

MOHAN DAS — whose man in Madras ?

— S. H. Venkataramani

**LANKA**

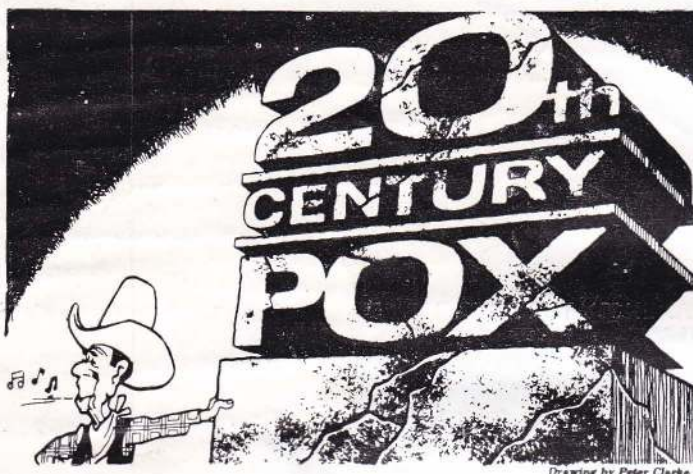
# **GUARDIAN**

Vol. 9 No. 19

February 1, 1987

Price Rs. 4.00

Registered at the GPO, Sri Lanka QJ/72/N/86



*Drawing by Peter Clarke*

## **Govt to launch AIDS awareness programme**

By Chandani Wickremasinghe

Government will shortly launch an island-wide AIDS awareness programme in a bid to help people avoid contracting the disease.

of the country. Already the Anti-VD Campaign has started its office in parts of the country. Information on AIDS is available on request.

## **AIDS**

**Are we aware ?**

— *Larry Gostin*

## **Indo-Sri Lankan Relations — tensions mount**

— *Mervyn de Silva*

## **AGRICULTURE: what price research ?**

— *S. N. de. S. Seneviratne*

**The Nicaragua I saw** — *Graham Greene*

**Freedom Day verses** — *Radhika Coomaraswamy*

**The State vs. Pulsara plus Twenty Two**

**Also:** A voice from Iran

I.O.M.A.C. and I.O.P.Z. **and**

'Economist' on our stability rating



# A NEW CONCEPT IN FINANCING. LEASE PURCHASE.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF

LEASING  
WITH OUTRIGHT  
OWNERSHIP?

If you do, that is just what we are  
offering you through our new funding option  
LEASE PURCHASE

For details contact :- MARKETING DIVISION 28261

MERCANTILE  
CREDIT  
LIMITED

55, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 1.



MASTERS



## MORE LAND, MORE HOUSES

The government will soon amend the United Front's laws on land and houses which severely restricted private ownership. The announcement was made by President J. R. himself when he addressed a recent seminar on "Privatisation for Development".

The U. F., said President J. R., had nationalised land as part of its "socialist" program to take control of the "commanding heights" of the economy. As a result, the previous government had imposed a 50-acre ceiling on land, with husband and wife considered a single family unit.

Unless one lived in the estate and ran it oneself, it was no longer possible, he argued, for a coconut estate owner to expect reasonable profit margin. This was generally true of tea and rubber as well, since prices had dropped. The government therefore would change the law to allow a man to own 160 acres, and his wife have the same right. This would mean 200 acres.

The U. F. had also imposed strict limits on ownership of housing. All these restrictions would be removed and any Sri Lankan could own any number of houses. This he hoped, would encourage private house-builders. The State alone could not build houses to meet the needs of the island's growing population. Tenants would be protected.

## PRIVATISATION

On privatisation itself, different schools of thought contend, within the U. N. P. and its patrons.

State ownership will dominate the plantations sector, said President J. R. In short, the two Corporations, J. C. D. B. and S. P. C., will continue to be the biggest land owners in the country. But the increase in the acreage allowed for each family unit is bound to bring tea, rubber and coconut estates under wider private ownership.

Privatisation remains a top priority policy thrust of the U. S.

aid program, says its Director, Mr. Robert Chase. In its own investment program, privatisation is a high priority. It is known that Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel has been pressured on this point each time he has had talks with President Reagan's senior officials, including his Treasury boss and economic advisers. The Sri Lankan Aid Group, the U. S. in particular, and the I.B.R.D. I. M. F. are not satisfied at the pace of privatisation.

Handing over loss-making state institutions to the private sector would not only improve management but end the State's monopolistic position, thus encouraging healthy competition. Mr. Chase told the SUN. Besides, the private sector is more responsive to rapid technology changes. USAID is now preparing studies which identify areas for privatisation, and recommendations would be made to the government. Up to 1986, Sri Lanka was the highest per capita recipient of US aid in South Asia.

Mr. de Mel agrees that liberalisation and de-regulation is so strong a worldwide trend that even the Communist countries have introduced experimental innovations, with private ownership encouraged in selected areas.

Yet, the Minister cautions against "privatisation" conceived

(Continued on page 11)

## TRENDS + LETTERS

### Nadesan, G. C.

Living in beleaguered Jaffna I heard quite late of the passing away of S. Nadesan. I felt as if a big support I was leaning on had suddenly been removed.

Nadesan has been tall among small men, strutting about, dressed in a little brief authority. His name has been associated with the struggle in Sri Lanka to right wrongs. His masterly pleadings in the law courts and elsewhere are well known.

Recently when in Colombo I went to see him, I wanted to interest him in an attempt to get prominent Tamils in Colombo to get together and do something about the "civil war" which was destroying the flower of Tamil youth in the East and North. He was out when I called and seated in his office I saw a man in baggy shorts walk in, taking him to be the gardener I took no notice till greeted cordially by Nadesan himself. We had a long chat and I got the impression that Nadesan was not

(Continued on page 11)

LANKA

## GUARDIAN

Vol. 9 No. 19 February 1, 1987

Price Rs. 4.00

Published fortnightly by  
Lanka Guardian Publishing Co. Ltd

No. 246, Union Place,  
COLOMBO - 2.

Editor: Mervyn de Silva  
Telephone: 547584

## CONTENTS

News Background	3
News From The Front	12
Press Briefs	15
Foreign News	17
Gorbachov's Russia — II	18
Poem	19
Sense and Stupidity About Aids	20
National Development Through Agriculture	21
Sport	24

Printed by Ananda Press,  
82/5, Wolfendhal Street, Colombo 13,  
Telephone: 35975





## **A unified and unique contribution through diversification**

The Browns Group of Companies cover almost every aspect of trade, industrial and agricultural development in Sri Lanka. With the accent on Group Progress through diversification and specialisation, each Member of Associate Company is equipped to provide services and goods of the highest standard. Yet the Group, as a whole, is based on a concept of unified service, which assures you of the overall benefits of its combined resources.

### **THE BROWNS GROUP OF COMPANIES**

481, Darley Road, Colombo 10. P. O. Box 200, Tel. 597111

AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, ENGINEERING, TRANSPORT,  
TOURISM, EXPORTS, TRADE.



# COLD WINDS OVER PALK STRAITS

NEWS  
BACKGROUND

Mervyn de Silva

The "Jaw-Jaw" train is back on the track, with Lands Minister Gamini Dissanayake in the driver's seat, but shows no signs of movement. Perhaps, High Commissioner Bernard Tillekeratne's call on Mr. Naswar Singh, the Minister of State for External Affairs and one of the Indian negotiating two-somes, may mean that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi will blow the whistle soon after he succeeds in defusing Indo-Pakistani tensions, his most immediate pre-occupation right now.

The trains to Jaffna have stopped but many local political observers and informed diplomats think that the "War-War" trains, with National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali and LTTE Leader V. Prabhakaran personally commanding the engines of war, are on a steady collision-course. There is a difference of opinion though on whose inclinations are war-like. Both say they have taken a basically "defensive" position, highly suspicious of each other's real intentions.

Mr. Athulathmudali is sensitive about this role, indeed hypersensitive. He doesn't even like the terms "hardliner", "hawk" etc which are the currency of popular journalism. Yet he can't help it. The role and the accompanying terminology go with the portfolio. But more recently, the hypersensitivity has been sharpened by the appositive role assigned to his Cabinet colleague, Lands Minister Dissanayake, who is now doing most of the talking and getting all the media coverage.

On the eve of India Day (Jan. 26) a series of events suddenly introduced new tensions into the Indo-Sri Lanka dialogue.

India refused to withdraw the 'mercenaries' charge after Acting Foreign Minister Tyrone Fernando had made the request when he summoned High Commissioner Mani Dixit. When Mr. Venkateswaran quit after Mr. Gandhi's highly controversial press conference, it did look as if Sri Lanka had drawn blood. But Venkateswaran was eased out for many other reasons, not all external issues, although his announcement of a visit to Islamabad by Prime Minister Gandhi evidently was one of the "blunders" he had made. Blunder it certainly wasn't when Indian Foreign Secretary made the announcement on his own visit to Pakistan. It became an embarrassment only when Indo-Pak tensions rose with mutual accusations of massing troops on the sensitive Punjab border. (In any case, G. K. Reddy's report on Washington's official reaction to the allegation of US mercenaries shows quite clearly that it was no diplomatic faux pas at all. Besides, India was prepared to present a list of names).

Then came President JR's characteristically lofty, patronising and cutting riposte to Rajiv Gandhi's press conference sniping at Colombo's "vacillating" government. This only revived unhappy memories of his earlier remarks on a 'dithering' regime that had no "guts". SAARC's senior citizen who described himself as a "follower of the Buddha" and a "Lover of India" flung a well-aimed 'quote' from the Buddha at the 'abusive' Kashmiri Brahmin in Delhi!

The next incident was a coincidence. It was no secret that India had decided to boycott the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Conference hosted by Sri Lanka. India had its reasons. What it chose to offer officially was

"Insufficient regional consultation". It is public knowledge however that India thinks that this conference is a planned diversionary move, an attempt at South Block spokesmen say to "side-track" the Indian Ocean Peace Zone conference, a far more important U.N. conference in the view of India, its supporters and friends in the nonaligned group, and the socialist countries, notably the Soviet Union. Almost all of them are convinced that Sri Lanka has been engaged in a foot-dragging exercise as Chairman of the Indian Ocean committee in the UN in order to please the U.S., whose steady militarisation of the Indian Ocean has deepened anti-US feeling in Delhi.

Advertised as a 'ministerial' conference, its level of participation and the degree of participation by Indian Ocean states hardly matched Sri Lankan hopes or claims.

On the same day (Jan 26) the local press published the customary message from the Indian High Commissioner. The draft, in accordance with protocol, was submitted to the Foreign Ministry. When it appeared in print, one para was missing!

It is this excised passage which makes a reply of Lands Minister Gamini Dissanayake to Hindu correspondent D.B.S. Jayaraj about "foreign policy" highly significant.

Equally important is what Indian External Affairs Minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari told Foreign Minister Hameed at the SAARC secretariat opening in Kathmandu (Jan 21). He asked Mr. Hameed to lift the fuel ban and release political prisoners to create conditions for the resumption of talks.



Will the Hill country become Malai Nadu?

# Tensions in plantation enclave

If you subscribe to the master-mind theory of politics then it all fits a neat pattern. The 'separatist terrorists' have infiltrated the thottam, big chief Thondaman's plantation parish, to open a 'third front'. There may be many, many historical and cultural differences which make any attempt at achieving a 'unity of the Tamil-speaking peoples' an extremely difficult exercise and yet, this is the most strategic terrain, economically, and most sensitive politically for its the island's heartland. It is in fact a green ghetto.

But the theory of 'unity' never really worked as Mr. Chelvanayakam the TULF leader discovered when Mr. Thondaman's CWC was a constituent member of the TULF and in fact its President. The 'stateless' or citizenship issue, distinctive cultural characteristics and geographical distance, kept the 'ghetto' out of the long reach of the and north-and-east based TULF. In fact, the TULF's attempt to establish trade unions in the plantation areas was effectively thwarted by Mr. Thondaman — as effectively as he eliminated every other challenger from the (Sinhala) ideological Left (the LSSP and CP) the Tamil Marxist (Shan's Maoists) and of course Mr. A. Aziz, the Muslim (Pakistani?) 'progressive'. Though the Left, the champion in its heyday of the plantation proletariat, put class before culture, that bond did not prove strong enough either. Mr. Thondaman reigned supreme even in the face of a new rival, the ruling U. N. P.'s trade union, led by Lands Minister Gamini Dissanayake.

However attacks on plantation labour under the UNP regime, in 1977, 1979 and 1981, have made Mr. Thondaman's job more trying for he is after all a Minister of the UNP government. He must protect his own people if he is to

protect his political base, both from communalists and the State's police.

When the ethnic conflict was suddenly intensified post-July 1983 and the ethnic factor became the **dominant** in national politics, Mr. Thondaman faced another challenge, a natural one — the plantation youth, exposed to radicalisation and militancy. With the government totally besieged on so many fronts in 1984 and 1985, Mr. Thondaman made a brilliant diversionary move — the mobilisation of the estate workers on the single issue that unites them, citizenship. After a prolonged struggle, he won that battle.

However he has not been able to completely insulate the estates from young Tamil militants from the north and east. Of the northern groups, the most active is EROS, which had a head start largely because of the family links that the founder of EROS, Mr. Ratnasabapathy, had with this area.

Nor could he control the tensions which intermittently erupted on the borders of the plantation enclave, especially, in these sensitive areas where there were strong concentrations of Sinhalese villagers near towns and townships economically dominated by Sinhalese traders from the South. Sinhala-Tamil clashes, often marked by arson, looting and killings, brought the police, and sometimes the army into these upcountry pockets of high tension. It also brought to the scene two powerful Sinhala politicians, the First and Second MP's for Nuwara Eliya, one the Lands Minister and UNP union boss, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, and the other the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Anura Bandaranaike.

The SLFP leader, Mrs. Bandaranaike has joined her son, Anura,

in identifying Mr. Thondaman, Mr. Dissanayake's Cabinet colleague, as the chief cause of the problem. "He is President JR's most powerful minister, and the plantations are his exclusive preserve" they both protest, adding that the police are powerless to maintain law and order. He is the King of the 'Thottam' and has been formally crowned by the UNP, they charge.

Deep-seated fears that the plantations may some day follow the north in demanding 'autonomy' have produced the nightmare of 'Malai Nadu', a fear that haunts not just the SLFP but the Kandyan people, including UNP supporters and its leadership. Hence the recent cry of the UNP District Minister for a separate Provincial Council "not ruled by Royalists and Thomians".

The recent burst of violence in the tea estates showed no signs of terrorist activity. The bomb blast in Badulla which killed 7 and injured 56, did. The police are working on two theories — EROS or JVP groups. Caught in the middle, so to day, Lands Minister Dissanayake took a more non-partisan detached view. He told parliament:

*"Will the Hill Country become a Malai Nadu? I would like to tell you that the winds of change have blown over the hill country, and the Tamil militants have infiltrated into the hills."*

*Gangs have tried to create trouble between the Tamils the Sinhalese, and the police. Some say that the militants have infiltrated both the CWC and our union. Some say the EROS organisation has penetrated very deeply into the unions. Some groups that have been eliminated by the LTTE in the North, are seeking refuge in the hill country and spreading the gospel of terrorism.*

(Continued on page 6)



# Iran's conditions for Gulf peace

**M**r. Ebrahim Rahimpur, Director-General, Political Affairs (Asia/Oceania) led the Iranian delegation to the I. O. M. A. C. ministerial meeting in Colombo last week. Some excerpts from an hour-long interview, with the editor of the *Lanka Guardian*.

**Q:** The battles now raging in the Iraq-Iran war are making the headlines daily. Could you sum up the situation?

**A:** In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful...

The war, as you well know, was started by SADDAM (Hussein, Iraqi President) not long after the Islamic revolution in our country. It was a combined attack by land, sea and air. On that same day SADDAM went on Iraqi TV and boasting about his offensive, said there was no need for Iran to have only one single government. There could be several. One of the provinces he said had an Arab majority, Khuzestan. SADDAM soon captured nearly three provinces, half the size of Sri Lanka. This success, however temporary, showed how carefully the attack had been planned, with the help of foreign powers and other countries. No doubt SADDAM calculated on conditions then prevailing in our country. After any revolution, problems arise. That's natural. But SADDAM forgot a simple truth. When a people have won a revolutionary victory and freed, as in our case, their country from a puppet ruler like the Shah, they will not lose the gains of such a victory. Sacrifice comes easily to the people. That was SADDAM's folly — in totally underestimating the revolutionary will of the Iranian people under the inspiration of their new leaders. The People fought bare handed, with any weapon that

they could get. There was excellent popular mobilisation. Morale was high, so were the sacrifices — cities, urban centres, factories, cultural centres ancient monuments economic targets. The human cost was enormous, the economic — social damage huge.

But where was international opinion? Where were the international bodies? Who condemned SADDAM, even when there were gross violations of international law, even chemical warfare? There was silence. But again, SADDAM miscalculated. The aggression and the brutality united our people, strengthened their will. The Iranian people had only their spirit, and their faith in God. Step by step, we fought back to recapture our land. And now we are on a counter-offensive, our troops only a few kilometres away from their second largest city, BASRA, following our attack on the strategic port of FAWA.

**Q:** But aren't the Iraqis, with their supremacy in the air, taking a heavy toll on your country too?

**A:** In terms of innocent civilian lives, yes. But we have shot down 60 Iraqi planes, and captured pilots too.

**Q:** What next? A Peace settlement?

**A:** We are for peace but only on certain conditions. First reparations; second punish the guilty; third, Iraqis in our land must return to Iraq.

**Q:** Isn't your main condition the resignation of SADDAM and an end to the BAATH party?

**A:** SADDAM can be toppled, he can escape to another country... whatever... As for the BAATH party... Is it really a party or a clique in power, mostly his own family members and persons linked closely to

him? If he is toppled and escapes, then IRAN will forego the right to reparations. A new government can be installed based on the support of the people and representing their true interests. It should be independent, free of foreign influence, and it should not be a threat to any country in the region.

**Q:** But after its military defeat and governmental collapse can it be a threat to anybody?

**A:** It could be a tool of others. That is why it should be independent of both blocs, and should have relations with all countries, without any dependence on any big power. The Islamic Republic of Iran will have friendly bilateral relations with any country, and multi-lateral relations can guarantee regional peace and security.

## ARMS DEAL

**Q:** The other matter that has thrust Iran into the news is the recent "crisis" in US over the "arms deal" with Iran. What have you to say on that?

**A:** After we overthrew its puppet, the Shah, the US has come to realise it lost a great strategic asset. The ruling groups in US are anxious to re-open contacts with Iran... there are many benefits for them in the region, if they have some contact with Iran. So like beggars, they are approaching us in different ways to establish a "connection" with IRAN. Reagan's latest speech shows how these plans have failed. But if his own people can't believe him, how can the world? They are all proven liars.

As for Israel, everybody knows that Israel is Enemy No. 1 of the Islamic world. And every leader says IRAN is their No. 1 enemy. Of course, we consider that a great honour.

(Continued on page 24)



# Elections to Pradeshiya Sabhas

Will the Opposition parties contest the elections to the new Pradeshiya Sabhas? More significantly, what will the SLFP do? Evidently, the SLFP is still studying that question. Many political observers believe the SLFP will NOT participate but continue to demand a general election. Emboldened by the Election Commissioner's report on the Referendum of Dec. 1982, now before a parliamentary Select Committee, the SLFP is preparing a nation-wide campaign on the report backed by efforts to mobilise international opinion.

On this new local government institution itself, the SLFP and CP (Mr. Dinesh Gunawardene, MEP, who is ill, was not present in the House) seem to be of like mind. For them it's the proverbial curate's egg, good in parts.

## New bill will bring drastic changes : Anil

**Mr. Anil Moonesinhe (SLFP-Matugama):** said the Prime Minister had said the new bill was meant to re-awaken local bodies. He wished to say that the new laws would bring about drastic changes in the villages. He would examine whether those changes would be good or bad.

The Prime Minister had not told them whether the elections to the DDC's would also be held.

One question he wished to ask was from where the money would come for the new work that was involved. The pradesheeya sabhas and the DDC's had the authority to levy taxes. Such taxes would have to be paid by the people, even by the poorest in the villages.

**Mr. Premadasa:** at this stage interrupted to say there would be no duplication of work. The work of the local bodies would be co-ordinated. They must wait and see how the new bodies would work.

Mr. Moonesinghe said members today should be involved in national issues, but the problem was, there were so many other things to

attend to, that members did not even have the time to read bills. Therefore he felt the pradesheeya sabhas would be a good thing.

However, problems may arise. They did not still know what the limits of these sabhas were. They had to be gazetted.

**Prime Minister:** There will be 250 pradesheeya sabhas and at least 15 members would be elected depending on the ratio. For instance the Matugama electorate will have two sabhas. There will be no wards and local administration will be in the hands of the pradesheeya sabhas.

**Mr. Moonesinghe:** conceded that the new system would be better than the present systems. The bodies at grass root level should function as far as possible without politics. Under the proportional representation system people would be voting for the party and naturally politics would have to come in.

**The Prime Minister:** said that could not be helped as long as the party system existed. Experience had shown that it would be good if they did not have the party system but went on merit.

**Mr. Moonesinghe:** said the biggest problem that he saw was the distinctions that could arise in villages. Those contesting would be going round campaigning, and throat cutting would exist. In some areas the caste too would be taken into account.

**Prime Minister:** We hope these narrow considerations would not be taken into account but however these matters are being taken into consideration and we are trying to see whether they could have two votes for a person.

**Mr. Moonesinghe:** said under the present system of election the caste issue would come in. They must try to eliminate it. The abolishing of the village councils was a mistake the government made.

**Mr. Premadasa:** said while he agreed that Mr. Bandaranaike said that, successive governments, out of jealousy, did nothing to decentralise to the periphery. The governments became so power hungry and nothing was done. "Take the Choksy committee report", he said.

**Mr. Moonesinghe:** replied that Mr. Bandaranaike did not have time to address himself to this question before he was assassinated. Actually, he was a man with many progressive ideas which was why he tried to conclude the Bandaranaike Chelvanayakem pact, but he was obstructed.

He went on to quote Mr. Bandaranaike extensively on the need for decentralisation.

He said the pradesheeya bill should go further than it did. For instance, the AGA as chairman of the sabha should have specific powers.

Some of the decentralisation measures introduced in 1956 did not adequately filter down. He went on to quote Mr. Bandaranaike to illustrate his point that the aims of and need for the pradesheeya sabhas bill were anticipated by the former Prime Minister.



## Pradeshiya Sabha concept laudable: Dew Gunasekera

Mr. Dew Gunasekera (CP, Kalamana) said the Pradeshiya Sabha concept emerged at the all-party conference. Detailed discussions were held as to the nature of this local government unit. The CP, the LSSP and religious groups gave their wholehearted support to the grass roots participation concept, probably the only one to be supported unanimously.

The Prime Minister had said the village councils would not be viable units because of the unequal development in the villages. There was, however, unanimous consensus in the opinion that there should be government at the grass-roots level.

At the APC, it was recommended that the people elect the Pradeshiya Sabha members directly. The feeling was that the minorities too should feel they were managing their own affairs through their representatives to generate a more nationalistic feeling among them.

The Pradeshiya Sabha system was a step in the right direction. But would all the aims be fulfilled? he asked. The concept was good but the structure and implementation might fall short of expectations.

"The Prime Minister expected the bill to provide at least a part of the solution to the minorities' problem. Would the minorities really feel they were in charge of their affairs? No, they would feel that while powers were being given with one hand, they were being controlled by the other".

Mr. Premadasa intervened to say that parliament had to control them. They could not be made completely autonomous as long as this was a unitary state. Whatever ministerial powers the Pradeshiya Sabhas had could be controlled by parliament while a ministerial order could be questioned in a court of law.

The Prime Minister further said that all the powers and functions necessary to control local activities had been given to those

who were asking for the control of their own affairs.

Mr. Gunasekera went on to say that the minister had wide powers of control over the Pradeshiya Sabhas, even dissolution. While the concept was laudable, it should remove any fears at the local level. Even the President had said that the district development councils were a failure.

There are going to be several officers between the central government and the Pradeshiya Sabhas who will have various powers of control over the members. So although the members will be elected by popular vote, they will be under a whole set of officials armed with various powers.

## Pulsara, 22 others face conspiracy charge

Ms. Pulsara Liyanage, the 27 year old assistant lecturer in western classics, who was detained on Nov. 1 under the PTA, indicted along with 22 others by the Attorney General on 21st Jan. before the High Court of Colombo. The others named by the state-owned DAILY NEWS include the leader of the EPRLF, K. Padmanabha, The Daily News published six other names. They are: A. V. Marlo Dayan Jayatilake, George Seneviratne, Dayapala Thirunagana, A. G. S. Lokur Silva, Chittana de Silva, and Purnaka de Silva.

The charges, according to the same report, are conspiracy to overthrow the government by use of violence and armed revolution, collecting arms and ammunition, robbery, training in India, and incitement.

The DAILY NEWS also had this interpolation:

"The case follows an attempt by the J. V. P. to overthrow the government in collaboration with certain terrorist elements in the north".

When the DDCs were set up, there was much optimism. It was only when they started functioning, that various inherent flaws surfaced. Decentralisation was one thing but whether it would work properly was another. While power was being decentralised, power could also be centralised as the DDC experiment showed.

While decentralising the administration, it would get more centralised. When the laws before them were put into practice, there would be structural changes. That he said, was why he asked the Prime Minister to at least place the bill before a sub-committee.

## Tensions . . .

(Continued from page 4)

In Talawakelle, the Principal of the Training school was nearly stabbed in his bed. Instead, the PFI was killed.

There have been many incidents similar to this. People have been killed, because their policies have been different. The government has discussed this problem, and would be working with the major plantation sectors. The CWC says very firmly, that without causing unnecessary harassment, the guilty should be caught. But the security forces acting with over caution, arrest 50 instead of 3. The innocent people suffer.

So I think the situation is very complex. But we can't proceed on the basis that one million people in the hill country are all terrorists. The CWC is a non militant organisation. That is the position in the hill country, and we would not like to make it a civil cauldron in which further lives would be lost."



# Mercenaries in Sri Lanka?

G. K. Reddy

NEW DELHI, Jan. 17.

It has been established quite conclusively by the Indian official agencies concerned that there are a few Americans among the 20 odd foreign mercenaries employed by Sri Lanka to train some special units of its security forces and assist in the conduct of anti-insurgency operations.

Despite the spirited denials by the U. S. embassy in Colombo and the Sri Lanka Government, the State Department itself has started conceding privately that there might be one or two Americans with dual passports serving as mercenaries in their personal capacity without the knowledge of the U. S. Government.

When the Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, raised this issue in Washington during his recent talks with the U. S. Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Michael Armacost, he was told that the U. S. Government was not

aware of the activities of these American mercenaries in Sri Lanka and assured that it would take appropriate action.

## Dual passports

The American law permits its citizens to have dual passports, which enables them to travel abroad as nationals of other countries. But the U. S. Neutrality Act empowers the Government to annul the citizenship of any American who violates it by acting as a foreign mercenary for whatever reason.

The cryptic statement put out by the State Department in Washington yesterday that the U. S. policy was to discourage strongly such violations of the law by its citizens has completely vindicated the disclosure made by Mr. Venkateswaran in New York on the subject.

The Bell aircraft company sent some American pilots to Sri Lanka

last year to train Sri Lanka Air Force personnel to operate the helicopter gunships it sold for anti-insurgency operations. These pilots left after a few weeks when the Sri Lankan personnel acquired the necessary capability to operate them.

But more recently a couple of American mercenaries were recruited along with some other foreigners for participating more actively in these operations. The U. S. Government is now inquiring whether these American mercenaries have used foreign passports to conceal their U. S. nationality or agreed to serve as Americans in their individual capacity without bothering about the legal consequences of their actions.

In either case, the Government of India has at no stage accused the U. S. of acquiescing in the recruitment of its nationals as mercenaries by Sri Lanka, either directly or through some foreign

**FOR WELL OVER A HALF A CENTURY**

**ARISTONS HAVE BUILT UP**

**GLOBAL REPUTATION IN THE FIELD OF EXPORTS AS WELL AS IMPORTS**

**ARISTONS HAVE OPENED OUT NEW VISTAS IN NON-TRADITIONAL  
EXPORTS IN AN ENDEAVOUR TO CONTRIBUTING FOR NATIONAL GROWTH**

**HEAD OFFICE**

**ARISTONS LTD.**

5, Gower Street,  
Colombo 5.

**ARISTONS TOURS**  
No. 5, Gower Street,  
COLOMBO 5.

**EXPORT DEPARTMENT**  
140, Front Street,  
COLOMBO 11.

Phone: 588436, 582102, 581036

Cables: 'TURNTIDE'

Telex: 21302 RUWANI



organisations. All that India has done is to draw the U. S. attention to the reported presence of some American mercenaries in Sri Lanka and urge it to take suitable action to prevent such unlawful recruitment.

## U. S. will discourage

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.

The U. S. State Department has said it will discourage the activi-

ties of U. S. mercenaries in Sri Lanka and would deal with the problem on a case by case basis.

"Certain provisions of U.S. law including the so called neutrality laws may apply to the recruitment of mercenaries by foreign individuals, depending on the circumstances. It is the U. S. Government policy to strongly discourage un-

lawful recruitment and to vigorously investigate violation of U. S. law" State Department.

Questions on the interpretation and enforcement of these provisions, would have to be referred to the Department of Justice, the officials said. — PTI

— Hindu

## MADRAS

# Police Affair

Coming as it did from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran, the summary transfer of K. Mohan Das, 55, director-general of police (intelligence) to the obscure post of commissioner for training and administrative reforms, was indeed, nothing short of a bolt from the blue.

When Home Secretary T. V. Venkatraman was instructed last fortnight to issue the orders forthwith, he could hardly be faulted for disbelieving his ears — the unpredictable MGR had again done the unexpected by easing out one of his closest confidantes. Requests from the state police Director-General K. Ravindran and Chief Secretary A. Padmanabhan to rethink the matter persuaded MGR to relent, but only slightly. Mohan Das was made to go on long leave.

What exactly led to the downfall is not clear, but it is believed that the police officer and the chief minister differed on how the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and their leader Velupillai Pirabhakaran, should be handled. Mohan Das wanted to deal firmly with them, as with all other Tamil militant groups, for transgressing the law, stocking illicit arms and illegally operating their own wireless. But MGR's patronage of Pirabhakaran came in the way.

In fact, their widely divergent attitudes largely contributed to the confusion follow-

ing Operation Disarm — the police swoop on the militants in November last when arms were confiscated and scores of militants arrested. An outraged Pirabhakaran protested to MGR alleging maltreatment by the police. And as always pandering to Tamil sentiments, MGR directed that some of the weapons seized from the LTTE be returned. But the police promptly retrieved them. MGR had to personally order the return of a wireless set, seized under Mohan Das' directions, when Pirabhakaran undertook a dramatic fast unto death.

## Das wanted to deal firmly with militants for breaking the law but MGR's patronage of Pirabhakaran brought matters to a head.

After that, matters snow-balled. The militant leader alleged that the intelligence chief had established clandestine contacts with the Israeli secret service Mossad while on a recent trip to Bombay. Mohan Das was also supposed to have visited Singapore without the prior official sanction required for all overseas trips. He is also said to have stayed there in a hotel whose part-owner was a Jaffra Tamil having, oddly enough, close links with some Colombo-based Sinhala groups. That was disturbing enough for MGR to believe that his intelligence chief was not playing ball with him and although his privilege leave was later sanctioned, it did not help Mohan Das.

Tense and upset, Mohan Das said that there was a malicious smear campaign against him by colleagues jealous of his professional success and claimed that "I was not asked to go on leave. In fact I had to plead with the Government to give me long leave for my daughter's marriage. I went to Singapore only after obtaining the oral consent of the chief minister and I had also informed the chief secretary and the home secretary about my trip. As for the seizure of the militants' arms and wireless sets, as a professional police officer, I only carried out orders from the competent authority".

If the stocky Mohan Das looked shocked, this has to be viewed in the context of his remarkable ascent. From the time he had first caught the chief minister's eye while an enquiry officer with the Sarkaria Commission probing charges of corruption against the then DMK government of K. Karunanidhi, to his meteoric as DGP, Mohan Das had enjoyed total access to MGR, supplying him information on rival politicians and purveying political gossip. As a top government official acknowledged: "Whatever his official designation, Mohan Das had practically become the deputy chief minister".

With MGR maintaining an enigmatic silence, the rumour mills worked overtime but answers were few and far between.

— S. H. Venkatramani  
(INDIA TODAY)



## INDIAN OCEAN

### Lanka committed to IOPZ proposal — Hameed

Economic, scientific and technical co-operation among countries in the Indian Ocean could pave the way for declaring the Zone a peaceful one, Foreign Affairs Minister A. C. S. Hameed told a meeting of marine scientists yesterday.

Addressing the final phase meeting of the First Conference on Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation in Marine Affairs in the Indian Ocean at the BMICH, Mr. Hameed said the deliberations would strengthen and quicken the process of the Indian Ocean being declared a Zone of Peace, a move initiated by Sri Lanka sometime ago.

"Sri Lanka as one of the authors of the Peace Zone proposals and current Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee stands firmly committed to the implementation of this declaration which seeks the total elimination of all forms of foreign military presence in the region", he said.

The IOPZ has occupied a central position in Sri Lanka's foreign policy for nearly two decades he emphasised pointing out the creation of peaceful stable conditions in the region can lead to co-operation and existence.

(SUN)

### US presence a threat

A Soviet foreign ministry specialist on Indian Ocean affairs yesterday claimed that there was a considerable American military presence in the Indian Ocean

threatening countries in the region and Russia.

Yuri Vinogradov, deputy head of the South Asian department

told reporters in Colombo that Washington had some 30 to 35 warships, 180 submarines and one or two aircraft carriers deployed in the Indian Ocean almost on a permanent basis.

He said about half of the US submarines in the region were fitted to carry nuclear weapons. US military exercises in the region he claimed, included amphibious landings with special emphasis on seizing oil rich areas.

Judging from US estimates, he said, the American craft in the Indian Ocean posed a threat not only to countries in the region but also had the capability of destroying the area from the Moscow industrial districts to parts of Eastern Europe and Siberia.

Mr. Vinogradov said they were counting on the international prestige of Sri Lanka to make the Indian Ocean a Zone of peace and to have an international conference for the purpose in Colombo not later than 1988.

"Our two countries are committed to making the Indian Ocean a Zone of peace. The Sri Lankan leadership is willing to develop security in the region," he said.

The visiting official is in Colombo to meet with Sri Lankan officials to prepare the ground work for a conference on the Indian Ocean next year.

Asked whether Colombo had sought military aid from Moscow to combat terrorism in the island, he said he was not aware of such a move.

"We think that the problem in Sri Lanka is strictly internal. We don't want to get involved in it in any way. We will have to worry only if the territorial integrity is not intact.

Questioned on the superpowers interest in the strategic Trincomalee harbour he said: "Washington has said last year that Sri Lanka qualifies to receive American help to fight terrorism. This 'help' can come in any way... it is up to you to draw your own conclusions."

— Daily News

### 3rd World Trouble Spots

#### Sri Lanka's Instability rating

Any big bank, says the **ECONOMIST**, has a risk-analysis department. The **ECONOMIST** recently took "a non-computer-modelled look at a broader question: which of 5 developing countries are at the greatest risk of becoming unstable during the rest of the 1980's. These 50 countries were scored on a 100 point scale, the closer to 100 the more unstable, Iraq, Ethiopia, Iran and Sudan formed a hyper-risk (80 to 73) quartet. Sri Lanka was third in the medium risk category scoring 44 points.

Politics, economics and society — the three areas of concern — were given 50, 33 and 17 points respectively.

On Democracy/Authoritarian/Totalitarianism (7 points) Sri Lanka scored a fair 3, but on 'legitimacy of the regime' (9 points), the U. N. P. didn't do well at all, scoring 6 points. Sri Lankans would be surprised to know and neighbours happy to hear that it got a zero for "bad neighbour". But not surprised at all to learn that Sri Lanka got top marks — 4 out of 4 — for "ethnic tensions".



## C. M. U. PROTEST

The General Council decided that the proposed General Strike of the Union on 5th March 1987 should be accompanied by a public procession and public meeting of the union in the city of Colombo. Similar actions may be organised by the Union Branches outside Colombo on the same day.

The General Council is of the view that the time has come for people to protest openly against the repression and injustice that prevails in Sri Lanka, and to struggle actively for Democratic and Human Rights and Peace and Justice in this country.

The main issues on which the Union seeks to focus working class and general public attention in connection with the proposed action on 5th March 1987 are the following:-

- (1) The war policy of the Government in the North and East and the continuing repression that is taking place throughout the country, under the long-continuing State of Emergency, including attacks upon trade union rights and other democratic rights, like the rights of public procession and even peaceful picketing.
- (2) Arrests and detentions for prolonged periods of large numbers of persons under the infamous "Prevention of Terrorism" Act or under the Emergency Regulations, without their being brought before the Courts, in violation of their civil rights, and their being subjected to violations of their human rights while in custody.
- (3) Maintenance in this country of the lowest wage levels in Asia by the Government, in collaboration with the employers in state and private enterprises, by undermining the rights of workers to organise in trade unions and to bargain collectively through trade unions, and by employment of contract labour or labour on a 'casual' basis to do regular work in public and private enterprises, as well as through the machinery of the Wages Boards.
- (4) (i) Maintenance of the wage freeze in the public sector, on the pretext of huge "Defence" expenditures, while billions of rupees are also being mispent or misappropriated in public enterprises.
- (ii) Failure of the Government to reinstate large numbers of employees in the public sector, who were dismissed under the 'Essential Services Order' in July 1980, when they went on strike for a wage increase.
- (5) Selling or leasing of public enterprises and/or handing over of public services to private companies, including foreign companies, against the public interest

and with mass dismissals of employees in such enterprises or services.

- (6) Political interference and discrimination in appointments, promotions and transfers in the public sector.
- (7) Denial of the right of any means of legal redress whatsoever to employees in undertakings taken over and run by the Government under the Business Undertakings (Acquisition) Act, in breach of repeated assurances given by the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Finance and Planning to remedy this flagrant injustice by appropriate legislation.

On behalf of the CMU,

Bala Tambu,  
General Secretary.

**Note:** The right of peaceful public procession is recognized under the law. Nevertheless, under the present Government and even under the previous Government, the Police have arbitrarily prohibited or prevented processions of workers, except on May Day. The CMU will seek to exercise this democratic right on 5th March.

## Letters...

(Continued from page 1)

hopeful of getting any useful response from the present leadership. He was heart broken about it.

Many Tamil youths languishing in jail today were depending on Nadesan to appear for them when they were brought to trial, if ever. Today they must feel orphaned.

The best way we, both Sinhala and Tamil, can honour Nadesan is to keep up the fight for human rights and the right to life is the first basic human right.

R. W. Thambiah

Nallur, Jaffna

## TRENDS...

(Continued from page 1)

as some new panacea for all economic ills.

Speaking as an individual, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, former planner, made an "impassioned plea" at the same seminar against privatisation. He is the topmost official of the Plantations Ministry, a Presidential portfolio, and also holds the job of Chalmers, S. P. C. The State sector estates were now reasonably well managed. Though still behind the record crop of 1965, and tea acreage has dropped, yields had come to improve. Wages have to be increased because the days of "captive labour force" were gone.

## SOUTH AFRICA TRADE

The Foreign Office has told the Trade Ministry and the Import Controller that Sri Lanka is obliged to implement the Commonwealth decisions on economic sanctions. Since most of the trade with South Africa is handled by the private sector, import licences should not be issued for items in the sanctions list. This, in effect, means no steel or iron from South Africa which earned Rs. 678 million from Sri Lanka, as against Sri Lanka's Rs. 315 million, mainly tea. Other imports such as fertiliser, newspaper, beet sugar, rectified spirits and petroleum products are not in the list.

One sensitive item, though, is arms and ammunition. Sri Lanka bought A. P. C.'s from the apartheid regime but this, say officials, was before the Commonwealth meeting in Nassau.

## BAN OFF?

The government has decided to repeal the law banning the publication of racing news. The SUN reported that a gazette notification to this effect will be issued shortly. The law was introduced by Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike's government in 1961.



# NEWS FROM THE FRONT

The following reports from the *HINDU* are by its Sri Lanka correspondent, D. B. S. Jeyaraj, its Delhi correspondent G. K. Reddy and by news agencies.

## Grain cannot be moved into Jaffna

COLOMBO, Jan. 12.

Bus transport within Jaffna peninsula came to a grinding halt today as the impact of the 12-day-long fuel embargo began to be felt in all its severity. With State and private buses keeping off the roads, attendance in offices and schools was practically nil. A limited service is being operated between Jaffna and Vavuniya.

One serious consequence of the ban was the inability of the Gov-

ernment machinery to transport food stocks to different parts of Jaffna district. Despite stocks being available at the major granaries and warehouses, it is impossible to transport the grain to other places.

People living in the islands off Jaffna are already suffering acute shortage of food. A spokesman from the Government Secretariat in Jaffna said that the peninsula too may suffer in a few days.

**Hospitals' needs:** The State has announced that the Jaffna hospital could obtain its fuel requirements for the ambulance service through the Kilinochchi hospital on the mainland. Drugs and oxygen could be got from the Vavuniya hospital. A Jaffna hospital official said that the details of the scheme were yet to be worked out.

All scavenger services provided by the municipality in Jaffna have ceased. Residents said that garbage was accumulating on the roads.

## LTTE leader to take charge of operations

It is now more or less confirmed that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE) leader, Mr. V. Prabhakaran, has left on January 6 or 7 for the Jaffna peninsula to assume command of the operations there.

But it is not known whether he intends to stay in the Jaffna area for some time or return to Tamil Nadu shortly to resume charge of the LTTE establishment in Madras.

It will become known during the next week or two, when the Sri Lankan Minister for Land Development, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, returns to Colombo after his talks in Delhi, whether the Sri Lankan Government would try

to establish contact with him through the LTTE area commander, Mr. Krishnakumar alias Kittu, to explore the possibilities of a direct dialogue.

The other LTTE leaders who are close confidants of Mr. Prabhakaran are reported to be still in Madras. He has been keeping in contact with them receiving daily reports of the political developments in India over the Sri Lankan situation.

The Tamil militants who have good navigators take a rather circuitous route from one of the southern-most coastal points in Tamil Nadu to evade the Sri Lankan naval patrols and land at a safe place on the east coast

between Jaffna peninsula and Trincomalee port.

It is said that Mr. Prabhakaran travelled secretly on one of the LTTE's fast boats accompanied by some of his trusted lieutenants who have been making frequent trips on this route.

Mr. Prabhakaran is not expected back in Tamil Nadu until he has gained full command of the Liberation Tigers in Jaffna and stabilised the LTTE position. He has to contend with the threat of a large-scale military operation by the Sri Lankan army in a desperate bid to recapture the Jaffna peninsula before the whole of the Northern province is irrevocably lost by the Jayewardene Government.

## Students protest against fuel ban

COLOMBO, Jan. 16.

Hundreds of students of the Jaffna Technical Institute today boycotted classes in protest against the Sri Lankan Government's fuel embargo in the Northern peninsula, residents from Jaffna said.

Another batch of people staging a strike in the region of 100 pensioners, who are demanding payment of their monthly pension from the People's Bank.

They alleged that their payment were withheld because of another demonstration by the

customers preventing bank employees from entering the premises.

The customers, squatting in front of the bank premises in branches all over Jaffna, are demanding redemption of their pawned jewellery.



The employees of the Jaffna Marketing Development Department also observed a day's token strike in protest against the termination of services of 75 casual employees.

**Five militants killed:** Five Tamil militants, three of them belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), were killed by the armed forces in a number of encounters during the past 48 hours in Eastern Sri Lanka, according to an official release.

Three LTTE men were shot dead in an early morning raid in a hide-out at Navatkudi in Batticaloa district yesterday. Among those killed, was one 'Kumar' stated to be the area leader of LTTE.

Earlier on Wednesday, security forces on foot patrol were attacked by four militants resulting in the death of one militant. In yet another encounter, the security forces killed one of them at Savalkudi, west of Kalinunai in Batticaloa district.

The army also raided an hideout of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) at Pattachenai, also in Batticaloa district, yesterday and recovered some hand grenades, two AK 47 rifle magazines and 28 rounds of ammunition.

**Offer of Chief Ministership:** The Jaffna commander of the LTTE, Mr. Krishna Kumar, has claimed

that their commander-in-chief, Mr. Velupillai Prabhakaran was offered "Chief Ministership" of the North by the Sri Lankan Government before the Bangalore conference of the SAARC in November last year.

But Mr. Parbhakaran rejected the offer and expressed his firm determination to carry on the "fight for achieving the Tamil Eelam. Mr. Kumar, popularly known as "Kittu" was quoted as having said by the Jaffna Tamil daily *Morasoli* today.

According to the daily, "Kittu" told a meeting in Kondavil in Jaffna peninsula, that the LTTE would soon bring SAM-VII missiles to Jaffna.

## Hartal hits Batticaloa district

COLOMBO, Jan. 22.

Life in the Tamil-dominated eastern Batticaloa district in Sri Lanka came to a "crippling halt" as lakhs of people launched a 48-hour hartal in sympathy with the suffering Tamil masses and in protest against the Government's fuel ban in Jaffna. The hartal, which began at dawn with 'symbolic' bursting of crackers, will continue till Saturday morning.

Independent sources and those close to the Citizen's committee told PTI over telephone that reports from all over the district spoke of normal life in "suspended animation." Roads in villages and towns were devoid of vehicular traffic and shops, bazaars, schools, colleges, government offices and commercial establishments downed shutters. No train left the Batticaloa station.

A Government spokesman told PTI in Colombo that the 'hartal' evoked a "half-hearted response with no participation from Muslims."

**Demand for resettlement:** More than 200 people from Vavunathivu,

about two km across a lagoon from Batticaloa, yesterday staged a demonstration in front of the Government Agent's office in Batticaloa, demanding immediate "resettlement." They alleged that the security forces had forcibly occupied their houses at Vavunathivu and set up army camps there several months ago.

**Jaffna still cut off:** Jaffna continued to be cut off by telephone from Colombo, rendering it difficult to have first-hand information of the goings-on there. The official spokesman said the disorder in the telephone system might be due to a snag in the computer system, which "gets damaged" by vibration from the mortar shell firings. The telecommunication building in Jaffna is about a stone's throw from the Fort Camp of the Army and near the militants' positions, he said.

**8 killed:** At least eight people — four armymen and four civilians — were killed and several injured in escalated violence between the security forces and the militants in northern and north-western parts during the past 24 hours.

A spokesman for the joint operations command said that among the army personnel killed was a second lieutenant of the Jaffna Camp.

Two armymen were killed and one was injured in a landmine blast at Point Pedro, 25 km from Jaffna, while militants ambushed an army patrol at Uvilankulam in the northwest Mannar district, killed one soldier and injuring another.

It was not known if there were any casualties among militants in the incidents in which the armymen were killed.

Reports said four civilians were killed and 11 injured when security forces shelled Jaffna town on Wednesday after the militants had set fire to a third building in the town in two days, presumably to prevent the troops occupying it. There was heavy shelling between the security forces and the militants on Thursday also.

**Emergency extended:** Meanwhile, emergency was extended in the island for the 44th successive



month when Parliament overwhelmingly adopted a motion to the effect.

**Kittu, Prabhakaran struggle denied:** An Indian newsman, who returned to Colombo yesterday

after a two-day visit to Jaffna, said reports of a "power struggle" between the supreme commander of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Velupillai Prabhakaran and its Jaffna leader, Kittu,

were not correct. Only on Tuesday last, he had a long session with Kittu, the newsman said, when asked about reports that the Jaffna Tamil leader had been in custody'. — PTI & UNI

## Kittu denies report of rift with Prabhakaran

COLOMBO, Jan. 23

Mr Sathasivam Krishnakumar alias Kittu, the LTTE commander for the Jaffna area has dispelled rumours of a power struggle the LTTE. Speaking to THE HINDU by telephone, Kittu said that apart from a slight touch of fever he was in good health.

He also scotched news report in the local press about a split between him and the LTTE leader, Mr. V. Prabhakaran, or that he had been arrested by Mr. Prabhakaran.

Interested parties are manipulating the media to drive a wedge between our leader Prabhakaran

and ourselves, the area commanders", said Kittu. "But it wont work", he said.

Kittu, who confirmed that a shell landed quite close to him during the firing on Wednesday, explained the reasons for gutting Veerasingam Hall.

## Switzerland allows deportees to stay

GENEVA, Jan. 23.

The 32 Tamil asylum seekers facing deportation from Switzerland will be allowed to stay for the time being. Announcing this today, the Swiss Justice and Police Minister, Mrs. Elisabeth Kopp, said this did not mean the Government would reconsider their rejected asylum application.

The decision comes as a pause for breath in the tension-ridden Tamil issue that has marked the last few weeks in Switzerland, culminating in the dramatic decision

by the Conton of Bern — where the Tamils sought asylum — to contest the Federal deportation orders. The Swiss Federal Government has categorically maintained that the Tamils can be sent back to southern Sri Lanka where they face no danger — a position that has been hotly debated.

Initially hostile, public opinion has in the past few weeks rallied behind the Tamils. According to an opinion poll conducted by a local magazine, 45 per cent of Swiss disagree with the deportation orders. An important reason for

this change among the people is the showing, recently, of a film by Swiss television, coldly documenting the situation in Sri Lanka and explaining why young Tamils are fleeing the island.

The asylum laws in this country have become instruments of injustice," said Peter Eicher, Professor of Theology in the University of Bern. In an attempt to protect a family of five Tamils, Prof. Eicher moved into an apartment with them. "I am not hiding, I just want to protect the family," he said.

## EROS leader pleads for PLO-type status

COLOMBO, Jan. 23.

The Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS) coordinator, Mr. V. Balakumar, has appealed to India formally to recognise the liberation movements fighting for the Tamil cause. He called upon the Indian Government to spell its stand out clearly.

**No problem with LTTE:** Addressing a press conference in Jaffna, Mr. Balakumar said the liberation movements would then gain the status enjoyed by organisation like the PLO and SWAPO. Such a move would dilute the aggressive stance of Colombo in negotiation, and increase India's leverage in the process. Mr. Balakumar did not

say which movements he wanted recognised. The EROS leader, however, said that his movement had no problem with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

He further said EROS was not prepared to take part in direct talks with the Sri Lanka Government alone. Experience of bilateral talks between the Tamil political parties and Colombo had shown that nothing worthwhile could be achieved. The EROS was not prepared to talk without Indian good offices being available.

**Interim settlement unlikely:** Mr. Balakumar said the EROS ultimate goal was Eelam, comprising the Northern and Eastern Pro-

vinces and Uva district. It did not think an interim settlement was possible but was prepared to accept one if it emerged. If it did, the EROS would definitely not contest for any political office, he said.

**'Jihad' Front:** At the press conference, details were given of an Islamic militant organisation called Jihad' (holy war) Front, according to reports in the Jaffna-based newspapers. The EROS produced "Ramizan", the Mannar area 'Jihad' leader abducted by it a few weeks ago, at the conference, the papers said.

(Continued on page 15)



## PRESS BRIEFS

(From the Sinhala and Tamil press pages)

**VIRAKESARI** (Tamil) 26.01.1987

**"TULF, Too, Not Prepared For Talks Till Fuel Embargo Is Removed"**

— *Amirchalingam*

TULF Secretary General, A. Amirchalingam, told "Virakesari" yesterday that as long as the fuel embargo imposed on the Jaffna peninsula is not removed, the TULF will not participate in any talks with the government.

He also said that the government is now concentrating on a military solution and its recent actions appear to be the beginning of quite serious plans.

Only if the government acts in a peaceful manner will the TULF be prepared to participate in peace talks, he said.

**Poll Conducted By Swiss Papers Following Noelan's Clarification**

Newspapers in Switzerland have conducted a poll whether to repatriate the Tamil refugees there following the interview given by one of TULF's important members, Dr. Noelan Thiruchelvam.

In this poll two-third of those who participated in it have voted against sending the Tamil refugees back.

— *VIRAKESARI*

**DIYAINA** (Sinhala) 24.01.1987

**Was The Bus Bomb Meant For Meeting?**

Badulla MP Vincent Dias told *Diya* that information received created a suspicion that the bomb that exploded in a bus at Badulla could have been meant for the destruction of a meeting held at the Badulla YMBA Hall to commemorate the murdered university student Daya Pathirana. The bomb could have exploded in the bus while it was being taken elsewhere after the attempt to bomb the meeting had failed, Mr. Dias said.

**"We Have No Connections"**

— *JVP*

In a press statement, the JVP General Secretary Upatissa Gama-nayake has said that the JVP has no connection with the EROS or any other racist, terrorist group that is fighting for Tamil Eelam. The JVP Secretary has issued the statement following a newspaper report mentioning the JVP in connection with the Badulla bomb incident.

**Changes In Land Ceilings Condemned**

Mrs. Bandaranaike in a statement opposing the moves, says the best lands that were nationalised have found their way into the hands of UNP persons. The former Housing Minister Pieter Keuneman has also decried the land ceiling change and has also attacked the proposed amendments to the Housing Act. He says both changes are to benefit the capitalist class.

**No Support To Sinhala Writers**

Today all the sophisticated printing machinery is got down at concessionary terms to print soap wrappers and arrack bottle labels but the books written by our Sinhala writers are still printed on ago old letter presses. There is no one to help them.

— Novelist K. Jayatileke at Literary Memorial ceremony at Dompe.

— *DIYAINA*

**DINARESA** (Sinhala) 26.01.1987

**Giving Back Land To Capitalists Is A Betrayal**

The lands that were taken over from the rich for the sake of the millions that never owned an inch of land are now being given back to the original capitalist by the President. It is a betrayal. Masses must rise against this decision.

— Mrs. Bandaranaike at a SLFP rally.

**Even Varsities Will Be Given Over To US Companies**

Not only did this Government throttle free education, but now a campaign is being finalised to hand over the universities to US multinational companies.

— SLMP President (Chandrika Kumaranatunga) speaking at Party Anniversary Rally at Kotahena.

— *ATHTHA*

**Sex Shops In Righteous Society**

Sri Lanka has gained international fame today as a centre for young prostitutes, a paradise for homosexuals and a farm to obtain babies at a price for adoption.

**EROS leader...**

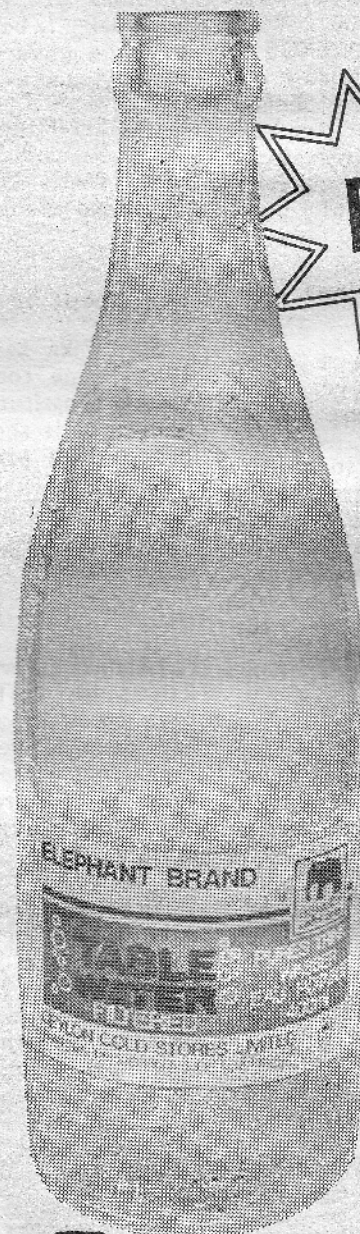
(Continued from page 14)

"Ramizan" who is from Erulkampiddy in Mannar is said to have admitted that the 'Jihad' had been formed to protect Muslims from violence. It had branches in Akkarapatu, Kalmunai and Kattankudy in Eastern Province.

Although the movement did not intend originally to harm Tamils in the East, subsequent infiltration by interested parties as well as pressure by powerful sections had compelled the 'Jihad' to follow an anti-Tamil approach, the report said. 'Ramizan' alleged that he had established links with the Sri Lankan security establishment.

**300 members:** The movement had obtained arms through indirect channels close to the security establishment, he said. There were 300 members in the movement, although not all were armed. The 'Jihad' had played a prominent role in Tamil-Muslim violence in the Eastern Province in the past. It had also abducted and assassinated Tamils.





# TABLE WATER

The relentless emphasis on hygiene and quality which is the hallmark of all **ELEPHANT HOUSE** products is the assurance we give the consuming public.



W.P. Rs. 1.70

/// Ribbs N&L



**CEYLON COLD STORES LIMITED**  
Unmatched in quality food and drink





# GRAHAM GREENE ON NICARAGUA

FOREIGN  
NEWS

The celebrated British writer Graham Greene, whose books enjoy worldwide acclaim, recently, left his comfortable apartment in the fashionable resort of Antibes and set out for Nicaragua, despite his age, 81.

Graham Greene has written 21 novels, the plots and events of many of them having been prompted by his own experiences in various "hot spots" of the globe. These include, *The Quiet American*, about events in South Vietnam, *Our Man in Havana*, describing US reaction's intrigues in Cuba, *The Comedians*, about the stifling political atmosphere in Haiti, *Getting to know the General*, about Torrijos, the Panamanian general who fought American dominance there.

Graham Greene's trip attracted the attention of the Western press. The Paris-based paper *Le Matin* interviewed him. When asked what made him undertake such an arduous journey at his age, Greene said that Central America had always been one of the regions he loved best. And he was going to Nicaragua, he said, in search of an idea to help him finish a novel he's been working on for more than ten years, a work provisionally entitled *The Captain and His Enemy*. He was confident he'd find his good idea there. Developments in Nicaragua interested him very much he said.

Graham Greene told *Le Matin* that he didn't conceal his sympathies for that country's political system. He went on to say that he believed in Nicaragua they all have a deep respect for the other man's point of view and for religion.

*Le Matin* also "was most critical about President Reagan's policy of giving assistance to the anti-Sandinist guerrillas".

Graham Greene spoke just as disapprovingly about the attitude of the Catholic Church hierarchy, pitting the faithful against the social system which the Nicaraguan people themselves have chosen. He considers Pope John Paul II to be the most political pope for a long time, a pope whose logic he just does not understand.

As regard his own position, Graham Greene stressed he was not a Communist but would like to see Central America free and democratic.

Back from his trip to Managua, Graham Greene told that same Paris paper *Le Matin* that in Nicaragua, he had witnessed the atrocities committed by the contras. He didn't give the paper another interview. Instead, he handed it a human document of exceptional force — a letter from Catholic priest Juan Luis of the settlement Muelle de Los Bicos who had asked Greene to make it public in Europe.

This message published in *Le Matin* under the heading "Nicaragua: A Priest's Desperate Letter", gives a detailed account of brutalities committed by the contras who had made raids on the parish of Juan Luis.

"At mid-day," writes the priest, "about a hundred heavily armed mercenaries emerged from the forest and attempted to seize the village. Fighting broke out right in front of the church, and the first victim was a 17 year old villager Ivan Torres who fought to defend his village."

"When I and another priest Jose Curcio reached it, the mercenaries had already been repulsed. Nineteen of them were killed and others wounded. But the village also was ravaged a great deal."

"We were horrified to see the beheaded bodies of Torres's younger brothers. There cannot be anything more horrible for me to remember in all my life."

"I talked with the priest of that village's church. He told me a poignant story of 80 mercenaries fighting a few metres from his house. His fear was understandable enough; only a short while ago his daughter was seized by contras as a hostage and forcibly driven to Costa Rica. Luckily, she escaped. Another priest was blacklisted for having joined the Sandinist militia. His house was twice set on fire and twice contras attempted to kill him."

"The Reagan Administration is making another major mistake seeking to topple the regime it considers communist."

"Sure enough, not all Nicaraguans support the Sandinist government — many traders and entrepreneurs are dissatisfied with their worsened life. But the vast majority of the population support the government. In the November elections the Sandinists secured two-thirds of all votes, besides the elections were organized better than elsewhere in Latin America."

"Who can blame our priests and believers for taking to arms in order to defend their families and freedom? Did Father Curcio really make a mistake when he publicly declared his readiness, at 61 years of age, to fight side by side with our young parishioners against the US invaders? I don't think this was a mistake. Our Lord himself, I am sure, is on the side of the people defending Nicaragua which is suffering from the war more than any other Latin American country."

The letter ends with a plea: "Please support those people as they deserve their just cause."



# Foreign Policy Changing in Style and Content

Bhabani Sen Gupta

Under Gorbachov's leadership, and pursuing the lines laid down at the 27th CPSU congress, Soviet foreign policy has changed, and will continue to change, both in form and content. Gorbachov's report to the congress put forward a conceptual frame of international relations which has more change than continuity in relation to the world view of the Brezhnev period.

If recent dramatic improvements in Soviet-China relations took many people in the world by surprise, then more surprises will follow in the coming months and years.

Gorbachov presented the 27th congress with a basically new world view. In terms of continuity, Gorbachov did see the contradiction between the world socialist and capitalist systems to be mutually antagonistic; he did agree that this inter-system confrontation generated most of the conflicts in today's world, especially those related to war and peace.

But, departing vitally from the 26th congress line, he also saw the world fast become "an integral whole". Not only because the sheer necessity of survival from nuclear world doomed the world to unity. But also because science, technology and economic relations were constantly weaving tapestries of one, united world.

Soviet foreign policy, Gorbachov told the congress, and the congress approved, must operate at both levels. At the level of the systemic contradiction, the two systems will continue to wage a war of ideas. But they, and almost all nations, must also

try to improve bilateral and multilateral relations because the central contradictions must not be allowed to lead nuclear war. Furthermore, gone are the days when nations can solve their economic and social problems without bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The new theoretical formulation of Soviet foreign policy focuses on a worldwide united front against nuclear war, and on a general reduction of the volume of conflicts. Gorbachov has succeeded in backing the conceptual thrusts of his foreign policy with deeds. To the extent possible, the Soviet Union will not act, unilaterally if necessary, to wind down the high threshold of conflict, both at the superpower and regional levels.

In the words of Yevgeny Primakov, an academician, director of the highly respected Institute of World Economy and International Relations, a member of the central committee of the CPSU, and an adviser to Anatoly Dobrynin, head of the powerful International Department of the Party secretariat, "we live in one common world which has become more deeply interconnected. We have always spoken that unity of opposites is a motor, a driving force of development.

At the same time, in the past, we more often emphasized the incompatibility of the capitalist and socialist systems and paid less attention to the common context in which both these two systems are developing. Today, we firmly accentuate the growing unity of the world which is based on the problem of survival".

Sitting in his lavishly appointed room in the glass-and-steel skyscraper on Profsoyuznaya uliza, Primakov told me, "But survival is not the only thing that binds the two systems together. There

is a world economy, which is developing in a certain unity in spite of the existence of separate sectors, socialist and capitalist". He then went on elaborating on Gorbachov's diplomatic thrusts, backed by breath-taking action, to push the Reagan administration toward a test ban treaty, to normalise Moscow's relations with China, work tirelessly for stable peace in Europe, and improve relations with Japan.

In almost identical essence, though in somewhat different language, the USSR's foreign policy was explained to me by P. V. Kutzobin, a tall, slim, bespectacled soft-tone man who is an aide to Dobrynin in South Asian and Near Eastern affairs.

Numerous academic specialists and others stressed that Gorbachov just did not sail through with his new foreign policy. "There is strong resistance to the 15-months-old nuclear test moratorium, not only at all levels of the Party but also amongst segments of the population," said Academician Kim, director of the Institute of Oriental Studies. But, Gorbachov's foreign policy enjoyed the support of the overwhelming majority of the Soviet people, he added. Because it was **producing results**. A majority of West European nations now stood for a comprehensive test ban. Even in the United States, test ban was winning ever larger support on Capitol Hill. "Reagan will not sign any treaties at the coming semi-summit," predicted Kutzobin.

"But it is a positive sign that he is ready to talk about a test ban treaty and other arms control accords. The heat of American and European, indeed global public opinion is upon him. The anti-nuclear war movement is swelling up as a global wave," he added.

(To be continued)

*The Author is Research Professor at the Centre of Policy Research, New Delhi. This report is based on impressions gathered during a 3 weeks visit to the U.S.S.R.*



## To A Tamil Friend: 1983

(For Feb. 4, Independence Day)

I was not prepared for this outburst  
of hate and violence  
that ruptured yours and my country asunder,  
To the staccato tunes of BBC's newscasters  
I wrote to you 5, 6, 7 letters  
day after day  
Today they wrote me  
"those letters will never reach their destination."  
They relayed gory details of a house  
burnt and looted  
and more hurtful yet  
of a bitter you  
Who  
refused shelter in our home  
and spurned my favourite dresses  
in a refugee camp.  
If you don't want to give answers  
I won't question you  
If you don't want sympathy  
I won't sympathise with you  
I only want to tell you that  
when we  
played 'house' under our dining table  
chuckled over William the Outlaw  
shared our lunches at school  
fell in love with the same guy  
wrote joint applications for jobs  
and demonstrated for World Peace and  
Women's Liberation.  
I did not care whether  
you wore a pottu on your forehead or not  
that you spoke a different language at home  
that your festivals were different to mine or  
that your gods were not my gods  
you were my friend  
God's most precious gift to me  
When you weep, I taste salt  
When you hurt, I bleed.

— Malathi de Alwis

## To Malathy: A Tamil Response (1986)

It has been three years now  
Since I received your letters  
In that dark and humid refugee camp  
Smelling of human sweat and human blood.  
Three years since I tore them up  
In anger and bitterness  
And rejected your dresses  
So that your mother would know  
The strength of my pride  
Burnt out of humiliation.  
I live in Madras now  
In a rented flat  
Secure from the mobs,  
Away from the looted houses and burning tyres.

My eldest brother joined the movement.  
The youngest went away to Germany  
Seeking asylum from hard choices  
Living on the fringes of a racist society.  
Spot upon, reviled, human baggage  
Left over from Third World troubles.

I spent the years  
Infected by a cause,  
Studying Tamil, writing pamphlets  
And campaigning for  
The release of Mirumala Nithianandon,  
I tried hard to forget  
The memory of my father, on his knees  
Bogging the footers to spare his children  
Before they placed the tyre around his neck  
And set it aflame.  
I swore vengeance then,  
Called upon the Goddess Kali  
To tear this country asunder  
To make it suffer tears  
To pay for his shame

And you, my friend,  
I erased from my conscious mind,  
The memory of your affection  
Too soft for my indignation,  
The patterns of your thoughtfulness,  
Too kind for my righteous anger,  
For only fire gave meaning to my life  
In the benumbed aftermath of tragedy

Yes, it has been a long three years,  
And the brimstone is now turning to ash—  
I lost a sister  
When the army sprayed its bullets  
Into the town of Kilinochchi  
I lost a brother  
When the Tigers fought the TELO  
In Thirunelveli  
I lost direction  
When pictures of Anuradhapura  
Revealed a Buddhist Nun  
Bloodied in Samadhi

Now, as my anger slowly exhausts itself  
And politics finds its own disillusionment,  
I remember you my friend  
Your gentle ways  
Our shared past  
Our human base

I write to you today  
To keep your faith,  
For one day, I will return —  
When my pottu commands that equal respect;  
When the Bo Tree and the Palmyrah  
Flourish in their respective spheres;  
When pendo casts its shadow over a land,  
where humane values prevail,  
Yes, my friend,  
I will come back, then  
To keep that trust  
To make that pact  
To fulfill those joint promises  
Born of our childhood dreams.

— Radhika Coomaraswamy



## Sense and stupidity

Larry Gostin

**T**he US Secretary for Health commissioned Professor William Curran and myself at the Harvard School of Public Health to advise the government on methods of combating the Aids epidemic. Our report has now been sent to the Secretary of State. A second report comes from the US National Academy of Science, which includes our group at Harvard.

There is a chilling consensus on the severity of the disease. Between a million and a million and a half people are already infected in the US. By 1991, more than 179,000 deaths from Aids are expected — 54,000 of those in that year alone. The disease is likely to envelop the gay and intravenous drug user population in America and dramatically begin to spread to heterosexuals and children, with 7,000 and 3,000 cases respectively by 1991. Blacks and hispanics make up a disproportionately high percentage of Aids patients. The development of a vaccine is at least five years away and in spite of recent publicity to the drug AZT, effective and safe drugs may also be years away.

The National Academy of Science recommends a bold new strategy for combating the disease that pulls together the governmental, industrial and academic sectors. It calls past federal education efforts "woefully inadequate". Some members were openly hostile to President Reagan, who since the epidemic was first apparent in 1981, has refused to accept more than half of the money that Congress has allocated to Aids every year.

The Academy recommends a national commission to monitor national Aids efforts, advise the government, bring together disparate organisations and periodically report to the American public. The President, it says,

*Larry Gostin is executive director of the American Society of Law and Medicine.*

should designate control of the epidemic as the Government's top domestic priority.

Everyone favours education on Aids. But for the "new conservatives" this means teaching abstinence and the avoidance of "intimate bodily contact". In New York City, a video on Aids for school children, has been censured because it graphically discusses "safe sex" between gays. Public officials are hampering their own efforts to communicate effectively to high risk groups.

This silence must end. We can no longer afford to sidestep frank, open discussions about sexual practices, whether homosexual or heterosexual. Young men and women will not abstain from sex, and so need direct information about how to enjoy sexual encounters in a reasonably safe and responsible way. They must know and trust their sexual partners, and consistently use a condom during the entire encounter.

Many school boards in America would prefer to ban infected children and teachers from schools. This has been done in large states, including New York, New Jersey and California. The US Supreme Court is currently hearing a case which will determine whether school boards have the right to exclude teachers with an infectious disease. Predictably, the Reagan administration has urged the Court to allow discrimination against people with the Aids virus. But the administration's argument is ludicrous and ignores all the scientific evidence.

We recommend that the government allow children and teachers with Aids virus to attend school. Even though the Aids virus has been found in tears and saliva, it has to our knowledge, never been communicated in a school setting or casually. Exclusion from school denies the child the right to association with his or her peers.

The "new right" in America is calling for tough measures to

prevent the spread of Aids. These include quarantine, branding Aids patients in their private parts to warn future sexual partners, aggressively tracing sexual contacts and instituting new criminal offences for Aids patients who have sex. California has a referendum on the ballot which would authorise quarantine and imprisonment of people with the Aids virus. In one national poll, 42 per cent of Americans supported the quarantine of all Aids patients, and at least one state has amended its quarantine law to allow the detention of recalcitrant Aids patients.

Yet the suggestion of a widespread quarantine is ludicrous. It would be unmanageable. The detention would have no time limit. The virus is not spread casually, so isolation from society is unnecessary.

Most public health officials recognise the absurdity of quarantines, but some do favour making it a criminal offence knowingly to transmit the virus. Already, numerous cases are pending in which Aids patients are charged with attempted murder for biting or spitting at police or others. More worrying is the case in Texas, where a man with Aids boasts that he continues to frequent gay clubs and prostitute himself. Should such a person be able knowingly to infect others with a lethal disease?

Clearly, if the police have evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that a person has had intercourse with another, intending to cause grave harm, they must act. But widespread use of the criminal law would give the police a licence for entrapment in gay clubs, restrooms, hotels and private homes. If sex with an infected person were a crime, this would place the entire gay community at risk of prosecution as the virus spreads. Victims would be branded as criminals. Once the criminal law tries to invade the privacy of the bedroom Big Brother will be well and truly with us.

*Continued on page 23*



# National Development Through Agriculture

S. N. de S. Seneviratne

Suggestions are sought in respect of changes aimed at improving national development. In the agricultural sphere, as in others, a serious approach to national development requires attention to some crucial matters, changes too. They include:

- (1) The identification of agricultural objectives, the framing of policies and the formulation of plans.
- (2) The organisation of activities, whether in departments or institutions, to work towards the attainment of the identified objectives and the realisation of the desired goals.
- (3) The implementation of plans, the execution of programmes and projects, and their evaluation and review periodically.
- (4) The development, maintenance and support of the organisations and establishments which must accomplish the work involved.
- (5) The building up of a strong, stable, loyal and highly motivated national human capability; the utilisation of that human capability creatively and productively; the retention of the nation's human resources in the service of the nation; the ensuring of conditions conducive to the continuous presence in national service of a committed and concerted work force.

This needs to be specially emphasised. Independence surely means that the burden and the challenge of national development must be borne primarily by nationals of this country — this is a privilege, an opportunity and a responsibility. The failure to adequately recognise the vital importance of national human involvement and commitment in our development as an independent sovereign state

*The Lanka Guardian* of December 15, 1986 carried the introduction to a paper entitled "National development through agriculture" which surveyed the scene relevant to the agricultural sector and identified aspects that had to be recognised in charting a sensible course for agricultural development. It was followed by a review of the situation at the commencement of the decade when the establishment of an Agricultural Research Council was considered in 1980 (L. G. Jan. 1, 1987 and L. G. Jan. 15). The ideas conceived at that time were further elaborated in 1983 and the scope of the activities of such a body expanded to cover not only agricultural research but also other related areas such as forestry and irrigation with the creation of a National Agricultural Development and Research Council. What is now presented is a review of current needs and proposals on how these needs might be met.

has been accompanied by grave consequences. Suffice it to say that the UN graciously recognises Sri Lanka as one of the poorest of the poor countries, deserving of international aims. Recognition of the role of nationals in national development.

The total national agricultural enterprise embraces a large number of subjects and activities — the development of land, the utilisation of land productively for agricultural purposes, the provision of water and its management, the preservation and protection of the water sheds of the rivers which sustain agricultural activity, forest conservation and management, determination of appropriate cropping systems and the research in a diversity of disciplines essential for successful crop production, necessities for land preparation and transportation including animal power and tractor power, inputs to maximise crop production —

planting materials, fertilizers, pesticides, implements and machinery; infrastructural supports to assist agricultural activities — credit, marketing of produce, technical services, etc. The list is a long one and can be expanded.

Although all the above factors have an impact on the agricultural sphere, it will not be feasible to accommodate them all in a single ministry. Therefore, it seems reasonable to adopt the following course:

- (1) Allocate different subjects to different ministries which can assume responsibility for them — land development, irrigation, agricultural research, etc.
- (2) Institute a system for the co-ordination of the work for which the various ministries and departments are responsible — for collaboration and co-operation as necessary.
- (3) Avoid duplication of work — the "arrogance of independence" (this Ministry will do this and this although that Ministry is also doing them; to hell with that Ministry!). Avoid also, "prestige activities".

It would also seem reasonable to recognise two major sectors within the crop production framework:

- (1) The plantation sector with the emphasis on the export oriented crops, mainly tea, rubber and coconut, involving large land holdings, generally.
- (2) The domestic sector with the emphasis on crop production mainly for domestic needs, dominated by rice and embracing millions of small farmers with small land holdings.

The Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research must be fully responsible for all aspects of research relating to crop husbandry in the domestic sector.



Much of this agricultural activity will be in the river basins, in irrigated lands, in the Mahaweli or the Walawe. But that is no reason at all for the vital research effort to cultivate the various types of crops to be grown in them to be duplicated or multiplied in various ministries or organisations — a River Valleys Development Board, Mahaweli Authority or whatever. It is irrational, wasteful and detrimental to the ordered development of crop husbandry wherever it may be practiced. Already, the Mahaweli Authority appears to be affected by the "arrogance of independence". After a relatively short period of "independence", the River Valleys Development Board gave over the areas of agricultural research it had tried to manage in the Walawe to the Department of Agriculture. Not surprisingly, they were in a "mess" and more problems were created than solved in their operation. The Mahaweli Authority is on the same course. The consequences may well be disastrous — and this must be prevented, now. The Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research must be the authority for research and development of crop husbandry in the domestic agricultural sector.

A way must therefore be found to "harmonise" or "synchronise" the functions, activities and efforts of the various ministries, departments and other organisations involved in the agricultural venture in its totality. And in his statement in December 1979 on the National Science and Technology Policy of Sri Lanka, President Jayewardene has resolved "to involve scientists in the formulation of policy and in decision making at the highest level". A possible means of achieving the "harmonisation" desired is by the establishment at a national level of a body which transcends ministerial and departmental borders, able to view the overall situation objectively and to make decisions impartially. It will be involved in influencing policies, in planning and organising programmes and projects, in ensuring their successful execution,

and in their evaluation. This body, conceived as the National Agricultural Development and Research Council can play the role expected of it only if it is constituted of persons of vision, integrity and competence. One more council or board composed of globe trotting commissars or one more secretariat packed with insensitive bureaucrats will mean only one more millstone hung round the country's neck. The composition of this body is absolutely vital. Its members must command respect and inspire confidence; they must be knowledgeable about matters relating to agricultural development in this country and appreciative of the character and needs of research; they must not be persons who can accomplish virtually nothing without doing a trip abroad or without the advice of a foreign expert; they must not be businessmen promoting family and sectarian interests. The membership of this body must include persons with management and administrative skills. The structure and the functions of the National Agricultural and Development Council may be outlined as follows:

### **The Structure of the National Agricultural Development and Research Council**

In order to effectively play the role now envisaged for it, its composition must be such that its members would include those deeply involved in the processes of development, who are sensitive to the urgent challenges and needs of our time, and who are knowledgeable about the various facets of the existing technical base on which to build our plans and programmes — the research institutions such as the Tea Research Institute (TRI), the Rubber Research Institute (RRI) and the Coconut Research Institute (CRI), and the technical departments such as the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Minor Export Crops, the Forest Department and the Irrigation Department. It must also involve scien-

tists, especially those actively engaged in research, in the decision making processes. It can be structured to contain three components as follows:

- (1) **The Executive Body.** This could consist of, say ten to fifteen members, including the Secretaries to the relevant Ministries, technocrats, scientists and specialists in management and finance.
- (2) **The Advisory Group.** This should be composed of the Directors of the research institutes (TRI, RRI and CRI), Directors of the relevant government departments (Department of Agriculture, Department of Minor Export Crops, Forest Department, etc) and the Heads of the Research Divisions of each of these Institutes and Departments, and the Heads of equivalent developmental divisions in the relevant Ministries. (It needs to be recorded here that in recent years, there has been a proliferation of "directors" of various types — their credentials are often questionable and their accomplishments minimal. Prestige, perks and foreign trips have become major determinants in the scramble for "directorship" posts. There has been a steady erosion in the respect accorded to and the confidence generated by small men designated by lofty titles. This situation needs to be recognised when considering the suitability of persons to constitute this group.)
- (3) **The Panel of Scientists.** In this panel should be included all active scientists having a recognised post-graduate qualification and a minimum of ten years service in active research. They will provide the specialist opinion at the request of the Council in different disciplines for shaping policies and in influencing decisions in matters relating to their parti-



cular disciplines recognising the fact that a variety of specialists are involved in agricultural research and related activities.

## The Functions of the National Agricultural Development and Research Council.

Among the functions to be performed, the following are the more important:

- (1) The formulation and evaluation of policies relating to agricultural research and development in response to Government imperatives with the participation of the most informed personnel on the subject as appropriate.
- (2) The identification and classification of research programmes and projects and the determination of priorities. A scheme whereby programmes and projects can be formulated has been worked out for the Department of Agriculture. Other schemes, as appropriate, can be worked out by other institutes and departments. The programmes and projects of the various institutes and departments should be submitted to the Council which will make decisions, with the advice of and in consultation with the Advisory Group and the Panel of Scientists.
- (3) The co-ordination of inter-departmental and inter-institute activities where the participation of different departments and institutes may be necessary for the execution of particular programmes with specific objectives.
- (4) The evaluation and review of research and the publication of periodic reports and technical communications.
- (5) The disbursement of funds to support agricultural research. Funds required for research

should be budgeted for separately by the various institutes and departments and a consolidated budget prepared by the Council. The Council will be responsible for the disbursement of the funds provided.

- (6) The recruitment of staff for agricultural research.
- (7) The Council will be the authority in matters relating to the training of scientific staff for research, the selection of candidates for the award of fellowships and the selection of candidates for programmes abroad.
- (8) The Council will be the authority determining the need for securing the services of foreign "experts" and in improving nominees in response to requests made.
- (9) The Council will serve as a body to which representations can be made by scientists in matters governing their performance, working conditions, etc., individually and collectively.
- (10) The Council will play a leading role in securing for research personnel "good conditions of service" as enunciated in the National Science and Technology Policy statement by President Jayawardene.

## Sense . . .

(Continued from page 20)

The British Government is now under similar pressure, particularly from Conservative MPs, to get tough on Aids carriers. The World Health Organisation cites Britain and other Western European countries as one of the probable areas for the spread of the disease in the next decade. So what course should the Whitelaw Commission take?

We suggest a similar course to the one followed in the two reports to the US Government. First, an unprecedented public health education campaign aimed at both the general public and high risk

groups, should give explicit guidance on "protected sex" and for drug users, on the acquisition and use of free sterile needles. When a new brand of cigarettes is introduced around the world, the company expects to spend more than £85 millions. How much should the British government be prepared to spend to make health available to the public?

Second, the Whitelaw Commission should plan for widespread voluntary testing for the Aids virus. People at high risk should be offered prompt and anonymous testing, using the finest professional services. Testing should also be available at centres for the treatment of drug dependency and sexually transmitted diseases. Such services must also include professional, free counselling.

Third, drug treatment, detoxification and venereal disease clinics must be rapidly expanded, to prevent high risk activities which lead to the spread of the virus.

Fourth, the Commission must begin a comprehensive long term plan to develop health and social services to care for and support Aids patients. Care can become both more compassionate and more efficient through expansion of out-of-hospital and home care, social support — particularly for such socially disadvantaged groups as drug users — and mental health services for the increasing number of people with Aids dementia. (In the US more than 40 per cent of all Aids patients are suffering from deep neurological and psychological problems.)

Finally, specific laws should be introduced to guarantee the confidentiality of test information and prohibit employment, housing, and other discrimination against patients with the Aids virus. The denial of life insurance is a particular problem.

The World Health Organisation has asked us to carry out a worldwide survey of legislative strategies to combat Aids. We would like to see countries like Great Britain and the United States become innovators in controlling this pandemic.



# It's time for Sri Lanka to take a look at itself

BOMBAY, Jan. 16.

India's revenge is complete. It has wiped out entirely the bitter memory of the events on its tour of Sri Lanka last year. It has proved its superiority, in certain conditions, conclusively. There is no room for doubt that India was, in this series, infinitely the superior team.

A team that was chasing shadows in drumming up excuses for its inadequate performances in Tests and one-day Internationals has been left high and dry. Some stark truths were made evident for the Sri Lankans. There is no substitute for performance. All touring teams play in the face of some adversity, like pitches being prepared to suit the home team's strengths. This is a cricketing principle.

In this season alone, India, New Zealand, West Indies and England have won Test matches on alien territory. If teams are good enough, they win abroad. Maybe, just maybe, this disastrous tour of India will force Sri Lanka to look at itself and find out what is wrong. There are cricketing reasons and there are excuses and if the two are confused progress will become difficult.

**Collective failure:** Sri Lanka just did not have the fortitude to play spin on underprepared pitches. Its two most experienced and senior batsmen — Duleep Mendis and Roy Dias — have hit a decline. It was a collective failure of technique, temperament and spirit that led to this five-in-a-row rout, comprising two Test defeats and three one-day crashes.

The bowling, defensive at best and hardly capable of aspiring to bowl out the opposition twice even on bad wickets, was wholly inadequate. The height of the failure was represented by a formidable batting line-up collapsing like a pack of cards in the face of a gentle, wafting breeze that is Indian spin. That spin established such a hold that it was able to fashion two of the three wins which clinched the Charminar Challenge series too for India.

To justify talent that the Islanders possess, they would have to perform at least in the protected environment of Colombo before they can raise their sights to wondrous wins abroad. Little shame lies in losing a one-day series to one of world cricket's more accomplished sides. No excuses can be trotted out for limited overs defeats because they are direct and clear.

**Wickets not wholly to be blamed:** No one will hold a brief for bad wickets in one-day cricket, but many of those wickets were not so bad as to prevent top class batsmen from performing to potential. The number of runs India scored for little loss on bad wickets is another clear indication of the relative merits of the teams.

India can sit back and relax after wreaking such a vengeance. The problem is it might do that quite easily and willingly as it did in the Rajkot International after wrapping up the series in the fifth of a series of six Internationals against Australia. Now that the job of demolishing Sri Lanka has been completed, the sick list is bound to be long.

The main bowlers might relax just that bit and give the opposition a chance. Even then, Sri Lanka would have to be very good in order to beat India in the fifth one-day International of the series to be played at the Wankhede Stadium here on Saturday.

The batting would have to stage a remarkable recovery to make a meaningfully high total even on a wicket which should play very well, as the one at the Kotla did just a few days ago. But then the bowling weaknesses would stand out in such conditions.

The great thing about cricket is that there is always so much room for hope. Only, that flame of hope has to be rekindled and such a thing would be possible only if the Sri Lankan team management changes its approach drastically. Defeatist attitudes will not take anyone very far. Nor

can martinets rule teams successfully. After all, is not cricket life in a nutshell?

The teams:

Sri Lanka (from): D. Mendis (captain), A. Ranatunga, G. De Alwis, R. Mahanama, Ravi Ratnayake, Arvinda De Silva, R. Dias, A. De Mel, G. Labrooy, R. Jurangpathy, Asoka De Silva, Ramesh Ratnayake, D. Anurasiri, S. Wettimuny and R. Madugalle.

India (from): Kapil Dev (captain), K. Srikkanth, S. Gavaskar, R. Lamba, D. Vengsarkar, M. Azharuddin, R. Shastri, C. Pandit, R. Kulkarni, Madan Lal, Chetan Sharma, Maninder Singh, S. Yadav and S. Viswanath.

Umpires: Messrs. D. N. Dotiwala and R. R. Kadam (Bombay).

— Hindu

## Iran's ...

(Continued from page 5)

So this is an Israeli trick to spoil our name in the Islamic world. Israelis are the biggest conspirators ....

**Q: Is that why your leaders took up the Israeli issue with Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel?**

**A:** Yes, that was a most successful visit, and we who have great regard for the Sri Lankan people thought it our duty to warn your government of the dangers of this Israeli presence... a danger to your country, to the region and to the Islamic world. We have signed an economic agreement, we have come for your IOMAC meeting because we want to have friendly relations with your people and the government. But at the same time, while we talk of peace in Indian ocean, we must speak of the dangers to us, to you, and to all the states in this region. That is why Prime Minister Moussavi took up the Israeli presence in Sri Lanka.





## Our business goes beyond tobacco.

For well over five decades we have been involved in the tobacco industry in Sri Lanka. We are pioneers in tobacco growing, promoting self employment and generating income for the rural farmer. We contribute to government revenue and earn foreign exchange for the country.

Utilising our expertise, we have ventured into other fields. Horticulture and alternative fuels are just two of them.

We now produce shade-tissue culture stocklings, mainly for the development of new varieties of orchids. We also produce tissue cultured strawberry and house plants for export.

In our search for alternative fuels, we have pioneered the manufacture of briquettes out of waste sawdust. These briquettes offer a solid fuel alternative to fuel oil and firewood.

We also offer consultancy services in energy conservation.



**Ceylon Tobacco Company Limited**

A member of the O-A-T Group.



# WE ARE A DIFFERENT KIND OF GUARDIAN TO YOU !

*There are a multitude of guardians during your lifetime*

- They who guard the freedom of speech & expression
- They who protect the basic human rights of mankind
- They who guard the democratic freedoms to which each of us are entitled to as citizens

*Each of us is a guardian to others who view us for their  
dependency in day to day life*

**BUT THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR GUARDIANSHIP  
RESTS ON OUR DEEP CONCERN FOR YOUR FUTURE  
WE ARE TRUSTED GUARDIANS OF YOUR HARD-EARNED  
MONEY, GUIDING YOU ON HOW TO SPEND AND HOW TO SAVE  
FOR YOU AND YOUR DEPENDENTS' TOMORROWS**

**SO REACH OUT TODAY  
FOR YOUR LIFE-LONG GUARDIAN**



## PEOPLE'S BANK

***A Different Kind Of Guardian For You***