housing and Construction and of Local Government water supply and sewerage and surface drainage facilities will be provided to many parts of the Island within the next 4 years. According to this scheme, 55 rural water supply schemes costing Rs. 24 million and several minor water supply projects costing Rs. 98 million will be completed with UNICEF assistance.



The World Bank has approved US \$ 21 million credit to implement Sri Lanka's US \$ 30.8 million Tea Rehabilitation Project, it was reported.

The Minister of Agriculture and Lands Mr. E.L. Senanayake announced that the Paddy Marketing Board had purchased 17 million bushels of paddy during the last 4½ months while the previous government had only purchased only 12 million bushels during whole 1977 period.

#### June 11

Mr. G.P.A. Silva a former Chief Justice who submitted his report on the malpractices of Municipal Councils under the former regime, to the President and the Prime Minister has placed severe strictures, it was reported. According to this report Mr. Silva states, "with the exception of a very few Municipal Councils, I found<sup>that</sup> the administration during the relevant period and often during the proceeding period, which I did not go into as being outside in terms of reference, left much to be desired".

Mr. S. Takimura, Head of the Japanese delegation that made a feasibility study on setting up T.V. in Sri Lanka handed over the report to Mr. D.B. Wijetunge, Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

#### June 13

Sri Lanka has saved approximately 675,000 US dollars from outstanding debts owed to shippers in London, it was reported, following several rounds of negotiations, Sri Lanka's Minister of Food and Co-operatives Mr. S.B. Herat had in London. Shippers have agreed to write off nearly US \$ 675,000 out of a total debt of US \$ 900,000. These debts had accumulated over the last several years, according to the news report.

20 leading international banks have expressed their desire to open branch offices in FTZ, Greater Colombo Economic Commission announced.

The Soviet Union will assist the Mahaweli Development Scheme by funding the Upper Uma Oya and Lower Uma Oya projects, it was reported. The total cost is estimated to be more than Rs. 650 million.

#### June 14

It was announced that the bus fares will be standardised from July 1st 1978. Mr. M.H. Mchamed, Minister of Transport said, "There will be a very small increase in the fares but I will see that it will not be a burden on the commuter".

The Ministry of Trade liberalised with immediate effect the import of a series of items including newsprint, minibuses and passenger vans to ease the pressure on CTB. The Ministry of Trade also increased the limit placed on imports for personal use from Rs. 25,000 (announced last November) to Rs. 5,000.

#### June 16

According to a new item published in a daily, estates managed by Janawasa Commission have reported an increase in production and income during the 1st quarter of this year. The average monthly income recorded by these estates last year upto July was Rs. 5.8 million where as from July 1977 to March 1978 this amount is Rs. 11.7 million or an increase of 101%.

The Chairman of the Cement Corporation has said that the production capacity of the Corporation had increased from 12,000 to 64,000 tons per month and that arrangements have been made to export 25,000 tons shortly.



A Master Plan to beautify Colombo City and make it the "Garden City of Asia" is being implemented, it was reported. This plan was formulated in 1967 when the President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene was the Minister in charge of Tourism.

#### June 17

Contributions from Public made available to improve the health services have already exceeded Rs. 1 million, it was reported. According to Health Ministry sources the contributions may reach Rs. 10 million, by the end of the year.

History was created in Jaffna when people from all walks of life led by the M.P. for Jaffna Mr. V. Yogeswaran were present to receive the sacred Kapilavastu Relics. Among those who attended the ceremony were Mr. E.L.B.Hurulle, Minister of Cultural Affairs, Rt. Rev. Deogupillai, Bishop of Jaffna and Hindu dignitaries. Mr. Hurulle declared that its a "Red Letter day in Lanka's history".

#### June 18

Price of wheat flour was raised from 72 Cts. to 85 Cts. per lb. from midnight today. A lb. of bread will increase to 80 Cts. According to Food Department sources, a pound of wheat flour costs the government Rs. 1.80 and thus even at this increased the government loses 95 Cts. for selling wheat flour at 85 Cts.

#### June 20

The Federal Republic of Germany has granted a commodity loan of DM 31 million it was announced. Of this total, DM 26 are to be utilized for the purchase of 16 locomotives and spares from Germany for Sri Lanka railways.

#### June 21

A "Children's Charter" will replace the antiquated "Children and Young Persons Ordinance" of 1939, it was reported. The "Children's Charter" will be a composite legislation which has been prepared by a committee of experts embodying all aspects concerning problems of and protection for children.

Chinese Vice Premier Mr. Keng Piae along with a 22 member delegation arrived in the Island today.

At a boquet given in honour of the visiting Chinese Delegation by the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa, the Chinese Vice Premier said: "At present under the leadership of His Excellency J.R. Jayewardene, the Government and people of Sri Lanka are taking various measures to speed up the development of their national economy. In international affairs they continue to pursue a non-aligned policy of independence, peace, neutrality, strengthen relations with other Third World countries and regional co-operation and are fighting for the establishment of a new international economic order against outside political interference and economic plunder".

#### June 22

The Prime Minister tabled in the N.S.A. the Draft Constitution along with a report of the 10 member Parliamentary Select Committee appointed to revise the Constitution. Among the features are, Government will act according to the wishes of the people, creation of an Ombudaman, the prominent place for Buddhism, Sinhala and Tamil as national languages.



The Prime Minister replying to a question raised by Mr. Sunil Ranjan Jayakody, M.P. for Polgahawela disclosed that Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, M.P. had made 15 trips abroad during the regime of previous government i.e. May 28, 1970 to July 21, 1977.

#### June 24

The Greater Colombo Economic Commission announced a wide range of investments suitable for the Investment Promotion Zone at Katunayake. These items are electrical goods, light engineering and light electrical engineering, small metal articles, fine machinery, household equipment, photographic and optical equipment, precious stone, coconut based industries, tea based industries, rubber based industries, food processing, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, fibre glass boats, garments manufacturing, computer application, leather products, wooden products and also insurance and banking.

The Lunugamvehera Project was inaugurated by the President. Addressing a gathering the President said that when this project is completed in 5 years time, there will be employment for 25,000 persons.

The Prime Minister opened UDAGAMA (the Awakened Village) in the Yapahuwa electorate. This village of socially isolated, economically deprived 28 families were all provided with good homes and also other modern facilities. The entire project conceived by the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa, was completed within a record time schedule of 72 days.

It was announced that the Rs. 50 income support scheme will be paid in August with effect from July. Forms will be distributed within the next 10 days.

#### June 27

Ministry of Finance and Planning has approved "Off Share" banking operations for foreign investors in FTZ it was reported.

World Bank has granted Rs. 72 million for a new crop diversification project to develop 26,100 acres in Central and Sabaragamuwa Provinces and find employment to about 4,500 youths in it, it was reported.

#### June 28

The President addressing a meeting which followed a ceremony at Thilakarathne Panaya, Borella said "While fulfilling the needs of the nation such as building roads, bridges and providing food, clothing and shelter, we have taken steps to provide discipline and cultured men. Since these practices should come from those in the top rungs of society, our Government has laid down a code of discipline for parliamentarians. Not only should we preach, we must also practise what is preached".

#### June 29

The first 2 agreements for the establishment of major industrial projects in the 500 acre Investment Promotion Zone were signed at the Greater Colombo Economic Commission office in Colombo. These 2 projects worth Rs. 38 million are among the 25 that have already been approved by the CCEC.

The British Government has decided to write off \$ 5.4 million owed by Sri Lanka upto December 31, 1977, it was announced. This is a sequel to the formula submitted by Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Sri Lanka's Minister of Trade at the Trade and Development Board Meeting of UNCTAD held in Geneva.



JULY 1978

July 1

Within the next few weeks we will be adopting a new Constitution which seeks to have an elected President and an elected Legislature both of whom will be working together for the welfare of the people - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene at the International Muslim Seminar.

The first two agreements for the establishment of major Industrial Projects in the IPZ were signed in Colombo on Tuesday. Both factories are scheduled to manufacture commodities for the export market.

July 2

Kindergarten entry rules revised. Only 50% to be admitted on proximity basis.

Sri Lanka registered an increase of 29% in tourist arrivals in 1977 with a total of 153,685 tourists averaging a stay of 10 nights each.

July 4

The minimum qualification to become a teacher in the future will be the G.C.E. (A.L.s). The Present practice of recruiting teachers with G.C.E. (O.L.'s) will be abolished.

The President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene evinced great interest in the results of the Fertility Survey of Sri Lanka carried out by the World Fertility Survey. He found the report very valuable and interesting. - Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria, Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation.

July 5

The foundation has been laid for a bright future for the people of Sri Lanka. We should all now work with a will and a greater devotion in the coming year - President at the Government Parliamentary Group Meeting.

Dr. Ranjith Atapattu, M.P. for Beliatta has been appointed Minister in charge of Colombo Group of Hospitals.

July 6

The choice is jobs or subsidies. Removal of food subsidy would mean employment for 100,000 more - Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance & Planning.

Mr. Ronnie de Mel told the National State Assembly that the Government had now liberalised granting of exchange to students who could afford to study abroad irrespective of family and political considerations.

July 7

The Government has decided to revise the retirement pattern in the State sector to allow employees to retire on the completion of 15 years of service irrespective of age.

Wise guidance of the Sangha is necessary to mould and develop human character. Maha Sangha can help to mould good citizens - Prime Minister at Sri Lanka Vidyalaya, Maradana.



July 8

Legislation has been gazetted by the Government to impose civic disabilities on 32 persons against whom findings have been made by the G.P.A. Silva Commission on malpractices in Municipalities.

For the first time in Sri Lanka manual workers will be sitting the first year examination of a degree course on July 29 at the Peradeniya Campus and on August 19 at Colombo Campus.

July 10

Major shift in the financial policies of the new Government as announced in the first budget is also having its desired effect - income tax collection, the gem trade import and export business, state and commercial banking activities have also exceeded the target.

July 11

The Government has made a number of essential consumer items including infant milk food, condensed milk and imported tinned fish duty free while the duty on some others have been reduced.

July 12

Private Sector firms have responded to the Government's appeal to increase employment and offer better terms to trainees recruited under the scheme for the expansion of employment.

July 13

Bigger loans for Government Servants. New Credit Council rules to benefit 400,000 public officers, Officers in the lower ranks of the Public Service will be able to get bigger loans under the new Credit Council rules.

July 14

Canada has offered to undertake the Rs. 200 million Maduru Oya Project. She thus becomes the latest donor among the foreign aid contributors to the accelerated Mahaweli Development Scheme.

July 15

The Government aims to refashion the consumer patterns of Sri Lankans in food on the lines of the rice eating era as prevailed during the time of Sinhala monarchs - Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance & Planning.

July 17

The IPZ to be set up at Katunayake will be in full operation by December this year. Of the 60 projects investigated, 20 have already been approved and agreements signed in respect of 3.

Sri Lanka at present spends Rs. 4,000 million on food imports. If this amount is saved it will be possible to increase the salary of public servants by 75% - Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Irrigation, Power and Highways.



July 19

New Constitution on August 17 - Prime Minister will present legislation in Parliament next week to repeal the old Constitution and replace it with a new one.

The Government has decided to grant increased relief to dependents of public servants who die whilst in service and to family members of deceased pensioners.

July 20

Legislation to re-structure the system of Courts will be introduced in Parliament next month. It will be called the Judicature Act - Minister of Justice, Mr. K.W. Devanayagam.

July 21

The Speaker Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis yesterday overruled an Opposition move to stall the local authorities (imposition of civic disabilities) bills and said that the right of the N.S.A. to legislation is a right irrespective of any matter before a Court.

The Agricultural Ministry will soon start a land and water conservation project in the Upper Mahaweli catchment area covering 24,000 acres.

July 22

The stability in Sri Lanka today, the proposed enshrinement in the Constitution of investment guarantees and the economic reforms and policies will give confidence to any foreign investor - Leader of the Indian Industrial Delegation.

July 24

Merit, honesty and ability will be the criterion on which people would be given their due recognition - President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene at the Government's anniversary celebrations.

July 25

Tourist traffic hits wild life pattern - an unanticipated increase in tourist traffic in the National Parks has caused much concern amongst wild life department officials.

Mr. E.L.B. Hurulle, Minister of Cultural Affairs will discuss mutual programmes of work Sri Lanka and India could launch in the field of culture when he meets his counterpart in New Delhi next week.

July 26

Levy of duties - Local bodies get wide powers. The Government has given Municipalities and local bodies far reaching authority in the imposition of license fees and duties.

July 27

The Government has decided to give assistance on a priority basis



to the private sector to set up 7 Ice Plants throughout the country to help bring down fish prices.

July 28

Exposition of the Sacred Kapilawasthu relics in Sri Lanka has helped to strengthen the communal harmony between the major communities in Sri Lanka.

New system for issue of CTB Season tickets. In future season tickets will be issued to State and Private Sector employees through representatives of those institutions appointed for the purpose.

A study to determine factors affecting vegetable prices has been launched by the Agrarian Research and Training Institute.

July 29

Government has launched a National Export Board which will motivate, co-ordinate and finance the management and marketing of exports, mainly non traditional ones.

The aim of this Government is to enforce discipline not by force or through emergency laws but by persuasion and example - Prime Minister.

July 31

State Boards to finance sports tours abroad. A special fund for the promotion of Sri Lanka's cultural and sports activities abroad is to be set up by the Government.



AUGUST 1978

August 1

Government declares war on shoddy goods, Quality control for imports and local products. Government to bring in amendments to Bureau of Standards Act of 1964.

Health warning on packs of local cigarettes - Health Ministry to take action on a suggestion made by a delegation from the Sri Lanka National Federation on Smoking and Health.

The Government has approved Rs. 110 million for a project to modernise the telecommunication system in Colombo and in 18 towns in the suburbs.

August 2

U.K. writes off £ 25.5 million from Lanka. Sri Lanka will be among the beneficiaries of Britain's decision to write off £ 300 million worth of loans and interest from the third world countries.

Subsidies to be raised. The Government had decided to increase the subsidy given for coconut rehabilitation by nearly 25%.

August 3

The President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene will take his oaths under the new constitution within the Chambers of the National State Assembly on same date, the new constitution comes into operation.

August 4

Tamils have got certain concessions. The Leader of the Opposition Mr. Amirthalingam yesterday conceded that the new constitution had made certain concessions to the Tamil people as far as their language is concerned.

A high powered team of Japanese industrialists, bankers and manufacturers are now in Sri Lanka to study the prospects of investing in Sri Lanka.

Increased grants, subsidy schemes, easy credit facilities, a more balanced export duty structure and other incentives form an extensive programme by the Ministry of Plantation Industries to rejuvenate Sri Lanka's ailing coconut industry.

August 5

Sri Lanka to advise on 'Operation Nambia'. The Secretary General has chosen a former Sri Lankan Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Neville Kanakarathne to advise on the proposed U.N. operation in Nambia.

Sri Lanka is to make a comprehensive study of the urban development programme of the Republic of Malawi prior to the implementation of the proposed urban development authority programme.

August 7

World legislators are Colombo bound. Legislators from 80 nations will assemble in Sri Lanka, one year hence for one of the biggest international conferences on Population and Family Planning.



Britain has decided to give Sri Lanka a grant of £ 200,000 or about Rs. 6 million for equipment to update the existing facilities in Irrigation Department.

Labour laws to be extended to cover more workers. This is being done consequent to the convention adopted at the ILO conference.

#### August 8

C.W.E. and Markfed to be rivals. Government's bid to bring relief to consumers.

Government decides to delete Article 157 from the constitution. This lays down that it is an offence to conspire to have the new constitution amended repealed or replaced and provides for punitive measures to be taken against offenders.

World body will hear F.T.Z. disputes so as to safeguard International guarantees for investors. This is one of the several guarantees offered by GCEC to prospective foreign investors.

#### August 9

Government has approved a grant of Rs. 19 million to the Telecommunication Department to set up an Indian Ocean Commonwealth Cable Project.

#### August 10

The Fisheries Research Station in Udawalawe which is built with the assistance of the Chinese Government is to be handed over to the Sri Lankan Government on August, 12.

Health care for children in city slums. Government Municipality has launched an interview health care programme for pre-school children in 8 slums in the Colombo city.

#### August 11

Ayurvedic Doctors will be given the same privileges and rights as western doctors and treated on equal footing - Ministry of Health.

Television comes to Colombo next year. Areas covering G.C.E.C. will be the first areas to get the transmission of television broadcast.

Regulation under the Voluntary Youth Service Act have been made by the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene for the formation of National Development Service.

#### August 12

President's Fund gazetted. This fund is to collect money for the relief of poverty, for the advancement of education and religion and for making awards to the persons who have served the nation.

#### August 13

2/3 majority for Civic Disability Bill - Government ready to face consequences - Anyone who disagrees can canvas opinion at local polls - Prime Minister.



August 14

President opens new Mahaweli Project today. Rs. 11 billion scheme gets off the ground. Maduruoya area, a hive of activity.

Rs. 2 million recommended for each electorate. The Ministry of Plan Implementation has recommended the Treasury that each electorate be allocated Rs. 2 million next year under-decentralised budget.

August 15

203% increase in private sector jobs. Job opportunities in the private sector have increased by 203% during the first month of 1978 as compared with the relevant period of the previous year. Laboratory equipment worth of Rs. 7 million was gifted to schools by UNESCO, Great Britain, West Germany and Japan. These will be distributed among 3,500 schools conducting science classes for G.C.E. 'O' Level.

August 16

Unified Port Authority to be set up. This would be done by amalgamating the present department of Port Commission, the Port Cargo Corporation and the Port Tally and Protective Service Corporation.

An accelerated Five Year Programme to make Sri Lanka self-sufficient in rice, sugar, milk, grains and pulses has been prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture on the orders of Mr. E.L. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture.

August 17

A Department of Internal Trade will be set up shortly to protect consumers from unscrupulous traders - Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade.

The Government is considering the feasibility of setting up separate units in each district to overlook the implementation of work under the Decentralized Budget.

August 18

Litter bugs to be fined on the spot. Legislation to be introduced shortly.

Enhanced free baggage for returning Lankans. New free baggage allowance gazetted last night.

August 19

Major change in PL480 purchases. Only grain and not flour will be purchased under this agreement in the future.

National Gem Reserve for Lanka. Buttress against world inflation and boost to credit rating.

August 21

Demand for Sri Lankan tea reaches peak. Prices break all records. Earns 47% of all exports.



August 22

State sector must create wealth. Central Bank Governor on the open economy.

Low spending on education votes. Rs. 44 million of the vote for capital expenditure allocated in the last budget has not been spent yet by the Ministry of Education.

August 23

The implementation of the multi million rupee. Hambantota District Integrated Rural Development Project is to commence in January 1979.

August 24

Rapid increase in Lanka literacy rate. The adult literacy rate in Sri Lanka has risen by 17% in 14 years. It was 61% in 1960 and rose to 78% by 1974.

Better water supply to South West Coast soon. Under the proposed scheme of water supply, facilities were to be modernised from Negombo to Galle - Mr. M.D. Peiris, Chairman, National Water Services Drainage Board.

August 25

Era of curb and controls ends. Radical change in foreign trade policy - Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade.

Government will take action to grant redress including re-employment to a number of bank employees who had been victimised during the regime of the last government. - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene.

August 26

Big boost in Canada for Lankan's handicraft. Handicraft caravan will be held in Canada later this year.

Direct dialling for foreign investment. Modern telecommunication facilities will be provided for the Free Trade Zone at Katunayake.

August 28

Matara, the Southern seat of learning in the 18th and 19th century put on its best dress for the ceremonial opening of the Ruhunu Campus yesterday.

Indian investors will soon make in-roads into the FTZ and invest in a large number of small and medium scale units with maximum utilization of Lankan manpower.

August 29

Gross external assests up by Rs. 4,744 million. This is compared with the position year ago.

The female of the species in Sri Lanka's State Services and Public Sector Boards and Corporations is to be given equality of status with her male counterparts.



August 30

Lack of co-ordination between Government Departments and other public institutions is the principal cause of wastage in the public sector - Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa.

Private sector to help in Mahaweli Programme. Construction and consultancy firms invited.

August 31

Austria to join Lanka aid group. It is a consequence of the visit of Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning to Austria in April this year.

Unlimited fish resources around Lanka if properly tapped, would contribute greatly to the economic development of the country - Research Director, Institute of Marine Research, Norway.



SEPTEMBER 1978September 1

Nations economy on the mend. Budgetary position good after 7 years of ruin. Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning.

Speaker gives assent to the new Constitution. Historic ceremony in the House.

September 2

They can serve both God and Ceasar - Religious dignitaries will be permitted by express legislation to practice law.

Help the people to protect sovereignty. Few countries can boast of a democracy like Sri Lanka's - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene call to armed services.

September 4

Teachers to be posted on a district basis from next year - Ministry of Education.

Post Offices to issue car licences from November this year. All Post Offices will issue revenue licences for private cars and motor cycles for 1979.

September 5

Colour lights for constitution day. All public buildings in Colombo and in the outstations will be decorated and illuminated on September 7 and 8 to mark the ceremonial promulgation of the new constitution.

September 6

Corporation Cement for all major projects. Indian know-how will be utilised to increase existing planning capacities.

7 new judges will sit in the newly constituted court of appeal when the first ceremonial sittings are held on September 11.

September 7

First Parliament under new constitution meets today. New chapter in Lanka's political history. Islandwide religious ceremonies and shramadhana will mark the occasion.

September 8

President's address to Parliament pledges to broaden newly created freedoms. Simple but elegant ceremony held in Parliament.

September 9

English now allowed in all courts. The use of English language has been permitted for all purposes in relation to the records and proceedings in all courts throughout Sri Lanka. President visits children in schools. President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene paid unofficial visits to several Colombo Schools to



meet children from the outstations who had come to Colombo to take part in Constitution Day ceremonies.

### September 11

World Times (NM Associate Editor) says that old Constitution did not satisfy all.

Share ownership to be broadbased. Investment Trust urged to lure small investors.

### September 12

Off season tourist arrivals unprecedented. It is likely to result in the target of 181,000 tourists being exceeded this year - Chairman, Tourist Board.

Justice to all and injustice to none - Chief Justice, as the newly constituted Supreme Court meets.

Asian Development Bank help to attain sugar self sufficiency Rs. 900 million project before year ends.

### September 13

Access to technological information vital - a pre-requisite for the transfer of technology - Mr. Cyril Mathew, Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs.

Employment through development - this is government's plan says Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation.

### September 14

President takes over paddy and fertilizer. Major changes in Ministerial functions.

More freedom to the Press - Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis speaks to the 'SUN' on the eve of becoming Minister of State.

### September 15

Free Trade Zone draws Rs. 691 million on 34 projects. 15,400 job opportunities in approved undertakings.

5 Ministers take their oaths in Kandy.

### September 16

Most satisfying rounded environment on earth - Arthur Clarke on Sri Lanka.

Buddha Dharma greatest gift says the President - long standing links with Vajiraramaya recalled.

### September 19

A 10 member delegation from the Engineering Export Promotion of India will study the possibilities of setting up joint ventures in Sri Lanka.

Asian Development Bank has finally approved a technical assistance grant to Sri Lanka for the rural credit project. Under this grant a study will be undertaken in the fields of development banking cum agricultural credit to assist farmers and small industries.



September 20

The triangle of Buddhist Monuments covering the area between the three historic capitals of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Kandy is to be developed under a massive Rs. 100 million Archaeological restoration and conservation project with UNESCO assistance.

Directives have gone to all Government Agents to have their development programmes for the ensuing year prepared on a district basis and not on an electorate basis.

September 21

Complete overhaul of the Postal Department with police assistance is to be undertaken immediately in view of the losses of cheques, valuable parcels and goods received from abroad.

The Ministry of Local Government will in future be the sole authority in respect of dismissal, termination of service and disciplinary control of Local Government Service employees now employed in local bodies.

September 22

Biggest ever pay rise in budget. The proposed salary increase which is expected to be granted in the forthcoming budget in November will be based on the recommendations of the Salaries Review Committee appointed by the Finance Ministry earlier this year.

Mr. Bakeer Markar new Speaker. When Parliament met yesterday Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis, Minister of State proposed the name of Mr. Bakeer Markar for the post of Speaker. This was seconded by Mr. M. Sivasithamperam, M.P. for Nallur.

September 23

One monopoly ends. The Fisheries Corporation will no longer enjoy a monopoly in the import of fishing gear.

September 25

Thulhiriya breaks all records under private company management. The Thulhiriya Textile Factory is expected to earn a gross income of Rs. 200 million in 1979 and bring in a new profit of Rs. 61 million - Minister of Textiles, Mr. Wijeyapala Mendis.

The Minister of State wants all lovers of flowers to make their hobbies a money earning project, as there is a demand for Sri Lanka flowers in the overseas markets.

September 26

The World Bank will streamline the Customs Service of Sri Lanka and gear it to meet modern requirements especially of the proposed free Trade Zone.

September 27

Secret Ballot before strike. Members not Union Leaders will be the decision makers - Government to amend Trade Union Ordinance.



September 28

20,000 Sri Lankans in Oil States. Sri Lanka earned nearly Rs. 200 million (US \$ 12 million) in foreign exchange last year from remittances by migrant labour.

Minister obtains benefits for 3 grades - Stenographers, Shroffs and Translators are to be put on a better footing on a request made to the Government by the Ministry of Public Administration, Major Montague Jayawickrema.

September 29

IMF must be more realistic - Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning has called for a re-appraisal of the conditions laid down by the IMF on countries to which credit has been granted.

The World Bank has expressed willingness to come to the aid of the Central Transport Board to enable it to give the Public a better transport service.

September 30

Employers Federation welcomes legislation against rights - Chairman of the Employers Federation urged the Government to consider in enacting as a matter of priority the necessary legislation to deal with political strikes in the Private Sector.



OCTOBER 1978October 2

Governments breaks the ice on millions of frozen rupees.

Several millions of rupees blocked up in frozen accounts of foreigners and Sri Lankans who have left the country to take up appointments abroad are to be released by the Government.

Major boost for minor crop growers. The Government is to increase the rates of subsidy paid as minor crop assistance and extend the scheme even to those in legal possession of land under lease etc.

October 3

G.M.O.A. wants letter after 5 years. At a special emergency meeting, the G.M.O.A. decided to request the Government to issue a letter of confirmation to every doctor who completes five years compulsory state service.

M.P.P. must now think in terms of Districts. Government has decided to embark on three specific integrated district development programmes next

year. - Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria, Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation.

Strikes in the Public Sector are totally unjustified because the people are the ultimate owners of the means of production, distribution and exchange in that sector - President M.A.R. Jayewardene at a symposium.

October 4

Government is considering a ban on the import of gift cars from January next year according to the Department of Import Control sources.

Agreements to set up four more IPZ projects. All 100 percent export oriented.

October 5

Non-summary trial to be re-introduced. Changes in Criminal Procedure Code. Post of D.P.P. to be abolished. Investment in FTZ now Rs. 1 billion. Forty projects approved, will generate 30,000 jobs.

October 6

Sri Lanka enters new era with decentralisation. The appointment of District Ministers would be the biggest and surest step in the sphere of decentralisation, Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation.

October 7

A clean administration, Government announces. There should be no room for political revenge, corruption - President at the Annual Sessions Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya.

October 9

Subsistence allowance to go up. Bid to bring payments to more realistic levels.



First private helicopter in tourist trade. The first helicopter to be brought by a private firm in Sri Lanka will go into the tourist business soon.

#### October 10

Efficiency of ports to be increased. The Ministry of Trade and Shipping will formulate air intensified development programme to increase the operational efficiency of the major sea ports in Sri Lanka.

Direct dialling for all principal towns by 1984. Before the end of the term of the government every principal town in Sri Lanka will come under the direct dialling system. - Mr. C.J. Serasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

#### October 11

Plantation Industry to be made common man's movement. A strategic plan to integrate estates and villages neighbouring the plantations.

#### October 12

World Bank Aid for district development. First time such assistance will be given. It has already pledged Rs. 330 million for the development of the Kurunegala District. The Government's contribution to this exercise will be Rs. 70 million.

#### October 13

Lankans abroad send back Rs. 30 million a month. This figure is expected to reach Rs. 50 million mark soon.

Sri Lanka exports rice after 232 years. Indonesia gets 17M pounds on deal pushed by Trade Minister. Foreign exchange gain around Rs. 30 million.

West German gift eases ambulance shortage. Arival of 137 new Ambulances from West Germany under West Germany Aid to the Health Ministry.

#### October 14

New Loan Scheme to fibre mill owners. They can draw loans upto Rs. 25,000.00 to modernise their existing mills.

#### October 16

40 per cent passes at Advance Level Examination. They have obtained passes in either 4 subjects or 3 subjects.

Muslim marriage laws to be amended. A draft proposal seeking certain amendments to the muslim marriage laws is being prepared by the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs.

#### October 17

Gem Corporation to start mining in Mahaweli area - Chairman, State Gem Corporation.

Parents can take active part in children's Varsity Education - Draft Bill in Parliament on Thursday.



October 18

Public Sector strikes to be banned. - Two-thirds of the economy cannot be allowed to suffer - Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands and Mahaweli Development.

Dalada Maligawa Precincts declared sacred area by the Government.

A master-plan for fertilizer project - drawn up by West German Experts. Report presented to the Minister of Agriculture and Research. - Mr. E.L. Senanayake.

Boom time for rubber export. Export earnings from rubber during the period January - July 1978 showed an increase of about 124 percent over the same period last year.

October 20

District Ministers' duties defined. Development of their areas is their responsibility - briefing by President at Group meeting.

Probe on ragging will cover all Campuses. The Special Police probe on alleged ragging has been extended to cover all campuses of the University of Sri Lanka - Senior Police Official.

Food crops, trees to be planted in school gardens. All heads of Government and Private Schools and Training Colleges have been requested to organise the planting of food crops and useful trees on school gardens during the Maha season.

October 21

Corrective measures have put our economy on sound footing - Mr. Ronnie de Mel. External Assets have gone up to seven billion rupees, the highest for the past 20 years.

Co-operate with me to give better transport service. Transport Minister Mr. M.H. Mohamed yesterday invited the Press, Public and Parliamentarians to co-operate with him to enable him to provide a better transport service to the people.

October 23

Zero tillage may make three harvests possible. Farmers in Sri Lanka may be able to cultivate paddy a third season shortly and increase the output of their existing fields. An experiment on this was launched by the Minister of Agricultural Development and Research - Mr. E.L. Senanayake at Panduwasnuwara.

October 24

Three Swedish organisations pledge Rs. 2.8 million and to co-operative movement - Swedish financial assistance will cover an island-wide project for training of co-operative teachers and another project for Women's Consumer Education and Information through co-operatives.

October 25

Twenty new Industries approved. 805 factories will generate 20,000 new jobs. A capital outlay of Rs. 500 million will be needed to start the 805 factories in the 20 Industries approved this year.

Traffic Accidents up - Mushroom driving schools to blame - Police.



Salary rise for 8,000 teachers from November. Those who will benefit from this salary increase are graduates in Science and Maths and those holding certificates for aesthetic education.

#### October 26

Extensive changes in the registration procedures and issue of certificates in respect of births, marriages, divorce and deaths by the Registrar General's Dept. will come into effect from Wednesday.

#### October 27

Government launches major export drive. The Government has followed up a comprehensive package of proposals aimed at boosting Sri Lanka exports to a high level in the shortest possible time and thereby generated a sustained flow of foreign exchange for development commitments. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali - Minister of Trade.

Cattle and Poultry feed prices cut - Producers to get 30 Cts. more for a pint of milk. These proposals were announced yesterday by Mr. Thondaman - Minister of Rural Industrial Development.

#### October 28

Licence duties on some classes of motor vehicles raised. This increase will apply to certain types of private and hiring cars, including motor coaches (private and hiring buses) and motor wagons. The increases range from 50 per cent to 300 per cent depending on the tare.

#### October 30

Aussie Parliamentary team pays tribute to Government for the efforts to re-establish political stability in the country and push ahead with national and rural development schemes in the shortest possible time.

Electricity costs more from December. The Ceylon Electricity Board announced yesterday that the tariffs for the supply of electricity will be increased with effect from December 1st.

#### October 31

Kachcheries at your door-step soon. The Government has approved a scheme by which Kachcheri staff will play the role of barefoot administrators and take their administrative functions to the people.

Guaranteed minimum price for green leaf. The Government has fixed a guaranteed minimum price for green leaf supplied by Tea Small Holdings (50 acres and less).

Badges for CTB checkers. Badges will be issued to ticket checkers of the Ceylon Transport Board who will have to wear them whenever they board the buses for checking tickets.



NOVEMBER 1978November 1

FTZ Tax holidays extended to 7 years. More concessions depend on job intensity - Deputy Director General Mr. Paul Perera.

Free health services and free education to continue - Dr. Ranjith Attapattu, Minister in charge of Colombo Group of Hospitals.

November 2

International Court Elections. Sri Lanka puts up a good showing. Sri Lanka's candidate H.W. Jayewardene missed the required majority in the Security Council by just one vote.

FTZ: Two factories go into production this month. Exports will commence by the end of the year.

November 3

Sri Lanka to compete with the exporting countries - Mr. E.L. Senanayake announces major plan to export rice.

Service Chiefs to battle baby boom - Ministry of Plan Implementation is to appraise the Services and Police Top Brass of the need of our Soldiers and Policemen to have planned families.

Special Bank for National Development - Ministry of Finance and Planning yesterday gazetted regulations for the setting up of a National Development Bank of Sri Lanka.

November 4

Husband will get wife's pension. The Government is to amend the Widow's and Orphans Pension Funds Ordinance to enable the payment of a pension to widowers of the women public servants - Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs.

November 6

World narcotic talks in Colombo today. International narcotic experts will attend the fifth meeting of the operational heads at National Narcotic Agencies which open today at EMICH in Colombo.

Budget estimates tomorrow - The Appropriation Bill giving the Budgetary estimates for 1979 will be tabled in Parliament tomorrow.

November 7

The Ministry of Fisheries is exploring the possibilities of conducting deep-sea fishing operations on a large scale.

Diplomatic approach to get the gold back. The Govt. is to initiate action through diplomatic channels to claim a consignment of gold bars and wrist watches found on board the 'Lanka Sagarika' and confiscated by Singapore Customs.



November 8

According to the estimates of revenue and expenditure tabled in Parliament yesterday by the Minister of Finance, the Govt. will have to contend with a record Budget deficit of Rs. 8,023 million in 1979.

End of quota and permit era. The Prime Minister yesterday assured Lankans of an era of plenty and self-sufficiency which would end the quota, license and permit system which had existed for several years.

November 9

Freight rates on the way up. All major shipping conferences have given Sri Lanka notice of future increase of freight rates on the shipping of our exports with rates on some commodities to be increased by 100%.

New index for Cost of Living allowances. Guide lines for a revised consumer price index have been recommended to the Government by a top-level official committee.

November 10

Foot-board travel due to bus shortage. The Acting Minister of Transport, yesterday conceded the prohibition of foot-board travel in CTB buses could not/enforced due to the shortage of buses.

Postage up from today. Commencing today the postage for an ordinary letter has been increased from 15 Cts. to 25 Cts. while post cards will cost 15 Cts.

No more rice imports from China or Pakistan. Unprecedented Maha harvest. There will be no import of rice from China or Pakistan next year according to the Food Commissioner Mr. P.M. Hassen.

November 11

National authority on environment. A national central environmental authority is to be established shortly following the enactment of a Basic Environmental Law.

November 13

The Paddy Marketing Board is to be decentralized from January 1979.

C.M.C. to recruit 150 barefoot doctors, sixty immediately will receive an intensive course in sanitation and public health.

November 14

The work of the new Ministry of Coconut Industries is to arrest the sharp decline in the production of coconuts in this country and also to step up its production.

November 15

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene has appointed a four member team to determine the tenders for the purchase of 1,400 bus chassis for the Sri Lanka Central Transport Board.

November 16

Over 175 are feared dead in the ill rated Icelandic Airways DC. 8



Charter flight which crashed at Katunayake yesterday.

Ten per cent salary rise all round. No tax on income below Rs. 1,000.00 a month Incentives to improve productivity. Public servants exempt from Income Tax - Budget highlights.

November 17

Ministry of Plantation Industries has launched a drive to extend palmyrah cultivation in eight districts - Jaffna, Batticaloa, Vavuniya, Mannar, Trincomalee, Amparai, Puttalam and Hambantota.

Private sector hails Budget. The second Budget of the UNP Government has been welcomed by the private sector.

Day of National Mourning - Haj plane death toll rises to 199. Mr. Hameed sends sympathies to Adam Malik. Two planes to take the dead. President orders full probe.

November 18

The new Women's Bureau in the Ministry of Plan Implementation will be vested with the task of advising the Government on the formulation and implementation of programme for the increased participation of Women in national development.

Customs foil attempt to smuggle leopard skins. The Customs on Thursday foiled an attempt by a Pakistani national to smuggle the skins of six full grown leopards and the skin of a cub.

November 20

Government liberates sugar imports. Private sector will be allowed to import unrestricted quantities of sugar.

Inflow of cars may hit balance of payments. The Minister of Finance and Planning had indicated its concern over the inflow of cars to the country and its effect on the Sri Lanka's balance of payments situation. Already Sri Lanka has one of the highest cars to population ratios for any third world country.

- November 21

Supreme Court clears both bills - Supreme Court has held that both the Special Presidential Commissions of Inquiry (Special Provisions) Bill and the First Amendment to the Constitution Bill need not be referred to the people for their approval at a referendum because both bills were not inconsistent with any provisions of Article 83 of the Constitution - Speaker Mr. Bakeer Marker.

November 22

4,000 Apprentices for all trades next year. The government has launched an expanded apprentice training programme to train nearly 4,000 apprentices next year in all trades in the private sector - Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria, Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation.



November 23

Severe penalties including fine and imprisonment await traders who hoard goods, refuse to sell monopolise trade and engage in profiteering and unfair trade practices under the Consumers Protection Act. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade and Shipping.

November 24

Cyclone hits Batticaloa, houses damaged. Strong winds over 60 m.p.h. hit Batticaloa yesterday morning as the cyclonic storm which developed over the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday moved towards the North Eastern Coast of Sri Lanka.

Lanka's tourist potential self-evident. I won't attempt a selling job with you - Mr. Earnest Corea.

November 25

No cut in car import duty for doctors and engineers. The Finance Ministry has said a firm "No" to requests made by doctors and engineers for a reduction in import duty on cars they are permitted to import on free exchange.

The press Foundation of Asia is bringing together the largest gathering so far of Asian editors, publishers and senior representatives of management in Colombo next week.

November 27

Rs. 500.00 to rebuild houses, free food and clothing for three months. Rehabilitation programme for cyclone victims on President's directions. Aid from foreign countries pours in. Official death toll rises to 375.

November 28

President open Press Foundation Sessions. Calls upon the press to indicate the boundary of its freedom. No one disputes that the Press could be free but the issue that has to be resolved is what the boundaries of this freedom are.

November 29

SLFP, TULF vote with the government. SLFP and the TULF yesterday voted with the Government to muster a two-thirds majority to pass two important bills - the National Housing Amendment Bill and the Consumer Protection Bill.

Elections to local bodies put off. The leaders of parties at a meeting held in Parliament yesterday morning unanimously decided to postpone the elections to Local Authorities which were to have been held in January next year.

Export Credit Corporation Bill through without division. The Government's objective is of mainly offering an insurance service to the small exporter here against commercial, non-commercial and even political risks.

November 30

Bid to ensure quality bread supplies. The Colombo District Minister Mr. W. Mallimarachchi has ordered the Price Control Inspectors to conduct systematic raids on bakeries in the District to ensure that only quality bread be supplied to the consumer.

State can recover land to build houses. The National Housing Amendment Bill which was passed in Parliament with 2/3rd majority will enable the Commissioner to recover possession of land which is in the possession of any other person where the Commissioner is satisfied that it is expedient to recover possession of such land for the construction of houses.



DECEMBER 1978December 1

Sri Lanka is taking initiative as the current head of the Non Aligned Movement to despatch a team from the Non Aligned world to meet leaders of the OPEC and to make a case for our country in the light of the price increases in oil.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene invoked the Public Security Act with the full concurrence of Opposition leaders to carry out more effectively the reconstruction and rehabilitation programme of the Government following the recent cyclone disaster.

December 2

The Government has decided to appoint 5 Vice Chancellors to head the New Universities which would be set up when the University Act becomes effective.

The Government has decided to set up a common pool of retired technical personnel willing to be re-employed for short periods in development projects.

A team of Coastal Aqua culture specialists from Japan are in Sri Lanka at present to finalise plans for the development of the Coastal Aqua Culture Industry in the country with Japanese aid.

December 4

The Government hopes to set up three more Campuses of the University of Sri Lanka. This will come up before the University Grants Commission today.

December 5

We will accept that politician and scientists must work hand in hand. The results they achieve depend on the way the ideas are put into practice and the manner in which the institutions through which they work are managed. That is the task before the Government and the people - President at SIAAS Sessions.

December 6

The Telecommunication Satellite Station which will be constructed on a hill top about 5,000 ft. above the sea level in the Namunukula range will provide direct dialling system not only to the district of Badulla but also to communicate with about 200 countries in the world - Mr. D.B. Wijetunga, Minister of Posts and Telecommunication.

Unlike now there were not many 50,000 rupee donations to Ananda College during the Kularatne era. Ananda was built at that time by contributions of 10, 25 and 50 cents and the sweat, tears and toil of the common man - Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa at the opening of the Kularatne Hall at Ananda.

December 8

Irrigation Department is a major victim of the brain drain. As many as 50 Engineers of the senior and middle level had left the country during the last two years - Director of Irrigation.



December 9

Jobs only through development. Only if there is development can there be more opportunities for employment - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene at Ladies College price giving.

December 11

More women <sup>put</sup> off marriage in favour of jobs. An increasing number of Sri Lankan women postpone their marriage in favour of employment or for continuing their education. This is revealed in a Fertility Survey carried out by the Department of Census and Statistics.

December 12

Sri Lanka is now studying the possibility of harnessing nuclear energy for its development purposes. The Atomic Energy Authority, the Ceylon Electricity Board and the University are engaged in that study - Mr. Cyril Mathew, Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs.

Profit is no longer a dirty word in Sri Lanka. This was the message which came out loud and clear when 200 Hong Kong businessmen met a powerful delegation from Sri Lanka who were promoting investment in the IPZ.

December 13

Minimizing customs and exchange control formalities, only random checking of baggage and incoming gift parcels, the elimination of customs declaration forms for certain categories of travellers and the provision for reconversion of the Sri Lanka rupee into foreign currency at airports are some of the steps the Government proposes to take shortly.

The European Centre for International Co-operation will offer substantial aid to Sri Lanka in the implementation of its major development projects including the Accelerated Mahaweli Programme - Acting Minister of Finance and Planning.

December 14

Cyclone destroyed over 300 schools. Over 300 schools in Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa, Kalutara and Anuradhapura were damaged by the recent cyclone. The damages caused to schools in the Batticaloa district alone is estimated around Rs. 30 million.

December 15

The Government has decided to vest in the Cabinet the responsibilities of making all local and foreign purchases for State Institutions above the value of one million rupees.

The Department of National Housing has received foreign assistance for the purchase of some building materials required under the 100,000 houses programme. This programme is expected to leave severe housing shortage to a great extent.

The Government has decided to give high priority to a project worked out by the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research for the production - processing and marketing of soya bean in Sri Lanka - Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, Secretary to the Ministry.



December 16

The Chinese trade delegation headed by the Vice Foreign Minister is currently in Sri Lanka for the Sino-Lanka trade talks and the signing of the protocol.

December 18

UNESCO to give Rs. 50,000 to restore ancient monuments in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Mahanuwara.

2,600 teachers will enter the Government Teachers Training Colleges in January next year under the new scheme of training approved by the Government.

December 19

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Moraji Desai is expected to be the Chief Guest at the next years Independence celebrations to be held in Kandy on February 4th.

December 20

The Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa assured Parliament yesterday that he would keep members informed of all the steps taken by the Government to reconstruct and rehabilitate the areas affected by the Cyclone.

Subsidiaries of the Insurance Corporation are to be set up to carry on insurance business. Provision contained in the Insurance Special Provisions Bill gazetted by the Minister of Trade, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali.

December 21

Sri Lanka will not purchase any rice from January next year. In the Sino-Sri Lanka trade protocol for 1979, there is no provision for the purchase of rice.

A steep increase in the export earnings from rubber during the first 6 months of this year. Total earnings reached Rs. 1.2 million in January - June 1978 as against Rs. 0.5 million in the same period last year.

December 22

The Japanese Government has offered Rs. 40 million worth of aid to Sri Lanka to set up a Research and Training Centre for Coastal Aqua Culture.

December 23

The Government will spend Rs. 45 million on a massive development programme in the country on a scale unprecedented in history - Mr. Ronnie de Mel winding up the Committee Stage of the Budget Debate.

The ceiling on housing property law is to be amended to exempt houses owned by religious institutions and charitable trusts from the operation of that law.

December 25

Heli tours operated by the Sri Lanka air force have doubled their income this year. The income this year is Rs. 4 million, all received in foreign exchange as against Rs. 2½ million earned last year.



Foreign travel by Sri Lankans continues to expand. In October about 12,600 Sri Lankans travelled abroad compared with the figure of 6900 recorded for the same month last year. This was an increase of nearly 83% in relative terms.

#### December 28

20 new foreign business projects which are to operate outside the FTZ bringing in foreign capital amounting to Rs. 78.2 million have received approval from the Government of Sri Lanka in the first 8 months of this year.

There has been an all round drop of grave crime in the city this year as against 1977. According to statistics 7354 cases of grave crime were reported upto December 1978 as against 9604 last year.

#### December 29

2,000 jobs in first year of operation. The opening of the LMK Browns (Ceylon) Ltd. in the IPZ at Katunayake will provide employment to 2,000 persons in the first year rising upto 5,000 in the fifth year.

The Sri Lanka Airports Authority is to be established shortly and will primarily be entrusted with the task of running the Katunayake International Airport.

#### December 30

The Rural Councils Delimitation Committee intends recommending the setting up of 250 Rural Councils in the island. These new Rural Councils will replace the present town councils and village councils.

The construction of 3 more service reservoirs and the installation of additional pumps at the Mulleriyawa treatment plant are some of the measures the National Water Supply and Drainage Board will take to improve the supply of water in the city and suburbs.



JANUARY 1979January 1

Air Lanka to stay out of IATA. Air Lanka will not operate as a member of the International Air Transport Association stated Captain Rakiha Wickremanayake, Chairman of the new Airline.

Volunteers to adopt villages in Amparai. Several organisations and individuals have volunteered to rehabilitate villages of the cyclone affected Amparai District.

January 2

Lalith Athulathmudali clears the decks for exports. There would be a thrust towards greater liberalisation of trade on the new year to create an open competitive economy for Sri Lanka.

Tea goes down - Sri Lanka tea production last year amounted to 181.8 million kilograms. There was a drop in production of about 10.6 million kilos compared with 1977.

January 3

Central Bank head predicts economic renaissance. The Governor of the Central Bank, Mr. Herbert E. Tennekoon has said that 1979 should see the economy advance on all fronts.

Pay rise - Private Sector falls in line: Public Sector employees get increased salaries this month.

Major changes in higher education launched. The changes include the establishment of a University Grants Commission - Six Independent Universities, A separate University Campus and a University College.

January 4

Lower rung jobs only by Job Bank. Appointments made outside scheme will be illegal - Circular sent out by Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation.

There is general agreement that the present economic structure of this world is to say the least hopelessly unsatisfactory. Hence the establishment of a new world order is vital - Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali - Minister of Trade and Shipping.

January 5

No price hike on widely used texts. The Government yesterday announced that there would be no increase in the price of widely used school text books.

Tax Amnesty up to March 31 only. All those who wish to take advantage of this Amnesty have been advised by the Ministry of Finance and Planning to make their deposits in a special account at any branch of the National Savings.

Government has no racial, religious bias. We are ready to protect every citizen from violence - President at Parliamentary Group Meeting.



January 6

Let us follow the Buddha Dhamma. My aim is to give lead in right conduct, effort and livelihood - President at Pinnacle ceremony.

The education system of the country would be streamlined to ensure that rural schools were developed, the Minister of Education and Higher Education - Dr. Nissanka Wijeyaratne said yesterday.

January 8

\$ 15 m. yearly US aid for Mahaweli, US AID Mission to set up separate project unit.

We, not planets are to blame - Clarke. He was stressing the point that we humans could do far more damage to this Island for instance by the felling of forests than the planets could ever do.

January 9

Admission on raw marks. Varsity entry on merit alone. 30% all-island, 55% district-wise, 15% reserved for backward areas. No race, language considerations.

23,000 jobs under Industrial programme. A total investment of over Rs. 600 million on foreign and local machinery and equipment was made last year in 1070 Industrial Units generating employment for more than 23,000 persons. Under an Industrial expansion programme initiated by the Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs.

January 10

Savings bonds to bring monthly prizes. The National Savings Bank will soon introduce a premium savings bond scheme at ten rupees per unit. It will be modelled on the lines of U.K. premium bond scheme. 310 million 10 cent and 5 cent coins. The Central Bank has placed orders with the Royal Mint in London for a total 160 million 10 cent coins and 150 million 5 cent coins made of aluminium to replace all nickel coins in circulation.

Unprecedented decline in value of food imports. The total import value of rice, flour and sugar recorded in unprecedented 20 per cent decline in the first nine months of last year compared with that of the same period in 1977.

January 11

British Aid to Victoria Project is an outright grant. Announcement made by U.K. Government.

There has been phenomenal increase in the importation of machinery, equipment and vehicles to Sri Lanka during the period January - September last year.

January 12

Hungarian President here on January 16th Recognition of Lanka's role. A high powered Hungarian delegation led by the country's President will arrive here on an official visit.

The Controller of Prices yesterday called on his officials to crack down on persons found hoarding milk food, building materials and exercise books in view of the temporary shortage of these items in the local market.



January 13

Cigarette packs must carry warning - About health hazards. All cigarette manufacturers will in future be compelled by law to carry a warning in each packet containing consumers to the hazards of smoking.

Educational activities mark International Year of the Child. The Ministry of Education has proposed a series of programmes to be conducted in schools this year to mark the International Year of the Child.

January 15

Group of 77 will speak with one voice. Trade and Shipping Minister Mr. L. Athulathmudali called for the setting up of a third world Institution which would assist UNCTAD in presenting the case of the group of 77 in International negotiations.

January 16

Private Sector to operate buses from February. Private bus owners are to commence their services from February 1st this year - Minister of Transport Mr. M.H. Mohamed.

January 17

Medals and certificates for the best sleuths. Inspector General of Police has initiated a new scheme by which outstanding detectives will be provided with special incentives in the form of medals and certificates.

January 18

Children will be taught all three languages - National progress only then - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene.

Ombudsman will be parallel to courts. Swift remedial measures for aggrieved.

January 19

Six Massive Textile Plants are to be set up in Sri Lanka at the cost of Rs. 36 million - To gain self sufficiency in cloth - Minister of Textile Industries.

Chairman of the Cement Corporation said yesterday that the acute shortage of cement experienced in the southern part of the country would soon be rectified when the Puttalam Factory resumed production in a weeks' time.

Private Sector required to increase salaries from this month in compliance with the Budget proposal - Minister of Labour, Capt. C.P.J. Seneviratne.

January 20

Lanka is a Government by all the people. Premier expands on Lincolnian Democracy at Moral Re-Armament Movement Conference.

Government would introduce measures to discourage people from engaging in the wanton killing of cattle - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene.

Police to screen all tourists. A data bank for all tourists arrival in the country is to be established immediately according to a decision taken by the Police and Immigration Officials.



January 22

President to inaugurate Kirama Oya. Biggest Irrigation Project in Hambantota starts on Sunday. This is one of the major Irrigation Projects under the Integrated Rural Development Projects under the auspicious of the Ministry of Plan Implementation.

Lalith Athulathmudali calls for **continuous** dialogue between producers, traders and consumers. It will be of immense benefit in carrying out the trade policies launched by the present Government.

Only 60 per cent of the Decentralized Budget allocations for the districts is being utilized because of the lack of skilled personnel. - Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe - Minister of Youth Affairs and Employment.

January 23

Master Plan to rehabilitate rubber. The Government has proposed the master plan to rehabilitate the Rubber Industry which has lagged behind targets in both production and replanting.

Rs. 300 M. in aid from the Netherlands. The Government of the Netherlands yesterday informed the Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, that Sri Lanka will receive assistance of forty four million Dutch Guilders (approximately Rs. 300 M.) this year.

January 24

Comprehensive report on slum upgrading. A team from Netherlands has compiled the preparation of a comprehensive report on slum upgrading and shanty improvement in Sri Lanka.

U.S. to gift two Rice Mills. The United States Government under its Aid programmes will gift two high capacity Rice Mills valued at Rs. 5.3 million.

January 25

President inaugurates Matara Development Programme on Saturday. President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene will inaugurate the Matara District Integrated Rural Development Programme on Saturday January 27th by laying the foundation stone for the construction of an Agricultural Training and Research Institute at Johnny Dale Estate. The entire Project is funded by Swedish Aid.

January 26

A Cabinet Sub-Committee has been appointed to program the building of the New Parliament Complex at Kotte which is to be the new Capital of Sri Lanka.

Soya Milk Factory in Amparai. A Rs. 23 million Soya Milk Factory capable of producing 8,000 pints of Milk daily will be set up in Amparai. The World Bank will fund the project.

January 27

President at opening of Vocational Development Centre. Country needs more skilled workers. Government plans to improve their lot. Women too should be trained.



National Health Scheme to benefit rural children. A new National Health Scheme to provide better Medical facilities to rural school children is being worked out by the Ministry of Health jointly with the Ministry of Education.

A Master Plan for the rapid development of the Fishing Industry is to come into operation. It has been formulated by the Minister of Fisheries. It is expected to cost Rs. 1,000.00 million. Funds for the project will be obtained from NORAD.

January 31

One of the biggest firms in the U.S., the Harris Corporation with an annual turnover of nearly one billion (1,000 million) U.S. dollars wants to set up an Electronics Factory in Free Trade Zone at Katunayake.

The Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research has launched a Rs. 830 M. Sugar Cane Development Project at Savanagala under A.D.B. Scheme. This project envisages the development of 11,530 acres under Sugar Cane Cultivation and help to achieve self-sufficiency.

Advanced Level scrutiny delay holds up Varsity admissions. Many thousands of students are held in suspense because of the University Grants Commission is unable to finalise admissions until the Department of Examinations releases the results of re-scrutiny of answer papers.



FEBRUARY 1979February 1

The State Film Corporation has instructed all Cinemas in the Island to discontinue the screening of the film-let depicting the national flag.

February 2

Internship must for medical graduates. A series of strict provisions have been introduced in the Compulsory Public Service Act to make it compulsory for Medical Graduates to serve the period of internship in the Department of Health Service.

Point beyond which Third World can't go - Trade Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali told an Asian Regional Seminar in preparation for UNCTAD V that we must identify the point beyond which Third World cannot go in the economic bargaining with the advanced countries.

February 3

Tax rebates for Bus Companies. The Government is considering a proposal to provide tax concessions to the Private Sector bus operators.

Red carpet welcome for Moraji Dessai. All arrangements were finalised yesterday to welcome the Indian Prime Minister Shri Moraji Desai who arrives in Sri Lanka today.

February 5

Cries of 'Jayawewa' as Desai comes to Kotmale. Thousands to see Indian Premier.

Hill country was a spectrum of colour - Memorable First National Day Ceremony.

Freedom for prisoners - Around 800 prisoners walked out to freedom yesterday from the 32 prisons in the Island under a special amnesty granted by the President on National Day.

February 6

Desai offers lotus at Sri Maha Bodhi - Colourful ceremony at Anuradhapura.

Gift of eyes to mark Desai's visit. The Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society has made arrangements to send a gift of human eyes to four Indian cities to mark the visit of the Indian Prime Minister to Sri Lanka.

Several positive measures have been taken to revise Milk production in the country and the opening of Milk Collecting Centres is one such measure - Mr. S. Thondaman, Minister of Rural Industrial Development.

February 8

Buddhist way of life has made Lanka students exemplary - Ven. Saddhatissa. It is because obedience to teachers and respect of elders are the basic tenets of the Buddhist way of life they are brought up in - Ven. Saddhatissa.



The National Savings Bank premium bonds scheme will be inaugurated this morning by the Minister of Finance and Planning Mr. Ronnie de Mel.

### February 9

The Government will seek foreign technical expertise to build the Mahaweli Railway. Initially a 77 mile track from Welikande to Kadiraveli skirting New Mahiyangana and Padiyatalawa is being planned for immediate construction. The cost has been worked out to reach the Rs. 188 million mark.

U.S. Fertilizer Gift will help small farmer. The Minister of Agricultural Development and Research Mr. E.L. Senanayake yesterday received a consignment of 10,000 metric tons of Urea Fertilizer under the U.S. Aid Programme.

500 youth to swear allegiance to the cause of Shramadana. A group of 500 youth from Moratuwa led by the M.P. Mr. Tyronne Fernando will take the oath of allegiance to the cause of Shramadana before President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene on Monday.

### February 10

Just society means Socialist Society - Not Capitalist or Communist - President at Trinity College Prize Giving.

Legislation to control Finance Companies. The Government will shortly bring in legislation to control the operations of finance and hire-purchase companies and subject them to very close supervision by the Central Bank - Mr. Ronnie de Mel - Minister of Finance and Planning.

The Government has decided to make use of the youth not only for development work but also to participate actively in the decision making for the greater good of our country - Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe - Minister of Youth Affairs and Employment.

### February 12

Loans to help youth start business - Chance to live as free citizens instead of serving others - President at Narendrasinghe Collective Youth Farm.

### February 13

The Prime Minister said at Arundagama on Sunday that there were visible signs of people building up more and more self-confidence in themselves.

The Minister of Food and Co-operative Mr. S.B. Herat has been urged by his Parliamentary Advisory Council to expedite the inquiries initiated against Co-operatives charged of fraudulent activities during the period of the last Government.

### February 14

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday extolled the virtue of settling trade union disputes through negotiations and said that the Government would soon pass legislation to establish Employees Councils that would be a new chapter in employer-employee relations.

Issue of quality flour to be ensured. President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday directed the Minister of Food and Co-operatives to ensure the issue of quality flour to bakeries following complaints, received by the President from consumers of poor quality bread.



Re-employed pensioners to get 10 per cent pay increase. Government pensioners re-employed in the Public Service, Corporations and Statutory Boards will receive the ten per cent wage increase in addition to the salaries attached to the appointment they hold.

### February 15

The Government will introduce legislation in Parliament on February 22nd to provide additional safeguards for Members of Parliament who under the present provisions are liable to lose a seat if expelled from the political party to which they belong.

Colombo's Foreign Affairs Ministry was yesterday besieged by hundreds of anxious relations of Sri Lankans working in Iran. But most of them went away relieved at reports that the political strife in Teheran had ceased and the new Government of Ayotollah Komeni has been recognized by most Western Powers.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene has told the Ven. Saddhatissa Nayake Thera that he would give every assistance to the Maha Sangha for the spread of Dhamma and the study of Pali.

### February 16

The Government yesterday signed an agreement to purchase 30,000 tons of rice from Pakistan to supplement its existing buffer stock maintained by the Food and Co-operatives Ministry.

Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa yesterday moved in briskly to solve Colombo's most nagging problem of water. In his characteristic pragmatic approach Premier Premadasa commissioned seven bowzers and ten tractor trailers each carrying two 400 gallon tanks in them to be on call for the supply of water to needy areas in the city.

### February 17

The Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake said yesterday that the Government now had all the men, machinery and the technical skills to complete the accelerated Mahaweli project in the stipulated period.

The Government has launched an ambitious programme to make maximum use of the skills and training the young from the National Apprenticeship Board by assisting them to set up small industries.

### February 19

Prime Minister stated that public servants should always see how a thing could be done and not how it could not be done,

Religious classes and religious activities will be conducted in schools on Poya days following a directive by the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Nissanka Wijeyaratne.

Over a million seed coconuts are to be distributed free of charge by the Coconut Cultivation Board decentralized regional offices during March - Minister of Coconut Industries Mr. Harold Herat.

### February 20

Verdict on second amendment today - New law to deal with expelled M.P.P. The Supreme Courts will inform the Speaker of Parliament today of its verdict on the Constitution of the Second Amendment to the Constitution which was yesterday referred to it as an urgent bill.



Errant traders may be suspended from business - Price Controller.

### February 21

The Australian Government has agreed to spend 5.09 million Australian Dollars (Rs. 86 million) on a unique experiment in peasant settlement in Sri Lanka probably the first of its kind in the world.

An unprecedented crop of little over 90 million bushels of paddy was recorded last year. This is the biggest ever crop recorded in Sri Lanka. These figures are revealed in an assessment made by the Department of Census and Statistics for both seasons in 8,000 villages.

90 apply to run private buses. A Ministry Official said yesterday that 90 applications had been received so far and they are being processed.

### February 22

The Central Bank will pursue an aggressive monetary policy oriented towards assisting economic expansion. It will particularly concentrate on employment, investment and reducing any pressure on prices - New Governor of the Central Bank.

Local food items - stricter checks. The Government had decided to enforce strict quality control on locally manufactured products including food items.

Sri Lanka lost 110,000 competent drivers last years to the oil rich Middle East countries.

### February 23

Jobs outside Bank to be invalidated - President tells Parliamentary group.

Food and Co-operative Minister Mr. S.B. Herat leaves for China on Sunday night to conclude the rice deal in Peking. Sri Lanka has decided to buy 80,000 tons of quality rice.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said yesterday it was indeed puzzling and rather strange that women in any sphere of politics whether Members of Parliament, Ministers in the Government or Prime Ministers were not University women, whether it is Sri Lanka, Israel or India.

### February 24

A third pay rise - short term measure to help to meet the rising costs - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene.

Link languages scheme well under way. The Education Ministry's plan for national integration through the teaching of link languages in school is now well under way - Education Ministry.

The policy of the new Government in Sri Lanka and the climate it has created to attract foreign investment are topics that are now being discussed by some of the biggest business enterprises in the world's capitals today.

### February 26

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene has decided to take an unannounced holiday shortly. His holiday, a brief 3 to 4 days will be spent with a family in the Gannewa settlement which is the first settlement under the Mahaweli Development Scheme.



February 27

Common Fund assures protection for next two decades. Sri Lanka's rubber, tea and coconut are assured of stabilised prices, production and protection for the next two decades following unanimity reached by developing nations in Arusha, Tanzania.

Some 100 influential Sri Lankans in the United States led by internationally famed scientist, Professor Cyril Ponnampereuma have founded an association to harness and channel the wealth and skills of Sri Lankans domiciled abroad for the development of their mother land.

Government's overtime bill last year was Rs. 40 million. That was the amount collected by 423,000 state officers.

February 28

100,000 houses by 1983 - Prime Minister. The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa yesterday said he was confident that the Government would be able to make the target of 100,000 houses by 1983.

Total exports from Sri Lanka reached 111,000 freight tons in January 1979. This is an increase of 22 per cent over the export tonnage for January 1978.

Travails of bus travel and shortcomings in the running of the bus services in the city and the suburbs were spotlighted at a special conference between representatives of the press and top ranking officials of the Central Transport Board yesterday.



MARCH 1979March 1

Mineral orders fetch Rs. 60 m. The Mineral Sands Corporation has earned Rs. 60 million on orders for 40,000 tons of Ilmenite, 3,000 tons of Zircon and 15,000 tons of Rutile. These orders are from Germany, Japan and USA.

Petrols on all highways. The police highway patrols, which is the latest and biggest offensive against organised crime will be deployed in various parts of the country - D.I.G. (Crimes).

March 2

Firm Contracts for crude oil signed. 800,000 tons from Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Libya.

The government will very soon find ways and means of helping private schools - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said yesterday at Bishop's College prize giving.

The Cashew Corporation has introduced a subsidy scheme to popularise cashew growing to tap the potential of the vast export market.

March 3

Banks will have own security men. Police Reservists guarding 1,000 Commercial Banks and Agricultural Service Stations throughout the country will be withdrawn and replaced by Banks own security service who will be specially trained by the Police to take over their duties.

State gifts 9,000 houses to tenants. Cost of the Deeds of transfer and stamp duty will also be borne by the Government - Spokesman of the Department of National Housing.

March 5

Paddy Storage problem again. The Government was yesterday warned that it will face a serious storage problem again when paddy from the Maha harvest begins to come in during the next 3 months.

New Jute Mill will provide all our bags. The Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs has called for tenders for the setting up of a modern Jute Mill.

Rush for licences. The Examiners of Motor Vehicles last week began a six day week including Saturdays to clear the backlog of applications for driving licences. The Examiners will not claim overtime for working on Saturdays.

The Silk and Allied Products Authority has achieved a major break through in the Silk Industry producing Silk Cloth out of cocoons from the local Mulberry Plantations.

March 6

TULF M.P. to cross over will not loose seat. Mr. C. Rajadurai, 1st Member for Batticaloa will cross over to the Government this week according to confirmed political sources.

One hundred and thirty five Undergraduates (some of them bikkus) have



been suspended from the Sri Jayawardene Pura University (former Vidyodaya, Gangodawila for alleged complicity in last Thursday's violence - Prof. Stanley Kalpage, Secretary/Higher Education said yesterday.

### March 7

The Government will not hesitate to mobilise the technical expertise, manpower resources and the work capacity available with the Private Sector to implement development projects if the Public Sector bureaucracy is slow moving and falls short of set targets - Mr. Gemini Dissanayake, Minister of Mahaweli Development.

Tourists will pay to visit our historic sites. Foreign tourists visiting historic sites in Sri Lanka will be charged five dollars or Rs. 75.00 to visit all sites.

### March 8

The Government will not hesitate to amend the Universities Bill, if it finds that University autonomy envisaged in the new legislation is abused by Undergraduates, Lecturers and Officials - Minister of Education and Higher Education Mr. Nissanka Wijeyaratne.

Public Officials should not comment on matters which do not come within their purview or responsibility. If they do so, severe disciplinary action will be taken against them - Minister of Agricultural Research and Development - Mr. E.L. Senanayake.

### March 9

The Ceylon Tourist Board is going all out to eliminate anti-social activities, the use of Narcotics and Nudism, amongst tourists.

Stagflation is potentially dangerous to the extent that growth is inadequate and is denying the developing countries of increased trade - Mr. Ronnie de Mel addressing the Ministerial meeting of the Interim Committee of the IMF.

The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa yesterday ordered his officials to expedite immediately the grant of housing loans to those whose houses were destroyed by the recent cyclone.

### March 10

One year's stock of crude oil now in hand. Sri Lanka has signed Contracts for the purchase of 920,000 tons of Crude Oil from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Libya, C.F.C. Chairman said yesterday.

Sale of liquor prohibited in State premises on the recommendations of Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs, Mr. Montague Jayawickrema.

### March 12

Era of exploitation is over, says President. Plantation workers will be merged in community of free citizens.

Better status for Estate workers. - Government was determined to uplift the Plantation worker to the full status of Civic equality - Mr. Gemini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands, Land and Mahaweli Development.



March 13

Sri Lanka's education system occupied a high place compared with the education provided in other countries. The aim of the Government in spending as much as one billion rupees on education was to create discipline and useful citizens said, President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene.

Never before in the history of Sri Lanka have such massive housing projects been undertaken simultaneously as the one that are now in progress in various parts of the Island said the P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa.

March 14

Local Government Service on par with Government Service. The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa yesterday ordered his officials to equate the terms and conditions of service of members of the Local Government Service with those of the members of the Public Service. About 10,000 employees in the Local Government Service will be benefitted by the P.M.'s order.

First passenger train from Kolonnawa. The first passenger train from Kolonnawa will steam into the Fort Railway Station next Monday morning bringing office workers and other commuters.

Gem Corporation will import gold for jewellery. The State Gem Corporation will import Rs. 10 million worth of gold to help to build up Sri Lanka's Jewellery Export Trade, a Corporation spokesman said yesterday.

March 15

China has agreed to supply Sri Lanka with 80,000 metric tons of quality rice this year at prices three per cent below the prevailing world market price.

Parents Charter - Lanka sets the pace - A Parents Charter based mainly on the rights of the child declared by the United Nations has been approved by President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene and the Minister of Higher Education and Education - Mr. Nissanka Wijeyaratne.

Quick phone calls to India from November. Telephone calls to India will take a little or no time when the first stage of the Indo-Sri Lanka Microwave link is completed this November - Telecommunication Department spokesman said yesterday.

March 16

Danish admiration and help for Sri Lanka. The Danish Government will give Sri Lanka 220 million Kroner (Rs. 657.8 million) worth of aid in the next 3 years. Denmark has also said it will join the Sri Lanka Aid Group Meeting as a full fledged member and attend the meeting in this capacity in May this year.

Private Sector recruitment from Job Bank. Several Private Sector firms have sought the assistance of the State Job Bank to recruit personnel to fill vacancies in their Establishments.

March 17

External Resource Conserve high - Rs. 7.5 billion. The Government has built up an external resource conserve to the tune of Rs. 7.5 billion - the highest on record since the War years, following the liberalised economic policies adopted by the UNP Regime under two years in office.



Coin shortage being gradually eased. The coin shortage is being gradually eased but it will take another ten months to find a permanent solution - Deputy Governor, Central Bank Dr. Neville Karunatilleke.

\$ 50 M. Saudi loan for Mahaweli Project. The Saudi Arabian Government will give Sri Lanka a loan of 50 million US dollars (about Rs. 800 million) towards the first stage of the Mahaweli Development Project.

### March 19

New Unit to handle afforestation. President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene and the Minister of Lands Mr. Gamini Dissanayake have given top priority for the setting up of a special Unit to handle afforestation and environment at the Ministry of Lands and Land Development. This move is meant to conserve the environment and arrest the denudation of forest covers further.

The special committee appointed by President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene to report on the bureaucracy has in its interim report recommended the setting up of work norms for Public Servants and employees of State Corporations and Boards.

### March 20

500 acres Zoo at Pallekelle. The Government has approved the setting up of a 500 acre Zoological park which will be one of the largest in the world.

FAO Aid for Coconut Project. Government has received U.S. \$ 200,000 from the Food and Agricultural Organization under the UNDP programme towards Coconut Rehabilitation Programme of the Batticaloa District.

Highest ever grant to Sri Lanka. Rs. 300 M. development aid from the E.E.C. this year - Mahaweli basin area will benefit. Increased development assistance is the direct result of the Finance Minister's discussions with the President of the Community.

### March 21

2,000 Sri Lankans to be employed in Singapore. Singapore has agreed to a request by Sri Lanka to permit 2,000 Sri Lanka citizens to be employed in Singapore Companies and Organizations.

Indo-Suez Bank opens branch in Colombo - One of the leading French Banks with a wide International network has established a branch in Colombo.

### March 22

T.V. from April - Sets sell fast. With Sri Lanka scheduled to enter the T.V. age on April 14. T.V. set dealers in the city are doing brisk business.

Human rights - High marks for Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's commitment to human rights has survived the trauma of an insurgency and two major outbreaks of communal violence. Report submitted to U.S. Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### March 23

Rental of private phones slashed to Rs. 250.00. The annual rental of private telephones has been slashed from Rs. 600.00 to Rs. 250.00 on the orders of President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene.

The Government of Sri Lanka in association with the Government of the Netherlands has launched a project here called the Wind Energy Development Project (WEDP).



Support allowance - over Rs. 55 million. The Government has allocated over Rs. 55 million for the payment of Rs. Rs. 50.00 income support allowance to unemployed for the first quarter of this year according to a source of the Ministry of Plan Implementation.

#### March 24

The Government may have to enact for the North, laws different from those prevailing in other parts of the country to prevent innocent citizens from being murdered - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said yesterday.

Rajadurai crosses over to Government. - Mr. Chelliah Rajadurai of the TULF crossed over to join the UNP Government of the President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, yesterday.

No place for corruption in Co-operatives - Minister Mr. S.B. Herath, Minister of Food and Co-operatives yesterday said that there would be no place for corruption or political interference in Co-operatives in the future.

#### March 26

A children's film to mark I.Y.C. The State Film Corporation will start a children's film - Pinhamy to mark the International Year of the Child. It will feature popular local actors and actresses and will be of one hour duration.

Seruvila Sacred City Scheme - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene will inaugurate the Seruvila Sacred City Development Scheme by unveiling a plaque in the Sacred City on Saturday.

#### March 27

The five-member Committee on the re-organization of the Co-operative Movement of Sri Lanka has recommended the creation of a genuine Co-operative Movement by returning the politicalised movement to the people.

Rail Coaches by Private Sector - The Railway has commissioned the Private Sector to build Coaches using carriage underframes lying in junk yards.

#### March 28

President to attend Non-Aligned Summit - President will attend the Sixth Summit Meeting of the Non-Aligned Nations to be held in Cuba this year.

Private buses from April 10. Private buses will start operating services from April 10. Transport Minister Mr. M.H. Mohamed announced yesterday.

#### March 29

The Census Department is now conducting a survey on the manufacturing industry in the Private and Public Sectors which it feels will help the Government to plan effectively the Industrial Development policy. There are 3515 Manufacturing Establishments in the Private Sector in regular production.

World Bank subsidiary to invest here. The International Finance Corporation, Washington D.C., a subsidiary of the World Bank will invest Rs. 16 million in a Private Sector Project in Sri Lanka this year.

#### March 30

Local Elections - Tight Security till Nomination Day. Nearly 1 million voters will go to the polls some day in the second half of May to elect 498 members to nine Municipal Councils and 34 Urban Councils.



APRIL 1979

April 2

Sri Lanka can expect substantial aid from Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq and Bangladesh for the rehabilitation of the cyclone devastated districts in the E.P. (according to Mr. K.W. Devanayagam, Minister of Justice).

The Raja Rata Sevaya of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation will go on the air on 12th April at 9.15 a.m. from Anuradhapura.

Nominations for the 43 local bodies will be accepted from today by the respective election officers.

April 3

A team of Industrialists from India engaged in the automobile Industry are expected to arrive in Sri Lanka today to explore the possibilities of investment and joint participation in ventures in the Sri Lanka's Free Trade Zone.

According to the Deputy Minister of Trade and Shipping, 100 million yards of Textiles and other consumer food stuffs will be available through Co-operatives for the Sinhala and Hindu New Year and Consumers will be assured of essential commodities.

April 4

Finance and Planning Minister yesterday offered a new deal, to the country's tax payers when he presented in Parliament a bill setting out the law relating to income tax, wealth tax and gift tax for the year 1979/80 and succeeding years. According to the Minister, the new bill has given tax payers every encouragement to make a substantial contribution to savings and investments.

The holiday crowds at N'ELiya during the April season are assured of tasting high quality tea delicious home made corned beef and all other food stuffs at a very reasonable prices by N'ELiya Janatha Estate Development Board.

April 5

Lanka - Nepal Trade Pact Signed. - Nepal and Sri Lanka signed their first trade agreement in Kathmandu.

The West German Government has offered to finance and set up around 35,000 small and medium scale Industrial Projects in Sri Lanka over the next five years at a cost of 440 million D.M. approximately Rs. 3,200 million.

April 6

○ The Education Ministry will spend Rs. 4 million over the next five years to develop and upgrade the country's estate schools. The UNICEF will also assist in this programme according to the Education Ministry official.

Rajadurai appointed Minister - Mr. Chelliah Rajadurai, first M.P. for Batticaloa who recently joined the Government was yesterday appointed as a Minister of Regional Development. The new Minister took his oaths before the President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene at the President's House.

Additional Post - Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria, Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation will also act as Secretary to the newly created Ministry of Regional Development.



A six member delegation from All-India Automobile and Ancillary Industries Association held a series of discussions with Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Sri Lanka to explore the possibilities for joint ventures in and outside the F.T.Z.

#### April 7

P.M. launches 2 Model Villages - P.M. will declare open the model villages Vasanagama in Vavuniya electorate and Vinothagama in Badulla electorate.

Power Potential to be assessed - Government yesterday appointed a committee to study the long term power requirements of the country from 1982-1990 and beyond to identify the balance hydro power resources that could be developed after the current major schemes are completed.

#### April 9

Private buses: 45 licences approved - The Government has approved the licences of 45 individuals who are authorised to operate private bus services beginning tomorrow.

#### April 10

Tamil language given its due place - Mr. Chelliah Rajadurai the new Minister for Regional Development said that President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene had given the Tamil Language its rightful place and status in Sri Lanka where previous Prime Ministers had failed since 1956.

The first private bus service since transport services were nationalised nearly twenty years ago, will begin operations today on 25 routes under licences issued by the Transport Board.

Dhal again in hospital meals - The popular dhal curry which went out of the meal served to patients at the hospitals will be on the menu again from Sinhala New Years' Day.

#### April 11

A team of sixteen French Newspapers, TV and Radio media personalities in Sri Lanka on a ten-day holiday fact finding mission said they were all impressed by the development programs that were under way in the country.

#### April 12

P.M.'s wife takes workers train - Mrs. Hema Premadasa rode in a train with a city workers yesterday. The train which was making its inaugural run is the one which the Transport Ministry has introduced to ease the problems of travelling Public.

Record 10 Houses in 53 days - The District Engineer of the Buildings Department, Jaffna has completed the construction of 10 houses in Jaffna under a record time of 53 days.

#### April 13

Sri Lanka has been called upon to pay tremendously high price for crude oil by the three main OPEC suppliers, Libya, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Pre-school classes again - The P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa has directed that all pre-school classes conducted by local bodies and closed down last year following the lowering of the school admission age should be re-opened.



Feasibility of IPZ at Biyagama for review - Plans for the setting up of an IPZ in the 425 acre site at Biyagama will be reviewed by the G.C.E.C. next week.

April 14

Let us create a society where love reigns - In a new year message yesterday, P.M. appealed to all citizens to forget their differences and work together for the rapid development of the country.

Our envoy, Chairman of UN Committee - Sri Lanka's permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador B.J. Fernando has been unanimously elected Chairman of the General Assembly ad hoc committee entrusted with examining possibilities for convening of a World Conference on Disarmament.

April 15

A handpicked team of senior price control officers is now visiting Industrial Complexes manufacturing essentials food commodities to ensure that they mark prices on their goods.

April 17

Most Modern Fish Market - Work on the Rs. 30 million new fish market with refrigeration facilities and spacious stalls is now under way in Pettah. This is one of the six markets and shopping projects for the city undertaken by the Government.

New Company may operate streamlined taxi service - The Government is examining a proposal to set up a Rs. 50 million Company with Private Sector participation to operate a streamlined taxi service in Colombo and other Cities.

April 18

Oil Prices: Unofficial talks with OPEC - Sri Lanka is currently conducting protracted unofficial negotiations with OPEC in a bid to get concessionary oil prices - Foreign Minister Mr. A.C.S. Hameed.

Normal Schooling for Deaf Children - Eighty children completely deaf and partially deaf were selected by the Education Ministry to attend normal schools under the Integrated Education Project.

April 19

Nuclear energy in place of oil - The Government has appointed a Committee to probe the possibilities of installing a Nuclear Power Plant in Sri Lanka as an alternative source of energy.

C.W.C. won't Contest Local Government Polls - The C.W.C. political wing will not contest the forthcoming Colombo M.C. Elections either on its own or on the UNP ticket according to the decisions taken yesterday by the Office bearers.

Agriculture, a 'must' in schools - The teaching of Agriculture in Schools will be given the highest priority under a major education project to be launched soon at an annual cost of Rs. 4 million in 3,700 rural schools.



April 20

Land values in Colombo and its suburbs have shot up between five and ten-fold over the last eight years. The highest increases are in Colombo Fort, the Pettah, Kollupitiya and Cinnamon Gardens where a perch costs between Rs. 50,000 - 500,000.

Economic growth meaningless without population control - Finance and Planning Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel said yesterday that economic growth would become meaningless without population control in a Seminar held for young Parliamentarians on the theme 'Plan Youth Manpower Resources'.

Public Security Ordinance Extended - Parliament yesterday passed with a two-third majority a resolution to extend the imposition of the Public Security Ordinance in the districts of Amparai, Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa, Colombo Airport, Ratmalana and that Port of Colombo for a further thirty days.

April 21

Sri Lanka's Second FTZ will be set up on 425 acre site in Biyagama, if the G.C.E.C. recommends the technical suitability. The Biyagama site due to its close proximity to the Kalani River has been reserved for Industries that consume a great volume of water as well as Industries which require a convenient outlet for heavy Industrial effluence.

Second hand Car Market Crashes - Car prices have dropped drastically over the past three months. Contributory factors were the liberalised imports of vehicles into the country, the petrol price hike and the fear of a petrol rationing scheme.

Non-aligned Body to settle disputes - Sri Lanka is now preparing draft proposals for setting up a permanent machinery for settling bilateral disputes, to be circulated among member countries.

April 23

Private Sector backs Government Plan to Rebuild Economy - The Chairman, Sri Lanka's Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry stated that the Private Sector would extend its fullest co-operation to the Government to implement its development program.

The President addressing the vast gathering at New Year celebrations of Dompe stated that the Government is prepared to give landless villagers lands that had been acquired by the State if it was expedient to do so in the national interests.

April 24

Maldivé Fish for our Rice - Sri Lanka will get maldivé fish in exchange for her rice. The trade delegation agreed in principle during talks held in Colombo yesterday.

April 25

P.M. to open Model Village - The model village Diriyagama will be opened by Prime Minister in the Mahiyangana Electorate on the 29th April.

Singapore trains Air Lanka Pilots - The first batch of Air Lanka Pilots (All Sri Lankans) leave for Singapore to be trained by Singapore Airlines to fly the Boeing 707's which will be used by the new National Airline when it gets off the ground on September 1st this year.



Cultural Donations from Japan - Sri Lanka will receive Rs. 3 million (50 million yen) as a Cultural Donation from Japan for a Cultural Complex in Colombo.

#### April 26

Maldivian Fish Imports again - Sri Lanka will resume its import of Maldivian Fish from the Maldivian Republic soon, according to the Trade Ministry spokesman.

All-time high - Customs Revenue recorded an all-time high of Rs. 6,200.00 million last year. The unifications of Exchange Rates and increase in export duties have contributed to the increase.

Four 5-Star Hotels coming up - The Ministry of State has approved the construction of four more Five-Star Hotels to be sited in the heart of the city.

#### April 27

150 more Private Buses by May - 150 Private Buses will operate in routes both in Colombo and other parts of the country where CTB buses are not operating from first week of May.

Agreement with G.C.E.C. - Texco Ltd., Luxembourg; a subsidiary of Industrial Textiles Ltd., Toronto, will sign an agreement today with the G.C.E.C. to set up a factory which can employ 400 persons in the Katunayake IPZ.

#### April 28

So far 35 IPZ Project Agreements Signed - The agreement signed with G.C.E.C. yesterday to set up a factory to produce Industrial Gloves is the 35th Project to be set up in the IPZ.

The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa said yesterday that the Government considered the human angle above everything and was ready to cut through red tape and bureaucratic control to serve the Public at a meeting held at Moratuwa Pola Premises.

Rubber Supply moves again - According to the Commodity Purchase Department, the delays prevailed in shippers stores are over and more ships will clear the produce to China.

State will protect Consumer - The Trade and Shipping Minister said that the Government was deeply committed to protecting the consumer against exploitation and blackmarketeering at a Conference held in the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium to mark its 25th anniversary.

New Stamp - A new stamp valued at Rs. 1.25 will be issued by the Postal Department in honour of the late Mr. Dudley Senanayake, former P.M.

#### April 30

From an Era of Subsidy to Era of plenty - The President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene told a Mass UNP Rally at Ambalangoda that all kinds of goods, were available in plenty during the New Year Season in any part of the country even in villages.

Trade and Shipping Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali leaves for Manila on May 5th leading a Sri Lanka delegation to the UNCTAD.

Young Commonwealth Leaders meet here - 70 delegates from 30 Commonwealth countries are expected to participate in a 5 - day meeting of young Commonwealth leaders on May 3rd at the BMICH. The meeting will be ceremonially opened by the Prime Minister.



To Explore joint Ventures - Three technical delegations from Norway, Sweden and Finland are expected in Sri Lanka to explore the possibility of joint participation in Sri Lanka's major development projects.

Canada gifts Wheat Flour - Canada gifts high quality wheat flour worth of Rs. 78 million to Sri Lanka. It will be handed over to Minister of Food and Co-operatives, Mr. S.B. Herath by the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. P.S. Cooper.



MAY 1979

May 1

Sri Lanka's new system of Presidential rule based more or less on the French system of Government and its liberalisation of economy had won the administration of France - Chairman, Indo-Suez Bank.

May 2

The Employees Provident Fund Scheme now covers all employment other than employment in the domestic service.

Private Sector must keep pace with Government wage increases. Reasonable wages to workers is our policy - President at mammoth May Day Rally.

May 3

Taj Group of India is to build five hotels here. Multi-million Rupee chain of hotels will be built in Sri Lanka by the Taj Group Hotels of India.

May 4

The Sri Lankan economy registered an impressive growth rate of 8.2% in 1978 which was about twice the growth rate achieved the previous year - Mr. W. Rasaputram, Governor, Central Bank of Ceylon.

May 5

Two major pledges fulfilled says President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene.

1. To give the country its full democratic rights. and
2. To give it economic stability.

Sri Lanka's Rubber Industry is assured of a 10 year boom. This is one of the benefits Sri Lanka confidently expects to get at the UNCTAD which opens in Manila early next week.

May 7

The Government has appointed a 5 member committee to examine the specific nature of grants and assistance that should be made available to Private Schools.

May 8

Nearly 10,000 families who are tenants in National Housing Department. Houses where the standard rent does not exceed Rs. 25 per month will not only become the owners of the houses but will also be able to sell or mortgage the property.

President envisages new Lanka - A new Lanka born out of economic development. A new Lanka in which there will be employment for all. A new Lanka in which there will be increased production and services along with an efficient system of administration.



May 9

The Government has decided to distribute nearly 100,000 acres of land belonging to the Land Reform Commission and the Janawasama Commission, free among the landless.

May 10

13,000 houses in 19 months. - A total of 12,928 houses were built in 19 months since the new Government took office. The Government also gave Rs. 100 million by way of loans to another 13,000 home builders.

May 11

Mr. Justice J.A. Soza declared void the election of Mr. Sadhatissa Wadigamangawa, the S.L.F.P. M.P. to the Anamaduwa seat in the National State Assembly at the last General Election. The offence of bribery was proved.

The Government Press will be decentralized on a directive from Mr. Ananda Tissa de Alwis, Minister of State.

May 14

Women drivers applying for motor licences of competence in driving will not be given special concessions on the grounds of age or height - Commissioner of Motor Traffic.

10,000 families occupying houses owned by local bodies in various parts of the country will become sole owners of the houses by the end of this month.

May 15

The Italian Government yesterday cancelled all financial debts owed by Sri Lanka and other developing countries for the 3 years 1979 to 1981.

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is commissioning today a telephone exchange with an installed capacity of 6,000 subscribers and an ultimate capacity of 15,000 at Mt. Lavinia.

May 16

Building of commercial and residential complexes on a large scale will be undertaken 200 sq. miles close to the Kelani river which comes under the authority of the G.C.E.C.

A leading brokering firm in the city has recommended that all non traditional produce sold through public auctions as in the case of tea to obviate any malpractices in the trade.

May 17

The Ceylon Shipping Corporation will invite world wide tenders to buy about 6 cargo ships within the next two months.

May 18

The Asian Development Bank and OPEC's special fund have pledged an interest free loan of Rs. 900 million for five development projects in Sri Lanka.



May 19

Gem exports from Sri Lanka in the first three months of 1979 brought in Rs. 142 million, an increase of nearly Rs. 32 million over the corresponding amount for the same period in 1978.

May 21

UNP sweeps to victory in the local government polls. It is a vindication of their stewardship - Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa.

May 22

Sri Lanka has achieved social progress beyond that of other countries with comparable low per capita income - World Bank Report.

May 23

Special Banking facilities for Sri Lankans abroad - Sri Lankans working abroad can now open special foreign currency accounts in Commercial Banks here, earn tax free interest in same currency and have the deposit exempted from the wealth tax.

May 24

Families whose monthly incomes are below Rs. 300 and who are eligible to hold rice ration books and do not own an inch of land will soon get one acre of land free of charge from the Government.

May 25

The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa told Parliament yesterday that the Government has decided to exempt all small house dwellers in local authorities from rates and taxes and pass the burden to Capitalist Industrialists.

May 26

The Food Ministry is arranging to provide pulses and other commodities imported from India to consumers at cheaper prices by eliminating the Middle man in the trade.

Sri Lanka has pledged to contribute 1 million dollars to the common fund initiated by the UNCTAD Conference - Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade and Shipping.

May 28

The Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research is now in the process of setting up 3 bodies to determine the compensation to be paid to public rupee companies nationalised under Land Reform Law of 1972 - Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research.

May 29

The first major task which the officials buckle down to is in regard to the water problem which had been neglected by the previous Government - Mr. R. Premadasa, Prime Minister.



May 30

A sixty member delegation from the Private Sector in Japan will arrive here soon to explore investment possibilities in Sri Lanka.

May 31

The Railway has placed orders worth Rs. 830 million with West Germany, Japan, Rumania and India for the supply of 33 locomotives, 40 petrol tank waggons, 150 carriages and 200,000 sleepers and accessories for delivery before end of the year.

Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel told a large gathering of Swiss Bankers, Industrialists and Businessmen in Zurich yesterday morning that Sri Lanka had the political and economic stability today which makes her one of the best countries in the world to attract foreign investment.



JUNE 1979

June 2

The Trade and Shipping Minister, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali stated that the Government's decision to enforce price control measures on milk foods is the only way to protect the consumer.

June 4

UNCTAD Secretary General, Dr. Gamini Corea of Sri Lanka addressing the conference stated that the third world countries should realise that they should be better prepared for negotiations in trade matters.

British Minister of Arts and leader of the House, Mr. Norman St. John-Stevas is likely to help the London Buddhist Vihare authorities to find a suitable premises for the proposed new vihare.

The Land Grants Bill which seeks to alienate over 200,000 acres of agricultural land amongst the poorest sections of the people will be tabled in Parliament tomorrow.

June 5

The Minister of Rural Industrial Development, Mr. S. Thondaman left for India yesterday. He will study the repatriation operations in Sri Lanka and India during his visit.

The new semi-luxury bus service of the CTB is to be inaugurated on June 6 by the name of "Golden Arrow Service".

June 6

The Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Festus Perera said that his aim was to enable every fisherman to own a fibreglass boat because it enabled them to earn a decent living and also help supply the country with all its requirements of fish.

The overhead bridge opposite the former Employment Exchange will be opened by Colombo's new Mayor, Mr. B. Sirisena Cooray on Friday at 4.00 p.m.

June 7

President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene told the Non-aligned group yesterday that if they remained united and if they used unity to turn men's mind away from destruction and domination towards creativity and friendship, then there was some hope that in their lifetime they would lay the foundation for a better tomorrow.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya has secured the services of eminent medical personnel from Britain as lecturers for the Sri Lanka Post Graduate Institute of Medicine.

June 8

President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene will participate in religious ceremonies at Mihintale and Anuradhapura today and tomorrow.

Six world famous scientists will be here today for talks with the Government regarding the setting up of the Institute of Fundamental Research. The team led by Prof. Cyril Ponnamperna comprises of Prof. Asoka Mendis, Prof. Chandra Wickremasinghe and three foreigners.



June 9

The estimated million devotees have arrived in the sacred cities of Anuradhapura and Mihintale to participate in religious ceremonies on the Poson Poya day.

A Rubber rehabilitation project covering 2,400 acres of private small holdings in the Ratnapura and Kegalle districts and costing Rs. 104 million, will get underway shortly with the help of World Bank aid.

June 11

France has offered Sri Lanka a credit line of 50 million Francs. This credit line was negotiated by the Finance and Planning Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel during the talks he had with the French Minister of Economic affairs.

The Asia Pacific Non Governmental Organization Environment Conference begins tomorrow at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo. The theme of the conference is regional co-operation for development without destruction.

June 12

According to Mr. Upali Wijewardena, Director-General G.C.E.C. there would be 15,000 people working in the IPZ by the end of the year and around 35,000 by the end of 1980. He further stated that at the end of 1980 gross foreign exchange value of exports was expected to be around US \$ 100 million.

The new State Mortgage and Investment Bank has given loans amounting to Rs. 7.6 million to 163 persons since January this year. More than 85% of these loans were to build houses.

June 13

200 students from Jaffna schools will participate in National services programme in Kegalle district. On the same day 200 students from Kegalle will participate in a similar programme in Jaffna. These programmes have been designed to create national harmony amongst various races of the country on the advice of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Several matters regarding educational facilities for Muslim students were discussed yesterday by Minister of Education and Higher Education and Muslim Parliamentarians and Educationalists. The delegation was led by the Speaker, Mr. Bakeer Markar.

June 14

The government increased the price of all petroleum products except kerosene from midnight yesterday and announced other measures of conservation.

June 15

The George Moragoda Commission recommended 35 Town Councils and 549 Village Councils should be reconstituted to form 269 Rural Councils. The election to these councils will be under the new system of proportional representation.

June 16

The President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene inaugurated the new water supply scheme for Bandarawela town yesterday and told the gathering that the scheme which had been neglected for 40 years should be completed now and that the



Government is ready to give the people its fullest support to go forward as a united nation to a bright future ahead.

The Technical Consultant to the Government on TV said yesterday that the TV has come to stay in Sri Lanka besides its claims as an educative instrument and a swift disseminator of information. It has also become a status symbol.

The Ceylon Hotels Corporation made a net profit of Rs. 3.3 million according to a report published recently. This is the highest recorded profit in the history of the corporation.

35 Indian doctors came to Sri Lanka under an UN volunteer Doctor Programme to help the country overcome the problem of the shortage of doctors.

#### June 18

A Team of Japanese businessmen arrived in Colombo yesterday to set up Japan's first enterprise in the IPZ. They will sign the official agreement with the local collaborator Electro Plastics Ltd., for Rs. 12.5 million.

President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene told a meeting at a temple premises in Kotahena that the Buddha was the greatest being who came upon this earth and thanks to the doctrine he gave, this country was the most peaceful and happy place to live in..

Sri Lanka beat India by 47 runs at Manchester yesterday to finish 3rd in Group A of the Prudential World Cup Cricket Tournament.

#### June 20

The Secretary to the Ministry of Higher Education Dr. Stanley Kalpage yesterday stated that the Ministry was conducting a survey of educational institutions which could provide education leading to university degrees.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Plantation Industries stated that Sri Lanka will be in a position to fully exploit the boom in rubber prices predicted for the future, as production prospects appear excellent with attractive profit margins to producers.

#### June 21

A Ministerial Sub Committee which examined the problems of private non fee levying schools has recommended that these private institutions be given state assistance.

The G.C.S.U. wants an immediate salary increase to all sectors of workers to ward off the ill effects of the higher cost of living created by higher oil prices.

#### June 22

The first national Film Festival for the President's Awards will be held on July 27th at B.M.I.C.H. All Sinhala and Tamil feature films produced locally from January 1st to December 31st 1978 are eligible to participate in the competition.



June 23

A network of sub contracting agencies is being set up under the auspices of the Ministry of Rural Industrial Development to supply small scale industrial items required by the public sector.

The first Post Graduate Medical Institute of Sri Lanka housed in a special building at the Colombo Medical Faculty will be opened on June 30 by the Minister of Health Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya.

June 25

Armed services were ready to meet any contingency that would arise if debris from the skylab falls on Sri Lanka according to the Army Commander Major General Dennis Perera.

Secretary, Plan Implementation, Dr. Weerasooria giving a talk on the Public Sector under the auspices of the Institute of Chartered Accountants stated that the biggest contribution of the administrative reforms is the introduction of a code of conduct for public servants which instilled a sense of discipline among top administrators of the country.

June 26

The BMC will import 257,000 tons of cement to tide over a temporary shortage in the market, according to the Chairman, Mr. Ajantha Wijesena.

The Sapugaskande oil refinery will step up production from 40,000 barrels per day to 251,000 barrels from January 1980. This meant a 25% increase in the production of refined petroleum products.

June 27

Air Lanka Chairman and Managing Director Mr. Rakhitha Wickremanayake said yesterday that the airline was now ready to begin operations in September this year and that 15 expatriate captains had been employed to take command of the airline's 2 Boeing 707's.

June 28

Fisheries Minister, Mr. Festus Perera has ordered a massive re-organization scheme in the Fisheries industry including the immediate scrapping of the Fisheries Department.

A drive to promote breast feeding will be launched during this years National Health Week to be held in July. The theme of this years Programme is "A healthy child, a sure future" which was the slogan of this years World Health Day.

June 29

The Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka is so financially stable that in the improbable event of all its 250,000 life policy holders making their claims in a one single day it will yet be able to pay them all, according to a Corporation's spokesman.

June 30

The President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday told the Muslims of Sri Lanka that they are assured all assistance by the state for the promotion of their literary activities at the inauguration of the 4th International Conference on Islamic Tamil Research held at the BMICH.

Colombo's Mayor Mr. Sirisena Coorey said that he had already put into operation a Rs. 25 million plan to provide an efficient fire service to the city of Colombo.



JULY 1979

July 2

T.V. licences printed in booklet form will be issued to T.V. users from July 16th by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation. The annual licence fee is Rs. 250.

Telephone call charges within the city have been raised from 30 Cts. to 35 Cts. per call effective from 1st of July.

Several leading lawyers yesterday welcomed the new legal system which comes into operation today under the provisions of the Judicature Act and the Civil Procedure Code. The laws repeal the entire Administration of Justice Law introduced by the previous Government in 1974.

July 3

The ILO deliberations in Geneva last month has opened up avenues for foreign aid for 15 vocational training centres here, Labour Minister said.

There was a 100 per cent increase in the number of tourists visiting India last year over that of the previous year.

July 4

Finance Ministry sources said that five Sri Lankans working in the Middle East have remitted to their motherland a sum of over Rs. 1 million during the first four months of the year.

President briefed the Government Parliamentary Group on the action the Government had taken, was taking and intends to take with regard to the movement for the division of the country and the terrorist activities directed towards the achievement of the same objective viz. Eelam, and announced that it had decided to introduced legislation to combat terrorism and wipe it out for the betterment of the majority of the people whatever race they may belong to.

July 5

G.C.E.C. sources said the Government has decided to give high priority to the signing of investment guarantee agreements for the promotion and protection of investment with other countries.

The Government announced a number of measures to provide relief to the Tea Industry. It reduced the export duty to a flat rate of Rs. 10.50 per kg. on both bulk and packeted tea. The earlier duty was Rs. 15.50 per kilo on bulk tea and Rs. 13.50 per kilo on packeted tea.

The Milk Foods Stock Control Committee decided to allow the Private Sector to handle the distribution of Lactogen, Pelargon, Cow & Gate, Oster Milk, Nespray and Bear Brand Milk Foods once again from this month.

The Government decided to abolish with immediate effect, the customs duty on the import of cycles, motor-cycles and scooters.

A Ceylon Petroleum Corporation official said the recent OPEC oil price hike has inflated the CPC's oil bill for the next six months period by Rs. 465 M and pushed up its projected internal marketing expenses for the same period by Rs. 150 M.

The Industries Ministry during the first quarter of this year approved 283 Private Sector Industries to be set up 15 miles away from the city which will create jobs for 5,766 persons.



July 6

Sri Lankan inventors to whom patents are granted will be exempted from income tax, wealth tax and all other taxes under the Inland Revenue Act in respect of such patents.

July 7

The Price Control Department on the instructions of the Trade Ministry has decided to control the retail price of cement under the Consumer Protection Laws.

Chairman EMC. said the EMC which has a staff over 1,500 throughout the Island including 50 in Colombo will start its own bus service for its staff from August.

July 9

The Government has decided to import 50,000 bicycles immediately.

The Tourist Board spokesman said that the Tourist Board has big plans to promote local tourism by attracting visitors to its Resthouses and providing comfortable accommodation to pilgrims of all denominations to places of religious interest in the Island.

July 10

The Government has appointed a three-member Committee headed by Controller of Imports and Exports to review the duty structure and marketing policy with regard to the Coconut Industry.

July 11

The Prime Minister inaugurated a Workshop on Food and Nutrition Planning, Programming, Implementation and Evaluation at the EMICH Colombo.

July 12

Government last night gazetted Emergency regulations covering the Katunayake and Ratmalana Airports and the Jaffna District effective from mid night.

A spokesman of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation said "Just as much as Sri Lanka has to pay more for the crude oil it imports, this country will earn more on the export of Naptha"

The fourth and final round of the All Island Consumer Finance and Socio-Economic Survey conducted by the Central Bank of Ceylon begins today.

The ten-member Parliamentary Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) appointed by Government to monitor the affairs of Government Corporations got down to work this week.

A BMC spokesman said that the severe shortage of asbestos sheets will be over in a few days as the BMC has made arrangements to import a large quantity.

July 13

Sri Lanka's gems brought the country Rs. 37 million worth of foreign exchange last month.

Government approval has been given for initiatives by the Lady Lochore Fund to set up a credit union movement in the Private Sector to relieve workers in low income groups from indebtedness.



July 14

President yesterday appointed a new District Minister for Jaffna and a new District Minister for Mullaitivu.

Manufacturers in the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) have formed themselves into an association to make representations to the authorities on Business matters whenever necessary.

The influential All Ceylon Muslim League has welcomed the introduction of anti-terrorist laws.

Minister of Fisheries has launched a thirty million Rupee Fisheries Development Project for the Puttalam District.

July 16

Brigadier Weeratunga Army Chief of Staff who has been appointed Commander of the Security Forces in the Jaffna District pledged last night to give the people of Jaffna full security.

President, Sri Lanka Methodist Conference told delegates to the Annual Synod of the North and East Districts of the Methodist Church recently that the Church should be a cementing influence in solving the problem between the two races of this country.

A Land Ministry spokesman said that the Government has decided to regularise the occupation of State Land by squatters and encroachers in several parts of the country.

July 17

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition yesterday appealed to the people to maintain calm and refrain from being influenced by rumours and activities of mischief mongers.

The Prime Minister leaves Katunayake Airport tonight by Swiss Air on his first official visit abroad during which he will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Lusaka and make official visits to five countries.

The Supreme Court will hear submissions today by the Attorney General on the prevention of Terrorism Bill.

The Government has decided to gift the Head Office of the River Valleys Development Board and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land at Baudhaloka Mawatha valued over Rs. 4 million to D.S. Senanayake Maha Vidyalaya.

July 18

The Government decided to waive the rules and promote efficient talented and hardworking public servants who are entrusted to carry out the massive development programme.

A TULF spokesman said TULF General Secretary has sent an urgent directive to TULF Parliamentarians to take immediate action to protect all Sinhala people living in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

A Local Government Ministry spokesman said that Local Bodies will tax ratepayers only on the basis of the amenities they provide them.  
Lady

The/Lochore Loan Fund whose proposal to initiate the setting up of Credit Unions in the Private Sector has been approved by the Government.



July 19

The National Salt Corporation has called for World Wide tenders for the export of Salt.

Air Lanka Chairman and Managing Director said the Airline had invested US \$ 5 M in the purchase of aircraft ground handling equipment for Colombo Airport, Katunayake.

Government has approved a Rs. 11 M expansion of the Pulmoddai Plant of the Ceylon Mineral Sands Corporation.

July 20

The Bill on the prevention of Terrorism was passed by the House last night by 131 for and none against. 7 SLFP members who were present abstained from voting.

An official spokesman said that Firms engaged in property development and construction are in for considerable tax reliefs.

Health Minister said that the Government was not considering making any changes in the present abortion laws in the country.

The Government has decided to allow the Private Sector to both import and manufacture Cement to meet the great demand for this commodity in the construction business.

July 21

Minister of Trade and Shipping said that Government has banned the import of 350 c.c. and above motor cycles and will encourage the import of bicycles.

Religious Ceremonies, donations of land to the landless and the launching of a tree planting campaign will mark the 2nd anniversary celebrations of the Government throughout the country tomorrow.

CARE agreed to provide high protein vitamin and mineral fortified food to nearly two million nursing mothers and children in Sri Lanka. The total value of the food is Rs. 122 M.

July 23

President handed over state land to the landless at Attanagalle and said "The country's economy was developing fastly within the government had expected. Any government needed time to implement its program. The time available had to be used by all working together and co-operating for the common caused of furthering the welfare of the humblest citizens.

July 24

The Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development warned that Sri Lanka would turn into an arid desert country by the year 2000 unless steps were taken immediately to stop the uprooting of trees and the clearing of jungles lands.

Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa said in London that Sri Lanka's constitution safe guards right of people at every level and allows no opportunity for any kind of discrimination on the grounds of language, community, religion or other differences.



July 25

The Buildings Material Corporation has discovered that the cheapest cement in the overseas market is more than double what customers in Sri Lanka pay for the local variety. Tenders were called for an emergency consignment of cement to meet the heavy demand. The lowest quotations received were more than double the price of local cement which is Rs. 30/- a bag.

July 26

The Government declares all 24 administrative districts in the country as security areas.

The current issue of the British Based International Tea Committees' annual bulletin of statistics discloses marked decrease in purchase of Sri Lanka tea by international buyers.

July 28

The World Bank agreed to give Sri Lanka technical and financial assistance to help carry waters of Mahaweli to the Northern, North Central and Eastern Provinces.

President announced that government proposal to encourage film producers to make better films. A film institute and a modern film study were part of the plans for the future.

July 30

The Minister of Finance disclosed that the government has decided on the salary increase, the continuation of heavy subsidies and the food coupon scheme which will cost the country Rs. 3,000 million annually.

The price of wheat flour was increased from Rs. 1.12 to Rs. 1.30 a pound. As a result of this price increase a loaf of bread which was Rs. 1.00 a pound will now cost Rs. 1.15.

The Minister of Finance and Planning will lobby the opinion at the forthcoming meeting of the Finance Ministers for the creation of an "Oil Facility" to help countries like Sri Lanka which have been most seriously affected by the recent increase in oil prices.

July 31

The Presidential Commission is to be appointed by the President to formulate a scheme of devaluation of power to the District Councils which are to be set up in the 24 districts of Sri Lanka. The Commission will also be asked to define the powers and functions of the District Councils.

The Government called up four big firms in the Tea Trade in Colombo and warned them that sternest action will be taken against them for not passing on the recent reductions in the export duty to the tea producer.



AUGUST 1979

August 1

The Bank of Ceylon is introducing an attractive investment scheme to mobilise domestic savings to mark its 40th anniversary.

August 2

Sri Lanka's aim to establish financial respectability internationally was given a boost when it clinched its first Euro currency loan of 50 million US \$.

The Ministry of Transport has framed regulations to give effect the government decision to restrain the use of private motor vehicles on Sundays. The decision by the government was taken with a view to fuel.

August 3

The President has instructed that the work on accelerated Mahaweli Scheme should proceed round the clock to meet the targets set for completion.

August 4

The Cabinet approved the terms and reference for the proposed Commission to recommend proposals for the creation of Development Councils.

August 7

The Chairman, Bank of Ceylon said that the Bank of Ceylon was examining the recommendations for a breakup of its overall functions with a view to restructuring its entire organisational set up in consultation with the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank.

A Cultural Delegation left for Europe on a 11 day promotional campaign for Air Lanka, Sri Lanka's new national Air line.

August 8

The newest fat-free milk powder 'Laksim' will be introduced to the public by the National Milk Board through its sales centres and it will be priced at Rs. 7.50 per pound.

The District Minister for Hambantota said that the Netherlands Government had agreed to finance the setting up of a technical college in the Hambantota district. This will be the first of six district projects where it has obliged to help to establish in Sri Lanka.

The British Prime Minister handed over the signed note to Sri Lanka's Prime Minister. The note stated that the United Kingdom was now in a position to offer the contribution to the Victoria Dam Scheme. The contribution would be in the form of a grant up to 100 million sterling pounds over the 6 years.

The Tourist Board is launching a campaign to educate tourist on the cultural preferences of Sri Lanka. For this purpose the board will be releasing shortly a brochure entitled "Come share our way of Life" in English, French and German.



August 9

Finance Ministry sources said that from September similar industries will be entitled to Rs. 1 million for individual industrial projects under the new scheme been formulated by a recently set up National Development Bank.

August 10

The Sunday ban on the use of private cars on highways will be from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. and will come into force from Sunday August 12th.

The President appointed a 10 Member Commission headed by the former Chief Justice to recommend a scheme of Decentralized Administration.

August 11

Green Farms Ltd. a joint venture comprising local and Norwegian collaborators signed an agreement with the G.C.E.C. for the cultivation and export of tropical plants.

August 13

The Asian Development Bank has approved a total of 11 loans amounting to 183.5 million US \$ for the second quarter of this year.

August 15

Air Lanka's first boeing 707, one of the two aircrafts with which the new national airlines will inaugurate its international services was flown in from Singapore.

The National Water Supply and Drainage Board has launched a Rs. 400 million World Bank aided program to improve the water supply to the towns North of Colombo.

The Central Bank Governor said that dynamic export financing policies and practices were urgently needed to solve Sri Lanka's balance of payments. In view of rising imports, import demands Sri Lanka would have either to export or perish.

The visiting US's congressional delegation spoke in glowing terms about Sri Lanka leadership and its development plans particularly the Mahaweli Scheme when they addressed a press conference after a short visit to this country.

August 16

Sri Lanka's policies in the fields of human, social and economic development have greatly inspired the discussions of the 16th World Conference of the Society for International Development (SID) held in Colombo.

The first export order for electric goods manufactured in Sri Lanka for the Irish market was clinched this week.

Sri Lanka and China signed a Cultural Agreement in Peking for greater exchange between the two countries in the field of culture, arts, education, sports and journalism.

August 18

The services of public officers, local government and other public sector employees may be extended beyond the 58th year up to 60 years on an extension given by the respective Ministers in charge of the Ministries, Departments and Corporations.



An FAO <sup>delegation</sup> is in Sri Lanka assisting the government to formulate a future food grain policy and the establishment of a National Food Policy Committee.

August 20

The Army Commander said that regulations to the Army act are now being changed to enable the Sri Lanka Army to recruit women to the Army.

August 21

The People's Republic of China is granting an interest free loan for approximately Rs. 500 million to Sri Lanka repayable in 20 years.

91 Doctors who have completed their compulsory service of 6 years in the Health Department have sent in their resignation papers.

August 22

The 10 Member Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) consisting of both government and Opposition MP's begun a searching study of this years performance of 170 Corporations in which Government and Banking investments exceed to Rs. 16,000 million.

August 23

The government decided to abolish compulsory savings scheme and drop Clause 6 of the bill introduced by then Minister of Finance in Parliament in 1976.

Government decided to give effect to the US\$ 886,500 US \$ agreement between Sri Lanka and UNESCO and Norad for carrying out the pilot project of teaching English as a second language at primary levels in Sri Lanka schools.

It has been decided to set up a research institute for Sugar Cane on a proposal by the Minister of Agriculture Development and Research.

August 24

Following the liberalisation of imports Japan has become the biggest supplier of fruits imported to Sri Lanka. In 1978, she had supplied 11% of Sri Lanka's imports.

August 25

The first joint meeting of the Sri Lanka Japan business co-operation committees was addressed by 4 Ministers who outlined the opportunities for Japanese investments in Sri Lanka and the possibilities for expansion of trade and economic co-operation between the two countries in various fields.

An agreement was signed between Japan and Sri Lanka under which Japan will provide Sri Lanka a loan of Rs. 230 million as contribution to the economic development of Sri Lanka.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has provided Sri Lanka with a grant of Rs. 33 million for the project studies of the proposed Randenigala reservoir.

August 28

President addressing a conference organized by the Law Association for Asia and West Pacific (LAWASIA) attended by some 500 law men in that region said that his government was seeking to create a society which should utilise the democratic process to achieve economic growth.



The Ministry of Local Government announced that the Municipal and Urban Councils' new tax business and trade which have hitherto not been taxed by them.

August 29

The President addressing legislators from 65 countries at an international conference of Parliamentarians on population and development said that population growth in developing countries <sup>un</sup>settled national resources and led to the maintenance of poverty and persistent illiteracy.

August 31

The subsidies on replanting of rubber has been increased from Rs. 4,000 to 5,000 per acre from 1st September.

The government of Sri Lanka and the USA signed 3 agreements providing US \$ 10.4 million as additional funding for 3 project activities. The projects are:

1. Increasing food production by improving the use of water in irrigation schemes.
2. Expanding the anti malaria campaign and
3. Making the local communities to participate in their own development through the assistance of Sri Lanka and USA private voluntary organisations.



SEPTEMBER 1979September 1

The price of kerosene moved from Rs. 3.48 to Rs. 10.70 a gallon as the new food and kerosene stamp scheme came into operation.

The salaries of all categories of employees barring those earning more than Rs. 1,500 a month will be increased by Rs. 55.

The inaugural flight of the new national air lines took off at 11 a.m. with the blessings of Maha Sanga from Katunayake International Air Port.

September 3

Prices of broken tea at the Colombo auctions have begun to move up with Russia's entry into the tea market.

More than 400 parliamentarians from 64 countries made a commitment in Colombo to initiate action to achieve effective integrated approach to development and population policies.

The first eight family courts were set up under the new Judicature act began functioning today.

September 4

The President welcomes Cuba to the Chairmanship of the non-aligned movement for the next three years and urged all members to co-operate with the new Chairman.

September 5

Sri Lanka's first shop window in the Middle East will be oil rich Dubai of the United Arab Emirates. This is described as one of the biggest markets for Sri Lankan goods.

September 6

The Government decided to pay extra allowances to the State Medical Personnel such as nurses and Public Health Inspectors. A shoe allowance of Rs. 100 for the nurses and an allowance ranging from Rs. 75 to Rs. 175 a month to the Assistant Medical Practitioners.

September 7

The Food Department's rice stocks have come under severe strain with the introduction of the Food Stamp Scheme from September 1st.

September 12

The Government has decided to set up a Flying School which will function under the direction of either Air Lanka or the Sri Lanka Air Force.

Japan will provide assistance to Sri Lanka for the restoration and preservation of cultural monuments and the development of the country's Shipping Development Project under two separate agreements signed in Colombo.



The control price of three brands of infant cereal foods have been increased. The retail price of a 10 ounce or 280 grams tin of Nestle's Nestum is Rs. 19.50. A tin of Farlene 280 grams is Rs. 34. The latest price of Farex 250 grams tin is Rs. 29.20.

#### September 13

President told his Cabinet Ministers that bad project preparation is one of the major development constraints in the implementation of Government's development policies.

The Government has decided to have a special insurance scheme to cover the lives and crafts of the country's 12,000 strong sea going fishermen.

#### September 14

The import of cars both new and re-conditioned which used to come in like a flood have now thinned out to a near trickle.

#### September 17

Allowances paid to the Registrars of births and deaths will be increased with effect from 1st November 1979. A circular has been issued to effect this by the Registrar General's Office.

The Government has given a green light to the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation to start a Rs. 72 million worth of a modern factory at Dankotuwa capable of producing 300 tons of high quality tableware annually.

The Government has decided to leave Customs Duty on the export of crustaceans, molluscs and fish.

The Sri Lanka Gems have attracted the East European Market judging from the sales made and the inquiries received at the Zagreb Fair in Yugoslavia where the Gem Corporation had a show.

#### September 18

The Minister of Finance and Planning has declared three undertakings as approved investments in which those had lack of money may now invest. They are International Government Ltd., Uro Lanka Government Ltd., and Union Strand Ltd.

#### September 19

Every hour 31 babies are born in Sri Lanka and the population increases at the rate of about 750 per day.

Health Department has imported 8 new chest X-ray machines from Holland under Dutch aid.

#### September 20

Private foreign investments outside the Greater Colombo Economic Commission are expected to reach Rs. 1,000 million mark this year. This was revealed by the Foreign Investment Advisory Committee.

The Ministry of Rural Industrial Development has decided to restrict to the barest minimum the import of foreign cattle to Sri Lanka to improve the local stocks because of the difficulties of bringing up these cattle under local climatic conditions and the enormous cost in feeding them.



The District Minister of Gampaha opened the 2nd Metal Crush Work Yard of Building Materials Manufacturing Corporation.

The Government increased the Fertilizer Subsidy by an estimate of Rs. 325 million to provide the minimum relief to farmers and cultivators with a view to motivating greater production.

#### September 21

The Department of Wild Life Conservation will use the recent donation given by the World Wild Life Fund (W.W.L.F.) of Rs. 150,000 to install a radio communication network within the island's national parks.

The Government approved to increase the employers provident fund contribution for employees in the Ceylon Tourist Board as follows:

Employers contribution from 9% to 15%

Employees contribution from 6% to 10%

#### September 22

A three member advisory board has been appointed by the Government to up-grade 46 rest houses to the state of top class holiday resorts to attract tourist holiday makers.

The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has invited offers from recognized foreign enterprises for the exploration of petroleum within the terminal limits of Sri Lanka on production - sharing or any other basis.

#### September 24

The Government has approved the latest "Pubstyle Milk Booth" project of the National Milk Board.

The Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development has reported to the Government that 13,000 village tanks and about 10,000 ancient schemes which could irrigate about 600,000 acres have been ruined by the negligence of Government officials.

#### September 25

The Mousakele reservoir continues to over flow and the Castlereigh reservoir is also filling up. A spokesman of the C.E.B. said that this means that there was no problem during this period about island's power supply.

#### September 26

The Paddy Marketing Board is now maintaining a buffer stock of 8 million bushels of paddy for distribution in case of an emergency and to avoid fluctuations of price in the open market.

#### September 27

The consortium of private sector consultants and contractors which currently handles over Rs. 6 million of state construction work will in future function under the Federation of Chambers of Commerce according to a recent Government decision. It will be known as the Sri Lanka Consortium.

The Ceylon Ceramics Corporation exported 316 graphite crucibles produced at its Gampola factory to Pakistan this month. The assignment was worth about Rs. 66,000.



September 28

The Ceylon Mineral Sands Corporation loaded 8,500 tons of ilmenite and 300 tons of rutile to Japan. This shipment of mineral sands is estimated to earn about Rs. 2,752,000 as foreign exchange.

September 29

Britain's Save the Children Fund will assist the Ministry of Social Services in a project to develop childcare services in the country designed to benefit mainly the under-privileged children.



OCTOBER 1979October 1

Prices of flour and bread were revised from today. Wheat flour will cost Rs. 1.36 a pound. This is an increase of 6 Cts. Consequently the price of a pound of bread will go up from Rs. 1.15 to Rs. 1.25.

October 2

A high powered delegation from the Federation of French Industries (Patronet) has agreed to visit Sri Lanka in order to explore the possibilities of investing within and outside the Free Trade Zone.

The Rubber Control Department has issued re-planting permits for a total of 15,000 acres for this year. It was anticipated that the re-planting in the current year would go up to 12,000 acres registering an increase of 4,000 acres over the previous year.

October 3

The President addressing the Government Parliamentary Group said that the Essential Public Service Bill is intended to ensure that the country's development would be carried out uninterrupted.

October 4

Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Hon'ble Minister of Finance addressing the 135 - Nations Meeting of World Bank and the IMF at Belgrade said that it was frustrating for the Sri Lanka Government to see its efforts at economic and national Development to be negated by world events outside its control.

The Parliament passed the Essential Public Service Bill with an amendment by a 2/3 majority.

The Greater Colombo Economic Commission will establish two more investment promotion zones at Welisara and Biyagama.

October 9

Under a programme launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa bio-gas plants are to be set up in all model villages and aided self-help housing schemes which are now being established in various parts of the country.

October 10

Saudi Arabia has asked Sri Lanka to make quick use of its grant of 50 million US \$ either for a water supply or an energy project so that a further grant could be made.

October 11

The Cabinet decided to delegate the authority of the Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation to the G.A.A. so that they could function as the Chief Accounting Officers for all expenditure connected with the Decentralized Budget allocations in their respective districts.

The Government has decided to set up two new process lines to expand cement production in the factories at Puttalam and K.K.S. In addition the Government will welcome any private sector proposals to set up factories to manufacture cement.



The Government also decided to make available both private and public sector business enterprises the facility of mobile radio telephone service initially to cover Greater Colombo area.

The export credit guarantees given to banks by the Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation (SLECIC) has resulted in Rs. 600 million worth of exports been made possible in the first 8 months of SLECIC operation this year.

The Greater Colombo Economic Commission to date has approved 83 projects. About 25 of these projects are already in operation and others are in various construction stages. 13 other projects are being processed for approval.

#### October 12

Mr. J.F.P. Kreuzue, Team Leader, NEDECO Study Group of the Mahaweli Project submitted the final report of the study to Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Hon'ble Minister of Mahaweli Development.

Faced with a challenge to produce a bleaching agent for crepe rubber in 12 months, so as to maintain our standing in the world market, the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka has discovered a formula in nine months.

#### October 13

The President handed over deeds allocating lands to 40 young farmers and inaugurated a housing scheme for them in Sinharaja Park. He also opened a new marketing centre, a new primary school and an Office of the Silk and Allied Products Development Authority.

The upper limits of loans given by the Housing Department to house builders on a personal guarantee was raised from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 10,000.

#### October 15

Mr. M.D.H. Jayewardene, Hon'ble Minister of Plantation Industries is very satisfied with the progress made in the Maskeliya, Dikoya public rehabilitation project which is financed by the World Bank with a loan of Rs. 21 million.

#### October 16

Canada to buy Crude Oil from Indonesia - First-ever import of oil from outside the M.E. Sri Lanka has concluded negotiation for the purchase of 360,000 T. of Indonesian "SALAWATI" Crude Oil at approximately Rs. 325 a barrel, a spokesman for the C.P.C. said yesterday.

#### October 17

The Government has approved the Rs. 1,272 M. new Railway Project covering a 310 mile area in the Mahaweli river basin area.



October 19

Randenigala Project advanced by two years - Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Minister Mr. Gamini Dissanayake has decided that the Randenigala Power Project based on the last of the reservoirs on the Mahaweli Cascade be programmed for commissioning by 1986, two years ahead of earlier schedules.

October 20

Netherlands aid to develop 215 villages - An extensive village development scheme in the Nuwara Eliya district is to be undertaken next year, Miss. Renuka Herath, District Minister for Nuwara Eliya said yesterday.

21,000 state houses gifted to tenants - 21,000 houses belonging to the Ministry of Local Government will be gifted in January to tenants occupying them a spokesman for the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction said yesterday.

Sri Lanka "a marvellous example" - Sri Lanka Government came in for praise for the priority it has given to population and development activities at discussions, the Conservative Parliamentarian of Britain Mr. Kenneth Baker had with newspaper men throughout the world here today. (Premil Ratnayake reports from United Nations).

October 22

Development projects - district by district - Rural Industrial Development Minister Mr. S. Thondaman is meeting the M.P.P. of Kandy district at Kandy Kachcheri tomorrow to identify development projects that could be undertaken by his Ministry.

October 24

National Board to boost spice trade - A National Spice Board is to be established soon by the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research to help increase production and export of spices and to ensure maximum benefits to producers, a Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

October 25

Yesterday's Government (Cabinet) Decisions -

1. No change in public holidays.
2. Private Sector to get the extra Rs. 55/-.
3. The new law would make possible to control pollution and to take quick action to repair any damage done Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis said.
4. Approved regulations for a Rs. 230 M. loan from the Overseas Economic Corporation Fund.
5. Raise the authorised capital of the Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation to Rs. 435 M. from Rs. 125 M.



October 29

Vap Magul - President, P.M. take to the plough - Following in the footsteps of ancient kings of Sri Lanka's glorious past, President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene with P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa, M.P.P. and District Ministers inaugurated the third Vap Magul ceremony.

October 31

1. Rs. 2000 M. budgeted for Mahaweli - The Government has prepared a development oriented expenditure account for the financial year 1980.

2. Many interested in oil prospecting here -/ <sup>Several</sup> Major oil Companies from the U.S., U.K. and European countries have responded to Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's recent invitation for oil prospecting rights in the off-shore area of Sri Lanka.



NOVEMBER 1979

November 1

Japan's gift of 1000 - bed hospitals - A study team from Japan will arrive shortly in Sri Lanka to report on the proposed project of the Japanese Government to build a 1000- bed hospital in Sri Jayawardenepura to commemorate the recent visit to Japan of President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, Mr. Makoto Asami, Charge d' Affairs of the Japanese Embassy said yesterday.

November 2

Rape of forests to be stopped - A four-member World Bank team which conducted a survey of the forestry sector of Sri Lanka has focussed attention on the need for intensive management of forest resources and the urgency for a short and long term integrated strategy for the sector.

PRO's at all Kacheheries - The Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs has decided to set up a public relation branch in every Kachch-eri to help members of the public to get their business transacted expeditiously.

Plan to train 1000 new drivers - The Ministry of Plan Implementation has arranged to train 1000 drivers with the assistance of the NAB and Sri Lanka Police, to meet a shortage of trained and qualified drivers in the country, following the exodus of a large number of drivers to the Middle East.

November 3

Government approval granted to 4 firms to operate domestic flights - The firms are Upali Trading Co. Ltd., Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co. of Ceylon Ltd., Island Airways Ltd., and Air Taxis Ltd.

Licences to commence operation under provisions of the Air Navigation Regulations of Sri Lanka would be issued by the Civil Aviation Department soon.

Rs. 20 M. from Finland - The Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade Mr. Esko Rekola told the Sri Lanka Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed yesterday that Finland had allocated five Million Finnish Marks (about Rs. 20 M.) for a Co-operative Development programme for Sri Lanka.

November 5

World Bank Team to see Water Project - A World Bank Supervisory Mission will arrive in Sri Lanka shortly to review the progress of the World Bank South West Area Water Supply Project.

Weaving Schools - District Level - The Ministry of Textiles Industries will soon establish district level Textile Weaving Schools to revive the Handloom Textile Industry of the Island.

November 6

Warm Welcome for President Rahman - Bangladesh President Ziar Rahman stepped off the white and blue Boeing 707 Bangladesh Airline Plane yesterday morning and returned "Ayubowan" greeting of Sri Lanka with its Bengali equivalent "Sagatam".

At the foot of the ramp to greet the Bangladesh Head of State were President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, Mrs. Jayewardene, Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa, Cabinet Ministers and heads of Diplomatic Missions.



Work on new Lake begins today - Dredging operations for the construction of a 300 - acre artificial lake around the proposed new Parliament building at Duwa Island, Kotte will be inaugurated this morning near Battaramulla Bridge by Minister of Lands Land Development and Mahaweli Development <sup>Mr.</sup> Gamini Dissanayake.

Members to promote packeted tea exports - Substantial tax-free cash incentives are to be given to promote the export of packeted tea and tea bags to enable Sri Lanka to earn a portion of the profit now going to marketing firms in consumer countries.

### November 7

More than half next years' Budget Rs. 12 billion for development - Rs. 2812 M. has been set apart for subsidies to the needy sections. Of this the implementation of the Food Stamps and Kerosene stamps will cost a total of Rs. 1,275 M. while the kerosene stamps scheme will cost Rs. 150 M.

The estimated total revenue for 1980 is Rs. 12 billion and the estimated expenditure is Rs. 23.3 billion. This leaves a deficit of Rs. 11.3 billion to be bridged with foreign aid, domestic borrowing and fresh taxation. The Finance Minister will disclose in his budget speech on November 14 how he proposes to bridge the gap.

Individual freedoms should not impede development: President - The President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, presiding at yesterday's Government Parliamentary Group Meeting, said that the Government would look into how best they could ensure that the freedoms restored to the people by the present government do not impede the development programmes of the government.

The President said, that the present Government had restored many freedoms which were earlier deprived to the people by the previous government. The Government has also freed those who were jailed for the 1971 insurrection.

Rural Development Plan for Puttalam - Government will launch shortly the Rs. 3.65 million Integrated Rural Development Programme for the Puttalam District.

Homes for fishermen - The Ministry of Fisheries will handover the first set of houses under five-year housing project to 600 families in Beruwala, Batticaloa, Panadura and Kalutara next month.

### November 8

Japan gives Rs. 203 M. for economic development - Japan will give Sri Lanka outright grants totalling 2.9 billion Japanese Yen (Rs. 203 M.) towards economic development in Sri Lanka under an agreement signed yesterday.

Power Alcohol from Sugar-cane - Proposals for large scale production of Power Alcohol from Sugar-cane, which can be used for all energy purposes diluted with petrol, diesel and kerosene will be submitted jointly by the Ministry of Industries and Agricultural Development and Research to President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene shortly, an official spokesman said yesterday.

Public Servants can express their views - Public servants are to be allowed to express their views on staffing problems which have hampered the smooth administration of their respective divisions.

They would be given the opportunity to make representations to the staffing committees appointed recently by the Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs Major Montague Jayawickrema.



New Railway Link - The Government has decided to commence work immediately on the construction of a new railway link to the Urea Manufacturing Factory at Sapugaskanda.

November 9

Economic

Rs. 250 M. more from EEC for Mahaweli - The European Community (EEC) would give increased assistance to the tune of about Rs. 250 M. next year for the Mahaweli Development Scheme, Mr. J. Loeff, Deputy Director -General of the EEC said yesterday.

No more permits for Chena Cultivation. - The Government acting on a recommendation made by the Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Mr. Gamini Dissanayake has decided not to issue any permits for chena cultivation and also move out those having chena cultivations in the country's Government forests.

Floor prices for subsidiary food crops - Floor prices governing subsidiary food stuff to safeguard the farmer were announced by the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research after a proposal made by the Minister, Mr. E.L. Senanayake was accepted by the Cabinet yesterday.

Major changes in Public Sector soon - Cabinet Secretary, Mr. G.V.P. Samarasinghe told a press briefing yesterday that the proposals put forward by the Ministers were so extensive and far-reaching that the Government had decided to get a committee of Development Secretaries to study and collate the proposals and put them into the most workable form.

November 10

Lanka

New Tele-link Work begins - Work on the Rs. 36 M. Indo-Sri Micro-wave telecommunications link has got under way with the construction of the 330 feet transmitting tower in Colombo and nine other repeating stations in the districts.

President's three principles :

Free opinion; no defamation; assist others; - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene told the 2,000 students of St. Joseph's College, Colombo, yesterday that they must remember three main principles in life; to express their free opinion but to refrain from libelling or defaming people; to extend their hand of assistance to those in need who stretch out theirs for help and to live a disciplined life in the free and democratic land which is theirs.

November 12

Excess labour must be maintained on land handed back - The Land Reform Commission is coming down hard on land owners who have got rid of additional labour that was employed on their lands after the take-over by the L.R.C. and vested with the State Plantation Corporation.

Rice from Pakistan - The Pakistan Embassy here has just received information from Kachcheri that the Sri Lanka rice delegation now in Pakistan has signed a Rs. 26 M. contract for 100,000 tons of rice.

The delegation is led by Food Minister, Mr. S.B. Herath.

"Year of work" for State Services - The Government is gearing itself to get the maximum work load from its half million strong public services, clamp down hard on corrupt and striking officers and reward efficiency and hard work beginning next year.



November 13

400,000 students in National Service from January - The National Service Scheme was recommended by the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Nissanka Wijeyaratne and approved by the Government. It has been made a compulsory activity in the schools curricular from January next year.

Rs. 9.5 M. invested from "black" money - People with black money who availed themselves of the Tax Amnesty given by the Finance and Planning Minister, Honnie de Mel in his budget last year have invested Rs. 9.5 M. in Government approved industries.

November 14

Flight Calibration Unit approved - The Government has approved the establishment of a flight calibration unit for Sri Lanka for the regular calibration of airport Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) as required by international standards an official spokesman said yesterday.

Doctors' Post-graduate exams to be held here - The Post-Graduate Institute of Medicine will, for the first time, hold Post-graduate Examination for Doctors next year in Sri Lanka.

Joint Sotck Companies to finance Corporation Hotels - The Ceylon Hotels Corporation has decided to set up joint stock companies with local capital to finance its chain of hotels and resthouses throughout the country.

Over 250,000 repatriated - Under the Indo-Ceylon agreement 255,442 Indian workers have been repatriated to India. According to the agreement signed in 1964 a total of 525,000 persons of Indian origin were to be conferred full Indian Citizenship.

November 15

UNP Government's third Budget -

1. Free school texts up to Grade 9.
2. Rs. 55/- allowance for all Government Servants.
3. No more Corporations, Boards to be set up.
4. Tax reliefs, tax holidays.
5. Penalty for late tax payments.
6. Wealth Tax on 1977 basis.
7. Relief for charities.
8. Gem Auction profits exempt.
9. Higher B.T.T. rate for cigarettes, professions, Tourist Hotels, Travel Agencies, Produce Brokers, Advertising Concerns, Indenting and Commission Agents.
10. Import duty revisions.
11. Transfer Tax on vehicles cut.
12. Fees on Motor Vehicles and Passports and Airport levies increased.

Yesterday's Government decisions - Under the new Scheme all public officers will be entitled to only 21 days leave per year while teachers will be entitled to 21 days leave in addition to their normal school holidays.



Government has also approved a proposal for the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment to maintain a special buffer stock account fund commencing next year in an amount of Rs. 100 M. (Maximum). Any interest payable to banks on this account will be reimbursed by Government.

#### November 16

Bouquets all the way for Finance Minister - It was bouquets all the way on Wednesday for Finance Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel from parents with schoolgoing children, public and private sector employees, housewives, taxpayees, business executives, agriculturalists, industrialists and almost everyone, including the man-in-the street for what they described as an "excellent budget".

Government moves to keep down coconut prices - The Government has taken steps to stabilise prices of coconut sold to consumers in view of the exorbitant prices in the open market today.

Ban lorries, carts, during peak hours - At a joint conference of the Sri Lanka Central Transport Board and the Police yesterday it was decided to request the Government to ban bullock carts and lorries from the branch roads of Colombo between 7.00<sup>a</sup> to 9.00 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.

#### November 17

Estate workers can now live as equal citizens : President - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday told the Lanka Jathika Estate Workers Union Meeting at the Town Hall, Ratnapura that today all estate workers in Sri Lanka could live as equal citizens of this country because the Government did not discriminate between workers.

Come and Invest in FTZ says President - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday invited investors from the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, the U.K., Korea and Japan to come and start industries in the Free Trade Zone much needed foreign exchange for the country.

#### November 19

General Socharto spends a quiet day in Colombo - Visiting Indonesian President General Socharto yesterday relaxed in Colombo cancelling a scheduled visit to the Bentota beach resort.

#### November 20

President's concern over armed conflict in Indo-China - Indonesian President, General Socharto and Sri Lankan President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene noted with concern "the continuation of the armed conflict in Indo-China which is threatening the peace and stability of South East Asia" a joint communique issued by them yesterday.

Extended term for 43 local bodies - The 43 local bodies that went to the polls on May 19 this year will hold office till May 31, 1983.

Members of these 43 local bodies were elected to hold office till December 31, 1982. Now their term has been extended till May 31, 1983.

Canada will finance Maduru Oya Project - Finance and Planning Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel in a statement to Parliament yesterday morning said that the Canadian Government of Mr. Joe Clash in spite of a current domestic financial austerity programme and a cut-back on Canadian overseas assistance had now agreed to help Sri Lanka on the Maduru Oya Project with assistance amounting to 80 M.U.S. Dollars (Rs. 1.2 billion).



November 22

Following Criticism of Budget, Minister resigns from Cabinet - Will continue to serve as Government Member, Mr. M.D.H. Jayewardena, Minister of Plantation Industries, who criticised the Budget in Parliament on Tuesday tendered his resignation as a Minister yesterday.

Mr. Jayewardane in his letter of resignation sent to President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said "it has been brought to my notice that my speech on the Budget in Parliament last afternoon was inconsistent with the convention of collective responsibility of the Cabinet. I therefore tender my resignation from the office of Minister of Plantation Industries".

Monty Acts - Major Montague Jayawickrema, Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs yesterday took his oaths as Acting Minister of Plantation Industries, before President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene at President's House.

November 23

Women Cadet Officers for Army picked -- Three girls have been selected to be the first women cadet officers in the Sri Lanka Army.

President makes first offering - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene will make the first-offering and consecrate the New Chaitiya at Sri Naga Vihare, Kotte at 4.30 p.m. today.

Minister to open Chilaw Harbour Complex - The Rs. 2.3 M. Fisheries Harbour Complex at Chilaw will be opened tomorrow by Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali Minister of Trade and Shipping.

Sworn in - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday appointed Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. Lionel Jayatilake as Minister of Education Services. He took his oaths before the President at the President's House yesterday.

The new Ministry will oversee the Education Publications Board, distribution of school text books, provision of laboratory facilities, school equipment and furniture and arrangements relating to the schools' mid-day meals.

Hijra: P.M. happier over State patronage - Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa, speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 15th century Hijra celebrations at the BMICH yesterday, said that the Government of Sri Lanka had authorised the holding of the Hijra Festival on a national level with official patronage.

November 24

Singapore-style buildings only in FTZ, Colombo - President - The Government would not permit the Singapore-style commercial building development in the Free Trade Zone and the Colombo City to spread to other parts of the country. They would be developed like the Sri Jayawardenapura, Kotte in a manner befitting the ancient culture and tradition of the people. President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said at Nagavihare, Kotte yesterday.

Impressed by progress of Mahaweli Programme - The World Bank's South Asia regional Vice-President, David Hopper said yesterday he was impressed with the progress maintained on the Accelerated Mahaweli Development Programme.

Draft Report handed over to Minister - The draft feasibility report of the Randenigala project was handed over to Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake by Mr. H.W. Kreft, Leader of the Randenigala joint venture consultants.



The Ambassador for the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Haribert Wocckel, Mr. David Hopper World Bank regional Vice President for South Asia and Mr. A. Shibasawa of the World Bank were present at the handing over of the report.

#### November 26

Play as a team or lose - President at Royal College - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene recalling his school days said "Remember that we are a team. Whether it is a Cabinet team or a cricket team or a football team, remember that the team is more important than the individual. That if one plays out of turn then the team is defeated. But if we all play together, there is no reason why the team should lose. I learnt all those".

Purpose of President's Iran initiative to defuse highly critical situation - Foreign Minister Mr. A.C.S. Hameed's mission to Iran was seen by diplomatic sources in Colombo yesterday as an initiative by President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene to defuse a potentially explosive situation arising out of the growing dispute between the United States and Iran over the hostages held in the American Embassy in Teheran.

#### November 27

Budget passed - 110 majority - The third Budget of the UNP Government was passed last night by a majority of 110 votes. Mr. M.D.H. Jayewardene voted for the Budget.

#### November 28

Craft village to be re-settled - A plan to re-settle the traditional craft village at Nawangama in Kotmale area of Nuwara Eliya District which will get submerged in 1983 with the construction of the Kotmale Dam, has been drawn up by the Ministry of Rural Industrial Development.

Rs. 1,100 M. Foreign Exchange, 250,000 visitors - Foreign exchange earnings from tourism will reach Rs. 1,100 M. this year with the number of tourists visiting Sri Lanka going up to a quarter Million according to estimates prepared on the basis of earnings and arrivals during the first 6 months of 1979, a Ceylon Tourist Board spokesman said yesterday.

#### November 29

Tax-free scheme to boost sales - Cash incentives for tea exports - A tax-free cash incentive scheme to boost export of packeted teas and tea bags will be brought into operation immediately by the Government.

#### November 30

At Wesley College Prize-giving President pledges to remedy textbook shortage - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, referring to the shortages of text books in Sri Lanka Schools today said he would remedy that situation in the New Year.

At Rs. 1.25 from Co-ops Coconut will be cheaper - The Government yesterday announced a number of measures to stabilize price of coconut at reasonable level. Trade and Shipping Minister, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali told a Press conference <sup>that</sup> the Government has decided to:



1. Market coconuts at Rs. 1.25 per nut through co-operatives stores and Marketing Department outlets.
2. The export. of raw coconuts, copra and coconut oil in bulk has been prohibited with immediate effect.
3. The export of desiccated coconut for December has been reduced from 150,000 bags to 75,000 bags.
4. Prohibition of the transport of coconut and coconut oil by Sri Lankans going abroad.



DECEMBER 1979December 1

From January 1 - 1,215 teachers benefit - State to pay teachers of private schools - Government has decided to pay the salaries of all teachers in private non-fee levying schools with effect from January 1, 1980. An Education Ministry spokesman said that approximately 1,215 teachers in 26 private non-fee levying schools will benefit. The Government will spend about Rs. 2 M. monthly to meet these salaries.

December 2

Bus Chassis with World Bank Loan - The World Bank has agreed to loan Rs. 800 Million the C.T.B. to import 2,400 bus chassis and buy ancillary equipment including spares for its workshops, board services said yesterday.

Commonwealth hails franchise jubilee - Sri Lanka which celebrates 50 years of adult franchise in 1981 won resounding applause from members of the 40-nation commonwealth here today as Coconut Industries Minister, Harold Herath told the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference that the event should warm their hearts.

December 4

Good and useful citizens, Government's main aim: P.M. - P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa said yesterday that the main aim of this Government was to create good and useful citizens in addition to developing the country.

December 5

## Foreign Exchange

Banks: Not enough personnel trained in / operations - Central Bank Governor Dr. W. Rasaputram said yesterday the biggest constraint to revitalising Sri Lanka's banking system was the absence of adequately trained personnel in foreign operations.

Rs. 20 M. for Public Servants' Quarters - The Government has released Rs. 20 M. for the construction of quarters for Government Servants in Colombo.

HW - Chairman, Human Rights Conference - Mr. H.W. Jayewardene QC, was unanimously elected Chairman of the "Place of Human Rights in cultural and Religious Traditions" Conference being held at the regional office of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in Bangkok, December 3 to 7.

Boost for latex based exports - Manufacturers of rubber latex based export products have received a Government boost with the introduction of a cash rebate scheme on the local price paid for latex purchases, an Export Department Board spokesman said yesterday.

Fresh change in approach to work - P.M. - P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa who is also the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Construction speaking on the votes of his Ministry said that what the country needed was a complete change of thinking on the part of the country's administration.

December 8

President wants no distinction made. Free text-books for all schools - Government has now decided to provide all school children irrespective of whether they attend Government, Private Non-fee levying or Private Fee levying schools with free school text books from Kindergarten to Grade 10 from January.



December 10

President : People are now the real rulers of Sri Lanka - President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said yesterday that the era of kings was a thing of the past in Sri Lanka: 2,500 years of history had elevated the people to the heights of power. Also the UNP Government under his leadership had eliminated the cult of the family and the cult of the group. It had enthroned the people, enthroned democracy and barred the way to dictatorship.

December 11

End stateless persons - category, urges C.W.C. - The Ceylon Workers' Congress has requested the Government to review the operation of the Indo-Ceylon Agreement (implementation) Act of 1967 and the citizenship Act of 1948 in order to take measures to end the category of stateless persons.

Wijesiri apologises to House - Mr. R.P. Wijesiri (SLFP) 2nd M.P. for Harispattuwa) yesterday apologised to the House when P.M., Mr. R. Premadasa in a brief statement told the SLFP M.P. that he had contravened standing orders and conventions of the House when he made inaccurate reference to President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene and his family.

Toothpaste not needed for dental health - There is no scientific basis for the belief that toothpaste is essential for dental health, says the Health Education Bureau in one of its recent publications - Basic Facts on Oral Health - released for the guidance of health personnel.

December 12

Lanka's mediation wins goodwill - Sri Lankan role as a silent mediator in the Iranian Crisis is earning considerable political goodwill both in and outside the U.S.

Salusala, M.D. slash prices - Salusala had slashed prices of all varieties of textiles by 5% with effect from today.

Meanwhile, the Marketing Department, too has decided to slash the prices of the following items by 10%, during the festive season, commencing December 15th. Canned fruits, jams, jellies, vegetables, fruits, eggs, coconuts and curry stuffs.

Housing Schemes for upper middle class - P.M.'s plan to ease shortage in Colombo - The National Housing Development Authority is planning housing schemes for sale to persons between the income group of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000/-.

December 14

Change in cooking habits needed : Conservation of coconut now a "national urgency". The Government had decided to set up a National Committee for the conservation of coconuts with coconut industries Minister, Mr. Harold Herat as its head. Trade Minister, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali will be associated with it.

President on why UNP picked Daba for Galle - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said yesterday that the UNP decided to put forward Dr. W. Dahanayake as its candidate for the Galle by-election since he was one of the most senior and progressive politicians in the country today. A person of his experience and calibre would be an asset to any Government or party, he said.



December 17

The Oldest Bride 85 - The oldest to marry last year was a woman from Nuwara Eliya. She was over 85 years. Five men, all over 85, also married in 1978. The youngest to marry last year were three girls of 12 years.

P.M. urges party members to work to win people's confidence - P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa said on Saturday that the success or failure of a Government at an election depended on the silent majority of voters who did not have affiliations to any party but decided which way to vote on the performance of the Government in power at the time.

December 18

Remaining 385 under state management soon - complete take-over of estate schools. - The Government has decided to take over the remaining 385 estate schools in January and February bringing all estate schools under state management an Education Ministry spokesman said.

About 390 estate schools came under Government Management earlier this year.

TV advertising enjoys a boom - The state-owned Independent TV Network (ITN) is beginning to enjoy an advertising boom.

From only about Rs. 6 lakhs earned through television advertising over the past five months. ITN already carries advertising contractual commitments to the value of over Rs. 3 M. for the first half of 1980, a spokesman for ITN yesterday.

TU's must help in Nation Building - Labour Minister Captain C.P.J. Seneviratne yesterday called upon the 2,000 odd Trade Unions to help in the massive task of nation building. "Let us build ourselves up. Till then we must give up all agitations" he said.

Another IPZ at Boosaa - The Greater Colombo Economic Commission (GCEC) has decided to set up another Investment Promotion Zone (IPZ) at Boosaa near Galle, on the former Manning Race Course of the Galle Gymkana Club. Already President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene has approved this proposal, Mr. Upali Wijewardena, Chairman of the GCEC said yesterday.

December 19

In submerged areas under Mahaweli, Samanlawewa Schemes. Mechanised mining for gems - eleven firms are picked - The Government has picked eleven firms, ten foreign and one local, to start mining for gems and possible mineral deposits in 43,900 acres of land which will be permanently submerged under the Mahaweli and Samanlawewa schemes.

Research - beyond laboratories - Health Minister, Mr. Gamini Jayasooriya yesterday called up on the medical researchers in South East Asia to work on problems of the suffering humanity rather than conducting research.

Puttalam District Development Plan - World Bank Team here for feasibility survey. A World Bank team is now in Sri Lanka to conduct a final feasibility survey on the Puttalam District Integrated Development Scheme to enable the Bank to release funds for the implementation of the scheme.

December 21

UNP retains Galle - Majority 13,000 - Dr. W. Dahanayake of the UNP was elected to the Galle Seat in Parliament at the by-election yesterday. The UNP thus retains the majority over his nearest rival, the SLFP's Mr. Sarath Wickrema Dias was 13,012.



The results were announced by the Returning Officer Mr. Percy Abeysinghe G.A. Galle.

P.M. raises breach of privilege issue in House. - The P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa raised a question of breach of privilege yesterday in Parliament regarding a statement alleged to have been made by Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, M.P. for Attanagalla as reported in the 'Sun' of yesterday.

#### December 22

CEB: Switch on to Fluorescent lights - The Ceylon Electricity Board is popularising the use of fluorescent lamps and other more efficient means of lighting in homes, offices and factories to conserve electrical energy.

#### December 24

Weapons for defence purposes essential, President - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said yesterday the use of weapons for defence purposes was essential and the forces should learn to handle them efficiently.

Record for foreign investments : 100 projects approved - Up to end of November the Foreign Investment Advisory Committee of the Finance Ministry had approved 100 projects involving an investment of Rs. 1647 M in foreign exchange.

Recent findings confirm external origin of life - Prof. Chandra Wickremasinghe, Head of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Astronomy, Cardiff University and co-author of the controversial theory of external origin of life said yesterday that recent findings tend to confirm rather than contradict their theory.

#### December 25

Netherlands helps us with Rs. 360 M. - The Government of the Kingdom of Netherlands gave Sri Lanka a Christmas gift when it announced on Monday that aid to the tune of 46 M. Dutch Guilders (Rs. 360 M.) would be given.

#### December 26

Minister streamlines Coconut Boards - Two scrapped, Others revamped. Coconut Industries Minister Mr. Harold Herath has scrapped two of the five coconut Boards and brought about administrative changes in the remaining three Boards to gear them for the big boost the government has decided to give the Coconut Industry.

The Minister has scrapped the Coconut Marketing Board and the Coconut Processing Board and allocated their functions to the Coconut Development Authority.

C.E.B. to take over electricity supply in Negombo District. - The Minister of Power and Highways has asked the Ceylon Electricity Board to take over immediately the supply and maintenance of electricity in the Negombo District on a request by the Greater Colombo Economic Commission. This is being done to eliminate the recurring power failures which have become a big problem for the new industries that have sprung up in the Free Trade Zone.

New Series for Motor Cycles and Scooters - A new 80 Sri Series for Motor Cycles and Scooters has been started by the Department of Motor Traffic.

The 10 Sri Series, which came to an end on Wednesday, lasted about eight months. Only private hiring cars will be registered under the new 11 Sri series.



December 29

National Price Code revamped. Bid to prevent traders making unconscionable profits. - Trade Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali who proved to be the best Santa Claus yet keeps up the tempo to stretch the consumers rupee further in the New Year by clamping down on manufacturers and traders with a revamped National Price Code.

Regulations governing the revised Price Code, now receiving the final touches at his Ministry, seek to pre-empt and stop the gaps through which manufacturers and traders wriggle through to make unconscionable profits at the expenses of the consumer.

Imported rice at Rs. 3.60 a measure. - Imported white raw rice is being issued freely at Rs. 1.80 per pound now by the Food Department to counter an artificial shortage of rice in the market.

Finance Minister promises bright future - Year of greatest Development - 1980. 1980 would be the year of greatest development seen in Sri Lanka in recent times, Finance Minister <sup>Mr.</sup> Ronnie de Mel has said.

"More money has been voted for development than in any previous Budget in Sri Lanka. Through development, we hope to give employment to the youth and to raise the living standards of the people"

We are on the right path : President. - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said on Friday that both public and private sector workers played important roles in the development of the country. If each worker endeavoured to his duty within his allotted hours of work he could contribute to the country's progress.



JANUARY 1980

January 1

Let's gird ourselves and go forward - P.M. - In a New Year message P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa has urged the people to gird themselves to face the New Year and go forward.

"At the beginning of last year I exhorted you that with discipline, determination and dedication. We must achieve our goals so that the new generation will enjoy the fruits of our achievements during our lifetime".

Seven-fold rise in oil price : Consumes 45% F.E. earnings - Sri Lanka's expenditure on petrol and oil would exceed 7 billion rupees in 1980 at present World oil price. This represents almost 45% of total foreign exchange earnings of the country, Finance Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel said yesterday.

January 2

President launches Jetavana restoration - Symbolising the birth of a new era with the inauguration of the Rs. 100 M. UNESCO/Sri Lanka Cultural Triangle Development Project. President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday laid the foundation stone for the conservation of the 1700 - year old Jetavana Dagoba in the Sacred City of Anuradhapura.

January 3

Lowest crime rate for the decade - Police yesterday patted themselves on their backs when statistics of last year's crime record showed that 1979 had the lowest crime record for the decade with 943 homicides recorded till midnight on December 31.

Foreign Exchange

"Ready" Garments big earner - The ready-made garment industry has swiftly pushed its way up as the third biggest foreign exchange earner, only below that of tea and rubber, Deputy Minister of Textile Industries, Mr. R.M. Dharmadasa Banda said yesterday.

January 4

B.M.C. Turnover Rs. 515 M. - The Building Materials Corporation has recorded a turnover of Rs. 515 M for the first 11 months of 1979, a EMC spokesman said yesterday.

Withdraw troops from Afganistan says Sri Lanka - Government opposed to outside interference. The Sri Lanka Government yesterday called upon the Soviet Union to withdraw its military contingent from the territory of Afganistan immediately, the Foreign Ministry said.

January 5

Sterilization: Cash, leave incentives for Volunteers - Persons who undergo voluntary sterilization now enjoy financial and leave incentives under a Rs. 2.5 million scheme which went into effect on January 1.

Under the scheme prepared by the Ministry of Plan Implementation, employees in the public and private sector and unemployed married persons who undergo voluntary sterilization will be entitled to a financial incentive of Rs. 100/=.

Gold at Sea Street Rs. 2,200 a Sovereign - The spiralling price of gold, which recorded its biggest ever jump in the world on Thursday, had its effect on the local market yesterday, when the price of Gold at Sea Street rose to Rs. 2,200



January 7

Poster Campaign to stamp out bribery - The Bribery Commissioner's Department has launched an Islandwide poster campaign in an effort to stamp out bribery. Mr. Noel Wijenaik, Bribery Commissioner said yesterday that incidents of bribery were now on the increase.

Tea Board will supply tea at Olympics - The Sri Lanka Tea Board has been appointed official supplier of tea to the 22 nd Olympiad to be held in Moscow in July.

January 8

Steady check on buying power of rupee - Government economists were keeping a steady check to ensure that the local buying power of the rupee did not fall below the November 1979 level.

91 Projects approved for IPZ - The Greater Colombo Economic Commission (G.C.E.C.) had approved 91 projects from 25 countries to date for establishment in its Investment Promotion Zones, a G.C.E.C. spokesman said yesterday.

January 10

Income support scheme to be phased out : Last payment in June - The Government had decided to phase out the income support scheme by June 1980 and to use the balance half year's money that would be saved as a result for development work in the electorates where the scheme was being implemented.

World's largest bank to open branch here - The Bank of America, the World's largest Banking Company with branches and affiliates in 101 countries and with the assets, totalling over 94 billion US Dollars has received Sri Lanka Government's approval to open a branch here.

Dharmista Society cannot be built through legislation. The change had to come from within the people themselves, said President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene at John de Silva Memorial Theatre, Green Path yesterday.

January 11

Bigger loans from Credit Councils - Finance and Planning Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel has increased the limits of loans given by Credit Councils to buy a bicycle to Rs. 750/= and Rs. 10,000/= to buy a scooter or motor cycle. Hitherto the upper limits were Rs. 600/= and Rs. 7,000/= respectively.

January 14

Lanka's economy moving forward - Bank of Oman's Manager - The National Bank of Oman described as Oman's first and biggest bank will soon open its office in Colombo "for participating in Sri Lanka's development effort".

Maxter H. Zuberi, Manager of the National Bank of Oman Ltd. (SAO), Rawi, now in Colombo said yesterday <sup>that</sup> his bank had decided to come here.

January 15

Development of poor man's crop - President interested in the winged bean - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene spent about an hour yesterday with scientists, acquainting himself with the progress made in research activities on a popular village back garden crop / <sup>called</sup> Dambala (Winged Bean).



January 17

New working hours : Smooth switch-over - The switch-over to the new working hours in the public sector took place smoothly yesterday with public servants arriving for work in time. The new hours are from 8 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with a 30 - minute break for lunch.

Foreign doctors too, bound by department's rules - All UN volunteer doctors serving in Sri Lanka were bound by Health Department's regulations. This was made clear to them before they were appointed to serve in Sri Lanka.

January 18

Happy, smiling faces as 21,000 tenants become owners - There were thousands of happy, smiling faces throughout the country as 21,000 tenant families became the proud owners of the houses they had been living in for many years.

At colourful ceremonies throughout the country, thousands of tenants wept for joy like little children as title deeds of the 21,000 houses, occupied by more than 100,000 were given away free under the U.N.P. Government's programme to set up a house-owning democracy.

Students get free text-books today - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene inaugurates the Government's free school text books distribution scheme at the Nakkawatte Mahinda Madyamaha Vidyalaya in the Kuliyaipitiya electorate at 9.00 a.m. today, at a ceremony attended by 15,000 school children. About 100 lucky ones will receive their free books from the President himself.

Dramatic rise in tea prices at auctions - Tea prices shot up dramatically at yesterday's auctions in Colombo with the best grades fetching about Rs. 10/= per kilo over last week's prices.

The plain grades were up by Rs. 5/= per kilo.

China gives Rs. 500/- M. loan for development - China yesterday gave a loan of Rs. 500 M. to Sri Lanka to be used for various development projects.

Liquor shops - Public to be consulted - P.M. P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa said last Saturday that the Government had already closed several liquor shops.

Attention was at present being focussed on closing the others. A decision would be taken after consulting the public.

Silver the hottest contraband now - With the prices of gold at an all-time high now smugglers have begun to smuggle in silver, senior customs official said yesterday.

Sri Lanka glittering with development and progress due to Buddha Dharma - President - To the chanting of seth pirith by the Maha Sanga, President Mr. J.R. Jayewardena yesterday deposited the nine-cubicle stone containing Sacred relics and inaugurated work on the International Theraveda Buddhist Centre at Manelwatte in Bollegala, Kelaniya.

Addressing the public meeting President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said closer home in Afghanistan and Iran, there was trouble and turmoil but Sri Lanka was glittering with development <sup>and</sup> progress mainly due to the prevalence of the Buddha Dharma.

January 22

Total ban on animal sacrifice in temples - The sacrifice of animals in Hindu Temples has been completely banned. The law came into effect from Thai Pungal Day - January 15th.



Boom-time for rubber - Rubber prices are expected to move up at today's auction after second prices seconded yesterday on the Singapore market.

Last week-end sheet rubber No. 1 fetched Rs. 12.17 per kilo. This is attributed to the international situation such as the Afghanistan Crisis, the soaring gold price and the U.S. resumption of stock piling.

### January 23

An International Money Market to set up in City - The Central Bank of Ceylon has been sanctioned to Bartleet and Co. Ltd., a long-standing brokering firm in Colombo, to set up an international interbank money market in Colombo with two Indian Collaborators.

Body to monitor impact on environment - A central monitoring agency under President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene would soon be established to monitor the impact of the Mahaweli Development Programme on the environment. Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Minister Mr. Gamini Dissanayake told a four member team from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) that is now on a visit to Sri Lanka.

CEB unable to meet energy requirements - Sri Lanka electrical energy requirements for this year cannot be met by the present hydro-electric generating capability, a Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) spokesman said yesterday.

The island's estimated requirements of electrical energy for the present year were 1685 M. units, a growth of almost 10% over the requirements last year which were 1520 M. units.

Sri Lanka to celebrate fifty years of adult franchise - P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa yesterday submitted a report for the cabinet suggesting that the event be commemorated nationally and internationally. Among the suggestions was that every electorate should complete a major project by June, 1981.

Carter invites Lanka, too - President Jimmy Carter in his state of the union address delivered in Washington on Wednesday has said that Sri Lanka was one four South Asian countries invited to join the U.S. in opposing any further Soviet Moves in the region.

3,000 motor-bikes, scooters in 18 days - Some 175 motor-cycles and scooters are now registered daily, on an average at the office of the Registrar of Motor Traffic.

### January 26

Price of Petrol, Kerosene, Diesel up - The price of petrol, kerosene, auto diesel and other petroleum products were increased with effect from midnight yesterday. The new oil price increases, announced by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation are as follows:

Petrol Rs. 37.50 (Increase of Rs. 7.50)  
 Kerosene Rs. 13.68 (Increase of Rs. 3.00)  
 Auto-diesel Rs. 13.50 (Increase of Rs. 3.00)  
 Industrial-diesel Rs. 15.80 (Increase of Rs. 3.80)

The Corporation's Chairman, Mr. Daham Wimalasena said yesterday that in view of yesterday's increase in the price of crude oil, which was in the region of 30%, the corporation would now have to spend an additional Rs. 1,700 M. for the import of crude oil.

Sri Lanka's reaction already made clear - The Foreign Ministry said yesterday that, Sri Lanka's reaction to the events in Afghanistan had been made clear.

Any steps it would take in this situation or in similar situations,



would be based on Sri Lanka's commitment to the policies of non-alignment and the commitment to implement the Declaration in the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, it said.

### January 28

Rural markets to be developed - A programme for development of Sri Lanka's rural markets (Polas) to stimulate rural agriculture and economic development has been drawn up by the Ministry of Plan Implementation.

The National Seminar on Rural Markets Development was sponsored by the German Foundation for International Development, the Food and Agricultural Organisation and the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. It was organised by Agroskills Ltd., on behalf of the Ministry of Plan Implementation.

### January 29

Kalawana M.P. unseated in election petition. Leave to appeal granted - Mr. Justice M.M. Abdul Cader, Election Judge, yesterday declared null and void the election of Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr. A.B.H. Pilapitiya to the Kalawana Seat in Parliament at the 1977 General Election.

In his judgement on the election petition filed by rival candidate Mr. Sarath Muttetuwegama, the Election Judge held that the charge that Mr. Nimal Chandrasiri an agent of Mr. Pilapitiya has published false statements relating to Mr. Muttetuwegama's character had been proved.

Overall economic situation causes concern - The government was seriously concerned about the overall economic situation of the country, Finance Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel said yesterday.

Inflation now running at 15% was likely to go up to 30%. Balance of payments and trade deficits were widening alarmingly, he said.

### January 30

Union views for Cabinet perusal - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday met 26 trade union leaders from seventeen organisations and listened to representations made by them against the curtailment of ~~the~~ leave to Government clerical officers.

The representatives belonging to varied political parties joined in the discussions and made several proposals to bring about uniformity in the implementation of the Government to ~~prune~~ <sup>the</sup> annual leave of the workers from 45 to 21 days.

A spokesman for the trade unions yesterday said the President promised to place before the Cabinet of Ministers the suggestions made by the union leaders.

Albert Silva M.P. cleared - The Bribery Commission's Department has found that allegations made against Mr. Albert Silva Member of Parliament for Kamburupitiya (Former M.P. for Galle) could not be maintained, the speaker Mr. M.A. Bakeer Marker said yesterday.



January 31

No alternative to import of oil - Sri Lanka has no alternative but to continue importing crude and refined oil despite the heavy burden cast on the country by these imports, Petroleum Corporation's Chairman, Mr. Daham Wimalasena said yesterday.

Mr. Wimalasena said "There is no way out for us. Our surveys have shown that we are not wasting oil. The hydro-power potential is limited and solar power is costly. Fuel wood cannot replace oil. We have to depend on oil".

20 p.c. salary rise for bankmen - Nine commercial banks signed a collective Agreement with the Ceylon Banks Employees' Union yesterday providing for a 20% salary increase, better promotional prospects and a better medical scheme.



FEBRUARY 1980February 1

The President toured parts of Colombo yesterday accompanied by his wife, P.M., Mr. R. Premadasa and Colombo Mayor, Mr. Sirisena Corray during which he inspected some of the ancient buildings and some of the city development projects.

Mr. Jayewardene later said a committee would be appointed to advise the Government on the conservation of historic buildings in Colombo.

In collaboration with the State Distilleries Corporation the C.W.E. decided to open 63 retail outlets to sell arrack to the public by the bottle. The first of these will be opened in Badulla on February 6.

February 2

Sri Lanka is now turning to the Economic Community for its supplies of wheat flour. Already contracts have been signed for the supply of about 86,000 tons this year.

Sri Lanka's balance of trade position at the end of November 1979, according to latest statistics, indicates a cumulative trade deficit of Rs. 6,671 M., the highest recorded in recent years.

State Ministry Secretary Mr. Sarath Amunugama yesterday claimed that Sri Lanka television had been rated as one of the best in South-East Asia even though it was in its infancy.

February 4

Mr.

Minister of State Anandaçissa de Alwis yesterday inaugurated the new three channel rural services - the second regional station of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation at the auspicious hour of 3.30 p.m. at Nupe House, Matara amidst the beating of Magul Bera.

The Government has approved the applications of two more foreign banks to open branches here, bringing the total number of such approvals to nine so far while eight more are on the waiting list.

The Algemene Bank Netherlands NV and European Asian Bank, both from the EEC region, have received approval from the Ministry of Finance and Planning on the recommendations of the Central Bank to open branches here.

National Day mark the regaining of the independence on February 4, 1948 and also the inauguration 30 years later on February 4, 1978 of a Presidential system of Government with the President as the head of state and the head of the Executive.

February 5

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene took the salute at the thirty-second National Day parade of the armed forces at the Uyanwatte Stadium, Matara at 8.30 a.m. yesterday.

A Consumer Advisory Service aimed at consumer participation in implementing Government decisions has been set up by the Internal Trade Commissioner Mr. M. Ramalingam at the request of the Trade and Shipping Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali.



This Consumer Advisory Service will comprise office-bearers of the eight consumer societies in the Colombo District and the consumer societies of Galle and Kandy.

The Ministry's decision follows the heavy rush for admissions particularly to Grades I and VI of popular Colombo schools from among students in the outstations.

Already work has started on the construction of 20 schools. They are expected to be ready before the beginning of the second school term in May. Initially these schools will each cater to around 250 students.

#### February 6

Jaffna District Minister, Mr. U.B. Wijekoon said his main concern was the economic development of the Jaffna District. "Solve the economic problems of the common man and other problems will solve themselves" he said.

The French Solar energy researchers were interested in Sri Lanka's Pattiypola experiments and were awaiting the results of that study said, Mr. Pierie Matarasso, the French Solar researcher and economist of their Renewable Energy Service Study programme.

#### February 7

Yesterday's Cabinet decisions: - Highways development featured as a priority item at yesterday's cabinet discussions with Government approving the purchase of road-rollers to the value of Rs.17 M. for urgent highways development.

Hikkaduwa be declared a resort area under the Tourist Board Act. This is to prevent the unauthorised construction of unsuitable structures in the area such as third-rate tourist beach huts and such like buildings.

The private sector would be offered participation in the construction and ownership of shopping complexes, starting with the proposed complex at Batticaloa which was launched as a rehabilitation programme after the recent cyclone damage.

The Agricultural Corporation Act would also be shortly amended to enable the appointment of directors and chairman of Agricultural Corporation.

The withdrawal of a recent circular sent to G.A.'s on the opening of new foreign liquor shops in the island was also decided by Government yesterday.

The export of live fish is to be banned by the Trade Ministry after Government's decision yesterday to protect the tropical coral and fish population, particularly in resort areas.

Our diplomats abroad have been told to place emphasis on trade and economic affairs.

The Government has decided to curtail textile imports by almost 60% this year in an effort to provide more incentives to the local textile industry.

All United National Party supporters in and around Colombo will walk from their houses to Galle Face Green for the May Day rally this year.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene told the Government Parliamentary Group yesterday that he, the P.M. and other M.P.'s too would do like-wise.

#### February 9

The Ministry of Agriculture Development and Research is sending letters to 1.5 M. land owners warning them that their lands would be taken over if they failed to cultivate, Ministry Secretary Mr. Ranjan Wijeyaratne said yesterday.



Government has appointed a seven-member committee comprising several secretaries of key Ministries to examine and report on the proposed Urea Project at Sapugaskanda. The Committee will examine and evaluate various aspects of the project and submit to Government its final recommendations.

### February 11

Sri Lanka's Public Interest Committee has urgently appealed to the Government to cut down heavily on the indiscriminate use of street lights, flood lights and ornamental illuminations.

### February 12

Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria, Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation has been nominated by President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene to represent Sri Lanka in United Nations Population Commission.

The Economic and Social Council of the U.N. at its forty first annual meeting held last October elected Sri Lanka to membership in the Population Commission for a term of four years from January 1, 1980.

Sri Lanka like all third world countries was losing a large percentage of food due to bad handling, storage and production methods, Food Minister Mr. S. B. Herath said yesterday.

Mr. Herath said although no indepth study of food losses had been made, Sri Lanka lost about 2% of the 1.2 M. tons of rice, sugar and flour imported annually.

About 350 doctors, members of the GMOA kept away from work yesterday at four hospitals in Colombo and Kandy, completely disrupting hospital work and causing grave inconvenience to patients.

### February 13

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene has directed that free biscuits now being given only to children of some schools be given to children of all schools in future.

Some 1,250,000 children studying from the Kindergarten to Grade 5 in 7,534 schools receive free biscuits now. Each child gets 6 biscuits free.

The Food Ministry said yesterday that it would double the present issue of imported maisoor dhal from 1½ lb. to 3 lb. per family from next month and also have ample stocks of other essential food items in the country's 8,500 co-operatives.

The Island's paddy producers are now vying with producers of tea, rubber and coconut, in the use of fertiliser for increasing production. As a result of this, the Fertilizer Corporation anticipates bumper paddy crops this year and the next.

### February 14

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene will take over the Ministry of Higher Education and Janatha Estate Development Board and State Plantations Corporation, informed sources said yesterday.

P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa will take over the Ministry of Power and Highways. The following will be sworn in this afternoon:

Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe	- Minister of Education.
Dr. Nissanka Wijeratne	- Minister of Justice.



Mr. K.W. Devanayagam	- Minister of Home Affairs.
Major Montague Jayawickrema	- Minister of <sup>Public Administration and</sup> Plantation Industries.
Mr. Dharmasena Attygalla	- Minister of Indigenous Medicine.
Mr. Samaraweera Weerawanni	- Deputy Minister of Education.
Mr. Premaratne Gunasakera	- Deputy Minister of Health.
Mr. G.M. Premachandra	- Deputy Minister of Highways.
Mr. A.R.M. Attanayake	- Deputy Minister of Higher Educa- tion.
Mr. G.V. Punchi Nilame	- Deputy Minister of Regional Development.

Yesterday's Cabinet decisions: - The Government yesterday decided to abolish the two-tier system of prices for cement and bring both locally produced cement and the imported variety under one price.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene will lay the foundation stone for the National T.V. Centre at Independence Square opposite the S.L.B.C. at 9.00 a.m. on March 4th. Work will commence simultaneously at Pidurutagalaga where the main transmission tower is to be set up. The National T.V. Network which will cost Rs. 300 M. comes as a gift from the Japanese Government.

Cabinet approved a financial provision of Rs. 41.9 M. to implement the integrated Agricultural Development Project in Moruwewa in the Trincomalee District.

It was also agreed that the Sinhala and Tamil Senior Graduate teachers should be paid special allowance in the form of non-pensionable monthly allowance if they serve in areas considered "difficult areas" as listed by the Education Department.

Coconut Industries Minister Mr. Harold Herath slashed the prices of fertilizers by Rs. 45/- as a further boost to the coconut industry.

#### February 15

Finance Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel left Sri Lanka yesterday on a special aid mission which he described as the "most vital ever undertaken by any Finance Minister in Independent Sri Lanka".

After yesterday's Cabinet Meeting President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene had discussions with Ministers and M.P.'s representing electorates in Colombo and areas around the city about May Day celebrations.

It was decided, Cabinet spokesman State Minister Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis announced that while other political parties would be permitted to have processions as they wished the UNP would not carry placards or shout slogans in its procession.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene himself will walk from his Ward Place residence to the venue of the two-hour UNP May Day rally at Galle Face Green.

#### February 16

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene who took the subject of Higher Education under his wing on Thursday told the University Grants Commission yesterday that the Government would not tolerate any form of ragging in the Universities.

P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa has said that in the last two and a half years several far-reaching changes had been made in the economic structure of the country.



These changes were expected to put the economy on the sound within the next few years, he told a meeting in Ridigama in the Dodangaslanda electorate, when he opened a Community Hall, Central Market and a rest room built at a cost of over Rs. 800,000 under the Ridigama New Town Scheme.

### February 19

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday warned trade unions that no strikers or any other movement could oust this Government from office.

Inaugurating a seminar on "The Role of Activists in Modern Trade Unions" at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said that the Government had been elected by the people and could be turned out of office only by the people at another General Election.

One of Sri Lanka's most eminent lawyers 63 year old Mr. H.W. Jayewardene Q.C. was scheduled to leave last night to sit on the five-member UN Commission to probe alleged crimes committed by deposed Shah of Iran.

Cut diamonds, fishing gear, rubber thread and industrial gloves were the new items now moving out of the Free Trade Zone. Ready-made garments continue to be the main export item.

The appeal of Mr. Sadhatissa Wadigamangawa, S.L.F.P. M.P. for Anamaduwa against the order of the Election Judge declaring his election on July 1977 to the Anamaduwa Seat was dismissed with costs yesterday by a unanimous decision of bench of three Judges headed by Mr. Neville Samarakoon, Chief Justice.

### February 20

The Norwegian Foreign Minister, Mr. Knut Frydenlund said yesterday he was very impressed to find democracy deeply rooted in Sri Lanka, a feature seldom found in the Third World.

Mr. Frydenlund, who left Sri Lanka last night after a 7 day official visit accompanied by his wife, said he was also struck by the degree to which the welfare state concept had been achieved in Sri Lanka despite the low per capita income.

Bombay onions at Rs. 2.50 per pound: - This is the C.W.E.'s aim. The C.W.E. also hopes to ensure that consumers get a regular supply of Bombay onions and potatoes.

### February 21

Government decisions: - In future all Government tenders should be called on the basis of a Free on Board and Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) basis.

Government will import large quantities of cement from the Phillipines and Indonesia.

The Government also approved a proposal by Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Mr. D.B. Wijetunge to buy 10,000 telephones from the Japanese firm NEC to whom the tender was awarded recently.

Government also approved a number of other amendments proposed by the P.M. to the Rent Control Laws of 1972 and the ceiling on Property Law No. 1 of 1975.

After attending the UNP Working Committee meeting, last night, President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, visited one of his old supporters Naanduwage Nomis Karunaratne - Dara Kade Mudalali, now in his sick bed at his Wellawatte home.



Last night when he sat up in his sick bed to welcome his leader, Mr. Karunaratne's eyes welled with tears of joy.

The Excise Commissioner yesterday cancelled the licence issued to the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment (C.W.E.) to sell arrack and other liquor on a decision taken by the Government.

### February 22

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene told representatives of the 62,000 work-force of the Ceylon Transport Board yesterday that if they co-operated to make the Workers' Council system work successfully, there would be no need for strikers to gain benefits for themselves. It would also eliminate the need for the introduction of laws against strikes.

What is bad for the people's health is good for the country's coffers. Smokers last year puffed away at around 4,500 million cigarettes and contributed Rs. 786 M. by way of excise tax on tobacco to the country's coffers according to an Excise Department spokesman.

The Food Department spokesman said the purchase price for a pound of flour ranged from Rs. 2.13 to Rs. 2.23. The present selling price is Rs. 1.50 a pound. The balance is being met by way of subsidy.

The price of a cigarette goes up by 4 Cts. and a bottle of arrack all varieties by Rs. 4/- per bottle. The price increase on a bottle of beer is about Rs. 1.50.

### February 23

A pound of bread from today will cost Rs. 2.05 and a pound of flour Rs. 2.37. Earlier a pound of bread was Rs. 1.35 and a pound of flour Rs. 1.50. Imported rice, raw or parboiled will cost Rs. 2.74 per pound or Rs. 4.34 per measure. Earlier the price was Rs. 4.10 per measure.

The UNP Government was an open Government with nothing to hide, P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa told Parliament yesterday, during the debate on the price increase on liquor, beer, cigarettes and several imported items which came into effect yesterday.

Canada's financial contribution to the Maduru Oya project amounts to \$ 83 M. This is made up of a "Soft" loan of \$ .76 M. and a grant of \$ .7 M. to cover the costs of engineering services.

### February 25

King Birendra and Queen Aishwaryn of Nepal were given a right royal welcome when they arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday on a three-day state visit.

At the end of the gun salute, the royal visitors were warmly greeted at the foot of the gangway by President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene and Mrs. Jayewardene.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene then presented the Minister of Home Affairs and Mrs. Devanayagam, the Minister in Attendance Mr. Gemini Dissanayake and Mrs. Dissanayake and the Foreign Minister and Mrs. Hameed to the King and Queen of Nepal.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene told a meeting at Bulathsinhala on Saturday that the government had decided to make an ex gratia payment of Rs. 300/- to every purchaser of 100 lbs. of fertilisers to encourage farmers to grow more paddy, tea, rubber, coconuts, onions, chillies and other essential food items.



February 26

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene has refused to grant the Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) an interview until its threat of direct action made by it, in press statements, is withdrawn.

The developments in recent weeks in the South Asia region could not be dissociated from what was happening in other parts of the globe, President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said at the banquet, Mrs. Jayewardene and he hosted in honour of the King and Queen of Nepal last night.

The Attorney General has filed indictment in the High Court of Kandy charging Mr. R. P. Wijesiri (S.L.F.P.), the second M.P. for Harispattuwa, with criminal defamation of President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene. Attorney General's Department sources said the charge had been framed in connection with a speech Mr. Wijesiri was stated to have made at a meeting at Matale.

February 27

Bus fares will go up by 40% and train fares by 36.3% from March 1. Announcing this increase yesterday Transport Minister Mr. M.H. Mohamed said school children would be allowed to buy season tickets at the old rates. There would be no increase in bus and train fares for school children's season tickets.

President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene last night supported King Birendra's proposal that Nepal should be declared a Zone of Peace as an initial step to its extension to the Indian Ocean and the littoral and other countries in the Indian Ocean region.

Foreign investors in Sri Lanka hotel projects can now have a majority shareholding, Ministry of State Secretary, Sarath Amunugama said yesterday.

The Foreign Investment Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Finance and Planning had recently revised its projects approval terms and done away with the earlier requirement that Sri Lankans hold the majority share capital in local hotel projects, he said.

February 28

Yesterday's Cabinet decisions: - Rs. 2,155 M. tender for Victoria Project goes to British firms. The cost of the dam will be Rs. 1,496 M. and that of the tunnel Rs. 659 M.

The Government decided to set up a Cabinet sub-committee headed by President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene to study the question of the pressure of office space which led Government departments and Corporations to occupy private buildings.

Approval of the setting up of a canvas-shoe manufacturing venture. Ceylon Leather Products Corporation in collaboration with Tong Yang Rubber Enterprises Co. Ltd.

Ministries, Departments and Corporations must not take people from outside the Job Bank.

Local authorities should be given power to engage in commercial and industrial activities. The regulations would be amended for that.

Sri Lanka and Nepal yesterday called for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

The communique said King Birendra and President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene reviewed the development in the regions of South-East Asia and they noted with serious



concern the armed interventions that have taken place in those regions.

February 29

Four major tourist hotel complexes with armed 1,800 rooms are to be constructed within the next three years in the city of Colombo which would dramatically alter the City Skyline and landscape. A State Ministry official said yesterday.

Hilton: 500 rooms, sited adjacent to the Secretariat.

Sheraton: 400 rooms - will occupy the site on which the Night Bazaar adjacent to Galle Face Green exists:

Taj: 500 rooms - sited on 10 acres opposite the Galle Face Green now occupied by the Ceylon Tourist Board, Army and some Government Departments.

Dusit Thani: 400 rooms - sited at Parsons Road.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene and P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa told a massive gathering at Kalutara Bodhi Vihara after enshrining the relics and crowning the pinnacle, that this centre of Buddhism would enlighten the country on the doctrines of the Buddha. They also paid a tribute to the dedicated work of Sir Cyril de Zoysa who had begun this work about 50 years ago.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene told a massive gathering which filled the New Bandaragama Playground and overflowed into the streets around, that government policy today was to sell imported commodities without incurring any losses in the transactions. Government had also accepted the policy of allowing the private sector to exist side by side with the public sector. Anyone can free to import any commodity needed by the people and to sell it to the people today.



MARCH 1980

March 1

The 10 - member Presidential Commission headed by Law Commission Chairman, Mr. Victor Tennakoon in its reports submitted to President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday has recommended the setting up of Development Councils with subordinate law making powers in all districts of Sri Lanka.

Telephone call charges are to be increased from today, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications has announced. The rate of a normal telephone call has been increased from 35 Cts. to 50 Cts.

A standard trunk call between 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. will now cost Rs. 1.20 against the old rate of 90 Cts. The cheap rate for the same call between 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. has been increased from 45 Cts. to 60 Cts.

Over a 100% increase in the price of liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) was announced by the Colombo Gas and Water Co. Ltd., yesterday. The new price of Rs. 70.25 per 13 kilo refill becomes effective today.

March 3

The Ministry of Lands and Land Development will withdraw all cases filed against encroachers on state land and grant them permanent title before the end of 1983, Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Minister Mr. Gamini Dissanayake said yesterday.

The Minister said that under the programme nearly 500,000 landless peasants would gain title to about one million acres of state land.

Land occupied by individual encroachers now extended from half to 50 or 60 acres. Under the new scheme everyone would be given equal portions not exceeding two and a half acres each.

Mr. H.W. Jayewardene, Sri Lanka member of the five men U.N. Commission now in Teheran to seek the release of fifty American Hostages is described as the Buddhist 'Just Man' in a report from Teheran in the London Daily Telegraph on Sunday.

Sri Lanka youths are being increasingly affected by heart diseases. Cardiology Unit's statistics disclose that the number of patients below 28 years reporting for treatment to the Unit has risen from 1,047 in 1976 over 2,000 in 1979.

The Cardiology Unit's Heart Specialist Dr. D.P. Atukorale, yesterday attributed heavy smoking among youth as the principal cause of heart diseases. The local tobacco leaf contained more nicotine than grown in other countries, he said.

March 4

The National Development Bank approved a loan of Rs. 45 M. to the Ceylon Cement Corporation and a loan of Rs. 15 M. to Ahungalla Hotels Ltd., accompanied by a share capital investment of Rs. 2.5 M.

There is an increasing overseas demand for trained Sri Lanka hotel staff a Ministry of State spokesman said yesterday. The Ministry had recently a request for staff to fill 40 vacancies in the Saudi Arabian Oberoi Hotel due to open in September this year. Vacancies ranged from front office, restaurant and kitchen staff to security guards, post attendants and telephone operators. Salaries offered were between Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 with board and lodging.



March 5

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene and P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa yesterday announced a scheme by which each member of Parliament would prepare a programme of development work and execute it with funds allocated under the decentralized budget. Work should be planned and carried out on a priority basis according to the scheme announced at the Government Parliamentary Group Meeting.

Under the scheme each electorate would be given Rs. 10 Million for a programme of work for the four years from 1980 till 1983 so that work in each electorate could be carried out on a continuous and planned basis. Hitherto, these monies were allocated each year.

On the question of the Job Bank Scheme, the President said that there were altogether 150,000 registered under the Job Bank and to-date 30,000 persons had been found employment. He emphasised that the Job Bank was not an employment giving agency. The Bank merely sent people for interviews when a Department or a State body intimated a vacancy. The task of recruiting lay with the Department and not with the Job Bank.

T.V. for National Development says President. - President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday said that the Government had decided to keep the television system as a state monopoly in order to ensure that its benefits would be used for national development.

The President was speaking at the laying of a foundation stone for the Rs. 270 M. T.V. Complex at Torrington Square.

March 6

Yesterday's Government Decisions: - Government yesterday accepted the request made by the clergy of all religions to withdraw the free transport offered to them by Government from last week.

A scheme be evolved to provide each Member of Parliament with Rs. 2.5 M. under the decentralized budget for development of their electorates. This would be for the year 1979/80 taken together for this special budgetary allocation.

Mahaweli Minister Mr. Gamini Dissanayake's proposal to continue payments to all field technical officers who work on Saturdays and public holidays. This would be extended to other Ministries as well under the scrutiny and control of the respective Ministries.

Government also approved the bringing of legislation by Finance Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel to establish a Securities Council to organize revitalisation of the share market.

Labour Minister Captain C.P.J. Seneviratne, yesterday said that once the Government made a decision to allow women to be employed at night, his Ministry would inform the International Labour Organisation (ILO) about it.

Sri Lanka welcomed the result of the recent election in Zimbabwe which had closed another chapter in the history of racialism in Southern Africa and sincerely hoped it would be a harbinger for the complete removal of racialism from Southern Africa in the near future, Foreign Minister Mr. A.C.S. Hameed said yesterday.

Commodity goods such as coconut or rubber products, textiles and a host of other export items are under consideration for export credit cover, Dr. Wimal Wickremasinghe, Chairman, Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation (SLECIC) said yesterday.

March 8

Price Controller Mr. M. Samalingam yesterday said that all items of full



cream milk powder have been taken off price control. These are Anchor, Nespray, Macspray and Bear Brand.

Three pounds of Maisoor dhal to each household from next week, plenty of Bombay onions and potatoes, tinned and dried fish and dressed chicken. This is the fare the CWE hopes to provide the people during the Sinhala and Hindu New Year.

Over 150,000 acres of prime tea in the Uva, Kegalle, Avissawella, Kandy, Badulla and N'Eliya districts lie virtually dehydrated under scorching drought conditions, a spokesman for the Janatha Estate Development Board said yesterday.

### March 10

Cabinet has approved the setting up of a multi-million rupee rice flour milling plant at Mutwal with initial processing capacity of 500 metric tons a day, informed sources said yesterday.

Colombo's first underground car park is now taking shape in a shopping and office complex in the Pettah on the site formerly occupied by the Fire Brigade. This is a Rs. 50 M. Complex, the first stage of which will be completed by August this year.

### March 12

A total of 123 doctors from India, the Phillippines and Burma are now here and now assisting the country in its hour of need. 90% of them have been detailed to work in remote areas where medical needs of the rural folk had been neglected, Health Minister Mr. Gamini Jayasooriya said yesterday.

A remarkable drop in the incidence of positive malaria has been recorded since 1977 says Dr. A.N.A. Abeysunders in his 1979 administrative report.

The total number of cases of Malaria dropped from 252,460 in 1977 to a mere 1368 in 1979.

The Water Resources Board (WRB) has cautioned people in the Jaffna Peninsula to be more careful in extracting ground water for domestic and agricultural purposes, as it has been found that soft water resources in the area use being over-exploited.

### March 13

Yesterday's Government decisions: - Public officers will in future be able to study abroad or be employed for a period of five years on no-pay leave. Three of the five years no-pay leave can be taken continuously.

That all industrial corporations and private companies should go before the National Price Commission before they decide to increase prices of consumer products.

An Islandwide incentive scheme for the development of fisheries was approved.

Government discussed the possibility of electrification of the Colombo sub-urban railway network. It decided that the feasibility study done on this scheme should be brought up to date.

Government approved the installation of a 500 - ton tank for the storage of L.P. Gas by the Colombo Gas and Water Company Ltd.

Sri Lanka Blue Sapphires have no peer in the World of Gems and that is why Sri Lanka must see that cheap stones are not allowed to be palmed off as genuine blue sapphires.



The Government Medical Officers' Association which met President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene at President's Office yesterday assured their fullest co-operation to the government in the establishment of the Post-graduate Institute of Medicine.

President <sup>Mr.</sup> Jayewardene referring to the recent sick-note campaign told the delegation that doctors should not keep away from duty.

The Ceylon Electricity Board said yesterday that wasteful and unwarranted use of power by the public and especially individual and private sector consumer had aggregated the present power crisis.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday agreed in principle to a proposal by two major plantation trade unions that there should be a collective agreement between the agencies managing the estates and the two unions, a spokesman for the union said.

A Research Organisation in Sri Lanka has concluded that price of essential commodities in this country are lower than prices obtaining in other third world countries in Asia, the Ministry of State said yesterday.

### March 19

Transport Minister Mr. M.H. Mohamed has asked the Railway's Chief Engineer to expedite construction of a third rail track from Ragama to Colombo Fort.

This new track and the second rail track to be laid from Ragama to Katunayake will extend for nineteen miles and would cost nearly Rs. 140 M.

Government has decided to enforce strictly the stringent regulation framed recently to prevent forest fires. Under the new regulations any person who sets fire to a forest **kindles** a forest fire or carries any fire in a reserve forest, except with permission from the forest authorities is liable to a term of imprisonment extending up to five years.

### March 20

Yesterday's Government decisions: - Doctors will now be entitled to full freedom in that they will be able to leave the country and go abroad for further studies and for such other purposes that they have been agitating for.

Wilfully publishing any report of any debate or proceedings of the House containing words or statements which the Speaker has ordered to be expunged from the official report of Parliament.

To use the Puttalam - Colombo Dutch Canal for the transportation of cement from the Factory at Puttalam. Dredging and development of this canal has been completed up to Negombo.

The construction of a Super Market for Salusala at Maya Avenue, Havelock Town junction. Tenders have been called and work entrusted to the International Construction Consortium for Rs. 18,433,768 M.

The Middle East brain drain added solid muscle to the country's economy last year, to the tune of Rs. 800 M. Central Bank Sources said yesterday. This figure was expected to exceed the Rs. 1,000 M. mark this year on the remittance alone while an additional Rs. 500 M. feedback was expected by way of remittance on demand drafts drawn on foreign bank, study of current remittances from Middle East employees to commercial banks disclosed yesterday.

The working hours of public servants have been revised. The new working hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. with half <sup>an</sup> hour lunch <sup>break</sup> at 12.00 noon. Addressing a Press Conference, Mr. Mohamed said, the revised working hours were likely to be introduced from April 1st after the transport schedules (trains and buses) were adjusted.



March 21

Recommendations to the Cabinet for implementing wide-ranging tax concessions within the context of the proposed establishment of a capital market and allied institutions in Sri Lanka have been made by a committee appointed by the Trade Ministry, Government sources said yesterday.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said that there was at one time a Royal Asiatic Society in Calcutta. It was now defunct. It was therefore a creditable thing for this country that the Society in Sri Lanka had survived 135 years. It was, however, not a creditable thing that the society had been allowed to live so many years without a building of its own.

March 22

The new Director General of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) James Grant yesterday praised a relatively poor country like Sri Lanka where he said "the physical quality of life was high and where life expectancy was equal to that in Washington DC."

March 23

Large-scale gem smuggling had increased considerably after the Convertible Rupee Account (CRA) scheme was scrapped in 1977 an official spokesman said. The main markets for smuggled gems were Hongkong, Singapore and some Western countries.

"There is a new spirit in Sri Lanka a spirit of confidence" says Dr. Christopher S. Gray, a specialist on Asian history and finance, in an article in a special advertising section in the prestigious Business Week Magazine, which has a leadership of over 4 million.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene had donated to the Presidential Archives Division at the Janadhipathi Mandiraya all gifts he had received during his State visit abroad. These include gifts from Emperor Hirohito of Japan and a replica of a famous peacock window and other presents given by the King of Nepal.

March 24

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene announced at a public meeting in the Harispattuwa electorate on Saturday that government was now thinking of changing the present election system of the country to a better system. Under the present system the government had felt that the volume of development achieved was not up to their expectations. The proposed system was designed not only to return people's representatives to Parliament but also to ensure a speedy and more effective economic development.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday ceremonially inaugurated work on the Rs. 5,000 M. Victoria Multi-Purpose Reservoir Project. The Victoria Reservoir Project will have an installed hydro-power capacity of 210 MW and annual generator potential of 780 M. KWH. It will provide irrigation for 112,000 acres of undeveloped land and provide for the settlement of 20,000 families in agricultural development.

March 26

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday called upon officers of the Agricultural Development Authority and others involved in the development of agriculture in the country to pull together in order to bring about a transformation in agriculture and thus give the farmers - still the backbone of the country - a new deal.



March 27

Yesterday's Government decisions. - Power-cuts if rains don't come soon. Government will initially impose an islandwide power-cut of two hours from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. if no rains occur by the end of this month.

It approved a draft bill to control more effectively activities of private employment agencies.

It approved the construction of a new remand prison at Kalutara at a cost of Rs. 12.7 M. The construction work to be handled by the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. G.V.P. Samarasinghe, Secretary, to the Cabinet, is to be appointed to fill the post of Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations temporarily, official sources said.

Mr. Samarasinghe is expected to leave for New York today. He fills the post rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. B.J. Fernando on Tuesday.

Britain's Minister of Overseas Development Mr. Neil Martin yesterday called upon the developing countries in the commonwealth to help one another. He said the Victoria Project was the largest project assisted by his Ministry, illustrating the close and traditional links between Sri Lanka and Britain both of which were together in the Commonwealth.

March 28

Trade and Shipping Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali leading a deputation from the UNP, told the Delimitation Commission yesterday that the Proportional Representation (PR) system introduced in Sri Lanka was unique.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday congratulated the 343 recruits to the Police Department which included 131 women on their smart turnout at the passing out parade at the Kalutara Police Training School grounds.

March 29

A new dimension was added to the State Sector yesterday when the National Insurance Corporation (NIC) began business with the appointment of 8 private sector Commercial Companies as principal insurance agents.

The Survey Department is now looking on a new aerial photographic programme to map the entire country with aerial survey and field techniques.

March 31

Absenteeism among the Colombo General Hospitals 1,600 - strong minor staff had reached a new high, a hospital survey said. "On any working day the daily average absenteeism rate is over 50%" he said.



APRIL 1980

April 1

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said yesterday the Government has taken several measures for the revival and propagation of Buddhism here and abroad. The Government has restored religious monuments and assisted in maintaining places of worship, in Sri Lanka, India and the West.

The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has granted a Rs. 250 M. Soft loan for the development of the Dairy Industry, Rural Industrial Development, Minister S. Thondaman said, yesterday.

Any person having any manuscript or document 50 years old and of historical, cultural, literary, economic or scientific value will be required to inform the Director of National Archives about it.

April 03

Yesterday's Government Decisions: - To pay a festival advance of Rs. 300 for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, to non-staff grades of the public service and government corporations.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene will head the governing body of the proposed Institute of Fundamental Studies. Other members of the governing body will be the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. This Institute will be a non-political independent Institution.

Addressing a mass rally at Anamaduwa yesterday President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said the Government was today concentrating on development not only of the big towns of the whole country, but also of the electorate by electorate.

April 04

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, who opened the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at the Bandaramaika Maha Vidyalaya, Gampaha yesterday, said that in order to give a further impetus to increasing production Government had thought it necessary to set up District Development Councils - one for each of the 24 districts in the country. Election to these Councils would be held before the end of this year. 'I do hope' President Mr. Jayewardene said 'that like Parliament, these Councils will meet regularly to discuss matters of interest to the areas and take decisions'.

The United Kingdom once again accounted for the largest share of Sri Lanka's Tea imports with 21.6 M. Kilos in 1979, followed by Pakistan, Iraq, Egypt, USA and Syria.

Mr.

Trade and Shipping Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali yesterday paid a surprise visit to the crowded CWE shop at Fort and the Tripoli Market to acquaint himself with the actual situation prevailing there.

April 5

The Government has approved in principle the setting up of a Private Medical College in the country by the College of General Practitioners in Sri Lanka.

April 7

Those who encroach on State Lands from today will be disqualified from receiving State Lands under the Government decision to regularise lands encroached



upon, a Ministry of Lands and Land Development spokesman said. In order to explore the possibilities of giving the consumer cheaper flour and sugar, the Government has allowed the Private Trade to import these items. For the last 40 years the import of these two items had been the monopoly of the Government.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday told a public meeting of devotees at the Thiriyaya shrine that the place where they stood was sacred ground. President Mr. Jayewardene said they had now taken in hand the restoration work of several sacred cities. They were able to do that work expeditiously because of the support given by several religious societies.

#### April 8

Sri Lanka was one of the Third World non-oil producing countries seriously affected by global inflation and it was natural that it looked forward to having some of the Arab petro-dollars recycled within Sri Lanka's economy, Finance and Planning Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel said yesterday. During the past years petro-dollars were recycled in Western countries and some of it had even gone into Jewish Banks, the Minister said at the opening of the Colombo branch of the Bank of Oman Ltd.

#### April 9

Many officials at all levels dealing with development did not recognise the gravity of the population problem in Sri Lanka, and that had led to an accelerated birth rate over the past two years, Miss. Julia Henderson, leader of the United Nation's Family Planning Agency's Mission to Sri Lanka told a Press Conference yesterday.

While 1977 recorded 380,000 births, 1978 and 1979 had recorded 402,000 and 412,000 births respectively. That marked an unwelcome upward trend.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene presiding at yesterday's Government Parliamentary Group Meeting said that a crash program to develop minor irrigation tanks throughout the country would be drawn up shortly.

Referring to certain complaints against the bureaucracy by Members of Parliament the President said he would investigate any complaint against an official if it were brought to his notice.

President said that a programme had already been launched to develop the estate-village links. In several estates many projects like animal husbandry, construction of roads etc. had been started.

#### April 10

Cabinet Decisions: - Government will soon introduce precautionary measures to safeguard the interests of Sri Lanka pilgrims to India.

The implementation of the Rs. 175 M. ADB funded rural electrification scheme covering 2,000 rural schemes was approved.

The existing law regarding all corporations would be amended following a proposal made by Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa. This would enable all Corporations to enter into such activity other than those permitted under the existing laws.

The Commissioner of Internal Trade Mr. M. Ramalingam has decided to be tough with advertisers who do not state the retail selling prices of the articles they advertise in Newspapers.



April 11

Revised floor prices for selected subsidiary food crops have been announced by the Ministry of Agricultural Research and Development.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene who addressed a big public meeting at Welimada yesterday, said that about three days each week he, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and other Ministers went round the country to explain to the people the various development works Government was carrying out. When he came to Welimada, he saw a large number of building works that were being carried out there.

A draft convention between Sri Lanka and Pakistan for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion was signed yesterday at the Department of Inland Revenue.

April 12

District Minister will be directly responsible to the President under the proposed District Development Council Scheme to be set up before the end of the year.

A Government spokesman said yesterday the District Minister would be made the co-ordinator between the D.D.C. and the Central Government.

Mr. Rakkhita Wickremanayake said yesterday that Air Lanka had a very satisfactory flying record. As an example, he said that the Airlines' Boeing - 737 had for its record 600 departures so far with only one flight delay.

For the first time a Government Corporation embarked on a joint venture project in the Free Trade Zone, when the Ceylon Leather Products Corporation signed an agreement with Doosan Industrial Co. Ltd. and Tong Yang Rubber Enterprises Co. Ltd. of South Korea to manufacture canvas shoes for export.

April 15

Crime during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year was well contained this year as compared to last year, Mr. R. Sunderalingam, DIG (Crimes), said yesterday. Only seven homicides were reported to Police Head Quarters upto yesterday as against 22 previous year.

April 16

About 1500 volunteers from the Jaffna District will participate in Shramadana at the Maduru Oya Project in April and May. The first batch of 500 volunteers will be sent off at Jaffna by Mr. Nanda Mathew, Deputy Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development and Mr. U.B. Wijekoon, District Minister for Jaffna.

Strong Monetary and Credit controls are some of the measures being considered by Government to stem Sri Lanka's increasing rate of inflation, official sources said yesterday.

April 17

Mr. H.W. Jayewardene Q.C. President, Sri Lanka Institute of Human Rights, is one of the nine-member Commonwealth Working Party meeting this week in London to study a proposal for the establishment of a Commonwealth Human Rights Commission.

The policy of a market economy introduced in Sri Lanka in 1977 has led to a rapid increase in the establishment of private and public limited liability Companies, according to a spokesman for the Department of the Registrar of



companies. The number of private limited liability companies registered with the Department last year was 768 and in the first three months of this year registrations totalled 245. This brings the total number of Sri Lanka Private limited liability Companies to 6,475. The Ministry of Finance and Planning has approved the application of Habib Bank A.G. Zurich to open a branch office in Sri Lanka, according to official sources.

Since the present Government assumed office in 1977 ten foreign banks have been granted approval to establish branch offices in Sri Lanka. Of these, five are already in operation. These are Indo-Suez, Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Citibank, American Express and the Bank of Oman. The others approved and yet to begin operation are; Overseas Trust Bank, Hong Kong, ABN Bank, Netherlands, Europe-Asia Bank, Bank of America and Habib Bank A.G. Zurich.

#### April 18

Yesterday's Government Decisions. - The price of L.P. Gas has been slashed from Rs. 68 a cylinder to Rs. 34, the old price.

Participation of Sri Lanka in the Moscow Olympic Games to be determined by the National Olympic Committee.

The Petroleum Corporation will provide concessions to foreign countries willing to explore facilities for oil in Sri Lanka.

Identity cards to cost Rs. 3/-.

Discussed the problem of Chena cultivation and the confusion caused by the order to stop chena cultivation owing to widespread damage to forest lands. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher received Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa of Sri Lanka yesterday morning at her official residence No. 10, Downing Street. The British Prime Minister thanked Mr. Premadasa for the invitation and indicated that it was likely she could visit Sri Lanka in September or October next year.

The Hotels Corporation is planning to use 500 rooms in private homes close to the City to meet the rush for tourist accommodation. This scheme is being worked out by the Corporation in consultation with the Tourist Board on instructions of the Minister of State Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis, a spokesman for the Hotels Corporation said yesterday.

#### April 19

The Minister of State yesterday issued a statement correcting an announcement on Thursday decided to slash the price of L.P. Gas from Rs. 68 a Cylinder to Rs. 34 a Cylinder with immediate effect.

The workers' place as the corner-stone of national development was emphasised by Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning yesterday.

#### April 21

Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa handed over at noon today (April 18) to Mr. Robert Mugabe Prime Minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe a message from His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka referring to Zimbabwe's magnificent victory in the long struggle to overcome colonialism and racialism. The main work of the International year of the Child (IYC) Secretariat, for 1980 will be projects for the welfare of children up to the years of age.

'If we find that children in a particular village are afflicted with bowel disease, we would first examine the sources of water supply' IYC Secretariat's Executive Secretary Mrs. Malsiri Dias said yesterday.



April 22

The Central Bank raised the Bank rate by 2% yesterday to 12% per annum. Simultaneously, interest rates at which the Central Bank accommodates Commercial banks above was raised by 5%.

At a Seminar last afternoon at the Ceylon Tea Centre organised by the UNP (U.K. and European) branch on the subject of 'Communal Harmony - the Gateway to our country's Future, Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa referred to the steps that the Government has been taking since assuming office in 1977 to bring about a state of communal harmony in Sri Lanka.

The Department of Agriculture is now expecting the cultivation of maisoor dhal, an essential subsidiary food stuff now imported from India and certain Middle East Countries. Self-sufficiency in this commodity, would help the country to save Rs. 200 M. annually, said a spokesman. As sole distributor of maisoor dhal, the C.W.E. now handles about 25,000 tons of the commodity a year.

The UNP - sponsored union brought to the notice of the Working Committee yesterday that a press report stated that <sup>no</sup> placards, posters or slogans would be allowed on May Day.

The President informed them that this applied only to the UNP - sponsored trade union participants because they were all expected to walk singly from homes or any point of Colombo Municipal area to Galle Face.

April 23

Exporters and Private Sector individuals and firms involved in development ventures are perturbed over the Central Bank of Ceylons' increased rates of interest announced yesterday.

State Minister Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis said yesterday there was thinking in Government circles that an administrative structure should be set up on the lines of the old British Civil Service which existed in the Island.

Sri Lanka Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa met Mr. M. Fowler, Minister of Transport, <sup>London</sup> regarding the possibility of increased co-operation between the two Governments on highways development.

April 24

Cabinet Decisions: - A new Institute by the name of Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Authority will be set up to function under President Mr. Jayewardene.

Government also decided to take up the Hydro-Cracker Project because of its economic values and because of the losses expected from the Urea Project, which the previous government launched.

Approved the submission of a supplementary estimate by the Ministry of State for Rs. 225 M. for the National Television Project.

Approved the setting up of a Public Limited liability Company for the processing of dried Soya Milk Powder.

Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development said yesterday that the Government admired Lenin, the Soviet Leader who had made his contribution to changing the course of the history of the world for the better.

Middle Management played an important role in the structure of administration and the reports and memoranda they submitted were the basis on which high-level decisions which affected the public were made - Plan Implementation Secretary, Dr. Wickrema Weerasinghe told 18 newly-appointed Deputy Directors of the Ministry yesterday.



April 25

Acting Minister of Finance and Planning Mr. M.H.M. Naina Marikkar yesterday told a 32 - Member Singapore Trade and Investment Mission that the results of the sweeping economic reforms carried out following the election victory of the Government far exceeded expectations.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene and representatives of the leading political parties paid glowing tributes to V.I. Lenin, 'the founding father of the Soviet Union' at a commemorative meeting to mark his 110th birth anniversary held at the Ramakrishna Hall, Wellawatte under the auspices of Sri Lanka - Soviet Union Friendship League.

April 26

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene addressing the annual conference of the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya branches in the CTB yesterday at the Ramakrishna Hall said that he addressed a meeting on Thursday at the same venue.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said he referred to Soviet history as it had a trade union beginning under Lenin. There was corruption in the trade union's administration of workplaces even under Lenin. Even today there was corruption in administration in all countries - in America, in England, in Australia, in Holland, in India. The Government wished to give the workers the right to elect their own Corporation Boards. But the Government needed to study this carefully, and needed advice on this.

April 28

A Ministry of Plan Implementation study team which went into the problems of the tea small holders has recommended a number of measures that should be taken to make tea small-holdings viable.

Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa who opened the Jayodagama Model Village in the Beliatta Electorate on Saturday said that the Government's endeavour was to provide all opportunities for people to live happy and prosperous lives through self-reliance.

April 29

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene addressed the second meeting yesterday when he inaugurated work on the Deegavapi main tank. He said one of the problems the Government faced today was to meet the needs of the growing population which is now stood at 14 M.

For one thing, the Government had decided how to cut short the time taken for development work. For instance it had arranged to cut the original plan for Mahaweli Scheme from 30 to 6 years.

In Colombo the Government had started work on the G.C.E.C. and the F.T.Z. The F.T.Z. already generated about 20,000 jobs. Because Colombo was getting overcrowded the Government had started work on the Jayewardenepura project. It had also decided to build a new Parliament House there, because the present Parliament was built to accommodate 50 M.P.'s though it accommodated 168 M.P.'s today.

Chairman, Ports Authority, <sup>Mr.</sup>Wimal Amarasekera has ordered a crash programme to repair all lighter craft to help clear the queue of ships at the Colombo Port.



April 30

Following hard bargaining talks in Washington last week Mr. Athulathmudali has successfully negotiated to keep Sri Lanka's garment exports outside the quota system except for seven items with the proviso to have the agreement reviewed at the end of one year.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene told a massive gathering on the Bank of the Mahavapi tanks on Monday that it was in August 1948 that he visited Amparai, along with the late Mr. D.S. Senanayake, Prime Minister and Mr. Dudley Senanayake then Minister of Agriculture.

Amparai was a thick jungle then but it was now a thriving town.



MAY 1980

May 1

"I am happy that an occasion has arisen to send a message of good wishes and felicitation to the working people of this country on May Day - a day dedicated to show gratitude to working people" - says President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene in his May Day message.

Police expect thousands of people to flock to Colombo to participate in May Day rallies but they are confident that it will be a peaceful May Day.

May 2

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, who presided at the UNP May Day rally at the Galle Face yesterday, said the UNP was celebrating the day as a political party which supported the farmers and the workers of the country. President Mr. Jayewardene said the three trade unions of the UNP - the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya, the National Trade Union Federation and the Lanka Jathika Estate Workers Union who were present that day represented around 750,000 workers.

P.M., Mr. R. Premadasa said that when they were observing world workers' day, they had also to think of the welfare of the workers of the country. The people were now following the leadership of President Mr. Jayewardene because they had accepted his policies. The UNP did not differentiate between the citizens of the country and any citizen of the country was free to join the party.

May 3

Yesterday's Government Decisions:

1. Government yesterday decided to give teaching appointments to Science under-graduates to ease the serious shortage of Science and Mathematics teachers in schools.
2. Approved a new joint tourist venture to be entered into by the Ministry of Trade with Robinson Club Hotels of West Germany. This will be a 300 bed holiday club type hotel on a 15 acre stretch of land at Bentota. The total cost is estimated at Rs. 90 M.
3. Approved the setting up of special staff to deal with the malpractices of 290 Co-operative Societies during the period 1970 - 1977.
4. Approved the engaging of film directors on a contract basis to produce documentary and training films for the Government Film Unit.

Sri Lanka economy recorded a growth rate of 6.2% last year, a rate unsurpassed in the last decade except in 1978, the Central Bank said in its report yesterday.

Capital formation rose by 25%, reflecting higher investments in public and private sectors.

Consumption too rose by 12%.

Domestic savings indicated a slight downward trend but when account is taken of a higher build up of investors, the savings ratio could have remained at about the previous year's level the report said.



May 5

A Swede, now domiciled in Sri Lanka, has taken the traditional fishing boat, the 'theppan' out of the doldrums in which it has been rocking for the past many centuries, with his new concept, the fibre-glass theppan.

Two Sri Lankan fishermen Cyril Hendavitharana (21) and Sunil Abambarage (24) who were rescued by Indonesian fishermen on Friday off the coast of Sumatra after their boat had drifted on the high seas for 109 days arrived in the Island yesterday morning on a Indonesian Airline 'Garuda' flight.

May 6

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene yesterday expressed profound sorrow at the death of Yugoslav President, Mr. Marshal Tito and said that with his death the Third World had lost one of its most distinguished elder statesman, whose wisdom and experience had been of invaluable guidance to members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the rest of the International Community.

May 7

300 motor-cycles are on an average being registered every day at the Registrar of Motor Vehicles in Colombo and in the seven kachcheries, a spokesman for the RMV said yesterday. At the end of April this year the total number of motor-cycles registered was 59,087, an increase of 35,772 between 1977 and the first four months of 1980. At the end of 1976, the total number of motor cycles was only 23,315. This figure comprised motor-cycles registered since the early 1950's, the spokesman said.

Plan to better women's living conditions. - The Women's Bureau has launched a program of income generating activities for women on a district basis to improve their living conditions.

May 8

In order to ensure that every Co-operative Society buys its quota of maisoor dhal for issue to customers during Vesak, the C.W.E. has offered a special credit line of 50% of the allocation of maisoor dhal to all Co-operative Societies in the country.

UNP captures Anamaduwa: - The UNP captured Anamaduwa, the rural stronghold of Mrs. Bandaranaike's Freedom Party at the Parliamentary by-election - with a comfortable majority yesterday. Mr. Gamini Dissanayake and several other UNP leaders said yesterday that the UNP's victory at the Freedom Party's stronghold on Wednesday was a clear endorsement by the people of the Party's political and development programs.

The President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene addressing the Government Parliamentary Group Meeting yesterday thanked the Ministers, Deputy Ministers, District Ministers and M.P.'s who worked selflessly to secure a UNP victory at the Anamaduwa by-election.

The new M.P. Mr. Asoka Wadigamangawa was greeted with applause by M.P.'s as he walked into the Group Meeting. Mr. Wadigamangawa greeted President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa by offering a sheaf of betel.

May 10

The National Savings Bank Employers who have been working to rule for about two months to press a demand for bigger pay packets, agreed to call off their campaign after a meeting with Finance and Planning Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel.



The Minister of Local Government, Housing and Construction has begun a large-scale-Slum and Shanty up-grading programme in six urban outstation areas in conjunction with the respective Municipalities.

The areas selected for this project are Kandy, Galle, Jaffna, Trinco, Nuwara Eliya and Dehiwela-Mount-Lavinia. Work has already commenced in most of these areas.

Sri Lanka's President today paid tributes to an Internationally acclaimed political leader, a doughty and unrelenting fighter, Yugoslavia's Josif Borz Tito who was buried yesterday in his beloved Belgrade.

#### May 12

The Government this week launches a top priority programme for training young people, whose participation is urgently needed in the country's development programme during the next few years.

This follows acceptance by Minister of Youth Affairs and Employment Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe of the recommendation of the Corson Report on the development of needed human resources.

The French Navy has opened a Letter of Credit for 350,000 Dollars with Colombo Dockyard Ltd., for the repair and servicing of the Indian Ocean based ships.

#### May 13

The Ceylon/UK Eire and Continental Conference yesterday announced a further 15% increase in freight rates on all exports to Conference destinations from Sri Lanka Ports with effect from July 1, 1980.

Finance and Planning Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel said yesterday the Government had utilised the overwhelming mandate given to it by the people to introduce certain Constitutional changes and far-reaching changes in economic policy to maintain economic stability and growth in the country. The changes have already helped to transform a stagnant economy to one pulsating with life and vigour.

Bangladesh has proposed a Summit Meeting of six South-Asian Countries, including Sri Lanka, to discuss ways of promoting co-operation among them, informed sources said yesterday. This proposal was made by Bangladesh President, Mr. Zianur Rahaman in a special message sent to President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene last week.

Finance Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel said yesterday that the Government's intention was to make Sri Lanka a Centre for a fully fledged Off-shore banking services and an International Financial Centre.

The oppressive heat now prevailing throughout the Island is likely to persist for another week or two until the South-West monsoon breaks, the Meteorological Department said yesterday.

#### May 15

Yesterday's Cabinet Decisions: - The Government yesterday decided to pass legislation to restrict the purchase of land by foreigners. Under the present Finance Act No. 11 of 1963 foreigners can buy land although they have to pay 100% tax. With the great demand for land in Sri Lanka by Western countries even this high tax is not much of a handicap for them.

Approved a request from Prime Minister to present a Supplementary Estimate for Rs. 545 M. for building construction by the National Housing Authority.



Approved the signing of agreements for a new broadcasting relay station with the Voice of America and Deutsch Wille of the Federal Republic of Germany subject to certain requirements of the Ministry of Finance and Planning and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said yesterday that there had been continually in Sri Lanka's foreign policy under successive Governments since Independence. The occasion was the Convocation Ceremony of the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies at BMICH.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene genuinely felt that most of the grievances of the minorities would disappear if the districts were developed. That was why he decided to set up District Development Councils. This was stated by A.C.M. Ameer, former Attorney-General and Vice-President of the Presidential Commission on Devolution of power.

May 16

A team of foreign experts now in Sri Lanka has told the Government that the Kotmale Reservoir Project is technically and economically feasible and has advised that construction of the project be continued.

An agreement for the establishment of a \$ 7 M (US) project to manufacture rubber canvas footwear at the Katunayake IPZ was signed yesterday between the G.C.E.C. and Asia Ltd., a Sri Lanka and foreign joint venture, an official spokesman said.

Finance and Planning Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel said yesterday the two State Banks would be compelled to improve their standards of efficiency and services as a result of foreign banks opening branch offices in Sri Lanka. He said he was glad to welcome the Overseas Trust Bank to Colombo since it was the first Chinese owned and managed bank to come to Sri Lanka.

May 17

Government has decided to introduce legislation to control the hire purchase business. Minister of Trade and Shipping Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali has requested the Law Commission to draft a New Hire Purchase Bill for the purpose.

May 19

By January 1982 the Urban Development Authority's 70 M. rupee showpiece market complex in the heart of the Pettah, will stand as a monument to the national gains from accelerated development.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene told a massive public meeting at Bingiriya on Saturday that the greatest educational revolution his Government had set in motion was to provide equal opportunities in education - from the Kindergarten to the University - to every boy and girl in the country.

The consumption of imported rice in the country has taken a downward trend since last year. Food Department sources said yesterday that the average monthly draw of imported rice had dropped from 20,000 tons to 800 tons.

May 20

The strike by minor employees at the Children Hospital (Lady Ridgeway) Borella, the De Zoysa Maternity Hospital and the Colombo, Eye Hospital was called off yesterday after the Government's ultimatum to them that they would be missed if they do not report for work by today.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday officially announced the appointment of three career diplomats as Ambassadors to China, Japan and West Germany.



Mr. C. Mahendran, Director of the Publicity and Administrative Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Ambassador to China.

Mr. W. Susantha Leslie de Alwis, Director, Economic Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Ambassador to Japan.

Miss. Lakshmi Naganathan has been appointed Ambassador to West Germany.

Addressing the Olcott Commemoration Meeting the President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene said 'These are moments in the history of nation which change the course of its history. The visit to Sri Lanka in the 3rd Century B.C. Arahata Mahinda and his preaching was one such moment.

In the 1870's the Christian preachers had predicted that Buddhism would not last two more years. This was the situation when Col. Henry Steele Olcott, an American, arrived in Galle on the 17th of May, 1880.

#### May 21

A New Ministry called the Ministry of Transport Boards was created yesterday for the convenience of efficient management and to give a better transport service to the public, a Ministry spokesman said.

With effect from today there will be two hour all-island power cuts from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and from 12 noon to 2 p.m. - the Ministry of Power and Energy announced yesterday.

#### May 22

Yesterday's Cabinet Decisions: - On a recommendation by President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, Government yesterday decided to delegate authority for the transfers of Police Officers.

On a recommendation from President Mr. Jayewardene Government also decided that Sri Lanka should sign the International Covenants of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights of UNO.

Government approved the creation of an Act called the Mahanuwara Esala Perahera Trust Fund.

Government will import 500,000 cu.ft. of timber from abroad through the State.

The Prime Minister recommended and Government decided that the Sarvodaya Movement in Sri Lanka be involved actively in construction work at rural level.

A BTT of 35% will be charged by the Ministry of Finance on all manufacturers of beedi including the Beedi Corporation.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene addressing the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya branch representatives, at Siri Kotha yesterday, said that some Opposition political parties and trade unions affiliated to them were planning to launch a new campaign against the Government next month. Some sections of the Press had carried news about it. It had been said that the move would take the form of picketing and protest rallies.

#### May 23

Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Minister Mr. Gamini Dissanayake announced yesterday the appointment of District Co-ordinating Officers with wide powers to co-ordinate the development efforts of his Ministry at District Level.



Trade Minister and M.P. for Ratmalana Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali is not in favour of the Dehiwela-Mt.Lavinia M.C. carrying out road repair work. The Minister believes private contractors can do that type of work more effectively and with greater supervision.

#### May 24

Dr. F. Schlutor, leader of the visiting eight-member German Investment Mission, said yesterday that the conditions for German Investment in Sri Lanka were relatively good when compared with other countries in the region.

The road to Bandung began in Colombo, Foreign Minister Mr. A.C.S. Hameed, told a Meeting held at the BMICH yesterday to mark the 35th anniversary of the historic Bandung Conference.

#### May 26

Sri Lanka's effort to spread the Buddhist doctrine throughout the world was further strengthened on Saturday with the opening of the spacious new premises of the London Buddhist Vihara by the President of the Mahabodi Society and Minister of Health Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya.

The new requirements for admission to G.C.E. (A/L) classes for 1980 will not apply to private schools, the Education Ministry has said.

The people of this country were not for the reintroduction of controls and rationing in any form. That was the lesson the Government learnt when it tried to resort to rationing of sugar two weeks ago, Trade and Shipping Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali said.

#### May 27

A portion of the three-storeyed, century old Gaffoor Building, one of the important landmarks in the city collapsed early yesterday morning wrecking the government departments, four branches of the Insurance Corporation and two leading private firms.

A body for the monitoring of garment export from Sri Lanka is to be set up today. Representatives of the GCEC, the Textile Industries, Ministry and the Department of Commerce will constitute the Board.

Government yesterday decided that 30% of the shares of the proposed Rs. 500 M. Hotel to be set up at Galle Face by the Taj Group should be offered to the public.

The water levels at Laxapana reservoirs were yet decreasing, the Ceylon Electricity Board said yesterday. However, since the current period was the flush season for the Tea Industry in the up-country areas, the Board had decided to continue with the present schedule of power cuts, irrespective of whether there would be any signs of development of monsoon conditions in the next two weeks.

#### May 28

The Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya has decided to conduct campaigns in support of the Government at work place on June 5 if Opposition Trade Unions resort to picketing as part of their 'protest campaign' against the Government on this day.

The US Embassy in Colombo yesterday sent a urgent cable to the US Military Commander-in-Chief in the Pacific, at Honolulu, asking whether he could help Sri Lanka with a generator to overcome the current power crisis.



The Government had decided to open up more opportunities for professional diplomats (Members of the Overseas Services) to head our Mission abroad.

This contrasts sharply with the policy of previous government which gave the advantage to political appointees over trained diplomats.

#### May 29

Government yesterday decided to increase the retail price of a tin of Perakum Condensed Milk to Rs. 6.25 from Rs. 4.35. The Wholesale price of a tin will be Rs. 5.75.

Cabinet yesterday approved a proposal by Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa, who is also Minister of Local Government, Housing and Construction that action should be taken to meter the domestic consumption of water. Water supplied to private <sup>and</sup> public institutions will also be metered.

The Indian High Commission has arranged for two Sri Lankan Engineers to fly to India to examine certain generators Sri Lanka has asked for to tide over the present power crisis in the Island.

#### May 31

Foreign Minister Mr. A.C.S. Hameed signed the instrument of Association of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in respect of the International Covenant on Civil and Cultural Rights on Thursday (Vesak Day) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. J.K.L. Phillips G.M., CEB said all State Industries except the State Flour Milling Corporation and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation would be temporarily closed till the power situation eases. He said this was being done to conserve power.

The upward trend in the generation of employment evident since the latter half of 1977 was maintained in the second half of 1979. This is shown in a survey of Employment in the Private Sector for July - December 1979.

The Survey was undertaken by the Ministry of Plan Implementation on a directive given by Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria the Ministry's Secretary.



JUNE 1980

June 3

Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa has directed that the proceeds from the lottery "Gam Udawa '80" to be credited to the Sevana Fund to build the houses for needy people.

June 4

The Government has approved the entering into a loan agreement with I.D.A. providing for a credit of 60 Mm US Dollars for a water supply and sewerage project and for a reclamation project.

June 5

The President has sanctioned a price increase for sugar cane on the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture Development and Research.

June 6

The Lands and Land Development Ministry has decided to develop Inland Fisheries in all major irrigation systems in the country.

Trade and Shipping Minister opened the first Sri Lanka Investment and Trade Office in Copenhagen designed to generate investment in Sri Lanka from Scandinavia and increase Sri Lanka exports to that country.

June 7

The first joint Consultative Council of Employees and Employers in the FTZ was set up recently by IMK Browns (Ceylon) Ltd., at their factory.

June 9

A 28 members private sector delegation from Sri Lanka interested in investments joint ventures and trade with Japan and Six Government representatives will meet with Japanese Entrepreneurs and businessmen in Tokyo. A nine member Parliamentary delegation from the Netherlands arrived here yesterday for discussions with the Sri Lanka authorities on aid provided by the Netherlands.

Minister, Rural Industrial Development has approved the setting up of Rs. 5 Mm Company in FTZ for the handicrafting of silverware.

June 10

A mission from the UNIDO in Co-operation with "Techorent Asia" has arrived in Sri Lanka to promote services of its industrial and Technological Information Bank in Sri Lanka.

The Department of Census and Statistics has begun survey of the Labour Force and Manpower in Sri Lanka to assess skills, training, unemployment under-employment and other details according to the Director of Census and Statistics.

June 12

The Government approved a proposal by President to implement a basic needs project for Vavuniya with the help of the Government of F.R.G. Sunday ban on private cars has been taken off.



June 14

Japan gave Sri Lanka two grants totalling Rs. 164.68 Mm for the television broadcasting network and a factory to produce note-books for school children, agreement was signed in the Ministry of Finance.

June 16

Joint investments with foreign collaborations are pushing up to Rs. 300 M. Mark according to the official of the Foreign Investment Advisory Committee. It is remarkable that foreign investments has increased rapidly during the short span of this year with joint venture contracts amounting to Rs. 150 M. being entered into projects approved from January to May this year.

Special arrangements have been made to mark the second anniversary of the village awakening movement of Prime Minister. The celebration will cover 11 days commencing on June 23rd. Essay competitions and exhibitions will be the highlights of the celebration.

The amended Draft Companies Law Bill now getting into hard cover at the legal Draftsman's Department to be presented in Parliament next month, emphatically seeks to compel private companies to file accounts with the Registrar of Companies.

June 17

Employees of the Insurance Corporation will soon become shareholders of the business which is the biggest insurance any institution would have against failure, said the Trade and Shipping Minister at the opening of the 12th branch of the Corporation at Anuradhapura on Sunday.

Private foreign investment in Sri Lanka with collaboration from the Federal Republic of Germany has totalled Rs. 115.2 M. for the first five months of this year. The investment represents 8 projects outside the FTZ.

Students of the Ruhunu Medical Faculty will be able to do their Para-Medical studies at the Galle hospital by October 1st.

June 18

A bilateral trade pact providing for a stepped up trade turnover between Sri Lanka and the Republic of Maldives was signed yesterday.

The Government of Denmark has informed the Government of Sri Lanka that it has accepted the invitation extended by Sri Lanka Finance Minister to the Denmark Government to become a member of the Sri Lanka Aid Group.

Two Thai experts will arrive here today to help Sri Lanka induce rain over the reservoir areas by the techniques of Cloud Seeding.

June 19

The series of Sri Lankans employed abroad in specialised fields are to be obtained by the Government on short term basis under a scheme named as "Transfer of know-how through expatriate Nationals" proposed by the Ministry of Plan Implementation. It is expected to get assistance of the UNDP for the implementation of the scheme.

Government yesterday approved a proposal to separate the Department of Posts and Telecommunication into two different departments in an attempt to provide better service to the public.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene inaugurates the open University of Sri Lanka at 3.30 p.m. today at the P.M.C.H.



The GCEC will sign its 50th agreement today to establish a factory to manufacture high fashion jewellery for export.

### June 20

The Ministry of Plan Implementation has estimated that the demand for English Stenographers and Typists in the next three years will be around 14,000. The Ministry further says the new economic policy of the Government has accelerated the expansion of the private sector in National and Non-national investment areas. That in turn has created a demand for a certain category of workers such as Secretaries, Stenographers and Typists which can handle work in the English Language.

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene and Mrs. J.R. Jayewardene will be the Chief Guests at the Presidential Awards Ceremony of the State Film Corporation at the BMICH today.

The CPC yesterday announced increases in the prices of petrol, kerosene, diesel and other petroleum products with effect from today.

### June 21

Operation cloud-seeding gets underway at 9 a.m. today on the Government's decision to seed the clouds over the catchment areas follows the long drought experienced by the country.

The GCEC will take promotional activities to Britain and West Germany, where it will hold investment seminars shortly.

P.M. Mr. R. Premadasa will today open five model villages in Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim areas in the Amparai District under the "Gam Udawa '80" programme, to mark the second anniversary of the village reawakening movement.

### June 23

A heavy rain has been falling in the hill country catchment areas of the hydro power reservoirs by cloud seeding technique adopted by the experts.

Sri Lanka will provide a certain degree of protection to import substituting industries provided they benefitted the country and Sri Lankan consumers, said the Trade Minister for a private sector delegation which leaves for Japan at the end of this month.

### June 24

President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene speaking after opening the "Gam Udawa '80" Exhibition at Amparai yesterday told the massive gathering that the UNP had promised during the election campaign to work towards the realization of the Free and Just Society, now laying the foundation of that just free society.

A new way of life had dawned in 56 villages spread throughout the country as a result of the village reawakening movement inaugurated two years ago said Prime Minister at the second anniversary celebration of the village awakening movement held at Amparai yesterday.

Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria, Secretary to the Ministry of Plan Implementation said that most administrators in the country were frightened to take decisions, may be due to that their decisions being changed at a higher level for some reason or the other, but the inability to take decisions was worse" when speaking on Administrators and Managers in the context of today's National Development at the annual general meeting of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators held at Hotel Taprobane last Friday.



June 25

A new computerised international telephone exchange which will enable direct dialling from Sri Lanka to 20 countries will be opened by Posts and Telecommunication Minister, Mr. D.B. Wijetunga on Saturday.

The Ven. Piyadassi of the Vajiraramaya left the country on Tuesday on his eighth Worldwide Buddhist mission. The Thera will deliver lectures on Buddhism and Buddhist meditation in Switzerland.

The Government has entered into an agreement with the firm Nestles of Switzerland for a dairy development project in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's first private Medical College to be set up by the College of the General Practitioners will be sited at Talagolla, Ragama, Colombo North. Ragama Hospital will be the teaching hospital for the college.

Government yesterday decided to provide immediate relief to exporters of packeted tea and tea bags in the form of reduction in export duty.

Britain's Minister of State for Trade told a G.C.E.C. Seminar in London on Tuesday that he believes Sri Lanka offered an excellent opportunity for investment and that many Britains would invest in Sri Lanka.

June 27

An agreement was signed with the United States<sup>of</sup>/America yesterday for a loan of US \$ 10 M to finalise the design construction and supervision of the main canal and its branches in System B of the Mahaweli Development Scheme.

A re-afforestation Project of Mahaweli Water catchments and degraded chena lands is to be undertaken by the Ministry of Lands and Land Development shortly.

June 28

The first phase of the 300 mile long Mahaweli Railway costing Rs. 1,274 M. would be operative early next year according to the Mahaweli Authority sources.

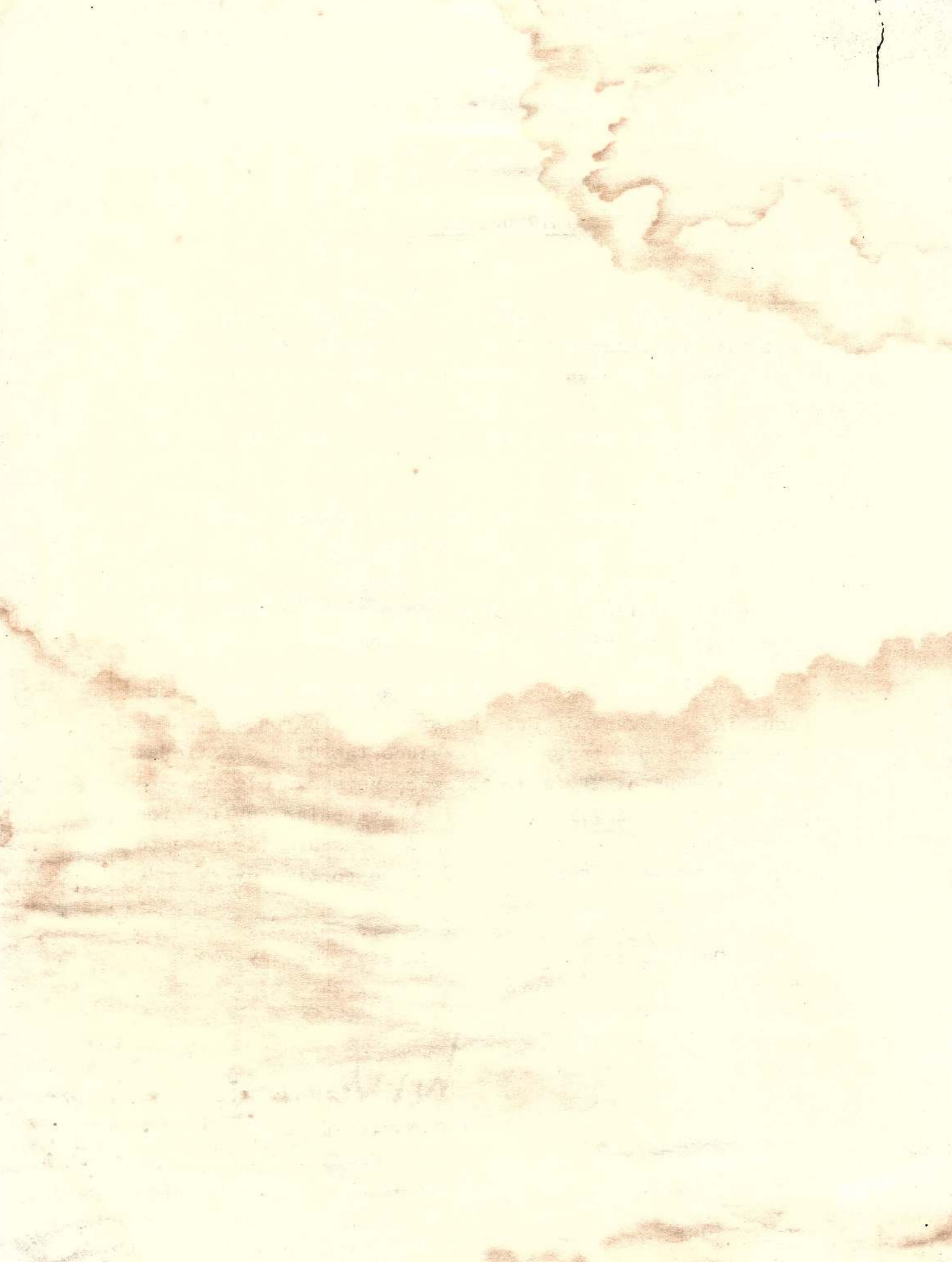
Agreements will be signed within the next few days between the State Gem Corporation and eight foreign mining companies for large scale mechanised mining for gems in the Accelerated Mahaweli Project area.

More Sri Lankans are now resorting to sterilization as a method of family planning, according to the Ministry of Plan Implementation spokesman. From January this year the Government introduced financial and leave incentives for the employees in the public and private sector and unemployed married persons who undergo sterilization. An incentive payment scheme is also in operation for doctors and supporting medical staff who perform sterilizations.

The Trade and Shipping Ministry's cost of Living Committee will involve a new scheme to ensure better distribution of kerosene in collaboration with the CPC and Co-operative Societies. Official sources said yesterday.

Government has decided to give telephones on a top priority basis to those contributing towards National Development in a big way.











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