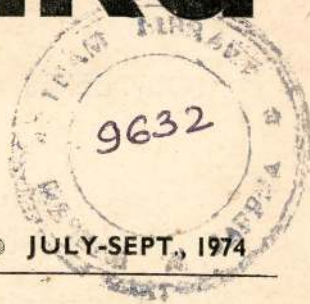
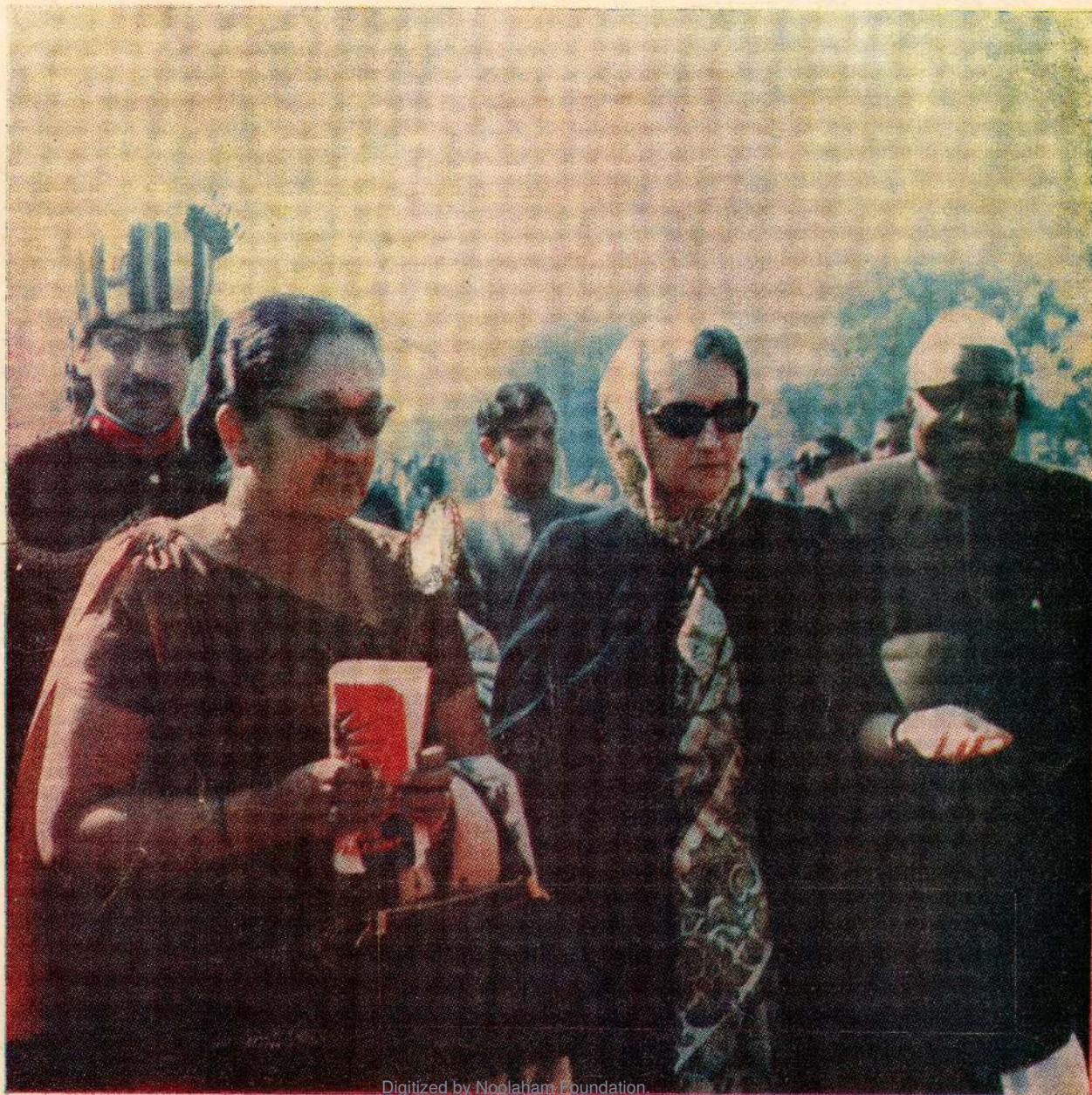


HISTORIC
LAND MARK
IN
INDO-SRI LANKA
RELATIONS

Sri Lanka TODAY



INCORPORATING 'CEYLON TODAY' ● JULY-SEPT., 1974



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Cover : *The Sri Lanka Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, with the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, during the former's visit to India early this year.*

Sri Lanka

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Agreement on Kachchativu

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

THE following is the text of a statement made by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo R. D. Bandaranaike, in the National State Assembly on 23rd July 1974 on the Agreement on Kachchativu :

I am happy to present in the Assembly the Agreement that I have concluded with the Prime Minister of India demarcating the boundary between Sri Lanka and India in the waters from Palk Strait to Adam's Bridge. This Agreement was signed on June 26th and was ratified and came into operation on July 8th. This Agreement defines once and for all our maritime boundary with our neighbouring country and also opens a new chapter in our dealings with India. In fact, it constitutes a historic landmark in the relations between our two countries.

I am glad that during my two terms of office as Prime Minister, I have been able to reach agreement with India on the final

resolution of the two main issues that have been outstanding between our two countries for a very long period of time. These issues have not only created hardships for certain sections of the people, but also gave rise to some misunderstanding between the two countries. The question of the citizenship status of nearly 1,000,000 persons of Indian origin residing in Sri Lanka was resolved by the two Agreements of October 1964 and January 1974, and the question of the maritime boundary has now been resolved by the present Agreement.

It will not be out of place, if I briefly recapitulate the history of the negotiations of these two Agreements.

I will not burden Honourable Members by going into the early history of Indian immigrant labour in Sri Lanka. Their presence in the Kandyan areas created both a serious economic and political problem for



The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike signing the Historic Agreement on Kachchativu.

the indigenous population. The problem ultimately resolved itself into the question of how many of them could be permanently absorbed as citizens of Sri Lanka without at the same time affecting the interests of the indigenous population.

Early negotiations

THE first attempt to solve this problem was made in the Senanayake-Bajpai Talks in New Delhi in November 1940. I had the privilege of accompanying that delegation, not as a member, but as the wife of the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, who was also a member of that important delegation. No agreement was reached at these discussions, and the talks were resumed in Colombo in September 1941, but again without result. The question was then kept in abeyance on account of the War. The late Mr. D. S. Senanayake resumed negotiations with the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and it was thought that the passing of the Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act in August 1949 to grant Sri Lanka citizenship to those with permanent and abiding interests here, would be a final solution to the problem.

This was not to be. The problem acquired a new dimension in 1953, with the concept of 'statelessness' creating fresh difficulties. The talks which the late Mr. Dudley Senanayake had with the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in June 1953 in London proved inconclusive, and Sir John Kotelawala as Prime Minister led two delegations to New Delhi in January and October 1954. Under the 1954 Agreement the disposal of applications for Sri Lanka citizenship made under the Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act was to be expedited, and those failing to qualify for Sri Lanka citizenship could opt to apply for registration as Indian

citizens. The 1954 Agreement did not achieve the results expected, and only about 53,000 persons ultimately obtained registration as Indian nationals under this Agreement.

When I assumed office as Prime Minister in 1960, I decided to deal with the problem at a national level, transcending the interests of party politics. I, therefore, called in Mr. Dudley Senanayake, then Leader of the Opposition, and apprised him of the state of the negotiations and sought and obtained his views. I also obtained the views of the leaders of all the recognised political parties in the country.

After all the applications made under the Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act had been disposed of by us, I started negotiations with the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. But before I could make any progress, he died in May 1964. I then took up the matter with his successor, the late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. I invited Mr. Dudley Senanayake to be on the delegation, but he declined to come.

1964 Agreement

AS a result of my discussions with him in New Delhi, I was able to conclude the Indo-Ceylon Agreement of 1964, which resolved the question of the citizenship status of 825,000 persons of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. The question of only the remaining 150,000 persons was left over for discussion and decision. This too was to be settled in 1965, when the late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was to visit Sri Lanka. But my Government went out of office in March 1965, and the Government that succeeded us kept this matter in abeyance. No attempt was made to solve it, and it remained for me to take up, after I was returned to office in 1970. I was able to reach an agreement on the question of these 150,000 persons with Mrs. Indira Gandhi in January 1974.

I wish again to place on record my gratitude to the late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri for the sincere statesmanlike manner in which he approached this problem. He contributed a great deal to the successful conclusion of these talks.

As soon as the 1964 Agreement was concluded, I took steps for its speedy implementation. A conference of officials of India and Sri Lanka was held in Colombo in December, 1964, and the preliminary steps of implementation were taken in hand. Had we remained in office, the greater part of the 525,000 would by now have left for India.

I am sorry to say that the Government that succeeded us in March, 1965, did not see fit to pursue the implementation of this Agreement with the same enthusiasm. Legislation for its implementation was placed on the Statue Book only on 15.3.68, that is about 3½ years after the Agreement itself was concluded. In addition to the delay, as Honourable Members will recollect, there was a variation between the legislation and the Agreement on a fundamental point, which was to our disadvantage, viz. Sri Lanka citizenship was to be granted, not in relation to the numbers repatriated, as provided for in the Agreement, but in relation to the numbers recognised as India citizens, even before they were repatriated. Though every effort has been made, we have still not been able to make up for the time that was lost during the initial period. When I took office as Prime Minister in May, 1970, only 15,345 out of the 525,000 persons had been repatriated to India, and 5,445 persons granted Sri Lanka citizenship.

Speedy Implementation

ONE of the first things I did when I was returned to office in 1970, was to bring in amending legislation to remove the raviation between the Agreement signed by me and the legislation introduced by the

previous Government. I also took steps towards the meaningful implementation of the Agreement by accelerating the pace of repatriation. This I did by streamlining the procedure for the payment of Provident Fund benefits and the issue of permits for transfer of assets to repatriates and obtaining the active co-operation of superintendents of estates in implementing the scheme of repatriation. When Mrs. Indira Gandhi was in Sri Lanka in April, 1973, I took the opportunity of discussing with her, ways and means of further accelerating the pace of repatriation with a view to making up for lost time. She agreed to accept a ten per cent. increase each year, so that the repatriation of the 525,000 persons could be completed by June, 1981, and the repatriation of the remaining 75,000 could be completed by June, 1983. It will be of interest to know that up to the middle of July 1974, 125,405 persons have been repatriated and 71,710 granted Sri Lanka citizenship.

I now come to the second issue, which had been outstanding between our two countries, namely, the question of sovereignty over the island of Kachchativu. A solution to this was earlier sought mainly for purposes of controlling illicit immigration and smuggling and for purposes of fisheries. but latterly the issue had acquired a new and urgent importance because of our plans to develop the mineral resouces in the area.

The late Mr. Dudley Senenayake had had discussions with the Prime Minister of India in 1968 and 1969, but failed to reach agreement.

I took up negotiation with Mrs. Indira Gandhi, when she visited Sri Lanka in April 1973. As a result of those discussions, we arranged for senior officials of each side to make an exhaustive study of all available historical and other evidence and their legal implications and submit their reports.



The two Prime Ministers in a happy mood during Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike's visit to India early this year.

The officials had a series of meetings both in Colombo and in New Delhi, and submitted their reports after study and discussion at the official level.

After a careful study of their findings, the Prime Minister of India and I were able to reach an agreement that was fair and equitable to both sides.

In these negotiations we did not consider Kachchativu in isolation. We decided that it was in our long term interest and advantageous for the purpose of identifying and developing our natural resources, to demarcate a maritime boundary between the two countries in the whole area from the Palk Strait to Adam's Bridge.

The waters in this region are two shallow to permit passage of any large ships and have never been used for international navigation. Over a long period of time the sea in this region has been continuously and almost exclusively been used by small vessels belonging to Sri Lanka and India. Therefore, the sea in this region has acquired the status of 'Historic waters', in which the two countries may define the boundary by agreement.

Main Provisions

THE Agreement demarcates a boundary in the sea from a point about 18 nautical miles north west of Point Pedro in Palk Strait to Adam's Bridge, a distance of approximately 86 nautical miles. This boundary falls one nautical mile west of Kachchativu, so that the ownership of, and the sovereignty over, this island, is now for all time free from dispute. Each country has sovereignty and exclusive jurisdiction over the land and the waters on its side of the boundary line.

Fishermen of both countries visit the island during the fishing season and pilgrims during the festival in March. Indian fishermen and pilgrims will not be required to have passports or visas to visit the island.

The vessels of each country will enjoy in each other's waters such rights of navigation as they have traditionally enjoyed. While each country is free to explore and exploit all petroleum and other mineral deposits falling on its own side of the boundary, provision has been made for the two countries to agree on the method of most effective exploitation, where the petroleum or mineral deposit is found to extend from one side of the boundary to the other.

Thanks to Mrs. Gandhi

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, was extremely helpful in resolving the outstanding matters on the 1964 Agreement and the vexed question of Kachchativu. I must express my gratitude for her understanding and appreciation of Sri Lanka's point of view and the statesmanship that she displayed in resolving the issues.

Before I conclude, I must also express my sincere appreciation of the constructive role played by the Foreign Minister of India, Sardar Swaran Singh, in the negotiations both in 1964 and 1974.

I would also like to place on record my appreciation and thanks firstly to my two Ministers, Mr. T. B. Illangaratne and Mr. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike, and to Mr. H. S. Amerasinghe, our former High Commissioner, and Mr. N. Q. Dias and other officials, who prepared the ground for our

successful negotiations in 1964 and assisted me at the discussions; secondly to Mr. W. T. Jayasinghe, my present Secretary, Mr. C. W. Pinto, Legal Adviser in my Ministry, and all the officials, who assisted me by preparing the ground for finding a successful solution to the problem of Kachchativu.

Agreement Hailed

I am happy that this Agreement has been welcomed by all sections of the people in Sri Lanka, and even by some of our critics. The two main problems that stood for many years in the way of closer relations between Sri Lanka and India have now been solved by friendly and cordial negotiations. And I

am indeed proud and happy that these two long standing problems were both solved during my tenures of office as Prime Minister of this country. I am confident that this Agreement will now make it possible to have even closer and more cordial relations between Sri Lanka and India, and we look forward to an era of close and friendly collaboration between our two countries.

I have now finished. Problems that have been outstanding for over a century have been finally solved. I am happy that I have been able to render some service to my country, a service which will be of benefit not only to the people today but also to future generations. I sit down leaving all this to the judgement of history.

Role of ILO in Sri Lanka

HEMACHANDRA SIRISENA

Deputy Minister of Labour

FOR the first time in an international assembly, a speech was made in Sinhala when the Deputy Minister of Labour, Mr. Hemachandra Sirisena, addressed the 59th session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva on May 10th.

The following is the English translation of his speech.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

Please accept my congratulations on your election as President of this Session. I am happy to convey to you and to the distinguished delegates the greetings of our Prime Minister, the Honourable Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the Minister of Labour, the Government and the people of Sri Lanka. I am also happy to take this opportunity to convey to the newly elected Director-General of the ILO, Mr. Blanchard, our congratulations and good wishes.

To me, personally, today is indeed a happy occasion. This is the first time that I am participating in an international conference of this nature. Further, this is the first occasion when a speech is being made in an international assembly in my own mother tongue which is Sinhala. This Session will, therefore, be of historic importance to us.

I stand before this Assembly today in all humility, not only as the Deputy Minister of Labour of my country, but also as one who started life as an ordinary worker. Having started as an ordinary worker many years ago, I have been able to reach this position today entirely due to my own efforts. It is solely due to the democratic traditions that prevail in Sri Lanka that it has been possible for me as one who had humble beginnings, to get elected to Parliament, and also to be appointed as a Deputy Minister. I am sure

this information will certainly be welcome news to the International Labour Organisation which has fought for the upliftment of the worker for over a period of 50 years.

Mr. President, it is two years since the Republic of Sri Lanka was established. Though in 1948 we received independence, due to certain deficiencies in the Constitution that was in force hitherto it was not possible for us to take bold steps towards the emancipation of the ordinary man, breaking the bonds of imperialism. Our late leader, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, was committed to a policy of evolving a Constitution where the sovereignty of the people will be enshrined. He was not able to achieve this during his life-time. However it was left to Mrs. Bandaranaike, our present Prime Minister, to usher in a new era with a new Constitution for the Republic of Sri Lanka.

Progressive Measures

AFTER the establishment of the Republic the Government has taken several progressive measures. The Land Reform Law is one of the most important. Unemployment is a problem that is worrying our Government. We have a large number of educated young people who are looking for jobs.

The Land Reform Law provides for a land ceiling of 50 acres per family unit. The excess land that has been taken over from private land owners is now being run on a co-operative basis thereby easing to some extent the unemployment problem and the problem of landlessness in the rural areas. *These land reforms have above all given a fillip to the economic development of the country by large-scale food production measures almost on a war footing.* The food production drive,

which I am happy to say has been most successful, will before long help to make our country self-sufficient in food. Even today, most of the rice that is consumed in our country is produced by our own farmers.

The system for the administration of justice that prevailed in our country up to now was an obsolete and out-dated one. From this year, *a new system is in force with a view to ensuring justice speedily to the ordinary man.*

The labour laws in my country are of a very progressive nature. Recently, legislation was introduced to prohibit indiscriminate retrenchment of workmen. This has ensured security of service to a large number of workers.

The excessive rate of population growth which has complicated our unemployment problem is now receiving the active consideration of Government. Assistance has been received from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in this field. We are grateful to the UNFPA for this assistance.

In spite of our serious foreign exchange problems, we were endeavouring in a democratic way to solve our problems. It was at this stage that we were faced with the oil crisis. Our economy has suffered a severe set-back as a result. The non-availability of fertiliser that is so badly needed to further our food drive is indeed a calamity. A solution to this problem has soon to be sought at an international level. If not, developing countries such as ours will have a bleak future. At a recent ECAFE conference held in Colombo, our Prime Minister proposed the establishment of a Fertiliser Fund. The fact that this was accepted unanimously emphasises the gravity of the problem as well as the helpless nature of countries such as ours.

The relations between the ILO and Sri Lanka have been most cordial. It was in 1948 that we became a member of the Organisation. We have ratified 24 Conventions so

far. All our labour legislation has been drafted in consonance with the Conventions and the Constitution of the ILO. The protection and the freedom our workers enjoy as a result of these labour laws are well known. From 1972 we have been on the Governing Body as a Deputy Member and have thereby got an opportunity to be involved in the workings of the Organisation very closely.

Very strong and cordial links exist between our country and the Regional Office of ILO which was at one time in our capital city of Colombo, and is now located in Bangkok. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Asian Regional Director, as well as the Advisory Staff for the generous advice and assistance our Department of Labour and other Government agencies have received from them from time to time.

Technical Aid

DURING the recent past, we have received considerable technical assistance from the ILO. I should like to make special reference, on this occasion, to the Seers Mission of 1971 which examined the unemployment problem in our country. This Mission helped in a big way in the formulation of our Five-Year Plan which at that time was in a blueprint stage. Today, the ILO is involved in special programmes with the Department of Labour, the Co-operative Department and the Ministry of Industries. While providing consultants in these various fields, Fellowships have been provided for our own staff. I should like to record the gratitude of our Government to the ILO for this assistance.

One of the main objectives of the International Labour Organisation is the reduction of poverty and improving the lot of the worker. The steps taken in this direction and the dedicated work done by the Organisation to achieve these goals are well known to need repetition here. It is to the ILO that the credit goes for the freedom and the

special status of responsibility which workers in most parts of the world enjoy today. The indications are that the problems that face the future are likely to be graver than those that have been faced in the past. However, I am confident that under the guidance of the new Director-General, this Organisation will be able to forge ahead to solve these problems as it has always done in the past.

Mr. President, let me now conclude my speech, reciting in our traditional way a stanza, wishing well-being and prosperity to all:

“May the rains come in due season
bringing about crops in plenty
May the world be happy
May the rulers be righteous.”

Sociological factors in Family Planning

SARATH AMUNUGAMA

*Director, Combined Services, Ministry of
Public Administration*

THE Family Planning programme presently undertaken in Sri Lanka is a good example of an attempt at planned or 'directed' social change. The decision to use family planning as an important aspect of the national strategy for economic development was taken by the Government of Ceylon. The 5-year plan 1972-76 says—

“The continued growth of population at the present high rates will pose problems which would defy every attempt at solution. In the short term, any further increase of the number of births from the present level of around 370,000 per year will place inordinate strains on the school system, on hospitals, and the supply of other goods and services, and in such a situation, it is only by a shift of investment from productive activities that it would be possible to maintain these services even at present levels. In the long run, the expansion of population at present rates would result in a population of about 27 million in the year 2000. Even with a rapid decline in fertility rates the population would grow to 20 million by the year 2000. The strain on resources imposed by the present rate of population growth would be almost intolerable. The Plan thus gives very high priority to the diffusion of family planning facilities amongst the mass of the adult population”.

Such centrally directed attempts at social change, especially in pluralistic, non-authoritarian societies makes several crucial assumptions. One such assumption, central to the present seminar, is that both the rationale of these attempts and techniques employed for their implementation could be

successfully communicated to the mass people at whom they are directed. In short, the success or failure of centrally directed programmes such as the Family Planning programme referred to in the 5 year plan, would depend largely on how effectively these ideas are communicated and people motivated to adopt new practices.

In most developing nations, professional extension workers have been looked upon as primary agents in the communication of such “messages” from the national centre. They are expected not only to explain the reasoning behind major Government decisions in respect of their special fields but also popularise new techniques which ensure the implementation of such decisions. For instance, Agricultural Instructors and Food Production Overseers meet vilalgers face to face in an attempt to propagate new varieties of high yielding seed, the use of better cultural practices like weeding, seeding and efficient use of water and fertiliser. Rural Development Officers promote Community Development at village level and Health Department mid-wives propagandise the need for maternal and child care and family planning.

However, many developing nations have not seriously exploited mass media for communicating ideas vital for national development. The role of the professional communicator journalist, broadcaster and filmmaker, as an agent of social change has not been as clearly recognized as that of the extension-worker in the field. There are many reasons for this. A dominant theory of the press holds for instance that it should perform the functions of a “Watchdog” keeping a vigilant eye on the affairs of State.

This has often led to a certain professional detachment of journalists from the plans and programmes of the national centre, presumably to be in a better position to evaluate and pass independent judgment on these programmes. How valid such a "classical" view of the role of the press in the light of urgent national goals in underdeveloped countries and the obvious interplay of power groups and vested interests will have to be examined. Also, many Governments have not realized the potential of mass media.

In this paper, I propose to analyse some of the Sociological factors which impinge on a centrally directed Government programme to induce social change. I shall as far as possible do so in relation to a specific area of Family Planning, making use of published material on Family Planning activities in the Asian region.

Communication

COMMUNICATION has been defined as "social interaction through messages" Basically these messages can be of two types. Firstly, as an elementary process of social inter-action we can identify the exchange of "messages" at an interpersonal level. This form of communication depends primarily on *face to face* contact and on the spoken word. The significance of these messages varies from society to society. One would expect that in traditional societies with less dependence on technology, face to face contact and verbalisation of ideas would be of primary importance. In more technologically developed societies, mass media—"message systems" of a different type—also plays a very important role. Wright identifies the chief characteristics of such mediated message systems as—

- (1) A relatively large, heterogeneous anonymous audience ;
- (2) A public, rapid and transient product;

- (3) The backing of a complex corporate organization embodying an extensive liaison of labour and an accompanying degree of expense.

Obviously, the success of an extension programme will not depend exclusively on a single communication network. In Sri Lanka for instance, while "word of mouth" remains a primary source of information, mass media reaches out to a growing section of the population. This highlights the need for intermeshing of public and private communication networks regarding Family Planning. While the mass media—Press, Radio, and Film—can and must communicate information about Family Planning, it is vital, as we shall see later, that its "message" be reinforced at the *interpersonal* level. Conflicting attitudes towards innovation between and within the media or disparities in public and private information would normally lead to "credibility gap" and a consequent lack of effectiveness of the "message" conveyed.

Let us take a closer look at the communication process. For this purpose, we could use Lasseels simple definition of the act of communication as (1)—who (2)—says what (3)—in which channel (4)—to whom (5)—with what effect. Each of these queries draws attention to a basic aspect of the study of communication.

<i>Who</i>	.. Control analysis
<i>Says what</i>	.. Content analysis
<i>In which channel</i>	.. Media analysis
<i>To whom</i>	.. Audience analysis
<i>With what effect</i>	.. Effect analysis

In this paper I propose to deal mainly with 'who, says what, to whom?' It is important to sociologically analyse the initiation of Family Planning "messages", the audience which receives the "message" and the way in which the message itself is formulated.

Who initiates the 'Message'

A crucial element in the sociological analysis of a Family Planning communication system is the possibility of bias in the formulation of the message itself. In the working out of an information delivery system within a highly segmented society like ours, there are a series of critical choices which confront the planner and the propagandist. All too often the attitudes and values of such personnel influence policy in a highly significant manner. Let me itemise some such biases that could arise in the Sri Lankan social context—

- (1) Dominance of the elite English speaking, middle class viewpoint ;
- (2) The medical bias in Family Planning programmes and techniques ;
- (3) Undue emphasis on official activity and a comparative devaluing of mass public response and 'grass roots' organization.

Middle Class bias

THE need for Family Planning in Sri Lanka was first urged by a Colombo based voluntary organization ; the Family Planning Association. Though it did receive occasional grants from Government, the Family Planning Association depended primarily on private donations local and foreign. The F.P.A. established clinics in Colombo and a few suburban centres. Its activities were naturally limited by the resources at its command. It was strongly influenced by western, principally American, efforts made since the 1950s to make Asian countries 'population conscious', in only because they were the pioneers in this field.

Even after the Health authorities of the Central Government entered the field of population control, it is not unfair to say that many elite, middle class attitudes have been reflected in its programmes. Perhaps this is

inevitable in a highly segmented society such as ours, where the professions and the bureaucracy are still largely drawn from a small, affluent, English educated class. This sociological observation about the Family Planning programmes becomes clear not only from an analysis of the various personnel and organizations involved in F.P. programmes and publicity in Sri Lanka but also, perhaps more significantly, from some of the approaches presently employed. I would like to refer to a few illustrations of this middle class approach.

1. There has been a consistent underplaying of the potential of induced abortions as a significant means of population control. When one considers that the chief reason for a decline in the birth rate of Japan, another Asian Buddhist country, is abortion and not contraception this lack of enthusiasm for induced abortion needs to be explained in the light of the proclaimed urgency of population control. *Yashio Koya* provides the following figures regarding officially reported abortions in Japan:—

1949—101,600

1953—1,000,000

1962—1,200,000

He says "The significance of this figure can be appreciated in the light of the fact that there are 11 million married women in Japan, 15 to 44 years old, meaning one abortion per year for every ten women in child bearing years.'

Abortion on demand is one of the most efficient forms of population control. It is also a necessary welfare facility in underdeveloped countries which have a high incidence of unwanted pregnancies. In countries where income levels are low and the majority of the population cannot afford nor have easy access to comparatively 'safe' contraceptive devices the number of unwanted pregnancies are bound to be large. The few anthropological studies regarding

attitudes to pregnancy clearly confirms this for Sri Lanka. The denial of abortion and emphasising of self control and spacing of families is a typical middle class attitude which ignores sociological realities of working class and peasant attitudes towards family size and the inability of the poor to afford the regular use of artificial contraceptive devices. Stycos puts it well when he says :

“The concepts of planning, order delayed gratifications and preventive rather than curative therapy are especially marked among the middle class. I would venture the guess that a ‘nicely spaced’ set of children is pleasing to the middle class women in the same way that a formal garden is”.

The most obvious retort to this line of argument is that abortion offends the religious and cultural sensibilities of traditional people. It is bad strategy, we are told, to talk of induced, abortion. The experience of traditional societies such as Japan, Thailand and India, hardly bears this out. Also, the traditional Ayurvedic system of medicine does not, in any way prohibit abortion. In Sri Lanka, though there are no studies, one could state with certainty that the demand for abortion is greatly on the increase and that present facilities—abortion being illegal—are primitive, unhygienic and dangerous. The disparity between increasing demand for abortion results from recent changes in our social structure, principally urbanization, and the rigid middle class moral code as typified in our present laws relating to abortion, leads to the jeopardising of the health of many underprivileged women. Basically then, abortion is not a religious or cultural issue. It is a class issue.

2. Another good example of the middle class bias in Family Planning programmes is the role assigned to Ayurvedic and Unani Physicians. The Ayurvedic physician, in

Sri Lanka, is to use a phrase popularized by Anthropologists, a “cultural broker” par excellence. He not only provides traditional medicine but also plays an important role in the life of the village community. He makes an impact on the attitudes of his community and is for that reason an important leader of community opinion.

According to the *National Health Manpower Survey (1973)* undertaken by the Ministry of Health, there are more than 10,000 registered Ayurvedic physicians practising at present. An additional 6,000 who applied for registration and were refused are also probably practising anyway. Many other present practitioners did not even apply for registration. According to this report—

“There was a guess that the total number of visits paid to all kinds of Ayurvedic institutions and practitioners was more than 70 million per year: that may mean that the Ayurvedic sector meets about 70% of the demand of the population for medical care”.

It will be clear, therefore, that the rapid diffusion of the Family Planning information would have warranted the co-opting of the services of the Ayurvedic physicians. Till quite recently such a possibility was not explored. Reasons for this delay may have been many. Among them was the distaste of the English speaking middle class for native medicine and its practitioners.

The emphasis on spaced families and the use of commercially exploitable contraceptives as against traditional family planning practices is another instance of this middle class bias. Family Planning has been looked upon essentially as a problem of the poor, and the uneducated who have to be manipulated to accept small families for “their own good”. A corollary of this approach has been to denigrated inexpensive family planning practices of the poor such as coitus interruptus and withdrawal. Studies in India like

the field study in *Singur* have clearly shown that among the rural poor, a wide variety of contraceptive devices are used, depending on economic, social, demographic and logistical factors. Mathur states :

“in certain instances requiring more practicable or more effective methods, the field workers advised ‘combination methods’. For example, the couple can be advised to use form tablets or to practice coitus interruptus during the “baby days” and to have free intercourse during the “safe period” in cases where there is a fear that abstinence for the entire period of “Baby Days” is difficult”.

Emphasis on the exclusive use of commercially marketable contraceptive devices, though good business, is hard on the poor and likely to keep off many groups which cannot afford the money.

In Sri Lanka, it is clear that a “combination method” is a more realistic approach in view of economic levels of the peasantry and the working class. The middle class bias of planners has been a barrier to the diffusion of such an eclectic approach.

Medical bias

ANOTHER problem faced by the communicator in respect of the Family Planning programmes in developing countries is its medical bias. Family Planning is looked upon essentially as a matter of an individual's health. In a sense this cannot be helped since the medical services have created the necessary infra-structure of highly successful pre-natal and post-natal services. Pregnant women visit rural maternity clinics and even remote villages are fairly efficiently serviced by midwives. Obviously, these links could be used for promoting sterilisation and insertion of IUDs. But this immediately raises basic issues regarding communication. How does one “sell” the Family Planning idea? The medical approach leads to an emphasising of the ‘angle’ of the women's health and the need for a spaced, happy family.

In the midst of a critical economic situation, it may be difficult to persuade people living below the poverty line that the only, even major, reasons for their misery is a large family. After all, it is common experience that poor people, even without families, have to face unemployment, food shortages and are unable to make ends meet. This is perhaps why population control is looked upon in certain socialist countries like China not merely as a problem of individual health but a national priority. The emphasis is on the national effort not the individualistic accept on maternal health. Hsu Li-chang, observer of the People's Republic of China to the 3rd Special Session of the U. N. Population put this view succinctly when he said “The view that a large population is the root cause of all problems is wholly untenable”. He defines a national as against an individualistic population policy in the following terms :—

“If the developing countries are to solve their population problems, their crucial task is to combat imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and super-power hegemonism and power politics, win and safeguard national independence and develop national economy and culture through self-reliance. Each country should formulate her own policy in the light of her own population situation. The Chinese Government is pursuing step by step a policy of planned growth of population. But we believe that a population policy can be properly formulated and effectively carried out only when foreign aggression and interference are prevented, political and economical independence are secured and the people have become the masters of the country. Some people say that the population policy should ‘be given the first place’ and ‘plays the decisive role’; they even regard the birth control programme as a panacea. This is putting the cart before the horse and is wrong”.

Secondly, medical bias leads to an over-emphasis of medical procedures such as sterilisation and IUDs at the expense of less complicated and traditional devices. In the absence of adequate staff, emphasis on medical procedure limits the number of people who could be reached. For instance in China, para-medical personnel have been entrusted the responsibility of insertion of IUDs leading to a swift diffusion of Family Planning.

Thirdly, among the peasantry the link between family planning and surgery has led to a restriction of acceptors. The word 'operation' for instance among the rural Sinhalese, invariably refers to a major surgical operation undertaken only as a last resort. Several young doctors doing sterilisations have found that referring to sterilisation as "knotting" and not as an "operation" in conversation have resulted in a dramatic increase of the number of acceptors. There is then a major communication problem in disassociating Family Planning from surgery in the public mind.

Bias towards official activity

THE degree of official activity and its relationship to popular leadership is another test of the efficacy of a centrally directed programme. There is no doubt that during the early stages of a centrally initiated programme official leadership is necessary. But sooner than later, it must be integrated with the life of the community. Excessive dependence on specialisation leads to the demoralisation of voluntary workers. A possible solution is to train para-medical workers like mid-wives, apothecaries and dispensers who are closer to the village to bring the necessary medical skills to village communities. Also, the making available of contraceptive devices on a continuous basis is crucial. We do not have at present, any studies regarding the nature of village leadership which could be mobilised to complement the work of family planning officials.

Role of Mass Media

THE foregoing analysis of bias in the formulation of the Family Planning message clearly highlights the need for informed media specialists who could not only speedily diffuse information, as we shall discuss later, but also provide the necessary "feed back" from the public which is necessary to evaluate the success or failure of present programmes at grass roots level. To give a few simple examples, the Broadcasting Corporation could get people to voice their opinions on the Family Planning programme which is costing the Ceylonese government, and several international agencies, a great deal of time and money. Naturally, such a "Talk back" programme would be different in format from western Radio & T. V. talk programmes which depend on telephone conversations. But the basic need for constant rapport with a highly segmented audience can be easily recognised. At present, Family Planning information, unfortunately is strictly "one way".

The same applies as regards the use of the Film. Perhaps more than any other media, the cinema can recreate the immediacy of person to person communication. It can be used, therefore, in *cinema verite* style for instance, to record the reaction of people to the programmes of the national centre. The best publicity for a programme is obtained when the people who are serviced by it themselves feel and articulate the change for the better. Particularly, in the field of family planning where attitudes and opinions of the special group are crucial, the image of real people involved in and satisfied with change is likely to be most effective.

Information, not propaganda

WE can now turn to an examination of the formulation of a "message" and of the audience at which the "message" is directed.

The conventional thinking about family planning propaganda is that attitudes of the mass of people towards contraception and family limitation have to be changed. They have to be 'motivated' to subject themselves to sterilisation, vasectomies or the use of contraceptive devices. What then is an attitude? Gordon Allport defines it as "a mental or neural state of readiness, organised through experience, exerting a direction or dynamic influence upon the individuals response to all objects and situations with which it is related". The task then is to create a favourable predisposition towards the activities listed earlier.

An analysis of the few studies of attitudes towards family size in Sinhalese society, however, discloses an interesting situation. Though the general belief is that the structure of traditional Sinhalese society and economic organization militates towards the creation of large families, these studies disclose a strong inclination especially among women to limit the size of families. As Gananath Obeyesekere has clearly shown, women in the village studied by him, were resentful of repeated pregnancies and looked upon the husband with repressed hostility for causing these pregnancies. He analyses pregnancy cravings (Dola Duka) among Sinhalese women as culturally sanctioned manifestations of hostility towards the foetus.

The village in central Ceylon which was the focus of Obeyesekere's research was remote and inaccessible. On the other end of the spectrum, many modern young couples in urban areas are compelled to postpone marriage owing to economic difficulties. The average age of marriage in Sri Lanka has risen steadily. Problems of employment, housing, inadequate medical facilities and shrinking social welfare activities of the state, contribute to induce young Ceylonese to postpone marriage and restrict the size of their families. In this context, I would argue

that the main Family Planning communication problem in Sri Lanka at present is not one of changing attitudes but providing basic information and services. We have seen earlier that it is important to—

(a) Co-ordinate family planning information diffused through mass media and interpersonal networks. Messages communicated through Press, Radio and Film must be reinforced at the interpersonal level. Studies have shown that where these two networks are in conflict, it is interpersonal communication that has the greater effect. In this sense, the role of those who influence community opinion—the 'cultural brokers' is decisive. If the family planning programme is endorsed by these village leaders the chances of success are greatly enhanced.

(b) Co-ordinate information with services. A successful publicity campaign is useless if basic facilities like contraceptive devices, medical advice and rapid attention to possible illeffects of sterilisation and vasectomy are not available. They must also be efficient and available on a continuing basis. Since mishaps such as unexpected pregnancies are always possible, acceptors must be told the truth about the risks they run and the possibility of occasional failure.

Information rather than obvious attempts at 'propaganda' is more important at the initial stage of a family planning programme in a country with a large rural population. Chandrasekaran in his *Mysore Population Study* compares two samples from Bangalore city and a Mysore rural area in respect of knowledge of family limitation (defined as knowledge of one or more of the following methods: rhythm, withdrawal, condom, douche, pessary, tampon, sterilisation of husband, sterilisation of wife).

Area and Group considered	Percent without knowledge and family limitation		Percent knowing one or more of the above methods	
	M	F	M	F
	1. Bangalore City ..	62.6	62.4	32.3
Moslem stratum ..	51.7	66.0	40.6	24.9
Scheduled caste stratum	76.7	72.0	16.3	18.1
Hindu, high literacy stratum ..	51.6	52.1	43.6	36.4
Hindu, low literacy stratum ..	68.8	59.8	28.6	31.6
2. Mysore Rural Area	85.2	89.3	13.0	8.0

These figures clearly point to the need for basic information. The figures in respect of the High and Low literacy Hindu stratum are also significant. It has been found that it is easier to communicate information pertaining to a change of life style to the literate. In particular, Indian studies have highlighted the importance of the written or printed word. Perhaps more than in the west, in Asia, newspapers and books have acquired the dignity of the wise men of old. In the two samples referred to above there is a significant correlation between literacy and knowledge of family limitation. The non-literate sample, who presumably were comparable to the other group except for the ability to read and write, showed a significant difference in knowledge.

This analysis then comes to the heart of the role of mass media in family planning programmes. If the Family Planning programme is to succeed, mass media must present plentiful and reliable information about the rationale of these projects and the methods by which the goals can be reached. It is not all that important to, as mass media "experts" tend to recommend,

to 'manipulate' the audience. What is needed right now is basic information about the advantages of family planning as well as a frank discussion of the possible limitations of present devices and techniques. While the benefits to the individual—health, happy families etc., can be emphasised, it would be desirable also to emphasise the national dimensions of the problem. Family planning is not ultimately a problem of individual health.

Finally, it should be remembered that publicity is only one important aspect of the problem. Publicity has to be linked with continuous and simple servicing. The 'message' must be integrated with the total information field of the audience we attempt to reach. The hiatus between publicity and performance can only lead to regression to earlier practices making fresh approaches at innovation and attitude change even more difficult.

To sum up, Mass media has in my estimation two vital roles to play at present in the Family Planning Programme. Firstly, it must take a hard look at current projects and pave the way for "feed back" from the mass of people it has access to. This will not only help in articulating the views of people who have to be brought into the communication dialogue, but also help planners to refine on going programmes and, where necessary, innovate. Secondly, it must diffuse basic information regarding family planning methods. The Press, Radio & Film are perhaps the only mechanism through which a highly fragmented population can be drawn speedily, efficiently and at relatively little cost into the natural development effort.

Tulhiriya Textile Complex

THE Tulhiriya Textile Complex, which was set up with assistance from the German Democratic Republic, under an Economic and Technical Aid Agreement, signed with the Government of Ceylon in 1965 was formally opened by Herr E. Clausnitzer, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, German Democratic Republic recently.

This Textile Complex, which is one of the largest of its kind in Asia is equipped with 113,000 spindles capable of producing over 15 million lbs. of cotton yarn in the range of 30s to 60s counts. The Weaving Section is equipped with 560 fully automatic looms which can produce 13 million yds. of textiles, The Finishing Section which has facilities for bleaching, dyeing and printing can handle 40 million yds. of cloth annually.

This mill, which has a workforce of over 4,000, is also equipped with a training centre where its technicians have had their initial training in the operation and maintenance of the machinery and equipment installed in the mill.

The capital cost of this mill is Rs. 240 million of which the cost of the machinery and equipment alone is Rs. 110 million.

The buildings, housing the Spinning, Weaving and Finishing Sections, cover an area of 17 acres while the total area of the factory premises, including the residential quarters is 200 acres.

While the installation of the Plant and Machinery of the Spinning and Weaving Sections was undertaken by the State Engineering Corporation under the supervision of the GDR technicians, the erection of the entire Finishing Equipment was carried out by the Corporation's own technicians under the supervision of the GDR Experts.

Eighty per cent of the yarn produced by this mill, will be utilized by the powerlooms industry in general and the powerloom projects of the Department of Small Industries in particular. This mill is, in addition, serving 8 Weavers Co-operative Societies with sized beams, thereby enabling them to utilize single sized yarn in the production of their textiles.

At capacity output which this mill hopes to attain during the course of 1975, over 18 million lbs. of raw cotton valued at approximately Rs. 180 million will be consumed annually.



The Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, Mr. T. B. Subasinhe and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of the German Democratic Republic, Herr E. Clausnitzer, being conducted in procession for the opening of the Tulhiriya Textile Complex.



A Technician explains the working of the machinery inside the Tulhiriya Textile Factory to the distinguished visitors.



Herr E. Clausnitzer shows a keen interest in an important aspect of Textile Manufacture.

Expansion of Sri Lanka's Shipping Fleet

LAKSHMI DHARMARATNAM

The Ceylon Shipping Corporation which came into existence in 1971, celebrated its third anniversary recently. On this occasion, the Minister of Shipping and Tourism observed that the profit earned by the CSC during the last three years has increased from Rs. .975 million in the first year to Rs. 21 million in 1973, while the foreign exchange earnings increased from 225 million dollars to 3.658 million dollars.

The year 1973 witnessed a remarkable progress of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation. The Corporation during its 3rd year of operation (1973) not only increased the strength of the fleet upto six but also operated them so successfully to earn a profit of Rs. 21 million.

The profits earned by an infant Corporation in a highly competitive and highly sophisticated field is indeed an unique achievement.

Ceylon Shipping Corporation besides earning a profit of Rs. 21 million in 1973 has also saved and earned a considerable amount of foreign exchange for the country.

In 1973, the operations of Ceylon Shipping Corporation owned and chartered vessels resulted in a gross turnover of Rs. 71 million showing an increase of Rs. 13 million over the year 1972. During the same year the nett foreign exchange earnings after paying all the services charges on loans, etc., amounted to US \$ 3.658 million and the nett foreign exchange savings was US \$ 1.644 million. CSC's net profit for 1973 was Rs. 21.5 million which recorded an increase of 100 per cent. over the previous year. Unlike some other institutions, the CSC earned its profits not by increasing the charges or the freight rates, but by efficient management.

Basic achievement

DURING last year CSC's chartering and Agency activities were further strengthened and a total number of 125 vessels were chartered through the Ceylon Shipping Corporation to handle the import of Sri Lanka's bulk cargo.

A basic achievement of the CSC in 1973 was that it earned for the Government indenting agencies such as the Food Commissioner's Department and Fertilizer Corporation Rs. 4.5 million against Rs. 2.5 million in the previous year as despatch Corporation Rs. 4.5 million against Rs. 2.5 money. The owners of the chartered vessels paid despatch money when the consignments were cleared expeditiously and when in excess of the agreed quantities.

In 1973 the gross earnings of the CSC from the operations of the owned and chartered vessels on the Liner Services amounted to Rs. 67 million.

Ceylon Shipping Corporation which became a member of Ceylon/Australia Conference commenced sailings from Sri Lanka to Australian ports in May, 1973.

Last year considerable progress was made in increasing the number of nationals manning the CSC vessels in the officer cadre. At the end of 1973, out of the six CSC vessels only three had foreign Masters and Chief Engineers. At the end of the same year the total manning strength of the officers and the crew was 261 on board the six vessels. In order to meet the increasing demand for officers a comprehensive training programme was inaugurated by the CSC utilising the passenger accommodation of 'LANKA KALYANI'. This training provides for the trainees to acquire the



The Minister of Shipping and Tourism, Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalle, takes the Salute at the Passing-out Parade of trainee Seamen at the Naval Training Academy in Trincomalee.

required theoretical and practical knowledge to qualify for the Second Mates Examination.

During the year 1973, CSC continued to expand and stabilise the two liner services to the UK/Continent and the People's Republic of China respectively. Corporation vessels made 8 East-bound and 7 West-bound voyages in 1973 and on an average, the West-bound voyages loaded in the region of 6/8,000 tons of cargo which consisted mainly of commodities such as tea, fibre and desiccated coconut. East-bound cargoes consisted mainly of flour and fertilizer.

During the same year the CSC continued to serve the trade between Sri Lanka and the Peoples' Republic of China. Corporation vessels lifted 44,136 freight tons from the Peoples' Republic of China and discharged 43,187 tons of cargo mainly comprising of rubber and coconut oil. It was decided to expand the Joint Shipping Service from the Peoples' Republic of China to UK and Europe at a meeting of the Joint Committee convened in accordance with the Joint Shipping Service Agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and Peoples' Republic of China.

Another principle achievement of the CSC was securing of promotional freight rates for a large number of non-traditional exports, such as canned fruits, kerosene cookers, rubberised coir mats, rubber solution, paints, paper sacks, rubber goods, footwear, tyres and tubes, etc.

At the same time the CSC continued to act as the sole local chartering broker on behalf of the Food Commissioner, Ceylon State Flour Milling Corporation, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Ceylon Cement Corporation, etc. The CSC chartered 125 vessels on behalf of these institutions and handled cargo of 774,520 tons.

Another main feature was the CSC's acquisition of 40 per cent. of the shares in four leading Shipping Agency Firms which involved a total investment of Rs. 276,345.

Activities in the field of shipping were expanded last year with the introduction of a training programme to train the future man-power of the Sri Lanka vessels. After this training scheme the nautical side of the CSC vessels is expected to be fully manned by Sri Lanka nationals over a stipulated period.

Mahaweli Project — considerable headway made

WORK on the Polgolla Complex of the Mahaweli Project has made considerable progress. The Polgolla Dam and bridge has been completed, while the installation of control gates is in progress. The Polgolla dam is due for completion towards the end of this year. This dam carries a 24 ft. wide bridge across the Mahaweli Ganga.

The Polgolla Tunnel, five miles long has been excavated through its full length and concrete lining and "guniting" (high pressure spraying of cement and mortar) of certain sections of the tunnel is in progress.

The Ukuwela Power House foundation has been excavated and concreted up to basement level; concreting around the lower turbine components is in progress. The Power Plant will be completed and the installation commissioned towards the end of 1975. The water diverted at Polgolla will be delivered into the Sudu Ganga, a tributary of the Ambanganga, for storage at the Bowatenna dam, which is under construction.

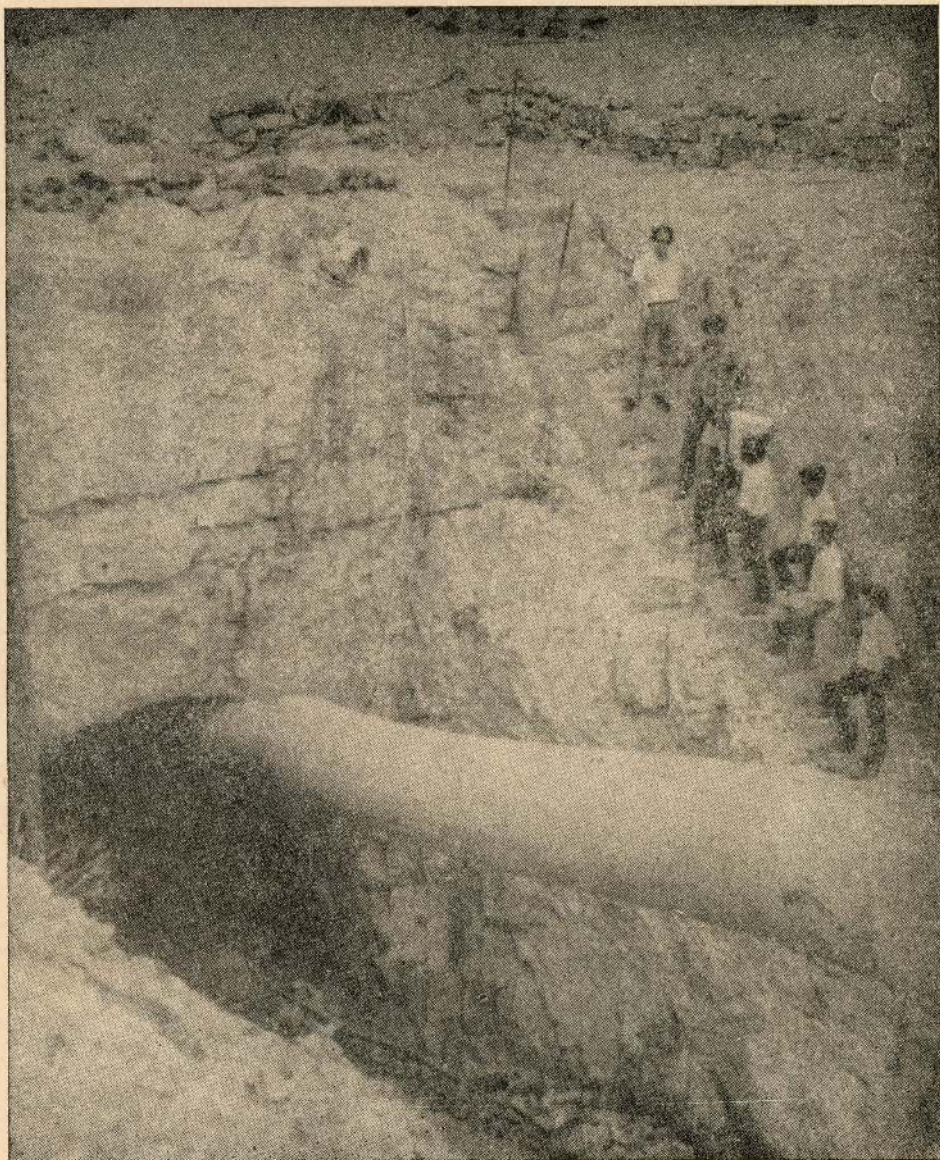
The Bowatenna Dam when completed will be about a 100 ft. high and will hold 47,000 ac. ft. of water. The tunnel to lead water from the Bowatenna reservoir into Kala Oya Valley has been excavated for 50% of its length of 4 miles. A part of the outlet canal has been completed.

The 16 miles long canal to convey Mahaweli waters to the Huruluwewa was commenced late in February this year and already 5 miles of the canal excavation has been completed.

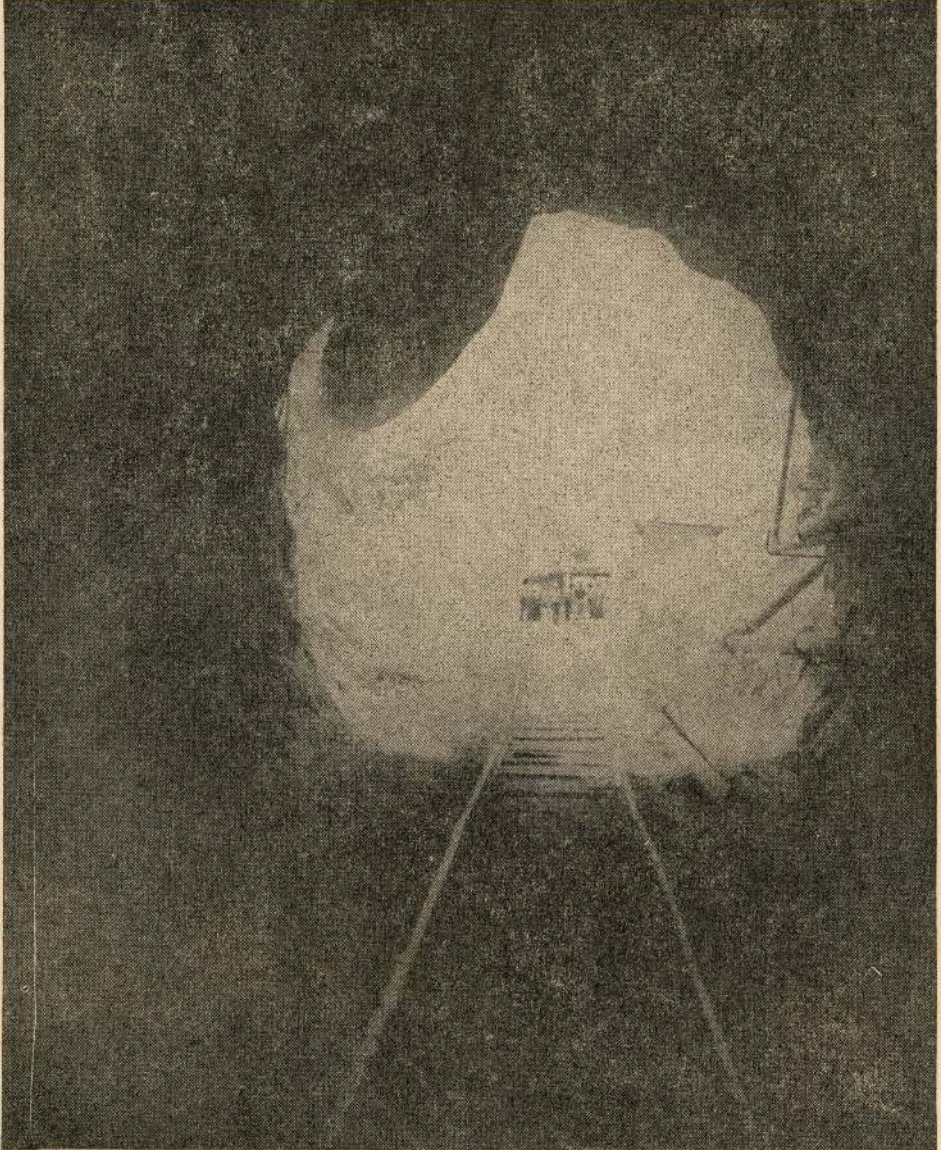
The Minister of Irrigation, Power and Highways, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, who recently visited the work sites on the Polgolla Complex gave instructions that all works necessary for the delivery of water to the North Central Province by the end of 1975 should be expedited, and completed on schedule, so that the 1975/1976 Maha Season will be capable of receiving water from the Mahaweli Ganga.

The Minister was especially impressed by the work of the State Engineering Corporation which is responsible for a major portion of the work on the Polgolla Dam and the Ukuwela Power Plant. He was pleased to observe that the State Development and Construction Corporation has overcome its initial troubles and was busily engaged on the work of the Bowatenna Dam.

He appreciated the work of the Ceylon Development Engineering Company which in association with Patel Construction Company of India was engaged in the Bowatenna tunnel construction, and noted the very rapid progress of work of the C. D. E. on the Bowatenna Huruluwewa Canal.



Work in progress at the site of the Polgolla Complex of the Mahaweli Project .



The Entrance to the Polgolla Tunnel



Inside the Polgolla Tunnel

23rd Anniversary of Colombo Plan

TWENTY-THREE years ago—on July 1—the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia came into full operation.

The anniversary day provides a good occasion to take stock of the Plan's progress in promoting the socio-economic development of the region.

To what extent has it been successful? What are the major problems, the tasks ahead and future prospects?

Although living standards have admittedly improved in the Colombo Plan region, mass poverty still prevails in many areas. This situation is characterised by the rising expectations of the people invariably exceeding the level of achievement of better living standards. A clear assessment of economic advance is thereby rendered difficult.

But first the Colombo Plan's role and functions must be properly understood. The Plan, through bilateral action, has always functioned purely as a catalyst. Its basic concept is that peoples and governments of the region are primarily responsible for their own economic and social development. Development assistance provided under the Plan is thus aimed at complementing national efforts. External assistance, though substantial is no substitute for the efforts of the countries themselves.

This assistance from developed member countries as well as from among regional members themselves represents the international co-operation which the Colombo Plan actively encourages.

The extent of this assistance may be gauged from the fact that over \$39 billion in capital aid and technical assistance had

already been disbursed under the Plan till the end of 1972.

A good portion of that amount has gone into the building of the economic infrastructure in regional member countries. Many of the Colombo Plan projects have, therefore, little spectacular appeal. Several have a long gestation period. Multi-purpose dams, railways, roads and highways, airports and planes, telecommunication facilities, land development and irrigation schemes, seaports and dry docks, oil, gas and fertiliser projects, universities and colleges, research and vocational institutions have all benefited from the co-operative assistance under the Colombo Plan.

Capital aid and technical assistance have been extended in support of over 1,000 such projects covering various facets of development in the region.

Tremendous Changes

FROM the inception of the Plan in 1951 to the end of 1972, Australia's bilateral aid to the region amounted to \$484,310,000; Britain contributed \$2,480,530,000; Canada \$1,439,100,000; Japan \$4,025,300,000; New Zealand \$87,100,000; and the United States \$30,621,000,000.

These figures hardly convey a tangible image of the tremendous changes wrought in the lives of the people of the region through Colombo Plan co-operation.

A new dam, for instance, is a fount of life and energy: the land in its domain blossoms forth, its power very likely dispels the darkness of ages, its potential for industry helps gear human resources to work for better conditions of life. Colombo Plan aid for hydro-electric projects has indeed been extensive.

New roads, new railways also revolutionise the lives and attitudes of people and nations. Besides the obvious integration of areas, these new arteries of a country inspire creative activity, human advance, and stimulate a search for opportunities.

The resultant industrial growth galvanises unemployed youth. A lakadaisical life gives way to industriousness, organised and rationally applied to production. With such mobility of labour, wholesome social values replace the narrow tribalism of a stagnant life. Workers may not know that the foreigners at the site are Colombo Plan experts and advisers, but watching them at work, hand-in-hand with the local engineers and technicians, makes them appreciate the fruits of co-operation. A basic concept of the Colombo Plan—the primacy of national effort—is thus effectively communicated.

87,000 Trainees

OVER 87,000 Colombo Plan trainees and students have gone to the developed member countries to broaden their knowledge and acquire new skills. They mingle at work, in private homes, in sport, at social gatherings and in community activities of many kinds, and, in so doing, change social attitudes, acquire new friendships and a wider outlook.

Technical co-operation, a vital component of Colombo Plan aid, is an investment in human resources for the economic and social development of the region. Besides developing skilled manpower, technical co-operation aims at channelling the benefits of scientific research to regional countries, and increasing the region's capacity to absorb capital.

The total expenditure on technical assistance since the inception of the Plan and up to the end of 1972 amounted to US \$ 1,855 million, spent in the proportion of 18 per cent on 87,314 trainees and students, 51 per cent on 16,783 experts and 31 per cent on technical and research equipment.

The growth towards economic independence and the concept of the mutuality of aid and its essentially supplementary nature in relation to national efforts are well exemplified in some regional member countries which have become donors. The contributions of technical assistance from India, the Republic of Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand to other regional countries testify to this fact.

India for instance, provided in 1972, technical assistance to the value of Rs. 5,100,000 in the form of 414 training places and the services of 9 experts to various regional countries. Singapore offered 300 awards in various professional and technical fields. Thailand, Korea, Pakistan and the Philippines, similarly provided training facilities. During 1972 the countries of the region provided to each other 686 training and student places representing 11 per cent of the total provided under the Colombo Plan.

This percentage has been growing steadily as has been the membership of the Plan from seven in 1951 to twenty-seven now.

This 23rd anniversary year has seen a notable achievement in the field of regional training. The Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education is now being set up in Singapore and will begin work later this year.

The College has the distinction of being the Plan's first multilateral project as well as the first regional institution devoted solely to technician education and training. It will function as an autonomous body with the financial support and co-operation of all 27 members of the Plan.

Major Problems

ALTHOUGH substantial progress has been achieved under the Plan, solutions have yet to be found to several major problem facing

the region. Basic problems associated with, for example, lack of appropriate skills and technology, inadequate domestic resource effort, over-population, and the obstacles to market access, have been exacerbated in the past few years by adverse weather conditions, instability in the international monetary system, world-wide inflation, the energy

situation and, in some areas, continuing political difficulties.

These problems indicate the tasks ahead. But they are not beyond solution. Human ingenuity and goodwill and above all the spirit of co-operation should inspire greater efforts to meeting the new challenges.

Soviet-Sri Lanka Cultural Exchange Agreement

AN agreement for cultural and scientific exchange between the USSR and the Republic of Sri Lanka was signed in Colombo on June 11th at the Ministry of Defence and Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Nikolai Kondakov, Charge d' Affairs ad interim of the USSR Embassy in Sri Lanka, signed the agreement on behalf of the USSR, while Mr. Laksman Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs, signed it on behalf of Sri Lanka.

The Agreement envisages the mutual exchange of dance troupes, teachers, students and writers as well as of films and radio programmes between the two countries.

This exchange is for the purpose of promoting the development of culture and scientific co-operation between the two countries in accordance with the Agreement on Cultural Co-operation between the USSR and Sri Lanka of January 15th 1958.

SRI LANKA TODAY

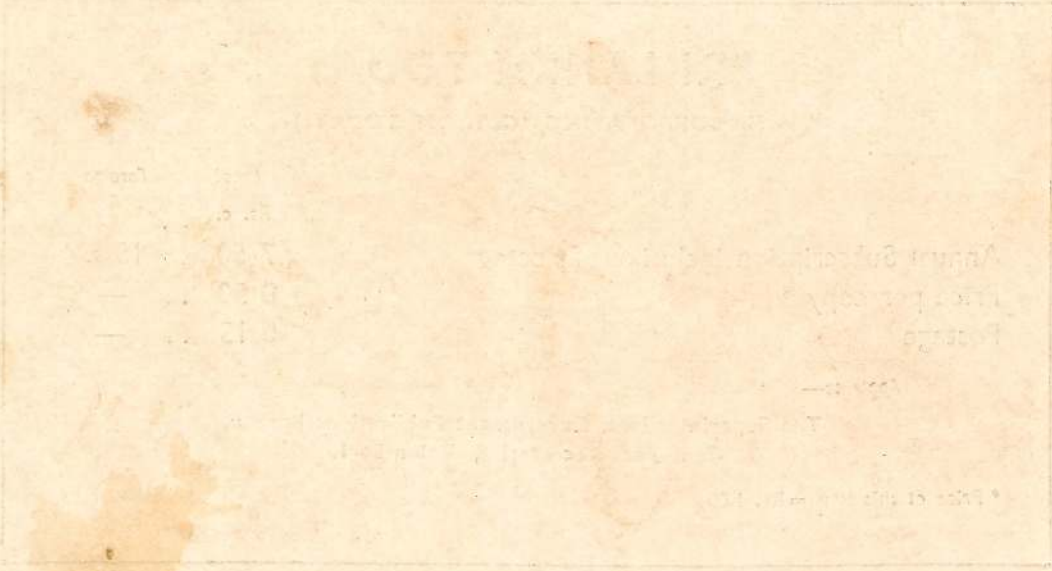
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